



Notre Dame de Lorette Catholic Women's League

December 2021



Can you not see
that if Christ
himself willed
to be physically
formed in her
for nine months,
and then be
spiritually formed
by her for 30 years,
it is to her that
we must go to
learn how to have
Christ formed in us?
- Ven. Fulton Sheen

Our Spiritual Advisor
Fr. Jorge Mario de los Rios Londoño

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Joanne Touchette
Marilyn Toutant

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5  Second Sunday of Advent	6 Feast of St. Nicholas Happy 24th Anniversary, Fr. Jorge Mario!	7  CWL Special Meeting at Hall, 7:00 pm	8  Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Holy Mass to CWL intentions; 6:15 pm	9	10	11  Holy Mass to CWL intentions; 5:00 pm (French)
12  Third Sunday of Advent Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Iris Swiderski 	13	14	15	16	17	18
19  Fourth Sunday of Advent	20  Jolene & Ryan Capina	21	22	23	24	25  MERRY Christmas
26	27	28	29	30  Lindsay & Dan Bouchard	31	Jan 1  Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Holy Mass to CWL intentions, 9:00 am



Dear Fr. J. Mario and CWL Ladies:

Happy Advent, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

I know that everyone is tired of hearing about the Instructed Votes, so good news! After December 7th, I'll no longer bug you about them again. Right now, members of the executive are calling everyone to verify their attendance, so please let them know if you can attend or not. Thank you for everyone's patience with this topic.

Thank you to all the ladies who attended and helped out with the Day of Reflection! Many of you stated that it was a good day, so I'm happy to hear that. The blanket exercise that we participated in with Brother Tom was very informative, eye opening as well as entertaining at times. All in all, it was a fun day, informative and was a very nice social time.

Even though we are not having an Advent gathering this year, Mae has sent an email to members with various activities to look into. The parish as well as the diocesan sites also have many interesting and fun activities to participate in. Mae is also sending a Novena for this week which is a great way to help prepare for the meeting on the 7th.

Did you know that Fr. Jorge Mario will be celebrating his 24th anniversary of ordination on December 6, the Feast of St. Nicholas? We would like to wish him a blessed celebration of his day and to thank God for the gift of his self to our parish.

I will leave you all now with this beautiful Advent prayer that Mae discovered and used at our last executive meeting.

My hidden Lord Jesus, I love You and thank You with profound gratitude for uniting Yourself with fallen humanity. When You first

entered into this world, You remained hidden for nine months in the immaculate womb of Your Blessed

Mother. She carried You, body and blood, soul and divinity, within the sanctuary of her body. She also carried You within her heart as a result of her perfect love for You and her perfect obedience to the will of the Father.

Precious Lord, as I embrace this Advent Season, please open my eyes to see the great value and blessing of Your Incarnation. Help me to discover Your hidden presence in this world and within my own soul. I desire to see, understand and experience the profound effects that Your Incarnation has on my life and I desire to receive those effects more fully this Advent. May I become a sanctuary in which You dwell so that I, like Your dear Mother, may bring Your presence into the world.

My loving Jesus, I choose You, this Advent, as my King and my God. I abandon myself to You and seek to put all my trust in Your tender care. Draw me close to You and free me from my sin so that I may love You with a pure and holy heart.

Mother Mary, as You carried your dear Son in your immaculate womb, you also carried Him in your heart. Pray for me, this Advent, that I may surrender myself to the will of the Father in imitation of you. You said "Yes" to all that God asked of you and never hesitated to fully embrace His divine will. Pray that I may imitate your perfect example so as to share a deeper union with you and your divine Son.

*Come, Lord Jesus,
Come, Lord Jesus,
Come, Lord Jesus!
Amen.*

Lacey Bernardin

Lacey's Address



Breast Cancer Screening Clinic

CancerCare Manitoba's mobile mammography clinic is coming soon!

LORETTE

Centre Point Mall
1321 Dawson Road
December 7 – 15

Call 1-855-95-CHECK to book an appointment.

LIMITED APPOINTMENTS. DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

CancerCare Manitoba
Action Cancer Institute
Bridgeside, University, Cancer Centre

CancerCare Manitoba
1855-95-CHECK

Fr. Jorge Mario

BLESSINGS
on the
Anniversary
of your
Ordination

December 6, 1997

2021 Pope's Intentions

December

Catechists

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Diocesan Day of Reflection

November 27, 2021



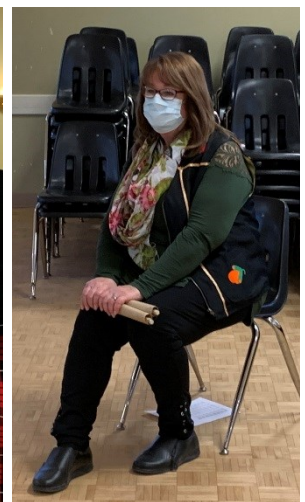
Sharon Kennedy, Diocesan Spiritual Development Chair explains Our Lady of Guadalupe as proposed patroness for the CWL

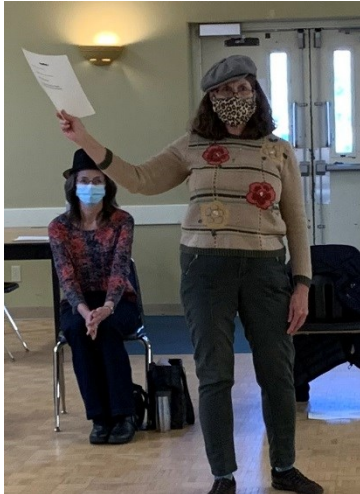


MB Provincial President Janet Brunger explains proposed changes to per capita fee

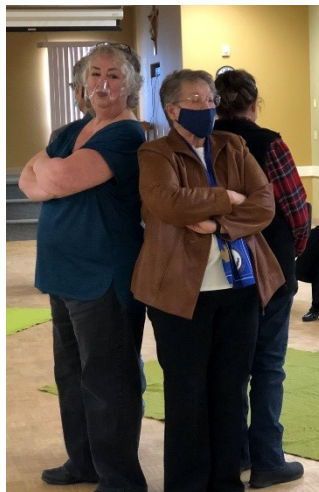


Brother Thomas Novak, o.m.i. from the Archdiocese of Winnipeg leads us in Canadian History Uncovered Blanket Exercise





Sculptures representing
relationships between
settlers and indigenous
peoples in Manitoba
throughout the years



*Thank you,
Brother
Thomas!*

Tache Foodbank Founders Recognized



Mayor Justin Bohemier, Robert & Marilyn Toutant, Iris & Louis Swiderski, Allison Fox

The RM of Tache has recognized two couples who have both contributed significantly to the Tache Food Bank. On October 12, Louis and Iris Swiderski and Robert and Marilyn Toutant were recognized for their contributions to the community food program.

The Tache Food Bank and the Tache Christmas Hampers were formed through the dedication and commitment the Swiderski's. In 1992, Iris created a committee of seven

volunteers, and as President and Coordinator, founded the Tache Christmas Hampers. She coordinated all aspects of the project including gently contacting families in need, collecting donations of food, gifts and money, supervising the many volunteers, and personally facilitating the packing and distribution of the hampers.

In June 2002, the couple organized a team of volunteers to establish a food bank that would serve the RM of Tache. With Iris as President and coordinator, and donations from the community, the food bank opened in March 2003.

During the next 14 years, the food bank moved to four different locations, with Iris and Louis continuing to core their passion into its' ongoing operations.

Their dedication and commitment paved for the continued success of the Tache Food Resource Center today.

Marilyn and Bob Toutant began volunteering at the Tache Food Bank in 2008. In addition to assisting with the packing and distribution of the food hampers, Marilyn and Bob were always available to pick up donations and shop for inventory for the food bank. In 2019, due to failing health, both Marilyn and Bob were not able to volunteer at the food bank, but their eleven years of commitment are gratefully recognized by the community.

Thank you to the Iris & Louis Swiderski, Marilyn & Bob Toutant for their devoted service of feeding the hungry through the Tache Foodbank.

Hola! News from Maryse Chartier

I hope you are well. The Confer (Peruvian Religious Conference) courses have just concluded, so I have more time to write. Here are three highlights from the last few months.

1) Participation in a small procession in honor of the "Señor Cautivo de Ayabaca" with the chapel people of San Francisco de Asis. After the mass, we followed the statue that represents Jesus during his arrest in Gethsemane. The procession stops in front of the houses and businesses that wish to do so, where, after some prayers and a blessing, the owners usually offer a small "compartir" (snack). A moment of beautiful simplicity to walk with people who do not have an easy life. The practice of several popular devotions reaches its peak in October, called "mes morado" ("purple month"), because the churches and the faithful dress in purple. The most famous devotion is

undoubtedly that of the "Señor de los Milagros" ("Lord of Miracles").

2) "Día de la Interculturalidad" (Intercultural Day). The young religious men and women who are part of the program of CONFER come from a dozen countries. We could discover them a little more thanks to a virtual celebration where each country presented a short video. It was also the occasion to wear the traditional clothes and to prepare traditional dishes (see the photos). On my side, I cooked bannock and Frecia prepared arroz zambito (Peruvian rice pudding). And to answer the question of one of you, all the classes and activities of CONFER are in Spanish. In the activities of the house too, although it is not rare to hear prayers or conversations in French.

3) Treintanera. In my course on community, a place of forgiveness and celebration, I learned

that the primary mission of a religious is not the apostolate, but to be, through the fraternal life lived in community, a sign of the Trinity. Mission is born of this fraternity, hence the importance of intentionally cultivating fraternal communion through daily gestures of affection and friendship. For me, the most demanding thing is to think of creating moments of celebration, essential to all community and family life. In an effort to grow, with the help of part of the household, I organized a small party to celebrate the beginning of the thirties of two of our companions: film, decor and food on the theme of 30 years (see photos).

As I reflect on the priority of fraternal life, I am also coming to terms with the idea that even though sisters in my congregation work in different fields, contexts and countries than I

(Continued on page 7)

do, their mission is also mine, and vice versa. It is in this spirit that I invite you to participate in the construction of the maternal and child health center underway in Songdin, Burkina Faso. (For a description of the project on the website of one of our partners, go to [EMAS Canada](#)

A generous benefactor has pledged to match any donation for the health center received by mid-December up to \$75,000. We just passed the \$36,000 mark! Big or small, your donation will go twice as far and go directly to the project. Donations of \$50 or more are eligible for a tax receipt. To learn how to make your donation, please see the attachment. If your donation is likely to arrive after December 8, please email Sr. Norma

at nelainemcdonald@gmail.com indicating that the donation is on its way. A big thank you to everyone for your generosity!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and prayers as I continue my journey. God bless you and have a great advent!

Maryse Chartier

How to make a matched donation for Songdin Health Centre

If there is a possibility your donation arrives **after December 8**, please email Sr. Norma at nelainemcdonald@gmail.com with your donation pledge so that it can be matched.

A- Via Interac

1. Send an email to suzelamy@gmail.com and nelainemcdonald@gmail.com
2. Indicate the amount you wish to donate.
3. Indicate that it is for the Songdin Hospital Project.
4. Write your name and complete mailing address for income tax receipt.
5. Provide the password for interac transfer.

B- Via cheque

1. Write cheque to: Soeurs de Sainte-Croix (or Sisters of Holy Cross)
2. Mail the cheque to:
Sr Thérèse Lefrançois, csc
905, rue Basile-Moreau
Saint-Laurent, QC H4L 4A1
3. In the memo, indicate that it is for the Songdin Hospital Project.
4. Include your name and your complete mailing address for the income tax receipt.
5. If possible, send an email to suzelamy@gmail.com and nelainemcdonald@gmail.com indicating that the donation will be arriving in the mail.



*Feliz
Navidad*

Advent Anticipation



Advent reminds me that to wait well is not an easy thing to master. Though I try, I am often swept up in this distracted world. Too often driven by deadlines and the nagging demands of my own impatience. I want what I want *now*, like a two-year old banging her palms against the tray of her high chair. Given some of the technologies most of us utilize and the ways we have been shaped by them, it's easy to come to expect instant gratification and to turn our backs on the bigger picture, the long view.

How do we resonate with the kind of sweeping and certain anticipation of the coming Messiah that permeated the lives and minds of our earliest brethren, people who spent lifetimes *in waiting*? Advent traditions—lighting the Advent wreath, candle by candle, or leaving the manger cradle empty until Christmas Eve—present profound opportunities to revisit the full meaning of Christian anticipation. It takes courage to wait in joyful hope, and it requires that we prepare ourselves for the coming Christ. Our desire to renew an interior posture must prevail throughout the Christian life: *to wait on the Lord*.

To ask how well we wait is the same as asking how well we “do” Advent. Are we tempted with the increasing commercialization of Christmas to skip over Advent altogether? This season, promise yourself to take up one Advent tradition with new fervor. Investigate its origin and meaning. Allow the

Holy Spirit to refresh a Catholic imagination within you and to remind you that you are an integral, irreplaceable part of a much larger and more important story. You live in a world brimming with sacramental promise because of the Child born in Bethlehem.

Our Advent refrain must be “Wait for the Lord! Be strong, take courage, and wait for the Lord!” Even as economies crumble, and tumult and suffering seem to reign, all our waiting will end. Christmas is coming. We will see goodness, *the goodness of the Lord*.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/advent/inspiration/advent-anticipation/>

FIRST CANDLE SIGNIFIES HOPE

"PROPHECY CANDLE"

The first candle, which is purple, symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the “Prophecy Candle” in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

SECOND CANDLE SIGNIFIES PEACE

"BETHLEHEM CANDLE"

The second candle, also purple, represents peace. It is called the “Bethlehem Candle” as a reminder of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem.

The third candle is rose and symbolizes joy. It is called the “Shepherd’s Candle,” and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy.

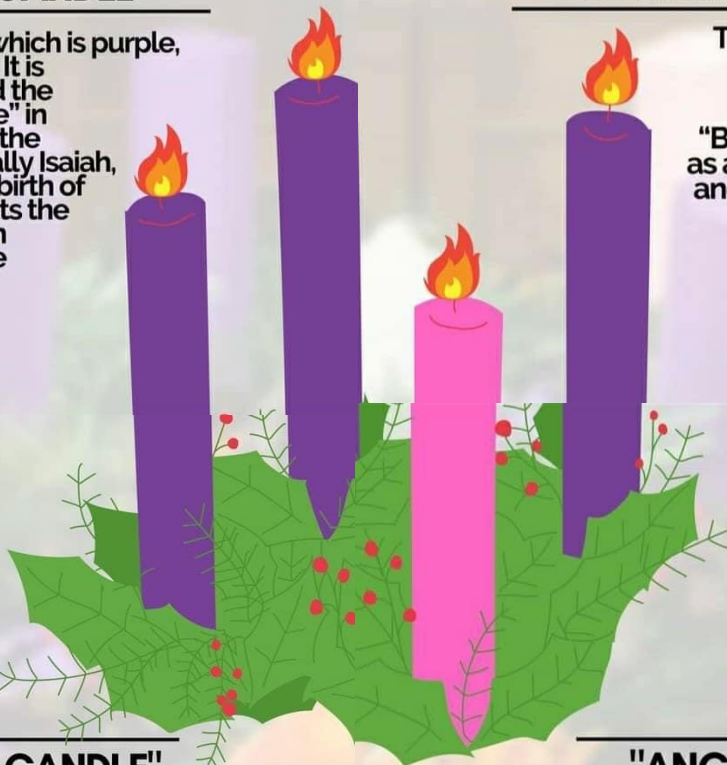
"SHEPHERD'S CANDLE"

SIGNIFIES JOY
THIRD CANDLE

On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle that symbolizes love. This final candle, the “Angel’s Candle”.

"ANGEL'S CANDLE"

SIGNIFIES LOVE
FOURTH CANDLE



How Our Lady of Guadalupe is a mother to all mothers



and guide who can truly walk through the months of pregnancy alongside expectant mothers. These two reasons in particular elucidate why mothers can turn to “La Guadalupe” for prayers and deep understanding.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE IS PREGNANT HERSELF

Our Lady of Guadalupe appears as a pregnant woman, probably very near to giving birth (which makes sense, given that the apparitions took place only a few weeks before Christmas). Her pregnancy is apparent, not only because of her rounded abdomen, but because of the black sash she wears around her waist, which indicates that she is with child.

It’s still rare today to see images of Our Lady during her pregnancy—she is usually shown after giving birth—and it was even less common at that time. **Mary’s choice to appear as an expectant mother is an act with great significance for all pregnant women.**

When expectant mothers see an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, they see someone who is walking in their shoes, quite literally. Pregnancy is

replete with aches and pains, especially in the later months. **Our Lady of Guadalupe intimately understands what a pregnant woman is going through**, both the physical discomfort and the emotional upheaval that often comes with the territory (thanks to those pesky pregnancy hormones!).

Besides the tiredness and physical vexations that come with any pregnancy, Our Lady had to make a long and difficult journey very soon before giving birth. She had to leave her family and hometown to have her baby far away from home. **If anyone can sympathize with the concerns and uncertainties plaguing a pregnant woman, especially during this pandemic when so many things seem topsy-turvy, it’s the wise and gentle woman at Tepeyac Hill.**

Her response to these difficulties, of course, is an inspiration to us all. She retained her inner peace and trust in God throughout all the hardships she faced. In imitation of her, all Christians, especially pregnant women, can turn to her intercession when we face problems that test our serenity and faith. **We**

can ask her to share that abiding peace with us.

SHE BRINGS A MESSAGE OF RADICAL CONSOLATION

When my young children inevitably fall and hurt themselves, or panic at the loud sound of the garbage truck, I have a go-to phrase to calm them: “You’re safe. I’m here.” **They know that their mama’s job is to keep them safe and comfort them from the scary things in life.**

At times, I wonder, who is here to sympathize with and comfort us adults? Parents, and anyone who cares for children, are called to be a source of calm and emotional stability for the little ones in our lives, but this work can be exhausting. At times (especially in 2020!), it feels like we have no one to lean on ourselves.

I was thinking about this when I came across Our Lady of Guadalupe’s message to her children, spoken to St. Juan Diego:

Listen, put it into your heart, my youngest and dearest son, that the thing that frightens you, the thing that afflicts you, is nothing: Do not let it disturb you ... Am I not here, I who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not the source of your joy? Are you not in the hollow of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? Do you need something more? Let nothing else worry you or disturb you.

Her message, assuring her beloved child not to be afraid because she is present, is one that is familiar to all mothers. **How many times have we spoken similar words ourselves?** But to hear them spoken to us, instead of by us—to know how deeply and personally we are loved, not only by Christ but also by His cherished mother—is enough to take one’s breath away.

In pregnancy and motherhood, and indeed in almost all areas of life, it’s almost a guarantee that something won’t go as planned and expected. **Through all of this, Our Lady of Guadalupe reassures us, saying, “Don’t be afraid. I’m here.”** In troubles and sorrow, in fear and confusion, like anxious children clinging to a sure refuge, we can find comfort in her embrace.

https://aleteia.org/2020/12/12/how-our-lady-of-guadalupe-is-a-mother-to-all-mothers/?utm_campaign=NL_en&utm_source=daily_newsletter&utm_medium=mail&utm_content=NL_en

Especially during the months of pregnancy, Our Lady walks the road beside us so we know we are not alone.

It’s been almost 500 years since a beautiful dark-skinned woman appeared to St. Juan Diego on a hill outside Mexico City and asked him in his native language, Nahuatl, to build her a church on that site.

Over the centuries, Our Lady of Guadalupe has not faded out of memory but has grown ever more important for Catholics around the world, especially for Mexicans, for whom she is a treasured symbol of cultural identity. And as Patroness of the Americas, her influence is incalculable on the many generations who have lived in North, South, and Central America since her apparition.

Her image is different from other apparitions and even from most artistic depictions of Our Lady. These differences make Our Lady of Guadalupe a natural and sympathetic intercessor for pregnant women, a companion



8 Things You Need to Know About the Immaculate Conception

Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary that she be wholly borne by God's grace.

491 Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854:

The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.

exalted fashion, by reason of the merits of her Son". The Father blessed Mary more than any other created person "in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places" and chose her "in Christ before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before him in love".

508 From among the descendants of Eve, God chose the Virgin Mary to be the mother of his Son. "Full of grace", Mary is **"the most excellent fruit of redemption"** (SC 103): from the first instant of her conception, she was totally preserved from the stain of original sin and she remained pure from all personal sin throughout her life.

Dec. 8th is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. What is the Immaculate Conception and how do we celebrate it?

This Saturday, December 8th, is the feast of the Immaculate Conception. It celebrates an important point of Catholic teaching, and it is a holy day of obligation.

Here are 8 things you need to know about the teaching and the way we celebrate it.

1. Who does the Immaculate Conception refer to?

There's a popular idea that it refers to Jesus' conception by the Virgin Mary.

It doesn't.

Instead, it refers to the special way in which the Virgin Mary herself was conceived.

This conception was not virginal. (That is, she had a human father as well as a human mother.) But it was special and unique in another way. . . .

2. What is the Immaculate Conception?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains it this way:

490 To become the mother of the Saviour, Mary "was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role." The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as "full of grace". In fact, in order for

3. Does this mean Mary never sinned?

Yes. Because of the way redemption was applied to Mary at the moment of her conception, she not only was protected from contracting original sin but also personal sin. The Catechism explains:

493 The Fathers of the Eastern tradition call the Mother of God "the All-Holy" (*Panagia*), and celebrate her as "free from any stain of sin, as though fashioned by the Holy Spirit and formed as a new creature". **By the grace of God Mary remained free of every personal sin her whole life long.** "Let it be done to me according to your word. . ."

4. Does this mean Mary didn't need Jesus to die on the Cross for her?

No. What we've already quoted states that Mary was immaculately conceived as part of her being "full of **grace**" and thus "redeemed from the moment of her conception" by "a singular **grace** and privilege of almighty God and **by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ**, Saviour of the human race."

The Catechism goes on to state:

492 The "splendour of an entirely unique holiness" by which Mary is "enriched from the first instant of her conception" **comes wholly from Christ: she is "redeemed, in a more**

5. How does this make Mary a parallel of Eve?

Adam and Eve were both created immaculate --without original sin or its stain. They fell from grace, and through them mankind was bound to sin.

Christ and Mary were also conceived immaculate. They remained faithful, and through them mankind was redeemed from sin.

Christ is thus the New Adam, and Mary the New Eve.

The Catechism notes:

494 . . . As St. Irenaeus says, "Being obedient she became the cause of salvation for herself and for the whole human race." Hence not a few of the early Fathers gladly assert. . . : "The knot of Eve's disobedience was untied by Mary's obedience: what the virgin Eve bound through her disbelief, Mary loosened by her faith." Comparing her with Eve, they call Mary "the Mother of the living" and frequently claim: "Death through Eve, life through Mary."

6. How does this make Mary an icon of our own destiny?

Those who die in God's friendship and thus go to heaven will be freed from all sin and stain of sin. We will thus all be rendered "immaculate" (Latin, *immaculatus* = "stainless") if we remain faithful to God.

Even in this life, God purifies us and trains us in holiness and, if we die in his friendship but imperfectly purified, he will purify us in purgatory and render us immaculate.

By giving Mary this grace from the first moment of her conception, God showed us an image of our own destiny. He shows us that this is possible for humans by his grace.

John Paul II noted:

In contemplating this mystery in a Marian perspective, we can say that "Mary, at the side of her Son, is the most perfect image of freedom and of the liberation of humanity and of the universe. It is to her as Mother and Model that the Church must look in order to understand in its completeness the meaning of her own mission" (Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Libertatis conscientia, 22 March, 1986, n. 97; cf. Redemptoris Mater, n. 37).

Let us fix our gaze, then, on Mary, the icon of the pilgrim Church in the wilderness of history but on her way to the glorious destination of the heavenly Jerusalem, where she [the Church] will

shine as the Bride of the Lamb, Christ the Lord [General Audience, March 14, 2001].

7. Was it necessary for God to make Mary immaculate at her conception so that she could be Jesus' mother?

No. The Church only speaks of the Immaculate Conception as something that was "fitting," something that made Mary a "fit habitation" (i.e., suitable dwelling) for the Son of God, not something that was *necessary*. Thus in preparing to define the dogma, Pope Pius IX stated:

And hence they [the Church Fathers] affirmed that the Blessed Virgin was, through grace, entirely free from every stain of sin, and from all corruption of body, soul and mind; that she was always united with God and joined to him by an eternal covenant; that she was never in darkness but always in light; and that, therefore, she was entirely a fit habitation for Christ, not because of the state of her body, but because of her original grace. . . .

For it was certainly not fitting that this

vessel of election should be wounded by the common injuries, since she, differing so much from the others, had only nature in common with them, not sin. In fact, it was quite fitting that, as the Only-Begotten has a Father in heaven, whom the Seraphim extol as thrice holy, so he should have a Mother on earth who would never be without the splendor of holiness [Ineffabilis Deus].

8. How do we celebrate the Immaculate Conception today?

In the Latin rite of the Catholic Church, December 8th is the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. In the United States and in a number of other countries, it is a holy day of obligation.

When December 8th falls on Saturday, the precept of attending Mass is still observed in the United States, even though it will mean going to Mass two days in a row (since every Sunday is also a holy day of obligation).

<https://www.ncregister.com/blog/8-things-you-need-to-know-about-the-immaculate-conception>

THE FOUR MARKS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

It is Christ who, through the Holy Spirit, makes his Church one, holy, catholic, and apostolic, and it is he who calls her to realize each of these qualities. (Catechism of the Catholic Church 811)



ONE



HOLY



CATHOLIC



APOSTOLIC

†Faith (Eph. 4:5)

†Sacrifice (1 Cor. 5:7-8)

†Sacramental System (1 Cor. 4:1)

†Head (Jn. 10:16)

†In her Founder (Mt. 16:18)

†In her Teachings (Eph. 4:11-12)

†In her Means of Grace (2 Pt. 1:3-4)

†In her Members who follow the Teachings and use the Means of Grace provided, to participate in the Divine life of God now & forever (1 Pt. 2:9).

†She is not the Church of one nation or one race but the Mother of all nations and all races (Gal. 4:26) teaching the complete & correct Faith for all times, places, and peoples (Mt. 28:18-20).

†She can trace her origin in unbroken lineage back to the Apostles upon whom Christ founded the Church (Eph. 2:20).

LIFE'S VISION

Is now

Life Culture

Life's Vision Manitoba is now Life Culture Canada. Our new name captures both why we exist and who we want to reach:

- To restore the value of life in our culture.
- To reach our country for life

You have previously heard me talk about our programs like Angel Baby, Care Together, Church Ambassadors, and helping Women in Crisis, which are already making an impact thanks to your support.

But what I want to mention today is hope. So many people lose sight of the value of life because they have lost sight of hope. They can't see a way out of their current situation or they think it compassionate to end life rather than find hope in difficult circumstances.

What a culture of life really promotes is hope. Hope that there is support. Hope that life has meaning. Hope that someone cares. When we equip people to speak for life, we are equipping them to be beacons of hope in a culture that has lost sight of how precious and miraculous life is.

Hope changes everything.

Susan Penner

Executive Director

Address: Life Culture

Unit E - 98 Brandt St.

Steinbach, MB R5G 0V6

Webpage: lifeculture.ca



Announcement

New Executive Director

It is with great pleasure that we announce that James Kautz has been hired as the Catholic School of Evangelization's newest Executive Director.

You may recognize James as a member of the 2018-2020 Missionary Family, where he and his family served as the caretakers as well as the welcoming presence of the CSE.

James has a heart for the mission, vision, and values of the CSE and has had a variety of experiences that will have prepared him for the role he is about to take. He will bring an immense depth of faith in God's Providence, wisdom, and creativity with him as he grows into his new role.



Anita pictured beside a tree that was gifted to her and planted at the CSE

Good bye

from the former Executive Director

In preparing for my departure from the CSE as Executive Director, fond memories of my time here had been brought to mind. The work we accomplished, people I've met and journeyed with, times of growth, times of struggle, times of grace, so much to be thankful for – all because of Jesus... and all because of YOU!

You who believe in the CSE and its mission! You, who supported the ministry efforts of the CSE either through your participation, prayer or through your donations, thank you. We are all workers in God's vineyard and I am blessed to have had the opportunity to work alongside you.

May God continue to bless the CSE community as it reaches out beyond its walls to be leaders in the new evangelization and invite young people to know and follow Jesus



By Minaz Kerawala, Communications and Public Relations Advisor

Community-based education entails holding classes in discreet locations within the children's neighbourhoods, often in teachers' homes.

"Ignorance is God's prison; knowing is God's palace," wrote the revered medieval Persian mystic, Mawlana Rumi.

In Rumi's native Afghanistan, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada is helping deliver children from ignorance to knowing through an education project that addresses pressing needs.

Challenges and opportunities

Despite two decades of progress, education in Afghanistan, especially of girls, is expected to suffer significant setbacks after the August 2021 Taliban takeover. Security concerns have forced several aid organizations, including some of our partners, to curtail many activities, especially ones targeted at women and girls. This when under a third of adults and only 17 per cent of women are literate¹, and over 43 per cent of primary-school-aged children are not in school².

However, not all is bleak.

Once enrolled, Afghan children persist in school. Of the kids who start primary school, 85 per cent finish and over 92 percent of secondary school entrants complete all grades³. Investing in Afghan education is therefore as worthy as it is vital.

Bringing the school to the children

In a largely rural province of Afghanistan, many children, especially girls do not go to school simply because the nearest school can be up

to 20 kilometres away. That is why Development and Peace is partnering with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for a community-based schools project to bring education to these remote communities.

The three-year project will allow 180 students (92 girls, 88 boys) who are currently in Grades 1 to 3 to continue through Grades 4, 5 and 6. CRS was already supporting these students with remote learning resources when schools were closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To make education safe and feasible for the children, CRS is basing the project in communities in which it enjoys broad-based support and buy-in; running classes in the children's neighbourhoods in discreet locations, often in teachers' homes; and delivering the government-mandated curriculum.

To ensure the project's sustainability, CRS will also work with state schools, school management shura (committees) and government officials to build capacities and plan for eventually integrating the students into mainstream schools.

The government-mandated curriculum is taught in an engaging, child-friendly manner.

A continuing commitment, a capable partner

This community-based education project continues Development and Peace's commitment to Afghanistan, which began with emergency relief in 2002 and evolved into a broader, longer-term women's empowerment program.

We have had a longstanding relationship with CRS who, through years of working judiciously and diplomatically across Afghan regions controlled by various rival factions, are well-equipped to manage the challenges posed by Afghanistan's new realities.

Being run in partnership with CRS, which is one of the few remaining agencies that can operate effectively in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, this project is a means for Development and Peace to continue serving and investing in the future of the Afghan people.

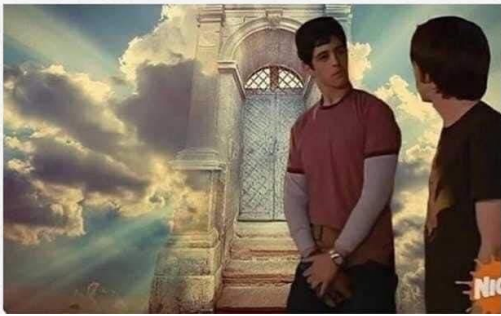
Education is an especially important determinant of Afghan girls' life trajectories. Girls who stay in school tend not to be married off early and are known to become the anchors of several beneficial longer-term socioeconomic outcomes for their families and communities.

That is why Development and Peace is funding about half the cost of the project. As significant as this is, more funding is needed to expand the project's scope and scale for wider impact. Your generosity can help sustain and spread this work and give more Afghan children, especially girls, a brighter future.

<https://www.devp.org/en/blog/education-an-investment-in-afghanistans-future/>

"One night there went out over the stillness of the evening breeze, out over those chalky hills of Bethlehem, the cry of a new born babe. The Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us. Earth did not hear the cry, for the earth slept; men did not hear the cry, for they did not know that a Child could be greater than a man; kings did not hear the cry, for they did not know that a King could be born in a stable; empires did not hear the cry, for empires did not know that an Infant could hold the reins that steer suns and worlds in their courses. But shepherds and philosophers heard the cry, for only the very simple and the very learned know that the heart of a God can cry out in the cry of a Child. And they came with gifts — and adored, and so great was the majesty seated on the brow of the Child, so great was the dignity of the babe, so powerful was the light of these eyes that shone like celestial suns, that they could not help but cry out: Emmanuel, God is with us." Archbishop Fulton Sheen (The Life of All Living)--

When your atheist friend convinces you out of your religion and you both die and can't get into heaven



How to get out of potlucks for the rest of your life



When you've started eating and someone starts praying...



In 20 years when kids ask about the 2020 toilet paper shortage,

I'm telling them we had to drag our butt's across the lawn.

In the snow.

Uphill. Both ways.



"No, I'm pretty sure it's do unto oters as you would have oters to do unto you."



Always warm your hands before milking the cow.

