



# Notre Dame de Lorette Catholic Women's League

**CATHOLIC**  
and **LIVING IT!**

July/August 2022



Our Spiritual Advisor  
Fr. Jorge Mario de los Rios Londoño

Our Members  
Lacey Bernardin, *Past-President*  
Megan Bernardin  
Lynne Bernier  
Susan Bernier  
Irene Bialek  
Valerie Bonnefoy, *Chair*  
Jacqueline Bouchard  
Lindsay Bouchard  
Jolene Capina  
Maryse Chartier  
Lucille Chay, *President*

Crystal Chernichan  
Monica Chernichan  
Rolande Chernichan  
Jaquelyne Cournoyer  
Patricia Danylchuk  
Suzanne Desmarais  
Janine Durand-Rondeau  
Gisèle Falk  
Constance Haas  
Monique Jeanson, *Chair*  
Sue Johannesson  
Monique Johnson  
Delaney Kolowca  
Heather Kolowca  
Nettie Lambert  
Marie McCall

Madelyn McConnell  
Kathleen Messner  
Suzanne Moore, *Treasurer, Chair*  
Carol Mravinec  
Mary-Ann Novak  
Agatha Olayiwola  
Marcia Poirier, *Secretary*  
Jennifer Poitra  
Marie-Ange Prevost  
Mae Ross, *PPC rep*  
Iris Swiderski  
Joanne Touchette  
Marilyn Toutant

# Lucille's



# Letter

Dear Sisters in the League & Fr. Mario,

The daily news is filled with reports of catastrophic events that could easily lead to despair if not for our faith! As we journey into summer, let us take time to reflect on the many blessings that our God has bestowed upon us and let us give thanks that we have been given the grace, fortitude and strength to withstand the pressures that could otherwise overwhelm us.

Like May, June was a busy month for us. I was very sad at the beginning of June to have to miss the provincial convention in Neepawa due to contracting COVID. Thank you to Connie Haas, who took over my voting responsibilities and to the six members of our council who were able to attend on our behalf. (page 5)

We offer prayers of praise and thanksgiving for the successes of Irene and Ashley's surgeries on June 9. Both ladies are home and healing and are most grateful for the dinners being provided by some of our members.

A big thank you to those who came out to help clean highway 207 on Saturday, June 11. Of particular interest, we found a billfold with credit cards, ID cards and money. Facebook helped us find him and though he had lost the billfold last year and had already replaced the cards, he was delighted to get his \$102 back! As we clean twice a year, we are noticing a marked decrease in the amount of trash along the highway. Bravo! The mosquitoes were glad to see us! A special thank you to Fr. Mario who joined us, as well as some of the Knights and the young people! (pages 6-8)

On Thursday, June 16, our parish hosted with Kyle Coffey from the *Canadian Centre for Bioethical Research* who presented a workshop for 32 of us about speaking effectively about abortion with love and compassion. Thank you to the CWL, Knights and Men of St. Joseph for organizing this successful evening (page 8)

What a lovely evening we had for our year-end BBQ on Friday, June 17! Thank you to Connie & Elwood for hosting our gathering and preparing the meat and potatoes. Thank you to Father Mario for celebrating with us and for offering grace. Everything was delicious...the beef was cooked to perfection, the variety of great salads were a wonderful compliment to the meat and potatoes and the decadent desserts were the icing on the cake as they say. I cannot think of a much better way that I would want to spend an evening relaxing in the company of such wonderful people. Thank you for making my evening a most pleasant one! (page 9)

Thank you to Suzanne Moore for representing us at the École/Collège régional Gabrielle-Roy 2022 graduation on June 24, where we

presented a \$500.00 scholarship to Cabrel Sorin, the fourth and last member of his family to receive our scholarship! (page 4)

*News from our Provincial President, Crystal Reiter: Those who attended the provincial convention heard about the report from Military Ordinariate member Carole Matowski. She said that the report completed by the Minister's Advisory Panel on Systemic Racism and Discrimination in the Canadian Armed Forces has recommended the firing of most of the religious leaders employed by the Canadian Armed Forces. (see pg 11) This could lead to the end of the Military Ordinariate group of the CWL. This change to the very structure of the military requires our prayers! The ladies and gentlemen of the military are moved around the world, sometimes as often as every two years. They are not able to establish meaningful relationships with members of the communities in which they are briefly placed. This is why the ladies of the Military Ordinariate place such value in the CWL. Everywhere they go, we are there for them!*

Time goes by much too quickly! Our Gourmet Poutine fundraiser will be upon us sooner than we think— September 9! Please look around your home for items that would be suitable to include in a silent auction basket. These and your bottle of wine(for the wine baskets) can be dropped off at Marcia's throughout July and August.

Contact Suzanne for tickets (\$25 to attend or \$10 to support) and bring out all your family & friends to support our fundraiser. Our fundraiser's proceeds are earmarked to provide assistance to war refugee Ukrainian families relocating to Manitoba. Let us all work diligently to make this a huge success!

Pope Francis' historic visit to Canada will occur July 24 – 29, 2022. This will be the fourth papal visit to Canada and the first since Saint John Paul II's journey in 2002. Please pray for a successful papal visit this month to Canada (see page 10)



Also, keep in your prayers our sisters who are ill or recovering from surgery. (page 4) Enjoy your summer! Take time for rest and relaxation. See you in September.

*Lucille Chay*

## 2022 Pope's Intentions

**July -- Elderly** (page 13-14)



We pray for the elderly, who represent the roots and memory of a people; may their experience and wisdom help young people to look towards the future with hope and responsibility.

**August -- Small Businesses**

We pray for small and medium sized businesses; in the midst of economic and social crisis, may they find ways to continue operating, and serving their communities.



# July 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Jolene Capina 
3	4	5	6	7 Suzanne Desmarais 	8	9
10	11 Kathleen & Dan Messner 	12	13	14 Suzanne & Leo Desmarais 	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Susan & Leo Bernier 	22 Lynne Bernier 	23
24 Suzanne & Cameron Moore 	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

# August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Marilyn Toutant 	2	3	4	5 Mae Ross 	6 Marie McCall 
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 	15	16	17	18	19	20
CWL National Convention in Kelowna, BC						
21	22	23	24	25	26 Jacqueline & Gilbert Bouchard 	27 Joanne Touchette Lucille & Ron Chay  
28	29	30	31 Heather & Derek Kolowca 			

# Members say Thank You for the prayers...



Sue Johannesson has been in the Beausejour hospital for the last three weeks, fighting the lingering effects of COVID on her general health and her immune system. She has been undergoing many tests and treatments to improve her health and has been feeling a little bit better recently. She is grateful to be in Beausejour, where she is cared for so well. She is also so grateful for the family and friends, most notably Lucille Chay, who stop in often to visit with her. She thanks the CWL so much for the continued prayers and phone calls, and knows that without prayer, she would not be doing as well as she is.



Marilyn Toutant has overcome many health obstacles in the last few years and requires oxygen almost continuously (she took out the tube for this picture). She was able to celebrate her granddaughter Joanne's wedding on June 11. She is grateful for all the prayers that the CWL have been praying for her and Bob as they struggle with their health issues. She extends her profound appreciation to all her sisters.



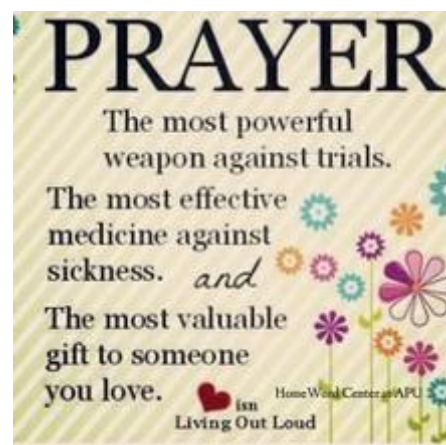
Irene and Ashley Bialek are recovering well, following their surgeries on June 9, where Irene (grandmother) donated a kidney to Ashley (granddaughter). Everything went beautifully and Ashley's kidney is doing what it is supposed to do. Both ladies so appreciate the continued prayers; as Irene stated, it brought her a lot of comfort. The home-delivered meals are also enjoyed and welcomed. Impatient Irene would love the healing to be a bit faster, but is confident that she'll be ready for national convention in Kelowna, August 14-17.



Carol Mravinec has had some health setbacks that began prior to COVID. Her thyroid was the first setback and she is being treated for that. Then she spent a month in the hospital for other health reasons. She left the hospital weak as a kitten but with proper meds, she is getting stronger. Things take longer to get done but with God's grace she is able to be at home doing what she loves best—working in her garden. She was even able to come out to our end of year BBQ at the Haas'. She sends her gratitude to all her sisters in the League for their continued prayers.



Lynne Bernier's struggles with thyroid over the last couple of years have left her exhausted and unable to do much. After visits to the doctor and many tests, her thyroid medication as well as her heart medications were changed and she is starting to feel better and is able to walk short distances without fatigue. She is grateful for all the continuing prayers and concern over her health and sends her affection to all the CWL sisters.



## 2022 CWL Scholarship Recipient, Cabrel Sorin



From left to right, the four CWL Scholarship Recipients from the Marcel & Michelle Sorin family:

Catherine (2017)  
Cabrel (2022)  
Miguel (2020)  
Amélie (2019)

Félicitations!

**June 24, 2022**

# MB Provincial Convention, June 3&4, Neepawa



Manitoba Life Members



Proudly representing Lorette



Enjoying some fellowship



Getting down to business



Getting down to business



Ukrainian CWL president Orysia Hull speaks about history and current issues in Ukraine



Diocesan President, Lacey addresses the members



Incoming Provincial President Crystal provides testimony



Former teaching colleagues Mavis & Orysia



Thank you Orysia!



The newly-elected Provincial Executive with new spiritual advisor, Fr. Charles Fillion



Installation of new spiritual advisor, Fr. Charles Fillion by Wpg Archbishop Richard Gagnon



Free bells donated by Life Member Dolores Blanchard for the choosing

# Highway Cleanup, June 11





### Memorable Items Found during cleanup:

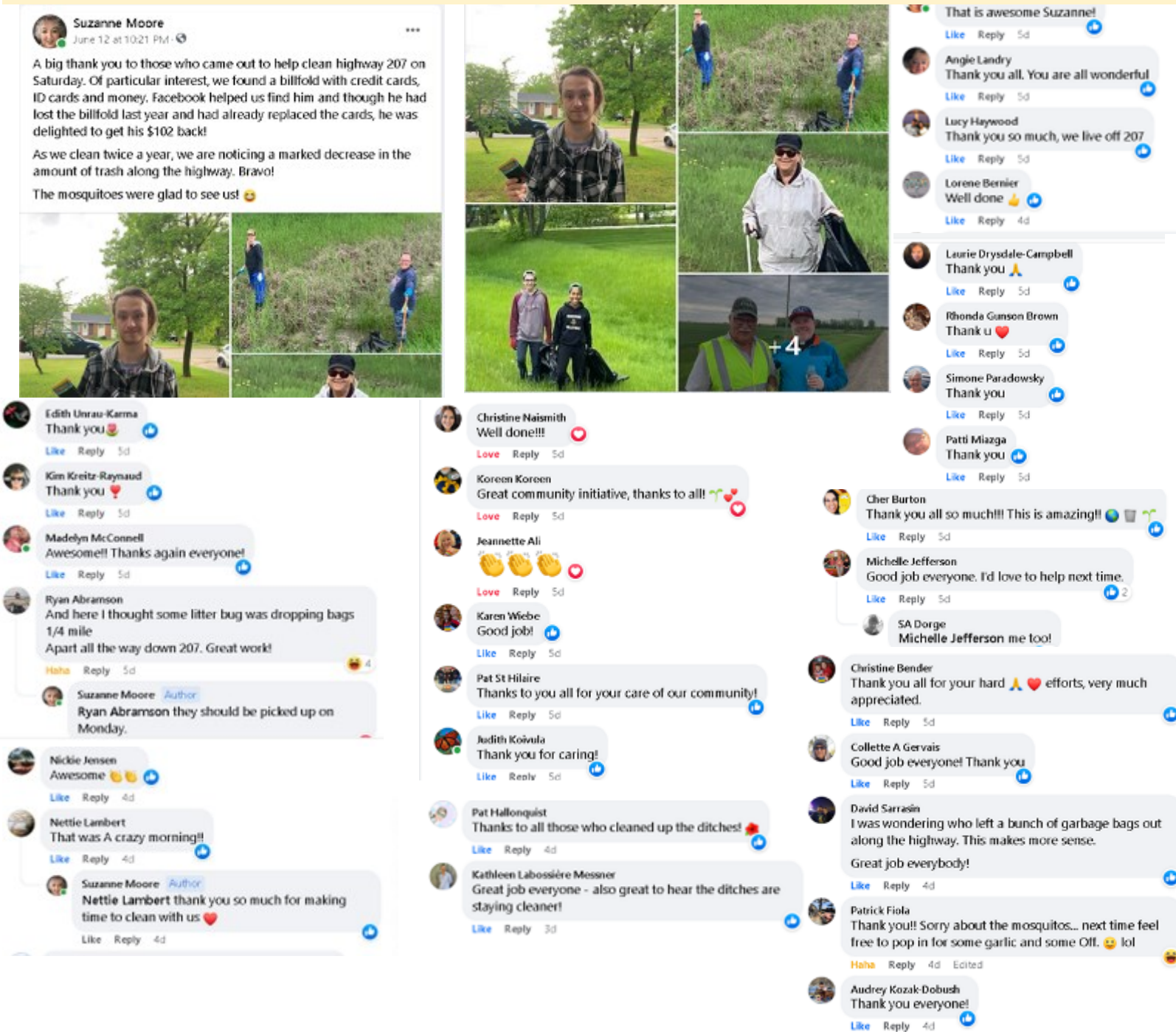
- Bags of dog poop
- Dirty diapers
- Dime
- Beer cans
- Pop cans
- Hammer
- Fender
- Lots of cardboard
- Package of SanDisc storage discs
- Billfold containing 2 credit cards, driver's license, vaccination card and \$102! Through Facebook, we found the owner and he came to pick it up!

### Reflections on Cleanup

- Weather was warm with overcast skies; perfect for picking
- It took us only 1.5 hours to finish 8 kilometres
- We had the largest group of volunteers to date (26), with 10 new pickers!
- We had Fr. Mario, Knights (3) and youth (7) join us in the event
- We had a lovely breakfast at Chicken Chef following our work
- Two generations of CWL cleaners: Rolande & Monica Chernichan
- Anne Grossman and three-legged pet dog, Gus, provided their help
- Lots of standing water and mosquitoes! Rubber boots were a must!
- Amount of garbage collected declined from previous years



# Social Media Presence & Feedback



## Kyle Coffey Presentation, June 16



# End of Year BBQ, June 17



*Yummy  
Tasty  
So Good!*



# Catholic Bishops Welcome Announcement of Program for Papal Visit to Canada



**WALKING  
TOGETHER**  
POPE FRANCIS CANADA 2022

**MARCHER  
ENSEMBLE**  
PAPE FRANÇOIS CANADA 2022

June 23, 2022 – Canada's Catholic Bishops welcome today's announcement from the Holy See providing further details of the itinerary of Pope Francis' historic visit to Canada, July 24 – 29, 2022. This will be the fourth papal visit to Canada and the first since Saint John Paul II's journey in 2002.

The Holy Father's pilgrimage will focus on Indigenous healing and reconciliation while also providing the shepherd of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics an opportunity to encounter the faithful in Canada. Due to his advanced age and limitations, it is expected that participation by Pope Francis at public events will be limited to approximately one hour.

General Co-ordinator of the Papal Visit to Canada, Archbishop Richard Smith, remarked on the release of the program: "We know that the Holy Father was deeply moved by his encounter with Indigenous Peoples in Rome earlier this year, and that he hopes to build on the important dialogue that took place. We pray this pilgrimage will serve as another meaningful step in the long journey of healing, reconciliation and hope."

The visit, drawing on the theme of "Walking Together", will include a combination of public and private events, with an emphasis on Indigenous participation throughout the visit. Ticketing (free) for public events will be announced in the coming days. A volunteer portal can be accessed at [papalvisit.ca](http://papalvisit.ca) or [visitepapale.ca](http://visitepapale.ca) for those wishing to share their time and talents as part of the historic visit.

The papal visit planning team will work closely with Indigenous partners as well as federal, provincial and municipal levels of government to dialogue and co-ordinate the significant logistical challenges associated with a visit of this scope and magnitude. Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops President, Bishop Raymond Poisson, commented on the efforts: "So many people are working diligently to organize this very busy schedule for the Holy Father and participants. We pray for the health of Pope Francis and also that his

pastoral visit to Canada will bring reconciliation and hope to all those who will accompany our shepherd on this historic journey."

Those interested in learning more about the Papal Visit to Canada can find the latest updates at: [www.papalvisit.ca](http://www.papalvisit.ca) (English) and [www.visitepapale.ca](http://www.visitepapale.ca) (French).

## **Highlights of the program announced by the Vatican include:**

### **July 24, 2022**

The Holy Father will arrive in Edmonton, Alberta on July 24th. Following a brief airport ceremony, the 85-year-old pontiff will take the remainder of the day to rest.

### **July 25, 2022**

On July 25th, Pope Francis will visit Maskwacis, home to the former Ermineskin Residential School, one of the largest residential school sites in Canada. The Holy Father will join former residential school students from across the country as part of a formal program. Alberta is home to the largest number of former residential schools in Canada.

Later in the day, the pontiff will visit Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples, a National Indigenous church in downtown Edmonton. Following extensive restoration after a devastating fire in 2020, the parish will re-open its doors after using a nearby school the last several years to offer hospitality, spiritual care and supportive outreach programs serving a diverse urban Indigenous community. This will be an invitation-only event.

### **July 26, 2022**

July 26th is the feast of St. Anne, grandmother of Jesus, a day of particular reverence for Indigenous Catholics and often the focus of pilgrimage in various parts of the country. In an event that will be open to the public, the Holy Father will celebrate an open-air Mass at Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton. The facility can accommodate up to 65,000 attendees for a program that will incorporate Indigenous traditions as part of the gathering.

In the early evening, the Holy Father will travel to Lac Ste. Anne, the site of an annual pilgrimage that welcomes tens of thousands of Indigenous participants from throughout Canada and the United States each year. Programming will be offered throughout the day leading up to the Holy Father's participation in a prayer service.

### **July 27, 2022**

The Holy Father will depart Edmonton for Quebec City. Upon arrival, the Pontiff will visit La Citadelle, where he will take part in private meetings. Pope Francis, as both a spiritual leader and head of state, will also offer a public address. For events in Quebec City, the public is also invited to participate at a dedicated area on the Plains of Abraham, where there will be opportunities on July 27 and 28 for Indigenous cultural expression as well as the chance to view papal events on large screens. The detailed program of activities on the Plains is being developed with Indigenous and community partners.

### **July 28, 2022**

Pope Francis will travel to Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré, where he will celebrate Mass at one of the oldest and most popular pilgrimage sites in North America, drawing more than a million visitors to the site (including annual Indigenous pilgrimages) each year. Organizers anticipate between 10,000 and 15,000 guests may attend with space for guests both inside and outside the basilica.

Later in the day, His Holiness will meet with bishops, priests, seminarians, consecrated men and women as well as those who work in various church ministries, as is customary with most papal visits. The pope will have the remainder of the evening for rest while a dinner focused on friendship and ongoing dialogue will bring together Indigenous leaders from Eastern Canada and representatives of the Catholic Bishops of Canada.

### **July 29, 2022**

Following a private meeting with members of his own religious order (Society of Jesus), Pope Francis will meet with Indigenous leaders from Eastern Canada before departing for Iqaluit, where he will spend the afternoon in a private meeting with residential school survivors before attending a public community event hosted by Inuit.

The Holy Father will depart for Rome from Iqaluit in the early evening.

*About the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops: The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) is the national assembly of the Bishops of Canada. It was founded in 1943 and officially recognized by the Holy See in 1948.*

[https://www.papalvisit.ca/catholic-bishops-welcome-announcement-of-program-for-papal-visit-to-canada/?ql=1\\*19q9wbz\\* qa\\*OTYxODA0MDcuMTY1NjAzOTc5NQ.\\* qa MO229CX327\\*MTY1NjAzOTc5NC4xLjAuMTY1NjAzOTc5NC4w](https://www.papalvisit.ca/catholic-bishops-welcome-announcement-of-program-for-papal-visit-to-canada/?ql=1*19q9wbz* qa*OTYxODA0MDcuMTY1NjAzOTc5NQ.* qa MO229CX327*MTY1NjAzOTc5NC4xLjAuMTY1NjAzOTc5NC4w)



## Raymond J. de Souza: New report recommends turning the Armed Forces into a secular theocracy

*The panel's chaplaincy recommendations are a total assault not only on religious liberty, but the very idea of religion itself* [Father Raymond J. de Souza](#) Apr 30, 2022

Three Canadian Forces chaplains lead the pallbearer party, as a soldier's body is sent home from Afghanistan in 2006. PHOTO BY MAJOR DANY LAFERRIERE /Staff Sergeant Jacob Caldwell

The Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) may go to war — not in Ukraine, but against its own members who don't conform to a new standard of theological intolerance.

This week, the minister of national defence [released the report](#) of the Minister's Advisory Panel on Systemic Racism and Discrimination. The panel, set up in December 2020 by the government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, was given the "clear mandate to seek out the policies, processes and practices that enable systemic racism and discrimination in the Department of National Defence (DND) and CAF."

The [terms of reference](#) made it clear what the panel was to find: "All forms of systemic racism and discrimination, including anti-Indigenous and anti-Black racism, LGBTQ2+ prejudice, gender bias, right-wing extremism and white supremacy are exhibited within the CAF." (It's noteworthy that "right-wing extremism" was slipped in there. This government has a rather expansive view of what constitutes right-wing extremism; some days it is anyone who disagrees with the prime minister.)

The report is admirably brief for government work, a brisk 100 pages, but no less ambitious on that account. Unusually for a government body, the advisory panel began its weekly meetings with a prayer. Members turned toward "our Grandfathers the thunder beings, our Grandmother Moon and our Creator, however imagined."

It turns out that the panel has a rather limited view of how the CAF should permit its members to imagine the Creator. Indeed, the panel advocates firing all Muslim and Orthodox

Jewish chaplains, as well Catholic priests and many Protestant pastors. They will all fall afoul of the new theological orthodoxy.

The panel concedes that many CAF members find in religion "a source of solace, optimism and compassion," and can turn to their "unit chaplain ... for effective support in ethical guidance or spirituality through the new Total Health and Wellness Strategic Framework." Bureaucratise like that makes it clear that this won't end well.

So does the panel's ominous warning that, "Some chaplains represent or are affiliated with organized religions whose beliefs are not synonymous with those of a diverse and inclusive workplace."

As an example, the report notes that "some churches' exclusion of women from their priesthoods violates principles of equality and social justice, as do sexist notions embedded in their religious dogmas. In addition, certain faiths have strict tenets requiring conversion of those they deem to be 'pagan,' or who belong to polytheistic religions. These faiths' dogmas and practices conflict with the commitment of the Defence Team to value equality and inclusivity at every level of the workplace."

Thus all those chaplains must go, for the CAF "cannot justify hiring representatives of organizations who marginalize certain people or categorically refuse them a position of leadership."

The advisory panel's view is that if a soldier who's been wounded in battle, or even dying, calls for a chaplain, the CAF should not provide one unless it approves of the theological beliefs being offered. What the panel does not make clear is why the soldiers themselves are entitled to hold unacceptable religious views. Perhaps they aren't — or won't be.

The panel denounces religions that propose monotheism rather than polytheism. That follows logically if you believe that there is a true God; other gods are by definition false. Does the panel take offence at Joshua, who challenged ancient Israel to declare itself, saying, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord"? Joshua was fearsome in battle, but would have no place in the CAF.

The panel is advocating a crippling relativism here, in which a chaplain is not permitted to believe that his own religion is true.

The panel recommends, in effect, that the CAF hold the theological view that there is no difference between believing in the Triune God of Father, Son and Holy Spirit and professing belief in the divinities of the Roman pantheon, and that all its chaplains should hold this view.

Should a Jewish chaplain consider that belief in

the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is — what's the word? — true, and that faith in Jupiter is false, then he would be sent packing by the CAF. On the other hand, if you could find a Muslim chaplain who holds that Allah and Apollo are equally valid divinities, then he could be retained. But you won't find him, because anyone who believes that is no longer a Muslim.

But what if a "Muslim" who believes that there are other gods besides Allah could be found? Even that would not satisfy the extremist relativism of the panel.

The CAF "cannot consider itself supportive of inclusivity when it employs as chaplains members of organizations whose values are not consistent with National Defence's ethics and values — even if those members express non-adherence to the policies of their chosen religion."

So not even an apostate Muslim qualifies! The panel would apparently be cool with a Christian chaplain who isn't too fussed about whether Jesus is divine, but if the pertinent "chosen religion" professes the 1,700-year-old Nicene Creed that Jesus is "God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God," then unleash the anathemas!

That's why the panel's chaplaincy recommendations are a total assault not only on religious liberty, but the very idea of religion itself — unless that religion happens to be the "total health and wellness" dogmas of the CAF. It is proposing that the CAF become a secularist theocracy, a contradiction in terms.

The panel's rank anti-religious bigotry is revealed in relation to residential schools, as it argues that Christian chaplains are to be avoided because "Indigenous peoples have suffered unimaginable generational trauma and genocide at the hands of Christian religious leaders through initiatives such as residential school and Indian day school programs."

One might ask, but the panel does not, that if the Christian churches are disqualified on the grounds of residential school trauma, what about the government of Canada itself, which conceived, mandated and funded the schools? It was a government program, after all. According the panel's reasoning, that should disqualify the Government of Canada from being involved in Canada's Armed Forces.

The report is advisory, not government policy. One wishes for it the same treatment that our military procurement process delivers: no actual implementation.

<https://nationalpost.com/opinion/raymond-j-de-souza-new-report-recommends-turning-the-armed-forces-into-a-secular-theocracy>

# Canada is NOT As Advertised. MAiD Is Eugenics

## Canada is not as advertised.

The myths and marketing that make up Canada's international image insulate the Canadian government from the scrutiny and criticism its expansion of assisted suicide warrants.

Support for MAiD (Medical Assistance in Dying) relies heavily on Canada's reputation as a champion of human rights and assumption that the external enabling conditions necessary for supporting autonomy exist here.

The fight around MAiD is one for robust autonomy but not as the proponents of MAiD suggest. In reality the same institutions and professions that regularly deny us autonomy over our lives, disingenuously pretend to champion it over our deaths. We urge you to ask why.

In their rhetoric the proponents of Canada's assisted suicide argue that the state should not impede anyone's right to choose to die.

## There are three deliberate falsehoods in their assertion

**The first is that MAiD is a negative freedom – meaning that the state agree not to interfere in a person's ending of their own life.** In truth, MAiD is a positive freedom. **The state is providing death as a service.**

This obfuscation of the state's role in causing the death, not merely failing to inhibiting it, contributes to the lack of critical examination it receives. As a result, even the people who would oppose capital punishment in instances where the murderer confessed and requested it, remain silent about MAiD.

## MAiD is fully covered under Canada's healthcare system.

This is significant given what is not covered under Canada's healthcare, the barriers to accessing life-sustaining treatments and how ableism, racism, poverty and other intersecting oppressions impact medical diagnosis, treatment and outcomes.

And it is especially significant since unlike other countries where euthanasia is legalized, Canada does not require that alternative options be made available.

Which leads us to **the second falsehood – the claim that MAiD exists within a framework of real choice.**

## Canada's universal healthcare system is in fact not universal.

It covers some parts of the body and not others, some aspects of healthcare and not others.

The ableist bias also extends to how it is practiced and delivered as well as in the use of the Quality Adjusted Life Years formula.

Significant variations in availability of care and coverage occur not only from province to province but urban versus rural areas and regionally from north versus south.



A 2018 study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, ranked Canada 10th out of 11 well-off nations in terms of public spending on health as a percentage of GDP.

- 30 percent of health spending in Canada is private.
- In 1976, Canada had 6.9 hospital beds per 1,000 people.
- By 2019 that number had shrunk to 2.5.

Now, our chronically starved healthcare system is in crisis.

One of the people involved in crafting Canada's healthcare rationing protocols, Dr. Eike-Henner Kluge, has argued that parents of disabled children should be given the right to request their child be euthanized. He is also responsible for establishing the Canadian Medical Association's Department of Ethics.

Election campaigns are run on dehumanizing people with mental illness and promises to round up and re-institutionalize disabled people who are homeless. Disabled people, especially those who are Indigenous or Black, are killed by police conducting "wellness checks."

To this day, a significant number of disabled people under the age of 65, are forced into long term care due to absence of affordable and accessible housing and the non-existence of community support. This is what led a disabled man named Sean Tagert to apply for and receive MAiD.

## Canada is also a country of great wealth inequality.

According to the Parliamentary Budget Officer 2020 report, the top 1% of Canadian households hold 25.6% of total wealth in the

country while the bottom 40 percent possess roughly 1.2 percent.

41 percent of people living at low income level are disabled. Disability benefits vary by province but all are far below the poverty line – a poverty line that, according to recent research, has an ableist bias and ignores the increased costs associated with living as a disabled person in an ableist society.

This means many disabled people regularly experience periods of hunger, go without medications or other essentials of life.

In Canada, the state provision of death exists in a landscape of denial of rights, care and deliberate deprivation and therefore acts as a coercive power against disabled people instead of enabling our autonomy or providing us with choice.

And this leads us to **the third and final falsehood in their argument. MAiD for those not near end of life is not available to just "anyone."** It is available solely to disabled people. Ableism is embedded in Canada's history and has been codified and institutionalized into every aspect of our society.

The ideological beliefs and systems that supported and arose out of colonialism and white supremacy, including eugenics, never ended. They were just rebranded.

The elimination of the end of life requirement and broad expansion of MAiD depends on a belief that Canada's institutions can and will guarantee the necessary, consistent, universal, and unbiased level of transparent, accountable delivery and oversight, within a society where the provision of real options to ensure that euthanasia isn't the only way to escape socially constructed suffering. A guarantee that not a single instance of abuse or error will end the life of a disabled person who would have wished to live if proper supports and real choice had been provided.

## Canada can not make such a guarantee

Next week is the one year anniversary of the heat dome in my province of British Columbia. 619 people, mostly disabled, died in one week due to policies that did not allow them to escape the heat. Some, who lived minutes from a hospital, died waiting hours for an ambulance. One year later, we are still waiting for those policies to change.

## Canada is not as advertised

<https://alexschadenberg.blogspot.com/2022/06/canada-is-not-as-advertised-maid-is.html>

# “In old age they will still bear fruit” (Psalm 92:15)



Dear Friends,

“In old age they will still bear fruit” (*Ps* 92:15). These words of the Psalmist are glad tidings, a true “gospel” that we can proclaim to all on this second World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. They run counter to what the world thinks about this stage of life, but also to the attitude of grim resignation shown by some of us elderly people, who harbour few expectations for the future.

**Many people are afraid of old age.** They consider it a sort of disease with which any contact is best avoided. The elderly, they think, are none of their concern and should be set apart, perhaps in homes or places where they can be cared for, lest we have to deal with their problems. This is the mindset of the “throw-away culture”, which leads us to think that we are somehow different from the poor and vulnerable in our midst, untouched by their frailties and separated from “them” and their troubles. The Scriptures see things differently. A long life – so the Bible teaches – is a blessing, and the elderly are not outcasts to be shunned but living signs of the goodness of God who bestows life in abundance.

**Blessed is the house where an older person lives! Blessed is the family that honours the elderly!**

**Old age is not a time of life easily understood even by those of us who are already experiencing it.** Even though it eventually comes with the passage of time, no one prepares us for old age, and at times it seems to take us by surprise. The more developed societies expend large sums on this stage of life without really helping people to understand and appreciate it; they offer healthcare plans to the elderly but not plans for living this age to the full. This makes it hard to look to the future and discern what direction to take. On the one hand, we are tempted to ward off old age by hiding our wrinkles and pretending to be forever young, while on the other, we imagine that the only thing we can do is bide our time, thinking glumly that we cannot “still bring forth fruit”.

Retirement and grown children make many of the things that used to occupy our time and energy no longer so pressing. The recognition that our strength is ebbing or the onset of sickness can undermine our certainties. The fast pace of the world – with which we struggle to keep up – seems to leave us no alternative but to implicitly accept the idea that we are useless. We can resonate with the heartfelt prayer of the Psalmist: “Do not cast me off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength is spent” (71:9).

Yet that same psalm – which meditates on how the Lord has been present at every stage of our lives – urges us to persevere in hope. Along with old age and white hairs, God continues to give us the gift of life and to keep us from being overcome by evil. If we trust in him, we will find the strength to praise him still (cf. vv. 14-20). We will come to see that growing old is more than the natural decline of the body or the inevitable passage of time, but the gift of a long life. Aging is not a condemnation, but a blessing!

**For this reason, we ought to take care of ourselves and remain active in our later years.** This is also true from a spiritual standpoint: we ought to cultivate our interior life through the assiduous reading of the word of God, daily prayer, reception of the sacraments and participation in the liturgy. In addition to our relationship with God, we should also cultivate our relationships with others: first of all by showing affectionate concern for our families, our children and grandchildren, but also for the poor and those who suffer, by drawing near to them with practical assistance and our prayers. These things will help us not to feel like mere bystanders, sitting on our porches or looking out from our windows, as life goes on all around us. Instead, we should learn to discern everywhere the presence of the Lord. Like “green olive trees in the house of God” (cf. *Ps* 52:10), we can become a blessing for those who live next to us.



**Old age is no time to give up and lower the**

**sails, but a season of enduring fruitfulness: a new mission awaits us and bids us look to the future.** “The special sensibility that those of us who are elderly have for the concerns, thoughts and the affections that make us human should once again become the vocation of many. It would be a sign of our love for the younger generations”. This would be our own contribution to the *revolution of tenderness*, a spiritual and non-violent revolution in which I encourage you, dear grandparents and elderly persons, to take an active role.

Our world is passing through a time of trial and testing, beginning with the sudden, violent outbreak of the pandemic, and then by a war that is harming peace and development on a global scale. Nor is it a coincidence that war is returning to Europe at a time when the generation that experienced it in the last century is dying out. These great crises risk anaesthetizing us to the reality of other “epidemics” and other widespread forms of violence that menace the human family and our common home.

All this points to the need for a profound change, a conversion, that disarms hearts and leads us to see others as our brothers or sisters. We grandparents and elderly people have a great responsibility: to teach the women and men of our time to regard others with the same understanding and loving gaze with which we regard our own grandchildren. We ourselves have grown in humanity by caring for others, and now we can be teachers of a way of life that is peaceful and attentive to those in greatest need. This attitude may be mistaken for weakness or resignation, yet it will be the meek, not the aggressive and the abusive, who will inherit the earth (cf. *Mt* 5:5).

**One fruit that we are called to bring forth is protecting the world.** “Our grandparents held us in their arms and carried us on their knees”; now is the time for us to carry on our own knees – with practical assistance or with prayer alone – not only our own grandchildren but also the many frightened grandchildren whom we have not yet met and who may be fleeing from war or suffering its effects. Let us hold in our hearts – like Saint Joseph, who was a loving and attentive father – the little ones of Ukraine, of Afghanistan, of South Sudan...

Many of us have come to a sage and humble realization of what our world very much needs: the recognition that we are not saved alone, and that happiness is a bread we break

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

together. Let us bear witness to this before those who wrongly think that they can find personal fulfilment and success in conflict. Everyone, even the weakest among us, can do this. The very fact that we allow ourselves to be cared for – often by people who come from other countries – is itself a way of saying that living together in peace is not only possible, but necessary.

**Dear grandparents, dear elderly persons, we are called to be artisans of the revolution of tenderness in our world!** Let us do so by learning to make ever more frequent and better use of the most valuable instrument at our disposal and, indeed, the one best suited to our age: prayer. **“Let us too become, as it were, poets of prayer: let us develop a taste for finding our own words, let us once again take up those taught by the word of God”.** Our trustful prayer can do a great deal: it can accompany the cry of pain of those who suffer, and it can help change hearts. We can be “the enduring ‘chorus’ of a great spiritual



sanctuary, where prayers of supplication and songs of praise sustain the community that toils and struggles in the field of life”.

**The World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly is an opportunity to proclaim once more, with joy, that the Church wants to celebrate together with all those whom the Lord – in the words of the Bible – has “filled with days”. Let us celebrate it together!** I ask you to make this Day known in your parishes and communities; to seek out those elderly persons who feel most alone, at home or in residences where they live. Let us make sure

that no one feels alone on this day. Expecting a visit can transform those days when we think we have nothing to look forward to; from an initial encounter, a new friendship can emerge. Visiting the elderly who live alone is a work of mercy in our time!

**Let us ask Our Lady, Mother of Tender Love, to make all of us artisans of the revolution of tenderness, so that together we can set the world free from the spectre of loneliness and the demon of war.**

To all of you, and to your loved ones, I send my blessing and the assurance of my closeness and affection. And I ask you, please, not to forget to pray for me!

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 3 May 2022, Feast of the Apostles Philip and James

FRANCIS

[https://aleteia.org/2022/05/10/blessed-is-the-house-where-an-older-person-lives-full-text-of-popes-grandparents-day-message/?fbclid=IwAR1oJZZtXKqsVZ3DyTkQos2\\_sx6MiBSykSW0PM7XD0VfKy\\_NF\\_caFGZW8hps&utm\\_campaign=buffer&utm\\_content=buffer5698&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook.com](https://aleteia.org/2022/05/10/blessed-is-the-house-where-an-older-person-lives-full-text-of-popes-grandparents-day-message/?fbclid=IwAR1oJZZtXKqsVZ3DyTkQos2_sx6MiBSykSW0PM7XD0VfKy_NF_caFGZW8hps&utm_campaign=buffer&utm_content=buffer5698&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com)

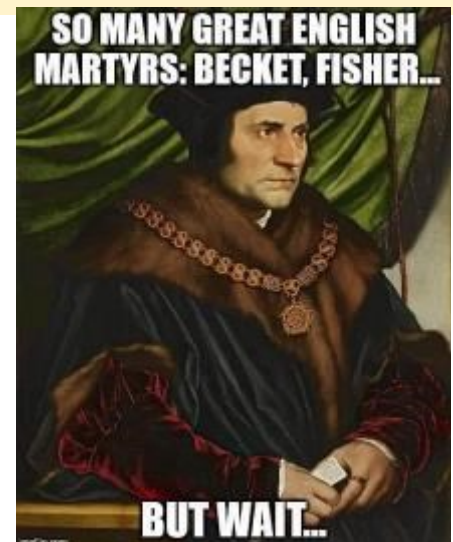
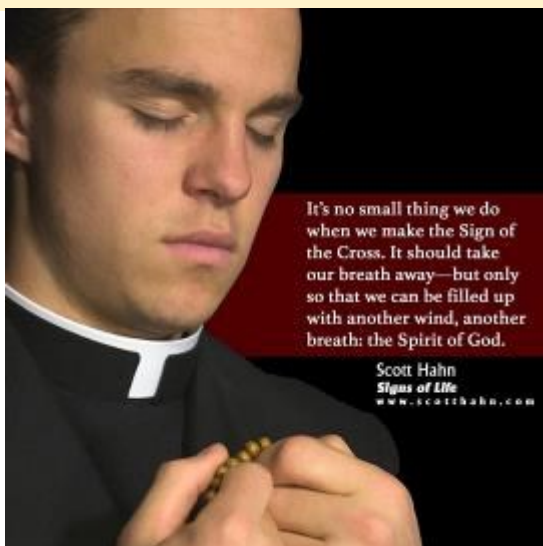
## What did they say?

The Church never ceases to send out this invitation: ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord’, inviting her children to meet Christ, who awaits us in the Eucharist. This mountain is higher than the others, because the Eucharist received in faith raises the soul in love, transforming it through divine charity. —**Fr. Florian Racine** from his book, *Could You Not Watch with Me One Hour?*


Anxiety about the future causes us to covet money and material goods. As a result, we find ourselves enslaved to mammon. In the Gospel, however, Jesus gives us the answer: trust in the Father. When we recognize that our loving Father knows our true needs, we find the path to lasting peace and freedom. -- **Formed Daily Reflection**, June 18, 2022

The will of God has a concrete place and form in this world: it has a body. In his Church, Christ remained a body. And hence obedience to God’s will is inseparable from obedience to the Church. —**Joseph Ratzinger (Benedict XVI)**, from his book *On Love*


Without God’s help it is impossible to live a clean life. God wants us to be humble, and to ask him for his help through our Mother who is his Mother. —**St. Josemaria Escriva** From *The Forge*




HISTORY'S MOST SAVAGE INSULTS




His head was an hourglass; it could stow an idea, but it had to do it a grain at a time.  
-Mark Twain



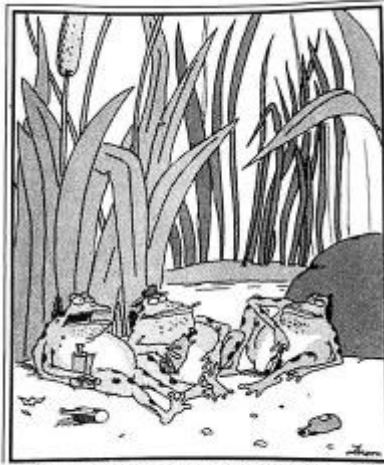
I never forget a face - but in your case I'll make an exception.  
-Groucho Marx



He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends  
-Oscar Wilde



His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork.  
-Mae West



"Yeah, I remember Jerry. Good friend of mine. ... You know, I never understood a single word he said, but he always had some mighty fine wine."



During labor the pain is so great that a woman.....



Can almost realize what it's like to lose a big fish.



1921: In 100 years we will have a flying cars.  
2021:



<p>I WISH I HAD SMOOTHER SKIN</p> 	<p>I WISH I HAD A STRONGER CORE</p> 
<p>I WISH MORE PEOPLE LIKED ME</p> 	<p>IT'S HARD FOR ME TO OPEN UP</p> 
<p>I WISH I HAD HEALTHCARE</p> 	



First case of crocpor found

Are you sweating while putting gas in your car?  
Feeling sick when paying for it?  
You've got the Carownervirus. 🤢

Wow, her diet is that good, she lost a tattoo



A shark could swim faster than me, but I could probably run faster than a shark. So in a triathlon, it would all come down to who is the better cyclist.

DANGEROUSMINDS.NET  
Bank of Canada urges 'Star Trek' fans to stop 'Spocking' their fivers



Me waiting to be invited to a lake day by friends who have boats



A shark could swim faster than I could, but I could probably run faster than a shark. So in a triathlon, it would all come down to who is the better cyclist.

When your mom is walking away and you mumble something under your breath.

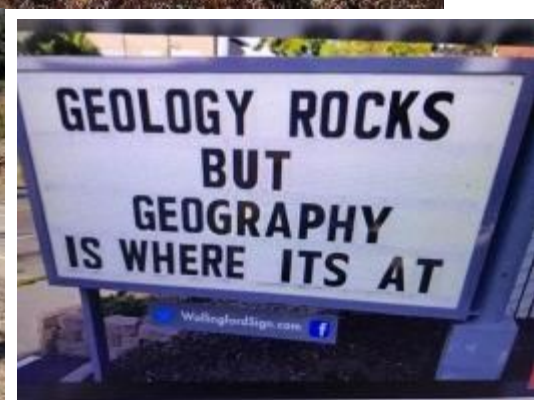
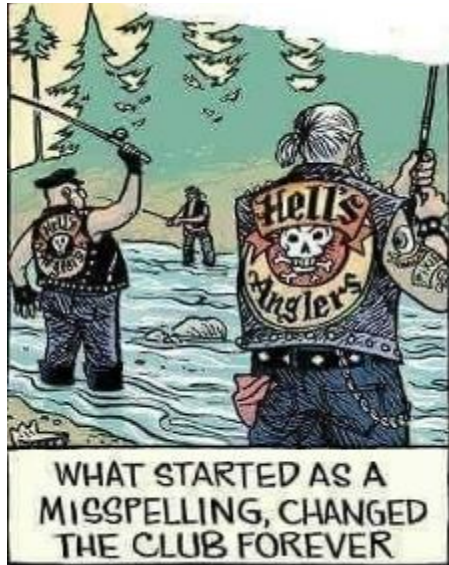
USA: if mosquitos up in Canada are so bad, why don't you just buy bug spray?

Meanwhile; mosquitos in Canada...



I WONDER WHAT THE PART OF MY BRAIN THAT USED TO STORE PEOPLE'S PHONE NUMBERS IS DOING NOW

[www.facebook.com/80to90](http://www.facebook.com/80to90)



SKULL OF A CANADIAN MOSQUITO



Scary Child Toy



The Adult Equivalent

Even the Colors are the Same!

