



Notre Dame de Lorette

Catholic Women's League

CATHOLIC
and **LIVING IT!**

December
2022



You cannot visit the child without visiting the mother; you cannot in human life approach the child except through the mother... We must either leave Christ out of Christmas, or Christmas out of Christ, or we must admit, if only we admit it as an old picture, that those holy heads are too near together for the haloes not to mingle and cross. —**G. K. Chesterton** from *The Everlasting Man*

Our Spiritual Advisor
Fr. Jorge Mario de los Rios Londoño

Our Members
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Megan Bernardin
Lynne Bernier
Susan Bernier
Irene Bialek
Valerie Bonnefoy, *Chair*
Jacqueline Bouchard
Lindsay Bouchard
Jolene Capina
Maryse Chartier
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Iris Swiderski
Joanne Touchette
Marilyn Toutant

Lucille's



Letter

Dear Sisters in The League & Fr. Mario,

We have already celebrated the first Sunday of Advent! During these short days and long nights, let us take time to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ Jesus as eagerly and enthusiastically as we prepare our homes for the coming of Christmas. Thank you to Monique and Mae for providing information on Advent retreats we can participate in to help on this journey.

Bravo to Acting Diocesan President, Lacey Bernardin who held a **workshop on the Restructuring of the CWL**, which was held November 5, 2022 at Mary, Mother of the Church hall. Those in attendance felt much relief to realize that the changes were not going to be as drastic as they had thought. Following the presentation, Lacey provided the PowerPoint presentation she used to all levels of the League to use and modify as they saw fit.

We were finally **installed as an executive** after mass on November 6, following many delays due to COVID and time constraints. We were blessed to have Susan Bernier, Life Member lead the installation. Thank you to Fr. Mario for your support for the CWL and for your commitment to support us!

At our general meeting on November 9, 2022, our members enthusiastically voted to support youth attending the **winter camps at St. Malo** and set up a draw for 8 x \$50 gifts, to be selected on December 4 at our Advent gathering. We also agreed to send \$500 to the Good Shepherd Campaign to support the seminarians in our diocese.

We hosted **Koreen Hrizai** from the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface who introduced us to **Households of Faith**, a new diocesan initiative. A "Household of Faith" is a small group of 6 to 10 people from a variety of backgrounds and life journeys who come together on a regular basis, at least once a month, in-person or online, for 60 to 90 minutes. The purpose of this time together is to get to know one another and grow in new friendships, while sharing the Holy Scriptures and some reflection using a simple process.

We would like to welcome a **new member – Soeur Anna Marie du Sacré Coeur de Jésus** from The Queenship of Mary Community and also Monique Jeanson's daughter – who has graciously accepted our

Membership Dues are now **\$45.00** due to the increase at the national level.

3 ways to pay your fees:

- 1: Cash—to treasurer Suzanne Moore
- 2: Cheque payable to CWL and given to Suzanne Moore
- 3: eTransfer \$45 to cwllorette@gmail.com and comment, "membership fees"

Due: December 31, 2022

offer to pay for her membership fees and to pray with and for her. We also sent her a blue CWL pashmina shawl to remind her of her 'sisters' back home.

We also send a CWL pashmina to our 'sister' **Maryse Chartier**, a novice with the Srs Sainte Croix and have agreed to pay her membership fees, as well as pray with and for her. See her latest message in this newsletter.

On November 18, 2022 all diocesan presidents, life members and members of the diocesan council were invited to a **supper with His Grace, Archbishop Albert LeGatt**. I attended, representing our council. It was a lovely evening of warm banter, laughter and sharing. His Grace reported that he quite enjoyed our company.

Congratulations to our spiritual advisor, **Fr. Mario on his 25th anniversary of ordination**. It is indeed worthy to celebrate the dedication of men who devote their lives to bringing others to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, and we did indeed celebrate on Sunday, November 20, 2022. Six priests, three deacons and His Grace, Archbishop LeGatt shared in this celebration. Fr. Mario was especially blessed to have his mother in attendance as well as other family members. Thank you to all CWL members who helped with Fr. Mario's anniversary celebration and who were part of the near capacity crowd for the occasion. Thank you to Suzanne for delivering greetings on our behalf.

Don't forget about our **Advent celebration** at the Bles d'Or this Sunday, December 4, 2022. I hope many of you and your families are



able to attend.

Finally, His Grace, Archbishop Albert LeGatt has invited the Catholic Women's League of St. Boniface to form part of the honour guard for the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** on Thursday, December 8 at the Cathedral. Members are asked to arrive by 7:00 pm. Suzanne has offered a ride for those members wishing to participate.

I wish you all a very Blessed Christmas and hope that the New Year will be filled with love, good health, happiness and peace.

Lucille Chay

December


2022 Pope's Intentions

Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organizations

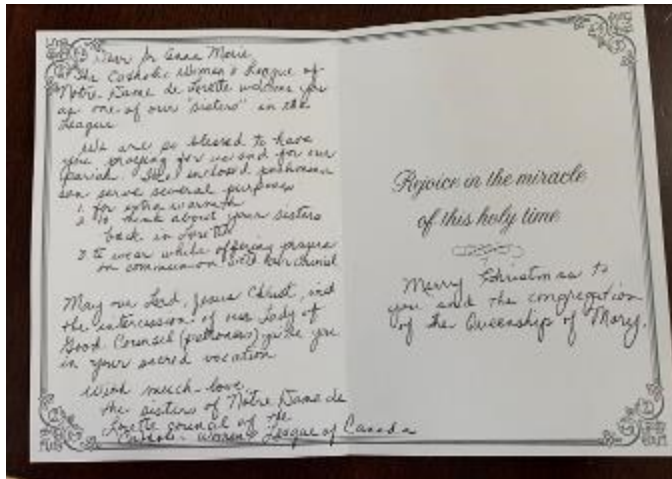
We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.



December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4  CWL Advent Celebration, 1:30 @ Bles d'Or	5	6	7  St. Ambrose, Mass to our intentions	8  Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM; Mass to our intentions	9 <div> Honour Guard for Feast of Immaculate Conception (Cathedral) 7:00 pm </div>	10
Novena to our Lady of Guadalupe						
11  Parish Confessions, 7:00 pm	12  Iris Swiderski	13	14	15	16	17
Novena to our Lady of Guadalupe						
18  Fourth Sunday of Advent	19	20  Jolene & Ryan Capina	21	22	23	24
25 	26	27	28	29	30  Lindsay & Dan Bouchard	31 

Our Newest Member—Sr. Anna Marie du Sacré Coeur de Jésus



I received the CWL kit the day before yesterday. (November 21) Please thank Suzanne Moore and all of CWL for me! I really like the beautiful navy blue scarf! The perfect colour! And it's so sweet. The beautiful message in the card warms my heart and I'm so happy to be part of a beautiful group like yours. Union of prayers for sure. — Sr. Anna Marie

A Canadian Novice in Peru, part7—Maryse Chartier

Hola!

I hope this email finds you warm in the northern hemisphere, and that you will forgive me for the many months since my last email. I am about to complete the Confer Intercongregational Initial Formation Program with an eight-day silent retreat. This retreat offers me a precious time of intimacy with the Lord and to process the last 15 months.

Speaking of the last months, here are some highlights:

1) Holy Cross Charismatic Formation with Sr. Liette Finnerty, csc. These one-on-ones with a woman who has done a lot of thinking, digging and trying to put into words the charism. In religious life, charism is that particular gift that God has entrusted to the congregation, that specific dimension that we are called to witness to the world, our "flavor" if you will. At the heart of this charism is the figure of Jesus, the Risen One (for other congregations it could be, for example, the figure of the Good Shepherd, etc.). The centrality of the

Risen One in the Holy Cross charism has transformed my view of the Constitutions. I no longer see them as a set of rules, but rather as a channel through which the life of the Risen One can configure me to him and transform the world. The family aspect of the charism also resonates with me because it implies a relationship with God, other Holy Cross members and each person on my journey based on closeness, solidarity and compassion. In short, this time of formation has helped me to confirm my call to Holy Cross.

2) Activities of Confer

In addition to the courses (I've attached a class picture), we organized an intercultural day where each culture or country was invited to share some distinctive elements (food, dance, traditions, etc.). (See interculturalidad picture.) More than a dozen countries were represented.

A few weeks later, we organized a march for non-violence, commemorating the thousands

of victims of Peruvian terrorism from 1980 to 2000. We went to the memorial where the names of the known civilian victims are written on stones placed in the shape of a labyrinth. A moving journey.

The ecology committee has also started a composting initiative during our school days with the support of the staff. I also have a composting project at the novitiate with earthworms generously provided by classmates. (See pictures.)

3) I also participated in my first "Señor de los Milagros" (Lord of Miracles) procession which takes place over several days in October in downtown Lima. It was quite an experience to walk, sometimes in very small steps, with thousands of other believers.

That's all for now, I promise you more news in December. In the meantime, thank you for your ongoing, loving support and take good care of yourselves. I will be holding you in my prayers during my retreat.

Un fuerte abrazo, Maryse Chartier



Diocesan Acting-President Lacey Bernardin presents Restructuring the CWL



November 5, 2022 @ Mary, Mother of the Church

Installation of Officers, November 6, 2022



The coming of Christ to each of us daily is all about encounter and conversion. Christ comes to us and calls us to a conversion of heart and mind. It is not often through the proclamation of a heavenly messenger. Rather, it is usually through very mundane means. —Mike Pacer from the book *The Three Comings of Christ*

Sometimes, we can see the will of God. Sometimes we know exactly what he is asking of us. More often, God seems distant and quiet. Regardless, our response should be the same. It should be that of Mary—'Fiat!' 'Yes!' 'Thy will be done!' —Mike Pacer from the book *The Three Comings of Christ*

The Virgin Mary was associated in a very special way with Christ's kingship. God asked her, a humble young woman of Nazareth, to become Mother of the Messiah and Mary responded to this request with her whole self, joining her unconditional "yes" to that of her Son, Jesus, and making herself obedient with him even in his sacrifice. This is why God exalted her above every other creature and Christ crowned her Queen of Heaven and earth. —Pope Benedict XVI

General Meeting, November 9, 2022



Koreen Hrizai from the Archdiocese of Saint-Boniface led us in a brief example of a session of *Households of Faith*

GATHER IN HOUSEHOLDS OF FAITH
... IN-PERSON OR ONLINE

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another." ~John 13:35

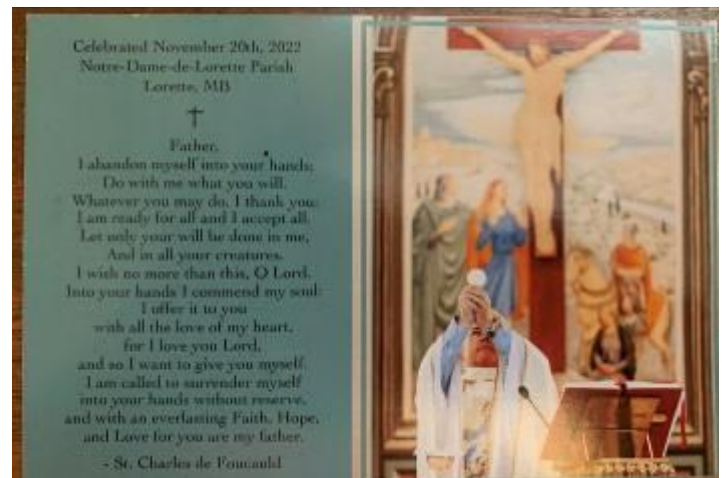
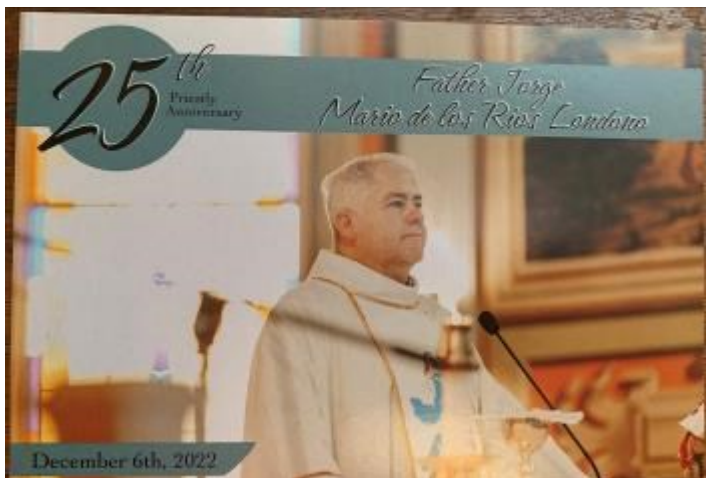
Annual Dinner with His Grace, Archbishop Albert LeGatt, November 18, 2022



This annual dinner is open to the diocesan executive, all diocesan presidents and Life Members

His Grace is a most 'grace'ious host!

Fr. Jorge Mario's 25th Anniversary of Ordination





As a member of the executive of the Catholic Women's League of our parish, one of the first recollections I have of meeting Fr. Mario was to meet him for supper at the Chicken Chef to talk to him about the CWL and to ask him if he would be our spiritual advisor. We gave him some materials about being a spiritual advisor to the CWL and he readily agreed to help us out. That was in early September, 2019.

Before we had a chance to install Fr. Mario as our new spiritual advisor, the week of Thanksgiving 2019 was hit hard with a blizzard and we didn't know the fate of our fall supper. It was decided we would proceed to prepare the food and we were pleasantly surprised to see Fr. Mario come out to help us make coleslaw and cabbage rolls for the event. That was quite a successful venture in the end.

In November, we installed Fr. Mario and he gave his commitment to help the League. December 6th was his 22nd anniversary and a special mass was held in the parish with a gathering in the sacristy following. We helped

provide food and beverages for this impromptu celebration for him.

Fr. Mario loves to be with people. In short order, he offered parishioners to visit for tea and coffee and to bless the homes and businesses. He joined our CWL Advent celebration and brought much mirth to the event. He had to leave early, however, as he needed to visit some home-bound parishioners and to bring them communion.

And then COVID hit! We CWL'ers were amazed at how he strove to offer as many masses as he could, despite the heavy restrictions put on by the government and the archdiocese. He also arranged for televised masses, outdoor adoration and holy communion. He offered masses for the intentions of the CWL and did his best to help individual causes.

Although we couldn't meet in person, the CWL did continue its semi-annual highway clean-up and Fr. Mario has been with us

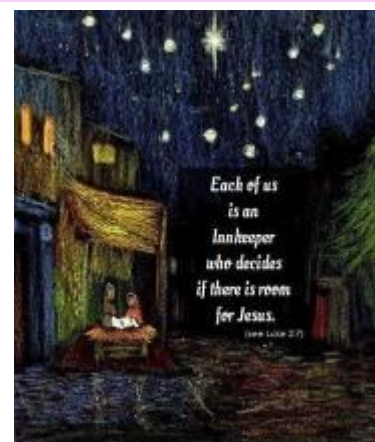
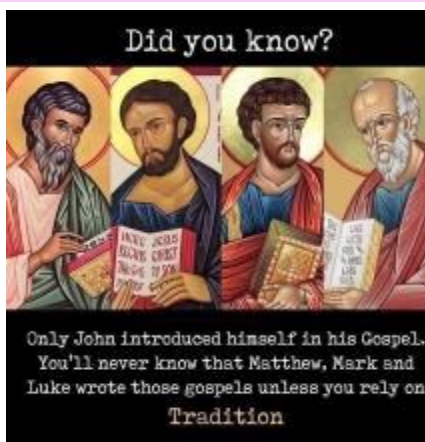
several times to help pick up litter and to evangelize along the way. He also helped us plant a tree in front of the church in honour of the CWL's 100 years in Canada.

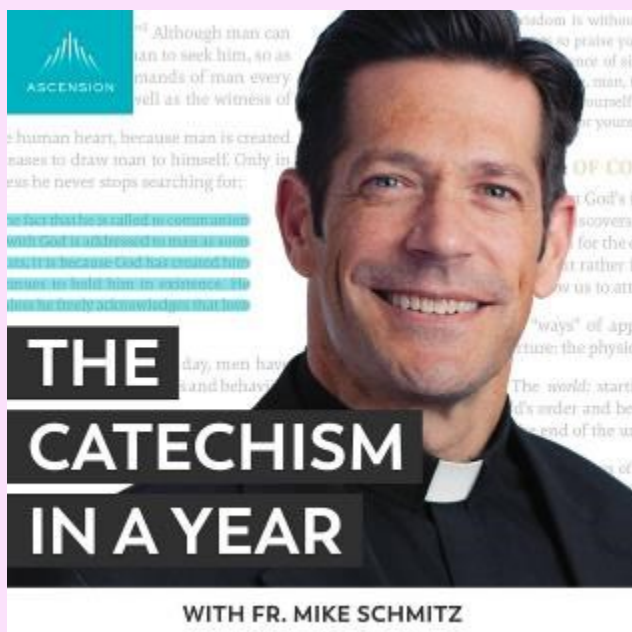
Fr. Mario loves our cooking! He knows when he comes to the CWL meeting, he will be treated with some lovely snacks. Our soup Sunday was a success because of his support for our council. Just recently, CWL members also provided lunch and snacks for the deanery meeting that Fr. Mario was hosting in our parish.

We thank Fr. Mario for his continuing support and good-natured camaraderie as he helps the Catholic Women's League work for God and Canada.

May the good Lord bless you and keep you, Fr. Mario. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ and the intercession of our Lady of Good Counsel. Amen.

—Presented by Suzanne Moore, November 20, 2022





In response to countless requests, Ascension is launching ***The Catechism in a Year (with Fr. Mike Schmitz)*** on January 1, 2023!

With this podcast, Catholics will:

Read the entire Catechism of the Catholic Church in 365 days
Understand the essentials of the Catholic Faith and why they matter
See how Church teaching is rooted in Sacred Scripture
Absorb over 2,000 years of Sacred Tradition
Encounter God's plan of sheer goodness
Transform their relationship with the Church that Christ founded.
If you have ever wanted to **understand what it means to be Catholic** and allow those truths to shape your life—this podcast is for you!

We can't wait to start this incredible journey with you!

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear>

3 Simple words to guide you during Advent

The Catholic Church encourages us to observe Advent as a time of waiting, conversion and hope.

Modern culture makes it relatively easy for us to miss the Advent season and skip right to the celebration of Christmas. Unfortunately, this can rob us of the beauty of Advent and its special spiritual character.

The Vatican's *Directory on popular piety and the liturgy* provides for us three simple words that should guide us during Advent, and transform our observance into a special time of preparation.

Advent is a time of waiting, conversion and of hope.

DIRECTORY ON POPULAR PIETY AND THE LITURGY

1. WAITING

Waiting – memory of the first, humble coming of the Lord in our mortal flesh; waiting-



supplication for his final, glorious coming as Lord of History and universal Judge.

2. CONVERSION

Conversion, to which the Liturgy at this time often refers quoting the prophets, especially John the Baptist, "Repent for the kingdom of

heaven is at hand" (Mt 3:2).

3. HOPE

Joyful hope that the salvation already accomplished by Christ (cf. Rm 8, 24-25) and the reality of grace in the world, will mature and reach their fulness, thereby granting us what is promised by faith, and "we shall become like him for we shall see him as he really is" (John 3:2).

If you are looking to deepen your Advent season, keep these three words in the back of your mind, letting them guide your preparations for the glorious celebration of Christmas.

https://aleteia.org/2021/11/30/3-simple-words-to-guide-you-during-advent/?utm_campaign=EM-EN-Newsletter-Daily-Content=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=sendinblue&utm_term=20211130#

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symbol of our own wish to give ourselves to God. When people leave flowers at a graveside or decorate the grave on an anniversary, it is not merely decoration. Those flowers represent individuals' leaving something of themselves by the resting places of their loved ones.

How do medals and statues remind us of our faith?

A medal or scapular worn around the neck is also a reminder of who we are and our faith. At a funeral, when the white pall is placed on the casket, it speaks of the white baptismal

garment the person received as an infant at his or her Baptism many decades before. The prayer at the time of Baptism ends, "...and with your family and friends to help you, take this garment with you unstained into eternal life." It is the family who places the white pall on the casket, thus fulfilling that hopeful prayer made many, many years ago.

Statues frighten some people who don't understand that we are not "worshipping" them. They are only reminders of the saints—men and women of great holiness—and how God worked so powerfully through their lives. Even nations have statues of their founders and great leaders.



Sacramentals are part and parcel of our faith. However, they are only aids in the expression of our beliefs. There is nothing magical about them, nor can any sacramental come close to the importance and significance of the seven sacraments as signs of God's grace.

The Great Antiphons of Advent

DECEMBER 17

O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!

DECEMBER 18

O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!

DECEMBER 19

O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!

DECEMBER 20

O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

DECEMBER 21

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

DECEMBER 22

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

DECEMBER 23

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!

A VERY BRIEF HISTORY OF the Christmas Tree

723 AD



On Christmas Eve, St. Boniface uses a fir tree to teach pagans in Germany about heaven.

1600s



Germans decorate evergreen trees with apples on December 24, Adam & Eve Day.

1800s



Immigrants from Germany bring the Christmas tree tradition to the United States.

1900s



Christmas trees grow in popularity and become a family tradition across all cultures.

Sacramentals

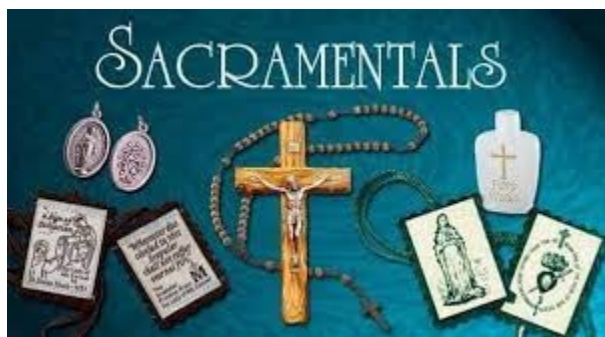
by Friar Jim Van Vurst, O.F.M.

How can gestures and objects remind us of God?

Some years ago, Father Andrew Greeley wrote an interesting book entitled *The Catholic Imagination*. Through researching the differences in the ways that that Catholics and fundamentalists approach God, Greeley found an important distinction: Catholics see God as *immanent* (existing or remaining within, nearby and touchable), while other Christian denominations see God more as *eminent* (towering or standing out above others, distant and untouchable). It looks like a minor distinction because both words sound and seem so similar. But we think of God in our midst, close by and in easy reach, and others experience God as a distant observer. This distinction explains why we Catholics have so much "stuff" as part of our life and worship. Far from seeing material things as getting in the way of God, they remind us of God, draw us to God and give us a "connection" to God within our physical and emotional lives.

▲ What is the Sign of the Cross?

Just think for a moment of the gestures we use. The Sign of the Cross is the simplest act of faith in the Trinity and usually identifies a person as a Catholic. That simple movement of our hands and arms says a great deal about



who we are. But a word of caution: The Sign of the Cross, or any sacramental, is not magic. It won't raise your batting or free-throw average. And above all, for you golfers out there, please don't make the sign of the cross while standing over the 18th hole while putting to win the round. Your partner will be embarrassed, your opponents will demand a two-stroke penalty and, worst of all, what if you miss the putt? It has been said that although God's name is frequently used on the golf course, he is fortunately out of earshot.

At the beginning of the Gospel at every Mass, we also make a little Sign of the Cross on our forehead, our lips and our chest. It is a beautiful symbol that includes the intention, "Lord, may your holy Gospel be on my mind, in my heart and on my lips."

▲ How are incense, oil and holy water symbolic?

Incense is symbolic of two things: our prayers rising to God and a sign of blessing and respect. At a funeral Mass, when the priest blesses the body or the cremains, it is a sign of respect for the body of the person who was so dear to us. If the person were a parent, from this body came life. It reminds us of how Mary Magdalene and the other women went to the tomb of Jesus with oil and spices to anoint the body of Jesus, which they expected to find. It was their way of expressing love and respect for Jesus.

Holy water reminds of us the cleansing power of God's love and forgiveness. Oil used in the sacraments has always been seen as a means and a symbol of healing the body and spirit. Candles or votive lights are burned as a

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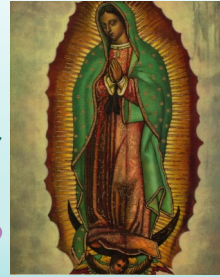
As Presented by Mae Ross at our General Meeting, November, 2021

Our Lady of Guadalupe



- **December 12** – Feast Day
- Also designated as **National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples.**

Our Lady of Guadalupe ~ Protectress of Unborn Children



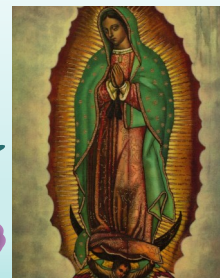
- In 1531, through her image she evangelized the Indians about The One True God, and the urgency to end human sacrifice.
- Within 7 years human sacrifice ended & over 8 million converted to Christianity!
- Today, Our Lady is leading the New Evangelization of the world to the Truth, her Son Jesus, and the need to end the human sacrifice of today... **abortion!**

Our Lady of Guadalupe



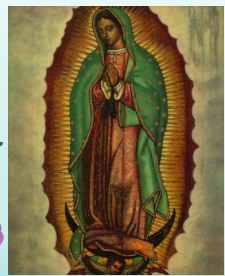
- **OUR LADY'S APPEARANCE IS MESTIZA (both Aztec and Spanish):** showing the two cultures coming together at this point in history.
- **OUR LADY'S HAIR:** parted in the middle, hanging loosely, indicates that she is a virgin maiden.
- **HER EYES:** There are 13 total figures (including Juan Diego & Bishop Zumarraga) that form two scenes in both eyes.
- **AN ANGEL WITH EAGLE'S WINGS:** supports the Mother of God. The eagle was the "bird of the sun". Here the angel is the messenger of the Virgin. The angel holds her mantle in one hand and the robe with the other, signifying the Son she bears is from both heaven and earth.

Our Lady of Guadalupe



- **THE LADY STOOD IN FRONT OF THE SUN:** She was greater than their dreaded sun-god "Huitzilopochtli".
- **HER FOOT RESTED ON THE CRESCENT MOON:** She had clearly vanquished their foremost deity, the feather serpent "Quetzalcoatl".
- **SHOWN AMONG THE CLOUDS:** representing her divine origin.
- **THE STARS STREWN ACROSS THE MANTLE:** She was greater than the stars of heaven that they worshipped. She was a virgin and the Queen of the heavens for Virgo rests over her womb and the northern crown upon her head. She appeared on December 12, 1531 for the stars that she wore are the constellation of stars that appeared in the sky that day!
- **THE BLUE-GREEN HUE OF HER MANTLE:** She was a Queen for she wears the color of royalty.

Our Lady of Guadalupe



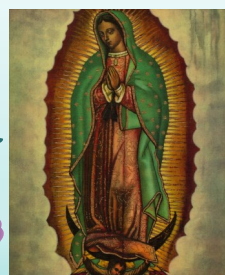
- **THE BLACK CROSS ON THE BROOCH AT HER NECK:** Her God was that of the Spanish Missionaries, Jesus Christ her son.
- **THE BLACK BELT/RIBBON:** She was with child for she wore the Aztec Maternity Belt.
- **THE FOUR-PETAL FLOWER OVER THE WOMB:** She was the "Mother of God." The flower was a special symbol of life, movement and deity-the center of the universe.
- **HER HANDS ARE JOINED IN PRAYER:** She was not God but clearly there was one greater than Her and she pointed her finger to the cross on her brooch.
- **THE DESIGN ON HER ROSE COLORED GARMENT:** She is the "Queen of the Earth" for she is wearing a map of Mexico telling the Indians exactly where the apparition took place.

Modern Science says the following about the tilma:



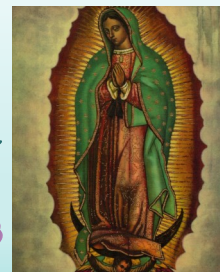
- Shows no sign of deterioration after 450 years!
- The tilma or cloak of Juan Diego is a coarse fabric made from the threads of the maguay cactus. This fiber disintegrates within 20-60 years!
- no under sketch, no sizing and no protective over-varnish on the image
- no brush strokes
- The image seems to increase in size and change colors due to an unknown property of the surface and substance of which it is made.
- According to Kodak of Mexico, the image is smooth and feels like a modern day photograph. (*Produced 300 years before the invention of photography.*)

Modern Science says the following about the tilma:



- The image has consistently defied exact reproduction, whether by brush or camera.
- Several images can be seen reflected in the eyes of the Virgin: believed to be the images of Juan Diego, Bishop Juan de Zumarraga, Juan Gonzales-the interpreter and others.
- The distortion and place of the images are identical to what is produced in the normal eye, which is impossible to obtain on a flat surface.
- The stars on Our Lady's Mantle coincide with the constellation in the sky on December 12, 1531. All who have scientifically examined the image of Our Lady over the centuries confess that its properties are absolutely unique and so inexplicable in human terms that the image can only be supernatural!

The icon has remained intact!



- At the top right side of the tilma, not affecting the image itself, is a stain made when nitric acid was accidentally spilled onto the tilma when the frame holding it was being cleaned in 1795 – *but the icon remained intact.*
- On November 14, 1921, an anticlericalist feigned being a man of faith who merely wanted to place flowers underneath the tilma to honor Our Lady. Instead of flowers, though, he placed a bomb made of dynamite. Its detonation could be heard over a half a mile away, and it horribly damaged the surrounding area -- *but the icon remained intact.*

Prayer to Mary, our Lady of Guadalupe

Dear mother, we love you. We thank you for your promise to help us in our need. We trust in your love that dries our tears and comforts us. Teach us to find our peace in your son, Jesus, and bless us every day of our lives.

Help us to build a shrine in our hearts. Make it

as beautiful as the one built for you on the mount of Tepeyac. A shrine full of trust, hope, and love of Jesus growing stronger each day.

Mary, you have chosen to remain with us by giving us your most wonderful and holy self-image on Juan Diego's cloak. May we feel your loving presence as we look upon your face. Like Juan, give us the courage to bring

your message of hope to everyone. *We pray for the conversion of our loved ones who have left the Church, who have become lukewarm in their faith and for those who do not know your Son, Jesus.*

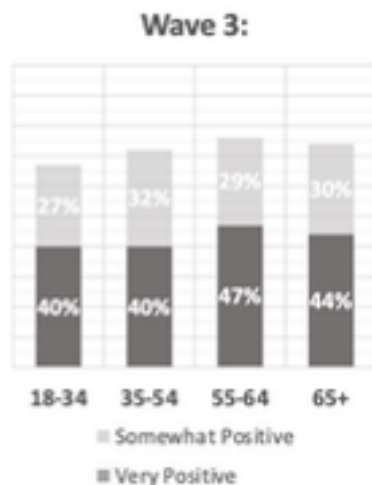
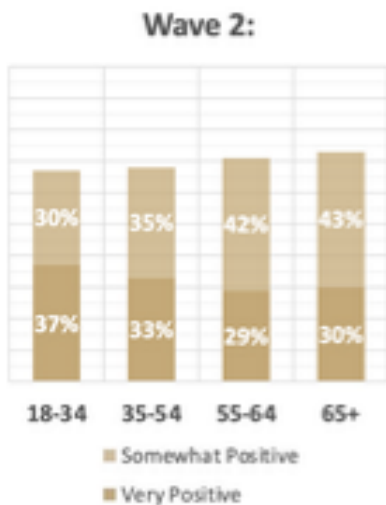
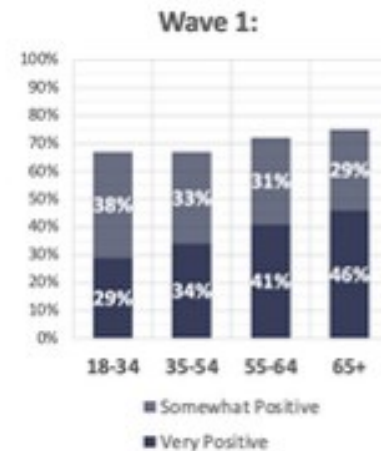
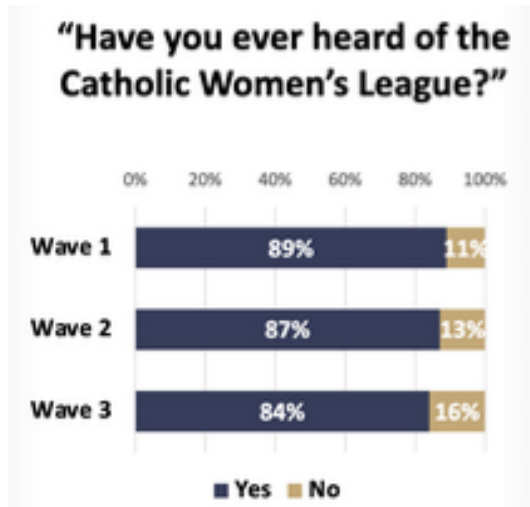
We pray for peace in our world. You are our mother and our inspiration. Hear our prayers and answer us. Amen.

Survey About the CWL

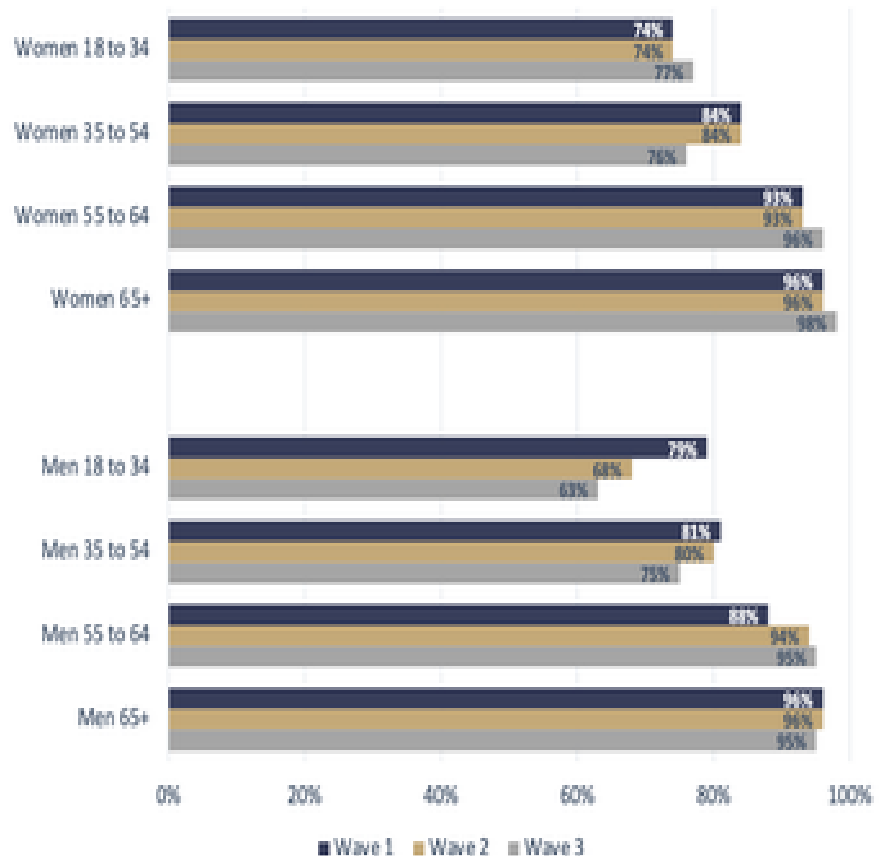
Survey

We have recently conducted a study among a group of 800 Catholics to research the awareness and opinions directed towards the League. Awareness of the CWL remains strong which is not surprising as it has been consistently high across all three waves of surveys.

The results showed there is positive momentum among young women (18 to 34). Membership among this group is strong (31% of those aware of the League report they are members compared to 15% of the total). Consideration of joining is also higher (42% of those aware of the League say they have considered joining compared to 34% of the total). There has also been an greater increase to a "Very Positive" opinion of the CWL.



Age & Gender: (% Yes)



When (and why) you should apologize to your kids

It may seem counter-intuitive, but there are big benefits when you admit your mistakes to your children.

If you're a parent you've probably lost count of the number of times you've asked your children to apologize for something — and the number of times you hoped they'd think of it on their own. But how many times have you apologized to *them*?

At first consideration, the notion of saying sorry to your kids seems to fly in the face of the natural filial duty children owe their parents. But actually, it's entirely in keeping with what good parenting is all about and part of building healthy, harmonious relationships in our families.

Building trust and attachment

Apologizing to a child doesn't diminish parental authority; rather it develops trust, which in turn fosters a more secure attachment between parent and child. Secure and healthy attachment is the foundation for healthy, loving relationships — and not just between parents and children, but those your children will build with others when they're adults.

Apologizing also makes one vulnerable and therefore allows a child to see his or her parent as an imperfect human being, someone they can trust with their own mistakes and failures.

Modeling humility and good behavior

Apologizing to a child models the kind of behavior we want to instill in our children. We want them to learn how and when to apologize, and to do it without fear or hesitation.

When we say that we are sorry as adults, it teaches children that self-awareness and humility are necessary for everyone, no matter their age or how much authority they wield. In addition, it teaches children the words to say, as well as what kinds of situations require an apology, normalizing it as something we do with those we love.

Appreciation of God's forgiveness

It is helpful for children to see that parents are also in need of

forgiveness —

Fr. Joseph Krupp
@Joeinblack

"I don't go to church; its filled with hypocrites."

Me:
That's not true at all. We can easily fit more hypocrites in.



from others and from God. When a family prioritizes taking responsibility, apologizing, and forgiving, it paves the way for children to understand the necessity of reconciliation with God.

So what kinds of things you should you apologize for, you may be wondering?

Any time we believe we have violated the laws of love and respect, kindness and patience, we should apologize. Here are some examples of the kinds of apologies you may want to have at the ready when a situation with your child calls for it.

I'm sorry I spoke so harshly to you.

I'm sorry I didn't listen to what you were trying to tell me.

I'm sorry I was distracted and not fully present to you.

I'm sorry my worries prevented me from letting you be brave/try something new, etc.

I'm sorry I made assumptions before asking you what really happened.

Remember that a good apology should focus on what *you* did, and not on any excuses for why you behaved as you did. A good apology also states what you're sorry for, and may include an acknowledgement of what you should have done instead. And don't forget that immediately after an apology you should ask for forgiveness. Keep it simple: *Will you forgive me?*

Afterwards, you may want to discuss the situation further and use it as an opportunity for conversation. Similar to the apology, tailor it to the age and maturity of your child.

When we show our weaknesses to our children, they learn that it's okay to make mistakes, and to own up to them. This knowledge and ability will serve them for their entire lives in all of their relationships, and forge a stronger bond between you and your children.

https://aleteia.org/2022/11/16/when-and-why-you-should-apologize-to-your-kids/?utm_campaign=EM-EN-Newsletter-Daily-&utm_content=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=sendgrid&utm_term=20221116



Sometimes I forget how rich I am. My hot water works on a dime, my a/c works when I need it to. I can go to any grocery store & purchase what I please to eat, I have a clean kitchen to cook in, I have a clean shower to bathe in...sometimes I forget I'm beyond blessed.
@Ashtaughtyou_



The '12 Days of Christmas' Isn't a Secret Catechism. Here's Why We Should Claim It Anyway.

Fact and Theory

Posts about the Catholic meaning of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is a carol tradition as fashionable as memes disparaging "Mary Did You Know".

The theory is this: during the Reformation, persecuted English Catholics wrote the song to teach their children the catechism. The partridge in the pear tree was Jesus, the two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments, and so on. The song allowed them to teach their children the Faith without facing jail time or having their lands forfeited.

Unfortunately, none of that is true. However, there is still profound Catholic meaning to "The Twelve Days of Christmas", and I would like to argue that Catholics should still claim it.

The Background

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" most likely originated in France. We don't know exactly when it was written, but the first recorded copy dates to 1780. Many of the lyrics were different than the version we hear today. One of the variants was even about bear-baiting because apparently blood sports were viewed as a good way to prepare for Baby Jesus.

The Conspiracy Theory

Three different men came up with this theory around the same time. The most influential of the three, Fr. Hal Stockert, wrote an essay in 1982 called "Origin of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas': An Underground Catechism", in which he went into great detail about the process of being drawn and quartered.

A decade or so after this, chain emails became popular and Fr. Stockert's article began to appear regularly in people's inboxes. He later claimed that he learned of the symbolism by reading old letters of priests from Ireland. When he was asked to share these sources, he said that the letters had been destroyed in a flood, and that his original research was on a floppy disk so old that no computer could read it (source and another).

How We Know It's Not a Secret Catechism

While it is interesting that three people came up with this theory independently, it is almost certainly not true. There are at least three reasons we can be fairly confident that "The

12 Days of Christmas

The Twelve Days of Christmas refers to the time between Christmas Day and Epiphany. This popular carol can be a helpful reminder of Catholic doctrine, as well! "My true love" can refer to God, who offers:

"Twelve Days of Christmas" wasn't created by persecuted Elizabethan Catholics:

There are no existing primary sources that mention the song being used in this way. In addition, there is no evidence that the song even existed in Elizabethan times.

Almost none of the originally proposed symbols in the song are subjects about which Catholics and Anglicans differ. Catholics wouldn't have needed a secret song for subjects about which they agreed with Anglicans. Furthermore, wouldn't it have been more effective to focus on subjects upon which they disagreed, like the papacy or whether English lords should be living in former abbeys?

It's not an effective teaching tool because many of the gifts don't easily translate to their supposed catechetical lesson. How are milkmaids tied to the beatitudes, or swimming swans to the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

Why We Should Still Claim It

I have a few reasons we should still teach our kids about "The Twelve Days of Christmas". First, just because the song wasn't written for catechetical lessons doesn't mean we can't use it for them now. Personally, I've thought of at least some of the symbols every time I've heard the song since I first read about the supposed story. I even added a few.

Second, this song is just ... not good. It's annoying (although new versions are fun). Having a meaning assigned to it makes it a lot easier to sit through at your child's Christmas concert. I'm only half-joking.

Third and more importantly, this song is a reminder that Christmas is not just one day. In many Christian denominations, Christmas ends at midnight on December 25. In the Catholic Faith, the Christmas season lasts from the vigil

Mass on Christmas Eve until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, January 12 in 2020 (source). The first twelve days are packed with important feasts and solemnities that we really ought to celebrate, too. These include:

St. Stephen the First Martyr:

December 26

St. John the Evangelist: December

27

The Holy Innocents: December 28

The Holy Family: December 29

Mary, Mother of God: January 1

Epiphany: January 6

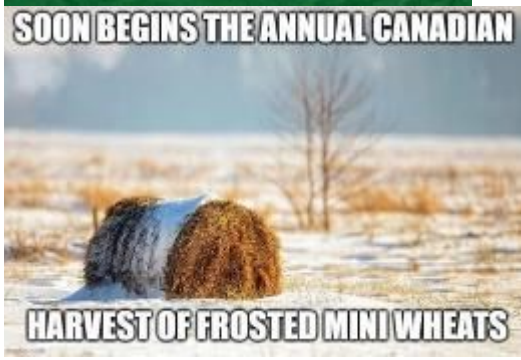
Some of you might have grown up knowing this, but I didn't know it until I was a grown woman. I went to Adoration service over Christmas break during my freshman year of college and thought it was strange that we sang "O Come Let Us Adore Him" a week after Christmas Day. Enough people complained that the music minister had to make an announcement. He actually referenced "The Twelve Days of Christmas" to get us to understand.

So even if the popular theory about "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is wrong, it can still serve a valuable role today. Most of the people reading this probably aren't risking being literally drawn and quartered if they practice their faith (although there are undoubtedly many martyrs being made), but our U.S. parishes face many crises. One of these is a crisis of culture.

I mentioned the story of how I learned about the full season of Christmas because it's funny, but there's a darker truth to that story. That gymnasium was full of practicing Catholics who *wanted* to be at Adoration, and yet many of us still didn't know that Christmas lasted for longer than a day. That's a huge problem.

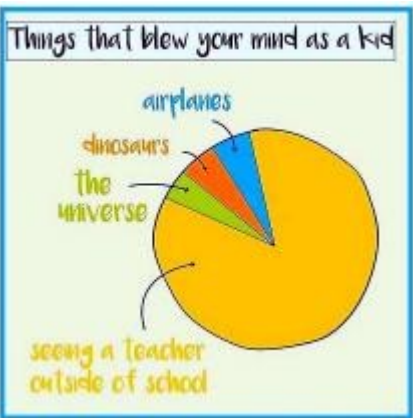
We've come up with lots of innovative ways to learn about the Faith through videos, study programs, books, and more in the past ten years. That's all good and necessary, but we also need simpler means of transmitting the Faith. A silly counting song is a good place to start, especially if it reminds us that our True Love has gifts to give us this Christmas season.

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/2019/12/27/the-12-days-of-christmas-isnt-a-secret-catechism-heres-why-we-should-claim-it-anyway/>



Hipster Gets Mad His Photo Was Used In Article About How All Hipsters Look Alike, Then Finds Out It Wasn't Him

BY SEAN PERRYMAN - ON MAY 12, 2015 IN DAILY THINGS



No matter how old you are, an empty Christmas wrapping paper tube is still fun to bonk someone over the head with.



The phone my sister has (she's six)



The phone I had when I was six



The phone my dad had when he was six



Got home to find my kids have been on eBay all day

IF THEY'RE STILL THERE TOMORROW I'LL LOWER THE PRICE.

I think I need urgent vacations. I looked at this cake and just saw the bow of a boat sailing on the sea



Is nothing sacred?!?!
Nude photos of the Muppets are being posted on Facebook...

WOW. WELL DONE, YOU SURE SCARED ME, YOU SHOULD PAT YOURSELF ON THE BACK.

OH, RIGHT.

THE SARCASTISAURUS WAS SOON EXTINCT.

Unbeknownst to most theologians, there was a fourth wiseman, who was turned away for bringing fruitcake.

The woods were dark and foreboding, and Alice sensed that sinister eyes were watching her every step. Worst of all, she knew that Nature abhorred a vacuum.

WHAT HAPPENED TO MY BLOUSES? DANGIT, I BOUGHT THE WRONG DETERGENT.

CHINA

"I got a bad feeling about this, Harriet."

You used my fabric scissors for WHAT?!

The mother of all spoilers

Wishing every day of the new year to be filled with success, happiness and prosperity for you, happy new year.

Happy New Year 2023

A CHEESE FACTORY EXPLODED IN FRANCE

DA BRIE IS EVERYWHERE

Why is "silly goose" a phrase? have u ever met a goose? they are the most serious and powerful dinosaur lookin monsters I've ever encountered, not one of them is silly.