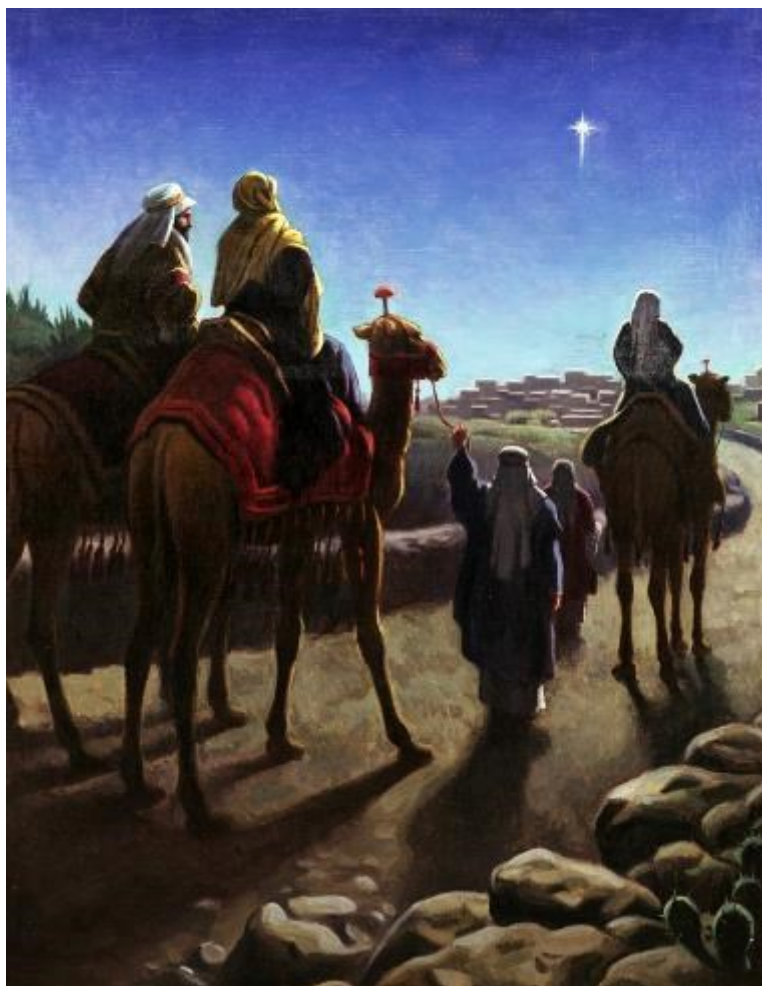




# Notre Dame de Lorette Catholic Women's League

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

**JANUARY 2023**



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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  
Lucille Chay, *President*  
Crystal Chernichan  
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Sue Johannesson  
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Heather Kolowca  
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Marilyn Toutant  
Sr. Anna Marie du Sacré Coeur de Jésus

# Lucille's



# Letter

Dear Sisters in the League & Fr. Mario,

Happy New Year! May your hearts and homes be filled with peace, love, joy and good health throughout the coming year.



Thank you to all families who attended our Advent celebration. It was an afternoon of good company, good food and good fun. Lacey and Suzanne were presented with their past president pins at our event.

Thank you to Monique for helping us to prepare for the coming of Our Lord by providing retreat materials and novenas throughout December to help us on our journey.

Father Mario was very pleased with his anniversary celebration. He appreciated our spiritual bouquet (thank you to everyone who contributed) and the restaurant gift card.

Thank you to Suzanne and Lacey for representing us at the honour guard at the cathedral on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

Our 2022 Annual Report has been submitted to national office. Our 3 council highlights for the past year are:

- Our fundraiser for Ukrainian newcomers.
- Our support for vocations including the Good Shepherd Campaign and the 2 Sisters (Sister Anna Marie & Sister Maryse) that our council has adopted.
- Our ongoing highway clean-up efforts.

The collection of sacramental clothing that has sat in my basement for the past two years has finally been packed up and sent to Sr. Bibiana who is now looking after the northern missions of the diocese of St. Boniface. Archbishop LeGatt was kind enough to transport the boxes from Anola to the Saint Boniface diocesan office. Thank you to all who contributed to the success of this effort.

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](mailto:cwllorette@gmail.com) and comment, "membership fees"

Pictures are included in this newsletter, page 8.

Our first general meeting of the new year is on Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. As always, Fr. Mario will say Holy Mass at 6:15 pm prior to our meeting. I hope to see many of you at the meeting.



Lastly, I would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to all our new members. We are delighted that you have chosen to join this national sisterhood as we aspire to improve ourselves, our communities and our country through acts of Faith, Social Justice and Service. Welcome to Sr. Anna Marie, Faith, Jaclyn, Adrienne (transferred from Ste. Anne), Jennifer & Chisom.

We pray for the eternal soul of departed Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI (pg (4&5)

*Eternal rest grant unto him,  
O God, and may perpetual light shine upon him.*



CWL Spiritual Bouquet for Fr. Mario on the event of his 25th anniversary of ordination:

Rosaries	75
Chaplets of Divine Mercy	27
Communion	5
Hours of Adoration	105
Novenas	3
Acts of Penance	1
Special Daily Prayers	730

*Lucille Chay*

## 2023 Pope's Intentions

**JANUARY 2023**—For educators

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.







# January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  CWL Mtg 7:00 pm, Mass 6:15 Valerie Bonnefoy 	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  Sr. Anna Marie du Sacré de Jésus	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>  Carol & John Mravinec 	<b>30</b> 	<b>31</b>	<p><b>Judged according to Your Heart</b> -- It is not enough to have the right bloodline and family pedigree. God, when he judges, does so based on the actions of the individual. One either rises or falls by his own deeds. Pray today for the grace to be truly righteous, emulating the life and holiness of Jesus Christ. Formed.org, August 13, 2022</p>			

Irene Bialek, MaryAnn Novak, Megan Bernardin

# "One of the truly great": Pope Benedict passes at 95 on last day of 2022



*World and religious leaders offer initial assessments on the impact of humble, brilliant theologian and pastor.*

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI — Joseph Alois Ratzinger — has died.

Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni announced the former pope's death shortly after his death at 9:34 a.m. on December 31.

The 95-year-old pontiff passed away in the Vatican's Mater Ecclesiae Monastery, where he has lived for most of the past nine years, since his historic resignation from the papacy.

Since Wednesday, December 28, when Pope Francis announced to the world that the Pope Emeritus was "very ill," the Church has been united in prayer. His health stabilized in the coming days, but due to his advanced age, his condition was considered serious. He was able to participate in Mass on Friday, December 30, celebrated in his room in the monastery. He received Anointing of the Sick on December 28.

## Already at peace

In February 2022, the Pope Emeritus alluded to his coming death, indicating that he was at peace.

"Quite soon, I shall find myself before the final judge of my life," Pope Benedict wrote in a letter. "Even though, as I look back on my long life, I can have great reason for fear and trembling, I am nonetheless of good cheer, for I trust firmly that the Lord is not only the just judge, but also the friend and brother who himself has already suffered for my shortcomings, and is thus also my advocate, my 'Paraclete.' In light of the hour of judgment, the grace of being a Christian becomes all the more clear to me. It grants me knowledge, and indeed friendship, with the judge of my life, and thus allows me to pass confidently through the dark door of death."

He remained active until the last. In October 2022, he penned a letter to the Annual Conference of the Joseph Ratzinger/Pope

Benedict XVI Vatican Foundation, which took place at Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio. The letter characterized the Second Vatican Council as "not only meaningful, but necessary."

His last trip abroad had been in June 2020, when he went to see his ailing older brother in Germany, Msgr. Georg Ratzinger. Msgr. Ratzinger died July 1, 2020, at the age of 96.

## A first in centuries

Benedict's death marks the first time in six centuries that a Successor of St. Peter has died while not in office. The last was Pope Gregory XII.

Although the world's cardinals will not be traveling to the Vatican for a conclave to elect a successor, many are expected to stream into the Eternal City to bid farewell.

Both within and without the Church, Benedict XVI was recognized as a towering intellect, and a gracious man.

"Joseph Ratzinger will be remembered as one of the truly great Christian minds of the past 100 years; a man who combined faith and reason with elegance and clarity of expression to an extraordinary degree, yet radiated personal humility throughout his life," Archbishop Emeritus Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., of Philadelphia, told *Aleteia*. "He was the theological partner to Karol Wojtyla's philosophical genius and a loyal son of Vatican II and its task of authentic reform."

## A future Doctor of the Church

Several Catholic intellectuals predicted that Benedict will one day be declared a Doctor of the Church.

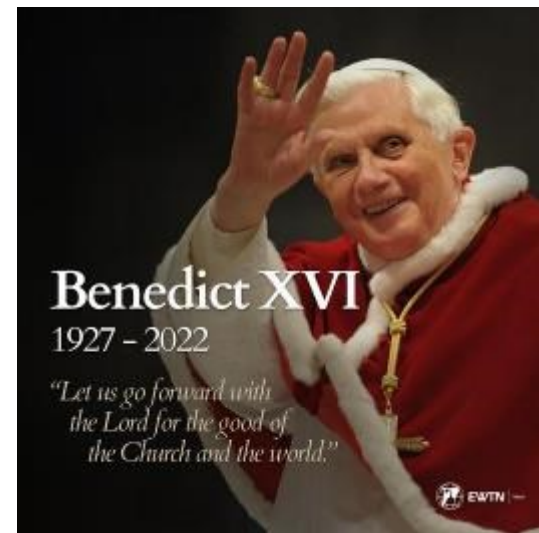
"I don't believe being pope is a proof of sanctity, nor is it sufficient grounds for canonization. But being Joseph Ratzinger is," said Jesuit Fr. Joseph Fessio, founder and editor of Ignatius Press, whose doctorate was directed by Professor Joseph Ratzinger at the University of Regensburg. "I don't know anyone who has worked closely with him who does not recognize his holiness and his brilliance. In addition to hoping for santo subito, I look forward to his being declared a Doctor of the Church."

Father D. Vincent Twomey, SVD, Professor Emeritus of Theology at St. Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth, Ireland, also a former doctoral student of Ratzinger's, said Benedict will be remembered "above all for his literary

and scholarly output. His writings on a vast spectrum of theological and philosophical topics have a clarity and a depth that make his theology inspiring and therefore liberating," said Fr. Twomey. "His theology also stimulates further scholarly research, since all he could ever do was sketch the contours of the truth. Future generations of all walks of life will find inspiration in his homilies and in his pastoral writings as pope; his encyclicals on love and hope must rank among the most outstanding ever to come from the pen of a pope."

Robert Royal, president of the Faith & Reason Institute, commented that Benedict's death "marks the end of a monumental life that changed the Church — and the world — and will continue to do so for many years to come. In his brilliance, imagination, humility and steady faith, he resembled the Church Fathers, whom he loved and studied and brought to bear on our troubled age. He belongs in their company and should be named a Doctor of the Church. God grant him the eternal reward that he so richly merits."

Dr. Peter Kreeft, professor of philosophy at Boston College and author of *Wisdom From the Psalms*, called Benedict a "gift of God, one



of the very best teachers we have ever had, an equal to Gregory the Great, Leo the Great, and Leo XIII. A shoo-in for saint and eventually a Doctor of the Church."

Mark Brumley, president of Ignatius Press, which has published the English translations of many of Pope Benedict's books, said that along with Pope John Paul II, Benedict "served the Lord and his people mightily by helping the Catholic Church faithfully embrace reform

*(Continued on page 5)*



(Continued from page 4)

in continuity, rather than either radical rupture or an uncritical return to the past. He was a major force for evangelical fidelity and engagement with the modern world."

George Weigel, distinguished senior fellow and William E. Simon Chair in Catholic Studies at the Ethics and Public Policy Center, said that Benedict was "one of the most creative Catholic theologians of modern times and arguably the greatest papal preacher since Pope St. Gregory the Great. In the more than 30 years I knew him and was in conversation with him, I found him to be a consummate Christian gentleman, a man of deep faith and sweet temper. It has been my privilege to have been taught by and to work with many brilliant men and women; no one I've ever met had a more lucid or orderly mind than Joseph Ratzinger. He believed that the truth of the Gospel was the truth of the world, and he bent every effort to help others understand that truth."

Tim Gray, president of the Augustine Institute, said that Benedict "blessed the Church by exemplifying what faith seeking understanding looks like in postmodernity. Humbly complementing his friend and predecessor, Pope Saint John Paul the Great, he showed how the Second Vatican Council faithfully applied the Word of God and the gospel proclamation as the way for us to navigate the crisis of truth we now face. I particularly think his Encyclical Letter on Hope, 'Spe Salvi,' was prophetic. He spoke of the hope that challenges us to give up comfort in order to embrace the cross, striving forward for the hope Christ has stored up for us in heaven. I pray he may now realize the hope he cherished and the hope he challenged the Church to hold to above all others."

## World leaders react

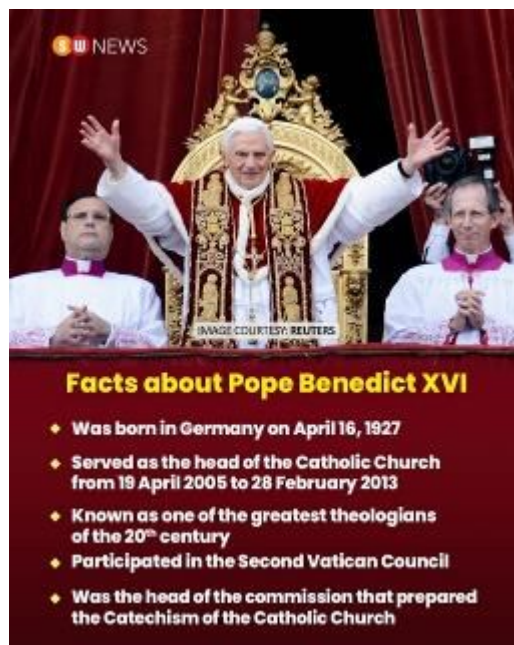
US President Joe Biden, through the United States Ambassador to the Holy See, said that he and First Lady Jill Biden "join Pope Francis and all Catholic faithful around the world in mourning the loss of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI." Biden praised the "courage" and "conviction" of the German pope upon his election to the papacy in 2005, "as the world mourned the death of Pope Saint John Paul II."

For Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Benedict "was a giant of faith and reason." In a tweet, she paid tribute to "the spiritual, cultural and intellectual depth of his magisterium."

The death of Benedict XVI "is a mourning for Italy," said Italian President Sergio Mattarella,

referring to the late pope's "gentleness" and "wisdom," as well as his "humility" and his "serenity" in his role as pope emeritus after his retirement. Mattarella called him a figure "unforgettable for the Italian people," who pleaded "for dialogue."

For German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, "the world



is losing a prominent figure in the Catholic Church, a combative personality and an intelligent theologian."

The pope emeritus was "a great theologian dedicated to the service of others, justice and peace," wrote the president of the Spanish government Pedro Sánchez.

The primate of the Anglican Church, the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, recognized Benedict as "one of the greatest theologians of his time, attached to the faith of the Church and faithful in his defense."

"It was quite clear that Christ was the root of his thought and the foundation of his prayer," Welby said in a statement, highlighting his "courageous and humble decision to resign from the papacy."

## Profound gratitude to the Lord

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said that the pope emeritus' passing "sounds contrasting notes of sorrow and gratitude in my heart."

"The Church gives thanks for the treasured ministry of Pope Benedict

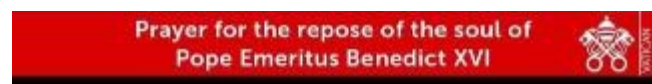
XVI," Archbishop Broglio said in a statement. "A superb theologian who lent his talents as a *peritus* at the Second Vatican Council, he continued throughout his long life to be an effective teacher of the faith. As a priest, university professor and theologian, archbishop, and cardinal, his voice in deepening an authentic understanding led all of us to a more profound love of truth and the mystery of God. It will take many years for us to delve more deeply into the wealth of learning that he has left us.

"Personally, I remember many meetings with him while I served in the Secretariat of State, and I will never forget his greeting to me at the first General Audience I attended some weeks after his election to the Chair of Peter. '*Ci conosciamo*' (we know each other) were his warm words of welcome as he took my hand between his.

"Generations will continue to be enriched by his books, discourses, and homilies. They all reveal a depth of learning and reflection that is essential both in our time and in the future.

"While we grieve that he is no longer with us here, I join Catholics everywhere in offering my profound gratitude to the Lord for the gift of Pope Benedict XVI and his ministry. Together we beg our Lord to grant him eternal rest."

[https://aleteia.org/2022/12/31/one-of-the-truly-great-pope-benedict-passes-at-95-on-last-day-of-2022/?utm\\_campaign=EM-EN-Newsletter-Daily-&utm\\_content=Newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=sendgrid&utm\\_term=20221231](https://aleteia.org/2022/12/31/one-of-the-truly-great-pope-benedict-passes-at-95-on-last-day-of-2022/?utm_campaign=EM-EN-Newsletter-Daily-&utm_content=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=sendgrid&utm_term=20221231)



A prayer for the soul of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI:

Father, eternal shepherd,  
hear the prayers of your people for your servant Benedict,  
who governed your Church with love.

In your mercy, bring him with the flock once entrusted to his care  
to the reward you have promised your faithful servants.

May he who faithfully administered the mysteries  
of your forgiveness and love on earth,  
rejoice with you for ever in heaven.

In your wise and loving care,  
you made your servant teacher of all your Church.  
He did the work of Christ on earth.

May your Son welcome him into eternal glory.

May your servant whom you appointed high priest of your flock  
be counted now among the priests in the life of your kingdom.

Give your servant the reward of eternal happiness  
and let your mercy win for us the gift of your life and love.

We entrust your servant to your mercy with faith and confidence.  
In the human family he was an instrument of your peace and love.

May he rejoice in those gifts for ever with your saints.  
Amen



# Advent Celebration, December 4, 2022





# Sacramental Clothing and Items for Northern Parishes

13 baptismal gowns  
15 white dresses....assorted sizes  
4 dresses.... non white  
1 small girl's housecoat  
7 infant boys outfits  
14 boys shirts  
4 toddler boys dress pants  
2 young boys suit jackets  
3 infant sweaters  
2 ties  
7 pairs of shoes from baby - age 5  
2 sets of booties  
2 veils  
19 rosaries  
8 crucifixes  
5 statuettes  
2 boxes baptismal candles  
18 children's books

*Thank you to His Grace, Archbishop LeGatt for arranging the transport of these sacramental clothing and items to northern parishes*



*Thank You to Lucille Chay for receiving the sacramental clothing and items, sorting them, and seeing to their delivery to northern parishes.*



*Thank You, dear CWL'ers for your donations of clothing and items for northern parishes!*





**"La Palabra habita en el corazón del mundo, se hizo carne sagrada y herida, en la carne de Jesús, llena de libertad y compasión..."** (Lepabipe)

Que juntos y juntas construyamos un mundo lleno de color y de vida donde haya sitio para todos y todas. Les deseamos paz, amor y salud en 2023.

May together we build a world full of colours and life where there is room for everyone. We wish you peace, love and good health in 2023.

Qu'ensemble nous bâtissons un monde plein de couleur et de vie, où toutes et tous ont leur place. Paix, amour et santé en 2023.



Agnès, Elvia & Maryse  
Comunidad del noviciado internacional



Mayor Armand Poirier and Member of Parliament for Provencher, Ted Falk present a certificate to Louis & Iris Swiderski, congratulating them on 65 years of marriage, November 9, 2022



Honour Guard at Cathedral, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2022

## How Does a Guardian Angel Work?



*Guardian angel* is a modern term, and it would strike biblical audiences as rather surprising.

The term *angel* (Hebrew, *mal'ak*; Greek, *angelos*) means messenger, and a messenger and a guardian are different. Talking about guardian angels—guardian messengers—would be a little like talking about dentist messengers or accountant messengers.

St. Augustine famously writes:

The angels are spirits. When they are simply

spirits, they are not angels, but when they are sent, they become angels; for "angel" is the name of a function, not of a nature. If you inquire about the nature of such beings, you find that they are spirits; if you ask what their office is, the answer is that they are angels. . . . Make a comparison with human affairs. The name of someone's nature is "human being," the name of his job is "soldier." . . . Similarly some beings existed who were created by God as spirits, but he makes them angels by sending them to announce what he has

ordered them (*Expositions of the Psalms* 103:1:15).

The Bible uses other terms for non-human spirits that aren't *functioning* as messengers. Sometimes high-ranking ones are called "sons of God" (Hebrew, *bney Elohim*) or "princes" (Hebrew, *sarim*)—as opposed to low-ranking spirits who run errands and deliver messages.

However, since low-ranking spirits have

(Continued on page 9)



contact with humans, we encountered messengers frequently, and during the Christian age the term *angel* started being applied to *every* non-human spirit other than God.

**When do we first hear about guardian angels?** Immediately after the fall of man, we read:

He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life (Gen. 3:24).

Today these beings would be classified as angels, but notice that the word isn't used. They're not delivering messages, and so they're called cherubim. (Also, cherubs weren't little babies with wings—those are known in Italian as *putti*. Cherubim were depicted as frightening animal-human hybrids; see Ezek. 10.)

Together with the flaming sword, these cherubim serve as the first angelic guardians in the Bible. But they're not guarding humans. They're guarding "the way to the tree of life."

**When is the first time we see angels guarding a human?** In the story of Lot, God sends messengers (using the term "angel") to warn him and his family of the destruction of Sodom (Gen. 19:12-22). When he delays leaving, they even grab him and force him out of the city!

We thus see angels being assigned to guard human beings. However, this is a temporary assignment of these angels—not a regular duty.

**When is the first mention of angelic beings assigned to regularly guard humans?** In the song of Moses, we read this:

Remember the days of old; consider the years of many generations; ask your father, and he will show you, your elders, and they will tell you. When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God. But the Lord's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted heritage (Deut. 32:7-9).

What does the text mean when it says God divided mankind and fixed the nations' borders "according to the number of the sons of God"?

"The sons of God" were high-ranking spirits that today would be called angels, and the idea was that God allotted the different nations to the care and command of these angelic beings—*except* Israel. He kept Israel as "his people."

We thus see angelic guardians assigned to guard *groups* of people—nations—but not yet individuals.

**The same guardians appear in the book of Daniel.** Here they are called "princes" or "commanders" (*sarim* can be translated either way).

Daniel fasts and prays, and three weeks later, Gabriel shows up. He explains the delay by saying that "the prince of the kingdom of Persia" detained him, but Michael—"one of the chief princes" (10:13)—assisted him.

Gabriel also says he and Michael will fight the prince of Persia, making way for the prince of Greece to become prominent (vv. 20-21).

This heavenly conflict indicates that some "sons of God" are opposing God's will. Today we would call such beings demons, and this was the common biblical understanding of who the gods of foreign people were—their guardian angels who went bad.

Michael is later described as "the great prince who has charge of your people" (12:1), indicating God has now incorporated Michael in the governorship of Israel.

**The first time we read about angels regularly guarding individual humans is in Matthew.** Discussing discipline within the Church, Jesus says:

See that you do not despise one of these little



ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven (18:10).

"These little ones" appear to be Christians (not children), so there is a link between Christians and angels who guard them.

Jesus says these angels "always see the face of my Father who is in heaven"—meaning that they have unlimited access to God's throne room. If something bad is happening with one of their charges, they are guaranteed the ability to intercede with God.

**Scripture doesn't give us much more information about angelic guardians.** But that hasn't stopped Christians from wondering about them.

Based on the passage in Matthew, they have wondered if only Christians have guardian angels or whether all humans do. The *Catechism* is ambiguous, saying that God surrounds "human life" with angels and that "each believer" has an angel (336).

People have also wondered—on the theory that only Christians might have guardian angels—whether we gain them at baptism or birth.

St. Thomas Aquinas favored the view that all human beings get guardian angels at birth (ST I:113:5). Today we might push this back to conception, and the *Catechism* circumspectly says that human life has the care of angels "from its beginning until death" (*ibid.*).

**Do some people get extra guardian angels? Like those who become priests or get married and need grace for their vocation?**

Scripture indicates that—in a general way—people may have more than one angel looking out for them. An ancient Israelite had Michael as national patron—plus his own individual guardian angel. Today Michael is regarded as the patron of the Church, yet Christians also have individual guardians. And we saw from Lot's case that additional guardians could be assigned as needed.

However, we have no biblical evidence of God regularly assigning extra angels to people in states like the priesthood or marriage.

**What about the reverse?** Could a single angel guard more than one person—the way a shepherd guards a flock of sheep? Jesus' statement in Matthew doesn't rule this out. In speaking of "these little ones," he says, "their angels," but he doesn't say each person has uniquely one angel. Further, Israel is still God's people, and unless Michael has abandoned his former charge for the Church, he may well be guarding *two* groups of God's people.

Like everything in this area, this is a matter of speculation, and we ultimately can't know. What we can know is that we *are* protected by angelic guardians *and* that God will never let us lack protection. Regardless of the mechanics of how it works out in the invisible world, the amount of protection we need is the amount we will have.

<https://www.catholic.com/magazine/online-edition/how-does-a-guardian-angel-work>

# *Reasons to Talk About the CWL!*

## *ACCEPTANCE*

- 1 The gifts we have are made valuable only by sharing them with others. Your gifts are gratefully accepted by the Catholic Women's League where members willingly share the good things God has given them. We can't wait to meet you!

## *ACTION*

- 2 As a Catholic Women's League member, you are part of an organization of women who act through prayer, faith development, ministry, service, education and advocacy on social justice issues. Choose your action. Join us today.

## *ADVOCACY*

- 3 Catholic Women's League members educate themselves on how to make their voices heard by government and work together to address social justice issues. Join us. Be an advocate and let your voice be heard!

## *BELONGING*

- 4 Do you want to grow your faith, serve your community, act on social justice issues and be supported by a sisterhood that embraces these core values? If so...WELCOME to the Catholic Women's League...you belong with us.

## *CHANGE*

- 5 Are you ready to transform your spiritual life, serve others and act on social justice issues? This change is possible when you join the Catholic Women's League. It has all these values at the heart of its mission.

## *CHARITY*

- 6 Catholic Women's League councils provide an opportunity for others to contribute monetary aid through fundraising activities that create awareness and community building. Be part of this organization that gives to others.

## *COMPASSION*

- 7 Do you recognize the human dignity in all people? Do you feel motivated to do something to help others? Catholic Women's League members embark on many projects that directly impact those who are disadvantaged in society. How can you help? Become a member and be part of the solution.

## *CONFIDENCE*

- 8 The Catholic Women's League relies on the teachings of the Catholic church to guide it. As a member you can be confident that what you do will further God's kingdom here on earth. Be confident - come walk with us!



# 60 Minutes Examines Medically Unexplainable Miracles of Lourdes

*Bill Whitaker interviews Sr. Bernadette Moriau, who recalls how it felt when she experienced what has been recognized as a genuine miracle.*

A recent episode of *60 Minutes* saw correspondent Bill Whitaker visit the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes in France. The footage offers inspiring views of the popular pilgrimage site, as well as interviews with faithful visitors seeking to be healed **and even one nun whose sudden recovery after visiting Lourdes has been deemed miraculous.**

Despite the small size of the town of Lourdes, it draws more than three million tourists and pilgrims who wish to visit the shrine each year. The people have been coming to the site in droves since 1858, when St. Bernadette witnessed and interacted with the Blessed Mother in a series of apparitions.

## The apparitions

In a previous article, Aleteia presented a comprehensive report on the apparitions of Lourdes; there were 16 recognized encounters over the course of five months. These visions began with the Blessed Mother

simply appearing and smiling at the 14-year-old St. Bernadette, but as they continued, the young peasant girl began to interact with the apparition.

The apparition of the Blessed Mother directed St. Bernadette to continue to visit her at the site of the shrine, which was used as a holding area for livestock at the

miracle occurred. **The massive size of each case folder is a testament to how deeply they study their cases before coming to their conclusions.**

Whitaker even had a chance to interview Sister Bernadette Moriau, the 83-year-old nun who is recognized as the recipient of the 70th miracle said to have occurred at the Lourdes

Shrine. Sr. Moriau explained that she had a “dark diagnosis” of full paralysis that was completely healed within three days of visiting the shrine. Sr. Moriau explained that while she was at the shrine, she heard a voice in her head:

“I really had that feeling that the Lord was walking with us. And I heard him giving me these words: ‘I see your

suffering and that of your sick brothers and sisters. Just give me everything.’”

She said that when she returned home, she was in debilitating pain for three days until she suddenly felt the strength to walk to the chapel to pray. **While in prayer, she began to feel a great heat inside of her and suddenly she felt urged to remove her foot and back braces, which she previously needed to walk.** Suddenly her foot was straightened, and her back was no longer in pain.

In order to validate the miracle, Sr. Moriau subjected herself to rounds of testing, both physically and mentally, but no scientific or medical explanation of her sudden recovery was ever identified. **Her case was eventually recognized as the 70th instance of a miraculous healing taking place at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes.**

There’s more packed into the *60 Minutes* report than would be possible to cover here, and the expressions of St. Moriau as she explains her miracle are worth a watch on their own.

[https://aleteia.org/2022/12/20/60-minutes-examines-medically-unexplainable-miracles-of-lourdes/?utm\\_campaign=EM-EN-Newsletter-Daily-utm\\_content=Newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=sendgrid&utm\\_term=20221221](https://aleteia.org/2022/12/20/60-minutes-examines-medically-unexplainable-miracles-of-lourdes/?utm_campaign=EM-EN-Newsletter-Daily-utm_content=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=sendgrid&utm_term=20221221)



time. **Once, when asked if the Blessed Mother said anything to her, St. Bernadette replied:**

“Yes, now and again she would say: ‘Penance, penance, penance, pray for sinners.’”

These apparitions would eventually come to a head on March 25, 1858, the Feast of the Annunciation. The apparition told St. Bernadette, **“I am the Immaculate**

**Conception,”** revealing herself as the mother of Christ. This phrase, one that the uneducated St. Bernadette had never heard before, sparked the flame of faith within believers and effectively launched the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. As pilgrims began to file into the site, it didn’t take long for reports of miraculous healings to emerge.

## Sr. Bernadette Moriau

The *60 Minutes* report goes into great detail on how reported miracles are investigated and authenticated. Whitaker spoke with a team of physicians who examine each case under various criteria, in order to prove that a



**“Spend as much time as possible in front of the Blessed Sacrament and He will fill you with His strength and His power.” -Mother Teresa**

Christian faith is not a system. It cannot be portrayed as a complete, finished intellectual construction. It is a path, and it is characteristic of a path that it only becomes recognizable if you enter on it and start following it. —Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI) from his book *Truth and Tolerance*

# Canada to delay implementing euthanasia for mental illness.

Alex Schadenberg  
Executive Director, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition

The Canadian Press reported on December 15 that Canada's Liberal government is seeking to delay the implementation of euthanasia for mental illness alone. According to the Canadian Press: The Liberal government announced Thursday it will seek to delay the expansion of Canada's assisted-dying regime to include people whose sole underlying conditions are mental disorders.

Justice Minister David Lametti said during a news conference that the government has heard concerns that the health-care system might not be prepared to handle those complicated cases.

"Some provinces, territories and those working in the health-care system say that more time is needed," he said.

"That includes having the time to implement those practice standards, and to complete and disseminate key resources that are being developed for clinicians and other health-care system partners to address these more complex MAID requests."

An update to Canada's medical assistance in dying legislation that passed in spring 2021 included a provision to temporarily exclude



those whose sole underlying condition is a mental disorder from eligibility. The provision is set to expire on March 17, 2023.

An expert panel studying the issue has heard concerns from clinicians, researchers and academics who questioned whether the proper safeguards are in place to expand the eligibility criteria without putting people with mental disorders or those living in poverty at risk.

Mental Health Minister Carolyn Bennett said the expert panel determined that the safeguards in place under the current regime are "excellent." "I think that there is very clear consensus this would be very rare, that the assessment may be pending over a long period of time, a number of different assessments," she said.

Bennett ignored the fact that two expert panel members resigned because concerns were not being heard or considered. The Canadian Press

article continued:

Lametti said any cases of medically assisted deaths as a result of mental illness will follow a long period of treatment and insisted the federal government has spent millions of dollars on improving mental health care. "I want to assure Canadians that it isn't just the case that you can walk off the street and seek MAID if you're feeling depressed," he said.

Lametti added that the expert panel's chair, Dr. Mona Gupta, is among those who feel that clinicians in Canada are ready to handle the expansion. However, he acknowledged that not everyone is ready, and he has heard from those who "would like a short delay."

In order to make that happen, the minority government would need to amend the existing legislation. Lametti said he expects there is widespread support for the move from other parties in the House of Commons and among senators.

The government has not said how long the proposed extension would be. The House of Commons and Senate have adjourned for the holidays and are expected to resume sitting at the end of January.

<http://alexschadenberg.blogspot.com/2022/12/canadian-to-delay-expanding.html>



The Second Vatican Council reinstated what was referred to in the early Church as the "catechumenate," a process of initiation for adults that culminates in baptism.

Initially this was called in English by the acronym RCIA, standing for the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**. It is composed of five distinct periods (evangelization, precatechumenate, catechumenate, purification and enlightenment, and mystagogy), marking the progress of an adult converting to the Catholic faith.

However, in November 2021, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops approved a new translation of the name of this process,

## Why RCIA is now OCIA

now calling it **OCIA**, the "**Order of Christian Initiation of Adults**."

While it may seem like a small change, many see this as a new turning point.

According to Meloy for the *Detroit Catholic*, "rites are still part of the order

but **the new structure is meant to invite candidates and catechumens into a continuous process of spiritual formation** as opposed to fixed checkpoints on the path to baptism, first Communion and confirmation."

Furthermore, "by making the entire process an 'order,' the candidate or catechumen **understands the rites received in church or at the parish are just one part of the ongoing journey of discipleship** that will culminate with baptism and confirmation — usually during the Easter Vigil — but will continue throughout their lives."

The new name emphasizes that the process to become Catholic should not be rushed, and

can be entered at any time.

While most converts enter the Church at the Easter Vigil, this new structure acknowledges **that converts could be baptized or welcomed into the Church at any point in the year**, even taking multiple years before making the final decision.

Becoming a Catholic involves a period of intense discernment, and prayer, not simply going through the "rites" at fixed points of the year.

Practically speaking, parishes will be adjusting to this new term over the next few years, phasing out the term RCIA and switching over to the use of the term OCIA.

[https://oleteia.org/2022/12/08/why-rcia-is-now-ocia-and-what-that-means-for-converts/?utm\\_campaign=EM-EN-Newsletter-WeeklySunday&utm\\_content=Newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=sen\\_david&utm\\_term=20221211](https://oleteia.org/2022/12/08/why-rcia-is-now-ocia-and-what-that-means-for-converts/?utm_campaign=EM-EN-Newsletter-WeeklySunday&utm_content=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=sen_david&utm_term=20221211)





The challenges struggling parents and caregivers experience during the critical first months and years of a child's development impacts their health for life.

Steinbach Family Resource Centre connects growing families to education, resources and support - **helping families overcome barriers by building relationships and providing access to sound, reliable education on childhood development, parenting, and health.**

Families who struggle to overcome barriers such as poverty, addiction and abuse are more likely to pass these challenges on to their children. Beginning life at a social disadvantage also has long-term health implications for children - both physically and mentally.

**Ongoing exposure to toxic stress in the home in the first years of a child's life impacts brain development - leading to lifelong increases in anxiety, impaired memory, reduced impulse control and mood disorders.** Families working to overcome these disadvantages for their children need the support of others working toward similar goals, and an educational program that supports the diverse needs of all families.

**By offering parenting support at every (and any!) step of the way, we are there for all families.** From the onset of pregnancy symptoms, to expectations in labour and delivery. Between sleepless early days at home with a new baby or adopted child to the energy of first steps, the mess of first foods and the babble of first words. In all the excitement of the first day of kindergarten or home-schooling and through all the challenges of potty training, picky eating and sibling rivalry.



#### *So far this year:*

We have had over 7,484 visits

We have given 1438 milk coupons

We have given over 670 egg coupons to families

We have had over 2,050 visits to our Clothing Cafe

We have provided Breast Pump rentals to 28 families

We have offered food resources 1,402 times

We have helped 218 Students with school supplies

**With your support, families across Southeast Manitoba visit our Centre to access resources like clothing, food, diapers and baby essentials while finding a community of caregivers supporting their parenting journey every step of the way.**

Programs offered at our Centre promote healthy attachment between parent and child. By supporting the caregiver through each physical and emotional stage of development, they are able to confidently respond to the unique needs of their children.

**In 2021, every visit to our Centre cost \$50.00\*. The average cost to support one family during the year was \$550\*. We couldn't support families without your generous donation.**

New moms access milk, eggs and vitamins throughout pregnancy and after the birth of their babies to support healthy development. We help nourish their healing bodies while providing a nutritional base for breastfeeding success.

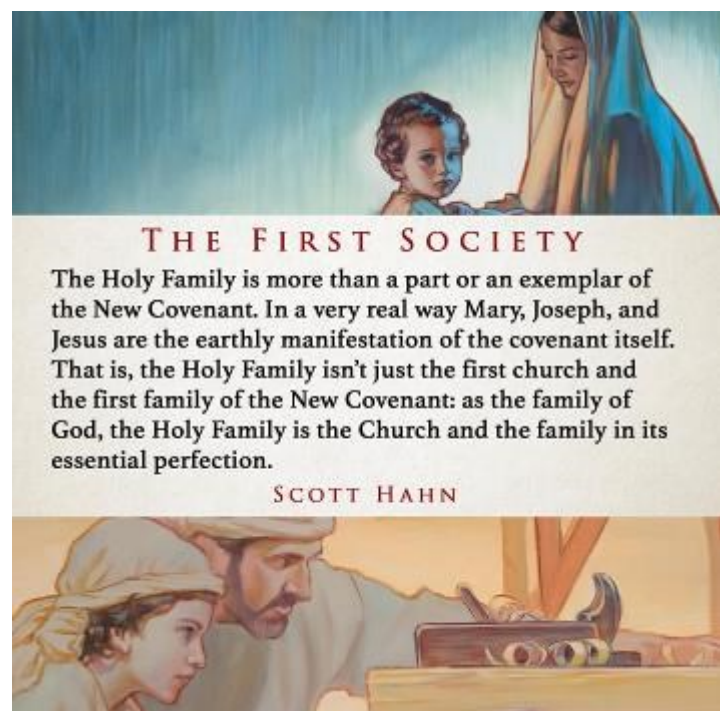
Donations of gently used and new clothing are available free of charge in our Clothing Café; reducing the financial burden for families with children up to age six. Programs facilitated by trained, compassionate staff cover a wide range of educational and developmental topics to provide a factual, evidence-based approach to raising safe, healthy children.

**This year, more families are in need of connection than ever before.**

As our community grows, our trusted space is a safe haven for information and non-judgemental support. Your gift this season assists our vision of a healthy family in every home.

Thank you,

Jo-Anne Dalton, Executive Director



# CATHOLIC TRIVIA

1. Which creed is said each Sunday in the most Catholic Churches in the world?

- A. Athanasian Creed
- B. Apostles Creed
- C. Nicene Creed
- D. Tridentine Creed

2. What is the name of a monk or nun's personal bedroom?

- A. Privatus
- B. Cloister
- C. Room
- D. Cell



3. How many shots were fired during the 1981 assassination attempt of St. John Paul II?

- A. Two
- B. Three
- C. Four
- D. Five

4. How many coins did Judas receive for betraying Jesus?

- A. 40
- B. 30
- C. 20
- D. 10

5. What is the special name of a bishop's physical chair?

- A. Throne
- B. Cathedra
- C. Seda
- D. Petra

6. What is the name of the teaching office of the Catholic Church?

- A. Canon Law
- B. Presbyterate
- C. Dicastery
- D. Magisterium



7. Which Gospel writer was a physician by trade?

- A. Mark
- B. Matthew
- C. Luke
- D. John

8. What is the name of a formal letter from the pope, written on doctrine, addressed to bishops?

- A. Papal Bull
- B. Apostolic Constitution
- C. Encyclical
- D. Moto Proprio

9. How many days (including Sundays) are there in Lent?

- A. 40
- B. 46
- C. 45
- D. 43



10. What does the word "pope" mean

- A. Father
- B. Peter
- C. Bishop
- D. Leader



Pope John Paul II



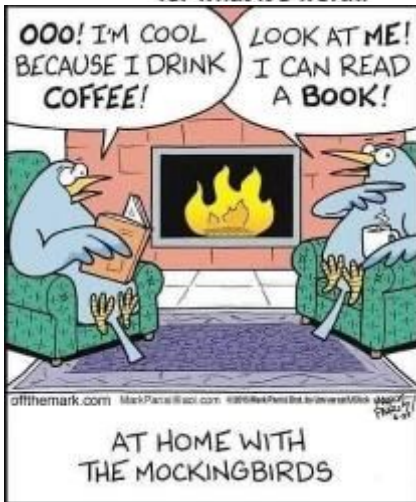


There's something happening here,  
for what it's worth.

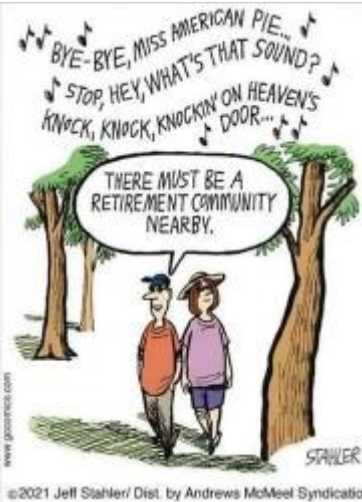


Today in Starbucks when I placed my order, I gave the name "Spartacus" as a joke. When they called my name to pick up my order I stood up and yelled, "I am Spartacus!" Everyone turned to look at me. Then an old man sitting in the corner stood up and yelled, "No. I am Spartacus!" Then one by one, everyone in the Starbucks stood up and yelled, "I am Spartacus!"

Today's gonna be a good day.



AT HOME WITH  
THE MOCKINGBIRDS



American badgers look like they're about to drag you into a back alley and pull a shiv on you to demand money for their meth habit.

European badgers look like they're about to invite you over for a cup of tea and some custard creams at their little cottage in the countryside.



Monday 14:35

What generation does Forrest Gump belong to?

Today 19:50

What?

Gen A

Today 20:12

I don't get it

WHEN YOU'RE SINGING ALONG TO FOOTLOOSE AND YOU HAVE NO CLUE WHAT THE LYRICS ARE...



The most amazing thing about Finding Dory is how they managed to put a receding hairline on a fish



"Nah man, night shift isn't too bad you just have to get used to it"

- Micheal, age 24



Me: My ducks are absolutely not in a row.

Me: At this point, I don't even know where my ducks are.

My ducks:



After half an hour trying to figure out this crazy haircut, I realized it's a coconut tree behind him.





**THAT SAD MOMENT  
WHEN YOU LOSE A  
CHIP IN THE DIP  
SO YOU SEND IN A  
RECON CHIP AND  
THAT BREAKS  
TOO...**

**I am swift as a  
gazelle. An old one.  
With arthritis. Run  
over by a land rover.  
Seven days ago.**



A priest, giving a children's sermon on vestments, asked, "Why do you think I wear this collar?"

One kid answered, "Because it kills ticks and fleas for up to 30 days?"

**I joined a Carpenter's  
Class the other day.  
We haven't made  
anything yet..... we've  
only just begun**

I always imagined that brushing my daughter's hair would be a sweet moment of bonding, but instead it sounds like someone is performing an exorcism.



How people think the Cold War was fought:



How it was actually fought:



How to properly order Steak at a Restaurant:



This looks like a dope concert until you realize it's a cotton harvester



Well that's redundant..



When someone gets in your car and starts criticising your driving

