



Notre Dame de Lorette Catholic Women's League

CATHOLIC
and **LIVING IT!**

MAY 2023



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
Adrienne Dennison
Suzanne Desmarais
Janine Durand-Rondeau
Gisèle Falk
Yvette Gregoire
Constance Haas
Chisom Omuruzua Ibeme
Monique Jeanson, *Chair*
Sue Johannesson
Monique Johnson
Delaney Kolowca
Heather Kolowca
Nettie Lambert
Marie McCall

Madelyn McConnell
Kathleen Messner
Suzanne Moore, *Treasurer*
Carol Mravinec
Mary-Ann Novak
Agatha Olayiwola
Jennifer Opara
Marcia Poirier, *Secretary*
Jennifer Poitra
Marie-Ange Prevost
Mae Ross, *PPC rep*
Faith Suttorp
Jaclyn Suttorp
Iris Swiderski
Joanne Touchette
Marilyn Toutant
Sr. Anna Marie du Sacré Cœur de Jésus

Lucille's



Letter

Dear Sisters in The League & Fr. Mario,

What a lovely anniversary dinner we had on April 12th! Thank you to the ladies who did the set up and decorating before Holy Mass. Thank you to everyone who brought a salad, dessert or adult beverage. Everything was delicious. Thank you to everyone who attended our event. Congratulations to all service pin recipients. We owe a special debt of gratitude to the 8 ladies who received 35 year pins as they were the pioneers who started our council and have brought us to where we are today. I am so proud to be a member of our little, but mighty council! (pg 4&5)

I attended the Pre AMM meeting on April 15th. The agenda for the Diocesan AMM was finalized. Some minor revisions were made to the Diocesan P & P manual as a result of discussions. The afternoon consisted of a presentation by our Provincial President that helped each of us explore our feelings about the CWL, our understanding of the purpose of the organization and how we see ourselves fitting into the organization as an active member. We will soon all have the opportunity to share our thoughts and feelings about our involvement with the CWL as the plan is to have someone from the diocesan council attend one of our meetings to walk us through this same exercise.

Kudos to our diocesan council for putting on a fabulous AMM on April 29th. The day was well planned and went off without a hitch. The guest speakers were riveting! (pg 6&7)

If you have never heard Joy Smith speak about human trafficking in Canada, I encourage you to seek her out online. Her message is a very important one for all parents, grandparents, teachers and anyone who works with youth. Susan Penner is equally as passionate about Life Culture. Join us at Barkman Park in Steinbach on June 4th for the March for Life and meet Susan in person. See pg 12.

As you are aware, May is the month of Mary and it is also the month for Life and the Family. Since our council was founded in 1989, there have been only five years that we missed hosting a parish-wide baby shower in conjunction with The Knights of Columbus of our parish – the first year, the third & fourth years and the two COVID years – 2020 and 2021! This year, we decided to also reach out to the community by advertising on Facebook. Thanks to Valerie Bonnefoy for looking after this for us! See the poster on page 9.

Thank you to every member who supported our C & S fundraiser by buying &/or selling gift cards. We were able to realize an amazing total of \$1000.00 for our council coffers.

Please remember that our highway clean up is scheduled for May 27th. The cadets have agreed to help out with this project so I expect

the job to be done relatively quickly. See the poster on page 10

The Lorette Community Garage sale is on June 10th. Our CWL council will be participating with tables set up at Suzanne Moore's house. (See poster on page 11)

You can start bringing items for the sale to Suzanne's home after Mother's Day. We will need volunteers to set up and price on June 9th then we will need more volunteers on the 10th to look after sales and to man the BBQ as we will sell hot dogs, water and pop. If you are willing to donate a few hours of your time to ensure the success of this fundraiser, please let a member of the executive know ASAP.

Our last general meeting prior to our summer break is on May 10th. So far, the agenda is fairly light so there should be more time for socializing. We have been invited to participate in the Kindness Rock Project before the end of the summer. We will discuss this at the meeting. Please consider joining us.

Our year end BBQ, hosted by Connie & Elwood Haas, will be held on June 17th. An invitation will be sent out in the near future.

Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers and grandmothers in our council.

Lucille Chay



May

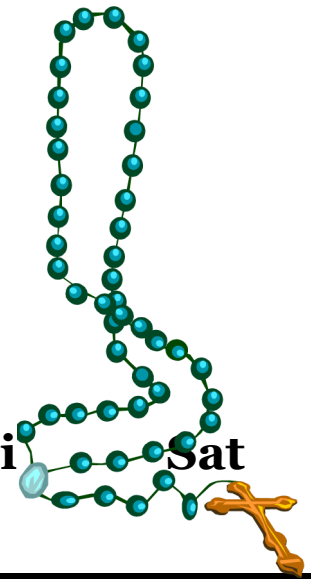
For church movements and groups

We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

2023 Pope's Intentions



May 2023



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Baby Shower at Church	1	2  Jennifer and Too Opapa	3	4	5	6
7	8  Lacey Bernardin	9	10 	11	12  Rolande and Bob Chernichan	13  Yvette and Gilles Gregoire
14 	15	16	17  Gisèle Falk	18	19  Constance Haas	20  Mary-Ann and Wayne Novak
21  Monique Johnson	22	23	24	25	26	27 Adopt-A-Hwy Clean up (see pg 10)
28	29	30	31  Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary— Mass to our Intentions			

Anniversary Celebration, April 12, 2023



Thank you, Crystal Reiter, MB CWL President



Notes...

Regrettably, I will be unable to attend. Hope you all have a wonderful celebration. — Jennifer Poitra

So sorry I can't join you all in celebrating another successful year of our sisterhood. Hope you have a wonderful celebration! — Monica Chemichan

I regret that I will not be able to be with you all at our CWL's anniversary dinner. I'm missing out on a wonderful evening of worship, friendship, great food, laughter and just being with my CWL family! Just to let you all know that I'll be in Scotland where my husband is scheduled for surgery to repair an abdominal aortic aneurysm. Surgery is on Friday April 14th. A recent CT scan shows that his aneurysm will be a bit more complicated a surgical procedure than what was expected. Your prayers would be greatly appreciated. Thank you! — Marie McCall

Thank you for the invite and reminder of our anniversary coming up this week. Unfortunately, I cannot attend for I am away for the week. My thoughts are with you all as you celebrate our council's life and accomplishments. I remember our first year as a council when we held our meetings at the Sisters' dining room and Rolande accepted to be our first president. It was exhilarating and we were full of wonder as we worked together to fill all the convener positions. We made a concerted effort to maintain one-third prayer time, one-third work and one-third social time. Evelyn and Doreen were our guiding lights throughout that year. Congratulations and I give you all a big hug with countless blessings. Love & Light — Angel Prevost

I have contracted COVID. Therefore, I will not be able to attend, unfortunately! I know you will all have an enjoyable time! — Mae Ross

I am currently parenting solo and am a "sans babysitter" until the 15th because Ryan and Raf are in the Philippines. Milaine has soccer practice and Reyella is with me. Miss you all dearly! It has been too long since I have seen my CWL sisters... please know that I pray for you all often. — Jolene Capina

Sorry George Canyon wins out over the wonderful ladies night! Enjoy! — Nettie

wish you were here

Notre Dame de Lorette Council
of
The Catholic Women's League
of Canada



April 12, 2023



Susan Bernier, 35 years



Rolande Chernichan, 35 years



Constance Haas, 35 years



Iris Swiderski, 35 years



Suzanne Moore, 35 years



Suzanne Desmarais, 10 years



Sue Johannesson, 5 years



Faith Suttorp, New Member



Jennifer Opara, New Member

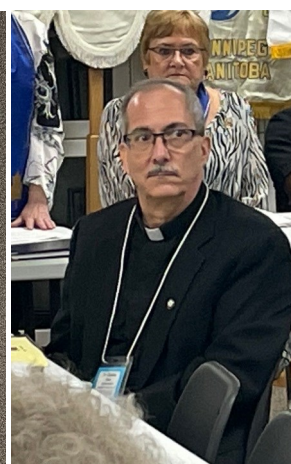
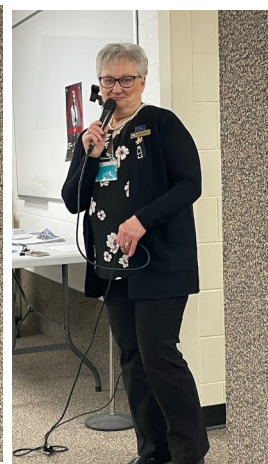
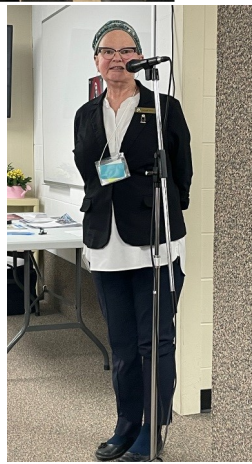


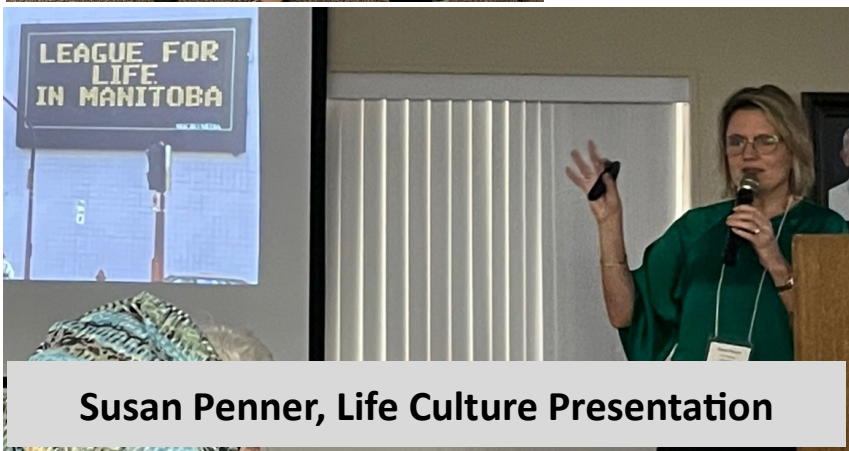
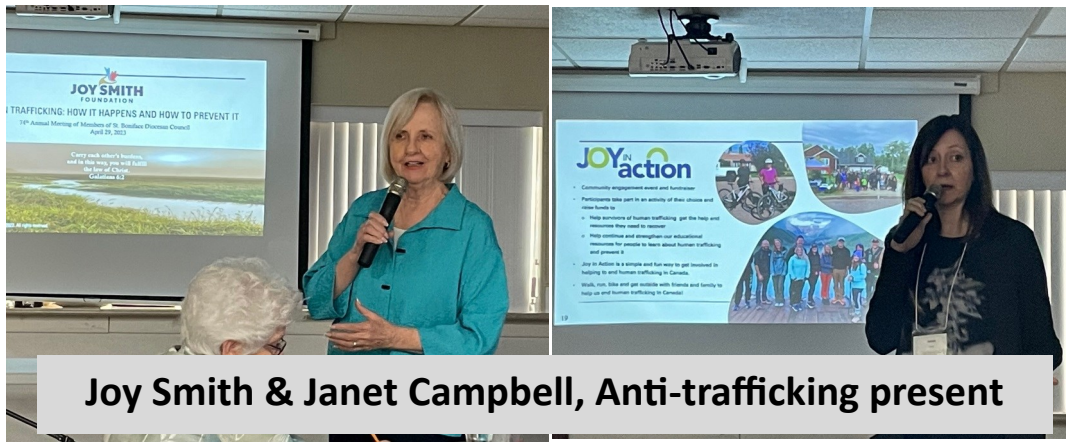
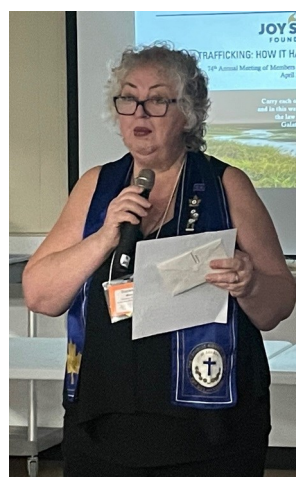
Chisom Ibeme, New Member



So many reasons to celebrate! Missing: Lynne Bernier, 35 years; Mary-Ann Novak, 35 years, Angel Prevost, 35 years, Jolene Capina, 25 years

St. Boniface AMM, April 29, 2023







The Catholic Women's League of Canada



NOTICE OF CONVENTION

75th Annual Meeting of Members

MANITOBA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

June 2nd and 3rd, 2023

Hosted by

Notre Dame de Lorette Council

1282 Dawson Rd, Lorette, MB

Mass – 5:00 p.m., June 2, 2023, Notre Dame de Lorette Parish

Gathering & Banquet – 6:15 p.m., Lorette Parish Hall **(\$55.00)**

Convention Registration – 8:00 a.m., June 3, 2023, Lorette Parish Hall **(\$8.00)**

Lunch: \$20.00

Convention Business – 9:00 a.m., June 3, 2023, Lorette Parish Hall

Catholic and Living It!

9:00 a.m.	Procession of Flags & Banners, Official opening of convention
9:05 a.m.	Spiritual Program
9:30 a.m.	Greetings
10:00 a.m.	Business Meeting
10:30 a.m.	Health Break
10:45 a.m.	Business Resumes
12:00 noon	Luncheon
12:45 p.m.	Gathering Prayer & Memorial Service for Deceased Members & Spiritual Advisors
1:00 pm.	Speakers – Development and Peace
1:30 p.m.	Speaker – <i>Shari Guinta – National President Elect</i>
2:30 p.m.	Health Break
2:45 p.m.	Business Resumes
3:15 p.m.	Questions & Answers
3:30 p.m.	Closing Prayer, Adjournment and Lowering of the Flags

Scent Free Convention

Our Members:

- This is an excellent opportunity for our members to attend an Provincial Annual Meeting of Members up close.
- Both Archbishop LeGatt (St. Boniface) and Archbishop Gagon (Winnipeg) will be celebrating the mass, along with other priests.
- Our council pays your registrations cost (\$8)
- We will asking your help on various committees
- We will be asking for donations of loaves/muffins/dainties for coffee breaks
- We would encourage you to bring your significant other to the banquet as well so he can experience the CWL too
- Let Suzanne Moore know if you are interested in attending all or part: cwllorette@gmail.com 204-878-3137



b

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b

y



Shower



with all proceeds going to
You Can't Spoil A Baby

Looking for donations of once-loved and/or new
items for babies 0 - 18 months
to help vulnerable new parents

Diapers

Wipes

Toiletries

Receiving blankets

Blankets

Wash cloths

Sleepers

Bibs

Clothing

Baby furniture

Diaper bags

Strollers, etc.

Sponsored By:



The Jubinville Knights of Columbus
The Catholic Women's League of Lorette
Contact: Valerie Bonnefoy, 204-299-5638



Donations accepted until May 31, 2023

Chrism Mass, April 4, 2023



HIGHWAY CLEANUP TIME

Hwy 207 from McDougall Rd to Junction of Hwy 206

Saturday, May 27, 2023

Raindate: June 17, 2023



Bags & Rides
provided

Meet 9:00 a.m. at Lorette Parish Hall Parking Lot

Sponsored by the Notre-Dame de Lorette Catholic Women's League



CWL GARAGE SALE



Saturday, June 10, 2023

At the Moore's, 110 Harpin Avenue

Do you have items you can donate?

Call Suzanne: 204-878-3137

Also selling water, pop and hotdogs

LEAGUE FOR LIFE IN MANITOBA



Life Culture



Women from the Catholics Women League, at Christ the King Parish, wondered how they would respond to the Omnibus Law enacted in 1969 that allowed therapeutic abortions to be performed. League for Life was formally registered as a company in 1970 and a registered charity in 1974. Christians of many faith traditions and people of good will united to help save the lives of the pre-born. The movement grew and was run through various affiliate groups across Manitoba.

Volunteers and staff ran the first League for Life office on Des Meurons. Pat Soenen, registered nurse, was the first executive director, and was a brilliant and brave leader for all. She debated Dr. Morgentaler, the abortionist who performed five thousand illegal abortions, live on radio.

League for Life in Manitoba held annual banquets that featured esteemed guests such as Dr. Bernard Nathanson (former abortionist turned pro-life advocate who was instrumental in legalizing abortion in the United States) to affirm the humanity of the pre-born.

League for Life persevered in the fight for protecting life. League for Life became Life's Vision Manitoba Inc. and continued to advocate for the voiceless. Life's Vision brought the pro-life message to dioceses, spoke with students in and outside of the classroom, and continued to do pro-life work through Life's Vision affiliates across Manitoba.

Continuing in our vision of a life-affirming Canada, Life's Vision responded to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ever-changing scope of technology and social media, by moving its office to Steinbach, Manitoba. Under the leadership of Susan Penner, we became Life Culture Canada and continue to speak for life.

Life Culture Canada has become an umbrella for many more life-affirming initiatives. These initiatives highlight that the pro-life movement responds to the needs of beginning of life and end of life protection and advocacy, as well as every moment in between. Focusing on a culture of life and a consistent life ethic, Life Culture Canada is confident that together, we can transform our culture into a culture of life!

Save the Date and Join Us!



Bring a Baby Item!

This year's Walk is also going to be a giant baby shower where we collect baby items for moms in need, like diapers, gifts cards, and more! Let's make this the biggest baby shower ever!

The BEST Dinner Rolls

Baked by Susan Bernier at our Anniversary Celebration

Ingredients

- 4 -5 cups all purpose flour
- 2 tbsp rapid rise, instant yeast
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 1/2 cups warm milk , 110 degrees
- 5 tbsp butter, softened
- 1 egg , room temperature
- 2 tbsp melted butter

Instructions

1. Combine 3 cups of flour, yeast, sugar, salt, warm milk, butter, and egg in the bowl of a stand mixer.
2. Attach the dough hook and turn the mixer on to the lowest speed and mix until flour is incorporated, scraping down the sides of the bowl as necessary.
3. Increase speed to medium and beat for 2 minutes.
4. Add 1/2 cup flour and blend with the dough hook until incorporated. And another 1/2 cup flour and repeat, mixing at medium speed for another 2 minutes until a ball of dough is formed.
5. Add additional flour as necessary. The dough should be slightly sticky and soft and pulling away from the edge of the bowl.
6. Transfer the dough to a lightly greased bowl and cover with a towel or plastic wrap. Let rise for 30 minutes at room temperature.
7. Remove the towel or plastic wrap and deflate the dough by punching down lightly.
8. Pinch off pieces of the dough and form 24 rolls. You can weigh them to keep the rolls close to the same size. Mine were about 2 ounces each but this will vary depending on how much flour you added.
9. Transfer the rolls to a lightly greased quarter baking sheet or 9 x 13 baking dish. Cover with a towel or plastic wrap and let rise for an additional 30 minutes at room temperature.
10. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Bake the rolls for 12 to 15 minutes or until golden brown and cooked through. If the rolls are getting too brown, just tent the rolls with foil.
11. Remove rolls and brush hot rolls with the melted butter. Serve immediately or store cooled rolls in a plastic bag for up to 3 days.

March 2023

Dear members of CWL,

Thank you very much for the gift of money to help pay for winter camps. Camp was very fun and I loved being with all my friends in a God-centered place where we could deepen are relationships with each other and with God. Thank you for your generosity and for everything you do for our community.

Nadège S.

Thank's a lot for paying part of the camp I really appreciate it I really liked Learning and playing new games I also really liked my small group I enjoyed having some of my friends there I also liked the testimonies and the talks It was fun! the only part I did not like was leaving! :-)

Djididé S.

Thanks a lot for paying Part of the Camp money for me. I liked my small group because the campers in my small group were all my friends. I also liked the food, games, after-meal entertainment (A.M.E.) and testimonies. Thanks a lot!!

OGAN S.

Thank you so much for helping me go to camps. It was a lot of fun. I got to make new friends and grow closer to God

Sevi Children

Mahoudi Dewi

To: Catholic women's league

Thank-you so much for that prize money. My time at St. Malo CSE camp was incredible and unforgettable. Growing in faith and making new friends was ~~only~~ possible by your generosity made. May your lives be filled joy happiness that you continue to spread.

Yours truly,

Claire White

Claire White



This initiative is intended to be a community project. Ask women in your parish to join, have fun and provide refreshments. The fun part is three steps: (1) Gather the rocks—a group of members can spend the day gathering rocks by rivers, streams, farm fields, etc. Have a picnic! A local landscaping company may have river rocks that could be used if needed. (2) Paint the rocks! (3) Take a rock and hide or place it in a spot of your choosing.

Inspirational Words:

Abundant	Courage	Heart	Reflect
Achieve	Create	Help	Remember
Balance	Dream	Hope	Resilience
Begin	Endurance	Imagine	Seek
Believe	Enjoy	Imagine	Seek
Blessed	Faith	Improve	Service
Blessings	Focus	Inspire	Simplify
Bold	Gain	Joy	Solve
Brave	Grace	Live	Stamina
Breathe	Grace	Love	Start
Centered	Grateful	Move	Strength
Chance	Gratitude	Patience	Try
Charity	Grow	Peace	Wish
Cherish	Happy	Possibility	Wonder
Confidence	Healthy	Pray	Worthy

No report is required, however, photographs of members collecting and painting rocks would be appreciated. As well, when posting photographs on social media please use the hashtag #cwl paintedrocks. The photographs can be sent by June 30th to info@cwl.ca.

Feedback on the project would also be appreciated.

Enjoy!

Faith Anderson

Faith Anderson
National Chairperson of Community Life

Reasons to Talk About the CWL!

IDENTITY

- 24 Members may wear pins and scarves with the Catholic Women's League crest, but our true identity is seen in sharing our faith, service to the community and advocacy for social justice. Your place is among us.

INCLUSIVE

- 25 Catholic Women's League members are a mosaic of women inclusive of all ages and cultures. Add your fabric to our quilt. Your place is among us.

INNOVATION

- 26 Members of the Catholic Women's League bring innovative ideas to develop resolutions for change. We read the signs of the times and propose creative solutions. Be a part of the process.

INSPIRE

- 27 Catholic Women's League members' passion is to inspire women, to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service. Need inspiration or have inspiration to share? We are excited to have you join us!

INTEGRITY

- 28 A hallmark of the Catholic Women's League is integrity. Members stand together in faithfulness, reliability, honesty and helping others. We are *Catholic and Living It!* Come stand with us.

LEADERS

- 29 The Catholic Women's League has many programs and workshops that empower women in becoming confident leaders who journey together to build God's kingdom in the areas of faith, service and social justice! Come walk with us.

LOVE

- 30 Love is more than a feeling, it's a decision. It requires practice, focus, patience and faith. Come join the Catholic Women's League and share the love.

MEANING

- 31 Life has meaning when you recognize your God-given gifts and share them with others. Join the Catholic Women's League and celebrate the meaning of life as you share your gifts.

To All the Mothers Out There



It is in a few lines from St. Paul that we see what motherhood, as the beautiful and sacred bedrock of human existence, is about.

Prior to my conversion to Catholicism, motherhood was something I both loved and hated.

To the pre-Christian Christine, motherhood was a choice best made when all the right conditions aligned: financial security, worldly success, a stable home, and other various achievements that could be pulled out and examined wistfully when the enslavement of motherhood threatened to overwhelm. *Look! This is what I can do without children! You've still got it, and one day you'll get to prove it again!*

I struggled mightily with the self-giving and sacrifice that motherhood requires. Often, in the earliest moments of my role as mother, I counted down the years until I got my freedom back—first, when toddlers were out of diapers; then the long school days; and finally their own adulthood, when I could get back to the more important things in life, like quiet mornings with coffee that never went cold and with books that actually got read. I could devote myself to my work and get promotions. I could travel. I could enjoy a return to the radical independence I once had.

But as pre-Christian Christine, I also experienced, for the first time in my life, a love that transcended any I had previously known—for those same children I struggled to tend alongside my selfish desires. I feared my mortality, worried that these years would pass too quickly, longed to give everything to these small creatures whom I had miraculously grown within and now held close in my arms.

Intuitively, I understood the primordial and undeniable bond between mother and child, but my commitments at the time had me siding with the naturalists—that this bond was merely an evolutionary device to keep the species going. And yet . . . I couldn't shake that something else that made my role as a mother feel more than that. There was something sacred about motherhood that I just couldn't identify.

As it turns out, the Catholic faith had already figured out the challenges of motherhood. The biological aspects of motherhood are one part of a vastly more intricate picture. The love mothers

feel for our children points to an infinitely greater love. We are called to give of ourselves and grow in holiness. Our role isn't contractual—to be entered into or exited at will—but a lifelong vocation that uniquely orients our existence, by way of these children, these little sanctifiers, to God.

In our secular age, there is a danger of thinking that mothers (as well as fathers) are meant to see to only the physical needs of their children, in order that the human species and society may thrive. This is a mostly temporary relationship, where mothers work hard to provide for a family that may not think much of what they do, outside the obligatory greeting cards and brunches on Mothers' Day.

Not so! As physical-spiritual composites, we are to tend also to our children's spiritual needs, too, setting a foundation of morality and knowledge and love of God that will lead them to heaven. This is a lifelong endeavor, where families work alongside one another in a community of faith, hope, and charity.

Mothers, then, are not just the sustainers of physical life, the maidservants of an ungrateful house. We're the stewards of souls, bringing up our children in a home environment that we create and sustain for the shoring up of holiness.

As every mother knows, this is not a simple, easy, or quick task. It lasts a lifetime, and it requires near-constant attention and reflection. In fact, motherhood, and the creation of "a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and disinterested service are the rule," is an ongoing exercise in heroic virtue, which, as the *Catechism* notes, requires "self-denial, sound judgment, and self-mastery" (2223).

Self-denial. Sound judgment. Self-mastery. These are not virtues that our broadly secular society values.

Neither is motherhood.

For whereas the protective, nurturing aspects of motherhood are intuitive and have been for much of human history—Merriam-Webster offers a definition of the verb "to mother" as "to care for or protect as a mother," and St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross wrote, "The woman's soul is fashioned as a shelter in which other souls may unfold"—our current culture aims to unravel and redefine motherhood, espousing values that motherhood most certainly is *not*: self-absorption, narcissism, radical independence, and base emotion, to the point where women are encouraged not only to cut short their motherly role and the lives of their children via abortion, but also to #shoutyourabortion afterward.

What becoming a mother actually is—the awesome and humbling cooperation with God in the creation of new life—has been shoved aside as antiquated, patriarchal, and privileged. Only

when a woman (or "birthing person") is ready, able, and willing ought she (or he? or it?) enter into this most sacred vocation, with that timing being based solely on individual desires and feelings of personal security and readiness. It seems there's an attempt to strip God from the whole business.

In all, it sounds similar to the beliefs held by pre-Christian Christine.

It is this side of the life debate that produces such a din, encouraging women not to uphold their motherhood, but to toss it aside—in small, selfish ways, or in the irreversible, tragic way of abortion. And all this for a worldly victory: an education, a promotion, some financial or future security, a Golden Globe.

For mothers, Catholic or otherwise, who are in the thick of daily responsibilities, it can be difficult not to listen to the lies that motherhood ought to be convenience-based, that we are worth something better than a biological part of species extension (which is true, except not in the way the secularists claim). Even as I converted to Catholicism, which taught me of the sacred purpose, beauty, and dignity gifted to me by God in my vocation as a mother, I still felt the push and pull of the secular age. Standing in the laundry room or beside a sick child's bed . . . was this—am I—enough? Or could I, should I be doing something more?

But then I read St. Paul in his letter to the Galatians: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (5:23) are the fruits of the Holy Spirit, received by a life belonging to Our Lord and crucified of its own selfish passions and desires. And that, I realized, describes motherhood at its core and its best—for when we think of a woman blooming in her vocation as a mother, are these not the words we would use to describe her? But these fruits come only to those willing to give deeply of themselves, to deny their own fleshly desires, and to focus on their vocation as God designed it rather than as the secular culture defines it.

It is in these few lines of Galatians that we see what motherhood, as the beautiful and sacred bedrock of human existence, is about: a woman who deliberately and daily puts on Christ, no matter the interior mood or the external climate, and, in turn, both receives and cultivates the fruits of the Holy Spirit in her soul and in her home, leading the souls entrusted to her to do the same. In short, it is much like the commitments that Catholic Christine has taken on, and it is here that my motherhood, as God intends it, has found joyful fulfillment.

<https://www.catholic.com/magazine/online-edition/to-all-the-mothers-out-there>

The Weirdness of Mary's Motherhood

As Christians, we can and must say this strange, impossible thing: Mother of God.

"But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart."

We can do no better than this.

In the world of the internet, which some people seem to think is the real world, Catholics can never say anything nice about Mary without an angry troll of some sort—claiming the mantle of biblical authority—jumping in to say we should be talking about JESUS (all caps, of course) instead, and that all this talking about and thinking about Mary is missing the point. But if we're looking to the real Mary, it's pretty clear that she always directs us to Jesus. And this is no competition, but a deepening of our relationship with Jesus, for with Mary we can "ponder these things" in our hearts. We can experience them anew not just as theological or doctrinal principles that must be believed, but as historical moments touching real people in time and space.

St. John Paul II spoke about the rosary as the "school of Mary," which is just to say that meditating on the mysteries with Mary brings us ever deeper into contemplation of the mystery of Christ. No Son without the Mother, after all.

This is what celebrating Our Lady's divine maternity is all about. It's one of the four great Marian dogmas of the Church, along with Mary's virginity, her immaculate conception, and her assumption. This was defined long ago at the Council of Ephesus in 431: to deny that Mary is the Mother of God, or the *Theotokos*, God-bearer, would be to deny that Jesus is God.

Various figures wanted to suggest that Jesus

was, in the process of birth, temporarily not God, or that he became God only after birth, or that he merely appeared to be God. But the Fathers understood intuitively that for the Incarnation to be true, and for it to be truly salvific, the unity of the divine and human natures had to be permanent and binding. If God the Son was not born of a human mother—if he shirked this basic reality as something beneath him—he could hardly claim to have embraced and sanctified the fullness of human nature.

Mary is "Mother of God" in that she is the mother of Jesus, who is God. She is not the mother of his divine nature, which is, as the creeds remind us, "begotten of the Father before all worlds." She is the mother of his human nature. But, because his human nature is inseparably united with his divine nature, we can and must say this strange, impossible thing: Mother of God.

This is only the beginning in the list of "impossible" things that Catholics believe—things that to the world must appear utterly mad.

We are still mourning the death of Pope Benedict XVI. In the opening chapter of his masterful *Introduction to Christianity*, a younger Joseph Ratzinger tells the story, recounted by another philosopher, of the clown attempting to warn a town against a coming fire. The clown shouts, he whispers, he gesticulates, he cries, but everything he does seems to the people simply part of the act. They point and laugh and move on with their business. Is this, young Ratzinger wonders, the state of the theologian today? Or perhaps the state of the Christian in general? How can we appear credible to the modern world? Is it

simply a matter of removing the makeup, dressing in plain clothes, and appearing like everybody else? Removing all the things that strike our hearers as ridiculous? Or is it rather that the message itself carries a kind of absurdity or impossibility that cannot directly translate without the infusion of supernatural faith?

Christianity starts from a radical encounter with the Word made flesh. As Pope Benedict tells us, any attempt to translate this event into something else—into some economic or social principle, or some vague feeling—ultimately vacates its meaning. It does all come down to this reality that we recall on the Octave day of Christmas: the Son of God and his human mother. We try to meet them and to know them in this life, but we will see them in the next, as our departed Holy Father knew well. And here, in a new calendar year, we do well to remember that there is no avoiding this encounter. It may be at times painful. Love is at times painful. But it is good.

In the closing prayer of his encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*, Pope Benedict entreats Our Lady: "Teach us to know and love him, so that we too can become capable of true love and be fountains of living water in the midst of a thirsting world."

With Mary's help and guidance, may we have the grace to echo the Holy Father's last words in this life—and no doubt his first words in the next: "Jesus, I love you."

<https://www.catholic.com/magazine/online-edition/the-weirdness-of-marys-motherhood>

Orans Posture at Mass

Question:

If the laity should not use the priestly posture of hands outreached during the Lord's Prayer, why aren't we so instructed?

Answer:

The Church seems to be relatively silent on this matter. However, just because the Church is silent does not mean something is permitted. After all, no document states the laity cannot stand on their heads for the Our Father during Mass, yet we'd universally consider it inappropriate to do so.

The general rule of thumb to remember is: "no other person, even if he be a priest, may add,

remove, or change anything in the liturgy on his own authority" (Sacrosanctum Concilium, 22.3).

So the question for us becomes: is the orans posture an addition to the liturgy?

In my opinion, yes. My reasoning is that the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* references the orans posture with the phrase "with hands extended." It is instructed to be done twenty-eight times and is used as a direction only for the priest(s)—the laity are never directed to pray "with hands extended." Given that it is clearly a directive in the GIRM, to add it to any other part of the liturgy would be a violation of the above stated liturgical rule.

As to the reason why this matter is rarely addressed, that most likely has to do with pastoral sensitivity. If a handful of people are innocently praying in that position, the priest is not going to go out of his way to embarrass them or cause them to feel uncomfortable. Their action, while not liturgically correct, is probably not a distraction to anyone around them.

The only time I could see a priest feeling pastorally required to address such a situation would be if people were being instructed by others to use the orans posture, or if it was so widespread that those who chose not to do so were made to feel uncomfortable.

<https://www.catholic.com/qa/orans-posture-at-mass?fbclid=IwAR3kIFnyhYO->

Catholic Quiz



The Mass

1. Which liturgical item sits on top of the altar cloth and underneath the chalice and paten?

- A. Stole
- B. Corporal
- C. Purificator
- D. Pall

2. Which name is given to the liturgical fixture where the Word of God is read and proclaimed?

- A. Ambo
- B. Ambry
- C. Altar
- D. Tabernacle

3. What is the minimum number of candles to be placed on or near the altar for Holy Mass?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 4
- D. 6

4. Ordinarily, what is the most number of Masses a priest is allowed to celebrate or concelebrate on Sunday in special circumstances?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 10

5. On which two of the following days are Catholics in the United States not obliged to attend Mass?

- A. Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
- B. Ash Wednesday
- C. Solemnity of the Assumption
- D. Solemnity of St. Joseph



Catholic scientists

1. The pea plant experiments of which Catholic scientist led to established scientific rules of heredity?

- A. Jérôme Lejeune
- B. Gregor Mendel
- C. Louis Pasteur

D. Alois Alzheimer

2. Which Catholic scientist discovered the cause of Down syndrome?

- A. Jérôme Lejeune
- B. Gregor Mendel
- C. Louis Pasteur
- D. Alois Alzheimer

3. Which Catholic scientist identified the first published case of early-onset dementia?

- A. Jérôme Lejeune
- B. Gregor Mendel
- C. Louis Pasteur
- D. Alois Alzheimer

4. Which Catholic scientist might come to mind when you pour a glass of milk?

- A. Jérôme Lejeune
- B. Gregor Mendel
- C. Louis Pasteur
- D. Alois Alzheimer

5. Which Catholic scientist was forced to recant his theory of heliocentrism?

- A. Galileo Galilei
- B. Nicolaus Copernicus
- C. Nicholas of Cusa
- D. Leonardo da Vinci

THE GOSPELS



The Gospels

1. In most English translations, which Gospel verse is the shortest?

- A. Mt 2:1
- B. Jn 3:16
- C. Jn 11:35
- D. Mk 16:15

2. In total, there are how many chapters in the four canonical Gospels?

- A. 64
- B. 76
- C. 89
- D. 95

3. Which Gospel is the longest of the four canonical Gospels?

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

4. Roughly how many original words are attributed to Jesus in the four canonical Gospels?

- A. About 10,000
- B. About 30,000
- C. About 75,000
- D. About 100,000

5. Of which apostle was St. Mark a disciple?

- A. St. Peter
- B. St. John
- C. St. Thomas
- D. St. Matthew

Marian apparitions

1. Which of the following saints was not a visionary at a Marian apparition?

- A. St. Jacinta
- B. St. Bernadette
- C. St. Catherine of Siena
- D. St. Catherine Laboure



2. Of the Holy See's approved Marian apparitions, how many were in Belgium?

- A. 0
- B. 1
- C. 2
- D. 3

3. Which was the most recently Holy See-approved Marian apparition?

- A. Guadalupe
- B. Fátima
- C. Lourdes
- D. Knock

4. Which future pope was ordained a bishop on May 13, 1917, the same day as Mary's first apparition at Fátima?

- A. Pius XII
- B. John XXIII
- C. Paul VI
- D. John Paul I

5. In which century were most of the formally approved Marian apparitions?

- A. 16th
- B. 17th
- C. 18th
- D. 19th

The Mass 1B 2A 3B 4C 5B&D
Catholic scientists: 1B 2A 3D 4C 5A
The Gospels 1C 2C 3A 4B 5A
Marian apparitions 1C 2C 3B 4A 5D

I just realized why this month is called May



It may rain, it may snow, it may be 70 degrees or it may be 20 degrees

When they take your trailer away so you won't buy anything at the auction

@MidnightMiniCattleCompany



The worlds most interesting lamp according to 5 cats, a stuffed pig and 2 guys on the TV

WHEN YOU'RE TIRED



NAP AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR LADDER IF YOU GET CAUGHT THE BOSS WILL THINK YOU FELL

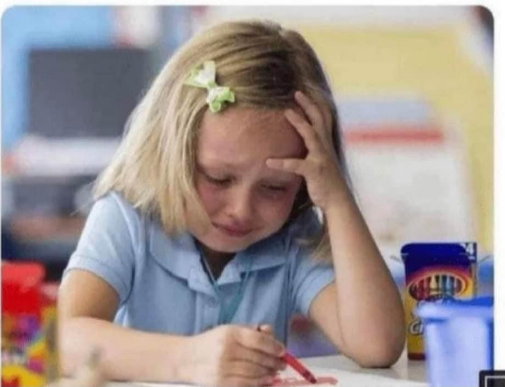
Only in Canada .. The roads are so icy, they did this while waiting for the tow truck to come...



Sometimes you have to do it yourself if you want it done



kids in 2050 trying to study the 2019-2022 chapter of history for a test



When threatened, the Pope can spray holy venom up to 25 ft



If you all look closely.....You will see a lion under that tree over there

A smiling hedgehog, incase you needed an awwwww moment.



SPY A



SPY B



When an airplane flies over your house just a little too low...



Oh my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you...

The skull



Artist's depiction of the animal in a paleontology book



The Animal



A volkswagen punk beetle



"I just need a few things at the garden center"



How the baby comes out when mom spends the entire pregnancy taking selfies



What do you call a bear with no ears?



B.

