

**Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Council of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada**

Centred on Faith and Justice

Communique # 2

Date: January 11, 2012

To: Spiritual Development Chairs, Provincial Executive, Life Members

From: Bobbie Brennan, Provincial Spiritual Development Chair

Dear Sisters in the League,

Greetings and blessings to all. I hope your Christmas was healthy, holy and happy and that 2012 will be the same. I know it was a busy time for all as we prepared our homes for our families and prepared our souls for the celebration of our Lord and Saviour's birth. Now, with the decorations down and the memories steeping within us, we can turn our minds and hearts to continuing our work for God and Country.

In this communique, I want to draw your attention to some things that Margaret Ann Jacobs sent out in two of her communiqués.

1. In her 2nd communique in June, 2011, one thing she encourages us to do is study *Verbum Domini*, the post-synodal apostolic exhortation of the Hoply Father Benedict XVI. This document highlights the importance of bible study so that members can better understand sacred liturgy, the relationship between sacred scripture and the working of the sacraments, the care that should be taken in the proclamation of the Word, the importance of the homily, the undoubted place for the Liturgy of the Hours, and the suggestions and practical proposals for promoting fuller participation in the Liturgy. *'Throughout its history, the people of God has always found strength in the Word of God and today too, the ecclesial community grows by hearing, celebrating and studying that Word.'* (*Verbum Domini, P.6*)

In this same communique she also asks us to consider adding *The Word Among Us* to our spiritual reading list. (Contact at 800 775 9673 or wau.org) Besides the daily meditations it also has articles that can enrich and renew our faith journey.

2. In her 3rd communique, September, 2011, she further emphasises the importance of bible study when she writes about the Catholic Biblical Association of Canada (CBAC). They have people available to "facilitate retreat/study days (on biblical themes) or bible study workshops in parish or diocesan councils nationwide." They have been in existence for more than 35 years and have been "an important and effective instrument for inviting Catholics into a living, life-altering relationship with God's Word."

It's a non-profit charitable organization. You can get more information by contacting the executive director Sr. Jocelyn Monette by phoning 905 272 3374 or by email: jocmon@sympatico.ca.

3. Still with Margaret Ann's 4th communique she talks about ecumenism and interfaith endeavours: "The Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada is a national council of representatives from ten church partners, focusing on four main concerns - social justice, women's issues, ecumenism and the growth of women's spirituality. It offers wonderful opportunities for interfaith endeavours at www.wicc.org. Check out the resources available."

4. Another thing Margaret Ann mentions in connection with the Women's Inter-Council of Canada is the World Day of Prayer, being celebrated this year on March 2, which is the first Friday of March. It is held every year at this time and is written by the women of a different country each year. This year it is written by the women of Malaysia and the theme is *Let Justice Prevail*. I, also, encourage you to attend one of these services and/or get involved yourself.

5. I also want to remind you that the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place the week of January 22-29. The theme "we will be changed by the Victory of our Lord Jesus Christ (based on 1 Corinthians 15:51-58) and was developed by the Christian churches of Poland.

6. Don't forget that annual reports are due February 15, 2012. Don't get worried about them. No need to be elaborate. If you write them in point form that's fine. Actually easier to collate when they are all in.

Peace and blessings

Bobbie Brennan