



## The Catholic Women's League of Canada Military Ordinariate Provincial Council



**TO:** Base Council Presidents, Spiritual Development Chairpersons, Military Ordinariate Administrative Committee

**FROM:** CWL Military Ordinariate Spiritual Development Chairperson

**DATE:** 17 March 2017

**MEMO:** #3 (2016-2018)

**SUBJECT:** Study of Catholic Teachings, Upcoming dates and ideas

Happy St. Patrick's Day! In lieu of sharing the prayer from his breastplate, I've compiled a few ideas for things to share and study with your councils in the coming month or so. I recently finished my annual report, and in reviewing the summary of the base council surveys I noticed that *the study of Catholic teachings*, one of the duties of the Spiritual Development chair (see the Executive Handbook), was not very well represented across the Military Ordinariate's activities last year. Below you will find a couple of suggestions. Remember that you do not need to action all of this – I am simply giving you ideas for consideration. If a date will come and go before your next meeting, please send your members an e-mail right away for their information.

-On March 20<sup>th</sup> we celebrate the ***Solemnity of St. Joseph***, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Fun fact: his feast day is really the 19<sup>th</sup>, but when it falls on a Sunday, the solemnity is moved to the Monday. St. Joseph is the patron saint of carpenters, workers, a happy death, families, husbands, travelers, and social justice (to name a few), and he is also one of the patrons of Canada. Importantly for military families at this time of year, he is the patron saint of selling houses. How many of you have buried a statue of him upside-down in your lawn? It's posting season – let's pray for quick sales and stress-free moves for our military families, and ask for the intercession of St. Joseph.

Last year on the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Pope Francis released his Apostolic Exhortation called *Amoris Laetitia* (Joy of Love), a reflection on modern family issues after the Extraordinary Synod in 2014. It is a book – it is not something you can present at a meeting. It would, however, be a great “book club” study to lead with your Christian Family Life chair. Organize a bonus meeting, or perhaps a few meetings during the summer. You can buy hard copies at a Catholic book store or online, but you can read the full text for free on the Vatican website:

[http://w2.vatican.va/content/dam/francesco/pdf/apost\\_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco\\_esortazione-ap\\_20160319\\_amoris-laetitia\\_en.pdf](http://w2.vatican.va/content/dam/francesco/pdf/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20160319_amoris-laetitia_en.pdf)

At the end of last month, Bishop McCaig posted a clarification document on our diocese website ([www.rcmilord.com](http://www.rcmilord.com)) called “On the Implementation of Chapter Eight of the Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* in the Military Ordinariate of Canada.” Apparently chapter eight was a bit controversial, as it deals with the matter of divorced and civilly remarried Catholics, and so clarifications are being written to avoid misinterpretation. Bishop McCaig's words are directed at the priests, deacons, and pastoral associates of the Military Ordinariate of Canada, however it concerns many Catholics in our community and so it is ours to read, too. The full text is here:

<http://www.rcmilord.com/media/On-the-Implementation-of-Chapter-Eight-of-the-Apostolic-Exhortation-Amoris-Laetitia-in-the-Military-Ordinariate-of-Canada-22-Feb-17.pdf>

-On March 25<sup>th</sup>, the world will observe **Earth Hour** by turning off lights between 8:30 and 9:30pm local time. On the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' website there is an ecumenical prayer service available that you can use as a vigil during this time. If you have time to plan a get-together with your CWL sisters, friends, and perhaps the Protestant Chapel Guild ladies, this would be a great way to pray together for a good cause. You can find it here:

<http://www.cccb.ca/site/eng/media-room/announcements/4699-international-earth-hour-2017>

-April 22<sup>nd</sup> is **Earth Day**, a perfect opportunity to study Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si* (On Care for Our Common Home). Join forces with your Education and Health chair and prepare something for your council! You can find the text in English here:

[http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)

-April 26<sup>th</sup> is the **Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel**. How is your council planning to celebrate this year?

If you haven't already, please check out National Spiritual Development chair Jacqueline Nogier's second communiqué (available at <https://www.cwl.ca/spiritual-development-communique-2/>).

Finally, since the closure of the Halifax council, Trenton was left without a "twin." Shearwater president Marguerita Johnson kindly offered to make a "triplet." It was a lovely gesture, and especially appropriate since a few of the Halifax members transferred to her council. Here is the updated list:

Esquimalt ~ Edmonton

Borden ~ Shearwater ~ Trenton

Cold Lake ~ Comox

Gagetown ~ Kingston

Winnipeg ~ Ottawa

Greenwood ~ Petawawa

Wishing you all a fruitful remainder of Lent, a wonderful Easter, and a safe trip to Comox for convention.

St. Patrick and St. Joseph, pray for us!

**Allison Klemen**

CWL MO Spiritual Development Chair