

May our new year be filled with hope for a lasting Peace in the world, in our communities, and in our homes and hearts. Pope Francis has chosen to focus on Hope and said that ***“Hope is a gift from the Holy Spirit, Hope is what Mary, Mother of God, sheltered in her heart during the darkest time of her life: from Friday afternoon until Sunday morning. That is hope: she had it. And that hope has renewed everything. May God grant us that grace.”***

Our Pope said In his homily on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2024, that we should **entrust this coming year to the Mother of God**. He asked us to consecrate our lives to her because she will lead us to her son Jesus. He also said, “may this year be full of the tender maternal love of Mary.



He has chosen **2024 as the year of prayer in preparation for Jubilee 2025, called Pilgrims of Hope**. A jubilee is a special holy year of grace and pilgrimage in the Catholic Church. It typically takes place once every 25 years, although the Pope may call for extraordinary jubilee years when he thinks they are needed.

Dear Faith Chairpersons, I encourage you to organize retreats or days of reflection, virtual or in-person, day-long or an hour-long, before the start of the Lenten season on Ash Wednesday. This will help council members to grow spiritually and is quieting when we feel vulnerable, lonely, or overwhelmed. You could form a committee and ask for your spiritual advisor’s help and while planning it, be guided by the needs of your members. The Charisms or spiritual gifts from the Holy Spirit to your councils will produce good results.

Yesterday, a letter from Monica Santamarina, WUCWO president general, was featured on cwl.ca. She quoted the Pope as saying ***“Our times, bereft of peace, need a mother who can reunite the human family.”*** Her letter gently stirs the heart and enables the mind to understand that Mary is indeed the path to the love of God.

Please use your **Handbook for Faith, Service, and Social Justice Chairpersons** and the many resources for Faith that can be found at cwl.ca. Try your best to read spiritually uplifting books or magazines, join or form a bible study group, watch shows on EWTN or Salt and Light, explore the Formed or Hallow apps. Connect with other Faith chairpersons in your dioceses and learn from each other. Remember, we are learning to be Faith chairpersons together.

**Dates to remember are:**

**February 2: World Day for Consecrated Life**

*“This day is for people who live consecrated lives all over the world, to meet up and celebrate with their community. It will be a chance to discover these men and women who*

*continue to commit themselves to our Church and our society for the good of many.”* Briefly, the word “consecrated” means “to be set apart.” Therefore, consecrated persons are “set apart” to love and live for God and His Church.

### **February 11: The World Day of the Sick**

The theme chosen for the 2024 observance is from the Book of Genesis, *“It is not good that man should be alone.”* It was subtitled, **Healing the Sick by Healing Relationships.** The best therapy for those who are ill, the Pope said, is *“to offer them our love and communion, despite the pace of our own frenetic lives.”*

### **February 14: Ash Wednesday**

### **March 1: World Day of Prayer**

We are encouraged by Vatican 2 and the League to participate in community inter-faith events such as the Women’s Inter-Church Council of Canada’s annual **World Day of Prayer**. It occurs traditionally on the first Friday of March. In 2024, ***Palestine will write the service and the theme is “I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love”*** Ephesians 4:1-3.

Begin a conversation about the events mentioned above at general meetings, in newsletters, or through social media platforms. Invite the women in your parishes to your events and consistently welcome League members and non-members warmly and with love.