

A warm greeting as we delve into Spring and all the hopes and joys of new beginnings. In the words of Pope Francis, "A joy ever new, a joy which is shared." In his exhortation. *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis reminds us, "The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus".

Five in 2025 - First, how is the Five in 2025 contest going? Remember that by May 15, 2025 Diocesan Vice Presidents need to report the progress of participating parishes to me. Remember that, I will need the number of members they had at the end of 2024 and how many new members they recruited in 2025. This is so I can determine the winners of the certificates in the two categories:

- 1) The parish with the greatest number increase – total in 2025
- 2) The greatest % increased - to help smaller councils - I will need to do Math and need the number of members in 2024 and the numbers increased by in 2025.

Please have both of these figures for me from each of the participating parish councils by May 15, 2025. Thank you.

Performing your Civic Duty – We have the privilege of each having a voice in how our country is to be governed. You know, the Federal election will take place on April 28, 2025. Make sure to vote! There are many opportunities to do so. You can vote starting now, right up to voting day, in the electoral office in your town or city up to 9:00 pm. Advance polls have been set for April 18 – 21st, yes Easter weekend, and of course you can vote on April 28, 2025. Please find out where to vote and exercise your civic duty. Make sure we elect a federal government who adheres to our Christian values.

Letter Writing in Spite of the Federal Campaign Occurring Now – Did you know that in spite of the campaigning that is occurring, you can still write letters to members of the federal government and have them answer you? I recently wrote about the plight of all the foreign workers we have in Canada with Work permits and also to International students, promises that were made to them and then decisions that were reversed in November 2024. I wrote of the mental anguish and the scrambling they have to do but also the anguish that countless employers now have in trying to make sure they have enough workers to deliver service to customers that have come to expect it. I wrote to our Prime Minister and the new Minister of Immigration and Refugees and Citizenship, Rachel Bendayan and lo and behold I received a response from her. Needless to say, I was surprised but pleased, even though the response did not give the hope that I would have liked. But who knows, prayers may yet be answered. There are many in my parish who are affected and I work with some of them to try and reverse some of the changes they may need to face. Some ladies affected had joined the Catholic Women's league last year when I invited them. Have you been able to find the same result?

Conventions are Around the Corner – A reminder to attend your diocesan, the provincial in Kelowna in June and the National in August if at all possible. I understand from Renee Johnson that there are still some subsidies that can be applied for to attend the provincial convention. Twelve can be given out and when I received her email only seven people had applied. That is \$500.00 to be put towards expenses. Please apply! Our National President Elect Betty Colaneri will be in attendance at the provincial.

Molly Boucher Bursary – A quick reminder of the Molly Boucher Bursary. So far, April 9th, I have received **no applications**! This falls under my role as Service Chairperson.

Please promote this bursary. All details needed can be found on the provincial website www.bcyukoncw.ca

In her last communique, Betty Colaneri provided catchphrases for January, February and March, which she hopes you found useful. Below are the catchphrases for April, May and June. Remember, these catchphrases do not expire, so use them often

April: The '1' Reason for it all

The foundation of members' faith is rooted in Easter. The message and purpose of faith came to fruition the first Easter morning. Catholics celebrate and honour the resurrection of Jesus, which gives meaning to members' ministry and all they do. Members model their service to others after the Last Supper, where Jesus taught the apostles how to serve.

May: Be a Mentor to '1'

Dedicate May to honouring mothers—the first teachers of faith who guide members on their spiritual journey. These mothers may be biological mothers, godmothers, grandmothers, aunts or special women who have played a significant role in their lives. Honour them by following their example and passing on the gift of faith and guidance by mentoring '1' other person.

June: That we may all be '1'

As *Pilgrims of Hope*, members are called to fellowship with '1' another. "That they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you..." (John 17.21). Let us foster relationships and unity in faith.

Kindly share these catchphrases and encourage members to use them.

At the provincial convention, Betty will be presenting on R3 to 1, Unity! This will give insights into addressing the ongoing concern of membership. The purpose is to assist councils in recruiting, retaining and regaining members. Come and learn some new strategies to increase the membership of this League which does so much for God and Canada and which is so vital in all of the Churches in Canada and in the world today.

I wish for you a blessed Easter, filled with the peace, love and joy of the risen Lord. Ciao for now and God bless. Laura