



**Ontario Provincial Council  
The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Administrative Assistant**

***Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call***

**Directive #2**

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**November 15, 2017**

To: Diocesan Corresponding Secretaries,  
Diocesan Presidents, Provincial Officers,  
Spiritual Advisor, Archbishop B. M. O'Brien, and National Secretary Treasurer  
From: Stephanie Spinelli, Administrative Assistant  
Ontario Provincial Council

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*"Our humanity comes to its fullest bloom in giving. We become beautiful people when we give whatever we can give: a smile, a handshake, a kiss, an embrace, a word of love, a present, a part of our life...all of our life." Henri Nouwen*

Canada Post's Christmas stamps for 2017 were issued on November 3<sup>rd</sup> heralding the coming of the Christmas season and the joy that it brings.

The **religious stamp** for 2017 is described by Canada Post as follows:

"This year's sacred issue, designed by Louise Méthé, showcases *The Adoration of the Shepherds*, a vibrant oil-on-panel painting housed at the Art Gallery of Ontario. Attributed to Italian artist Tommaso de Stefano Lunetti (c.1495-1564), this carefully composed masterpiece was based on Luke's gospel in which angels announced the birth of Jesus to shepherds, who then rushed from their fields to find their newborn Saviour."

These are the words of the Gospel of Saint Luke 2:10-16...

*...the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"*

*When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us. So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.*

The season of Advent begins on December 3, 2017 when we prepare to welcome Jesus. It is the time of the year when we reach out to others extending tidings of HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE.

Our custom of sending greetings at Christmas is a treasured tradition. How heartwarming it is to receive an unexpected email, a phone call, or a card in the mail. These messages, sent in love, bind us closer to people we love, to people we may not know very well...they even bring people closer together who sometimes have trouble loving each other.

When you are preparing to mail your Christmas cards and letters, be sure to visit your local Canada Post outlet and ask specifically for this year's religious stamp. While they are still in good supply, please consider purchasing extra stamps to adorn your cards and letters sent throughout the year. Religious stamps can be purchased in books of 12 for \$10.20.

### **THE JOY YOU GIVE**

Somehow, not only for Christmas  
But all the year through,  
The joy that you give to others  
Is the joy that comes back to you.  
And the more you spend in blessing  
The poor and lonely and sad,  
The more of your heart's possessing  
Returns to you glad.

John Greenleaf Whittier

May we continue to be strengthened by the Holy Spirit and guided by Our Lady of Good Counsel.

*Stephanie*