



Ontario Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Spiritual Development Standing Committee
Directive#12

April 24th, 2021

To: Diocesan Spiritual Development Standing Chairpersons

From: Emma Rose Rayburn, Ontario Provincial Council, Spiritual Development Chairperson

Sub-Committee: Lisa Fillingham, Anne Vincelli

cc: Archbishop Damphousse, National Spiritual Development Chairpersons, Diocesan Presidents, Provincial Officers, Diocesan Spiritual Development Chairpersons, Sub-committee chairperson

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As the month of May fast approaches, many of us here in Ontario pray that this lockdown will have a positive effect on reducing our soaring caseloads. I look forward to the day, when this lockdown may be over and I can visit with my Mother again.

I've always loved the month of May for many reasons: flowers, birds singing, return of wearing my sandals! I remember grade school we had lots of cool activities and songs to celebrate Mary. When I joined the CWL, the tradition returned. In our Diocese our convention is usually in May and one of my favourite parts is our crowning of Mary. This year our conventions will be very different but that doesn't prevent us from honouring Mary. Last year I asked for pictures of your at home crowning of Mary and I am making the same request this year. If you may, please send me a picture of how you will be honouring Mary this May. Also, I would like each Diocese to send a picture of their crowning of Mary from this year's AMM or from a previous convention. Why you may ask? We are hoping to put something together for our Provincial AMM and we would love for you to be a part of it! Please send your pictures by email to emmasab@aol.com and in the subject line please write Crowning of Mary.

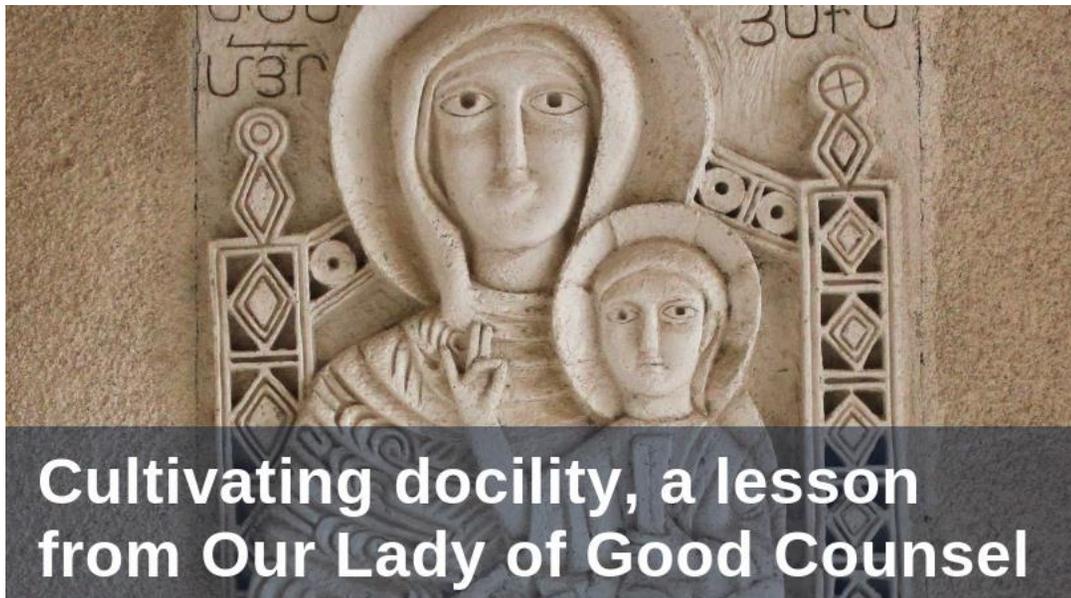
Speaking of Mary... and missed traditions... each year our Diocese would host a Spring retreat on the feast day of our patroness Our Lady of Good Counsel, April 26th. This will be our second year of not being able to join together as sisters of the League and thank Our Lady of Good Counsel for her wisdom and guidance. I was thinking about this the other day and upon refreshing myself of Our Lady of Good Counsel in her role as our patroness of the league I thought why am I not praying to her for help in coping with this pandemic, after all good counsel – is what she is all about. My new prayer when I hop out of bed (well more like slowly rolling out) is Our Lady of Good Counsel help me through the challenges of this day with your good counsel and wisdom. Why did it take me this long to embrace our patroness? It's all so clear to me now, how Jesus sends us what we need, sometimes I'm just really slow on the uptake. The Catholic Women's League of Canada introduced me to Mary, Our Lady of Good Counsel approximately 15 years ago and well this pandemic has made me realize how much I miss her as our mother in the league. Only like a Mother can do, she is an important part of uniting us together each year at our conventions and monthly with our gatherings. Please join with me on April 26th to honour Our Lady of Good Counsel, I've attached the history and some prayers.

Your sister in the League,

Emma Rose Rayburn

OPC Spiritual Development Chair

The Catholic Women's League of Canada



The Story of Our Lady of Good Counsel

Liturgical Feast – April 26

"Mater Boni Consilii Ora Pro Nobis Jesum Filium Tuum"

Devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel is associated with the story of a miraculous icon.

The sacred image is found in a church in Genazzano, a beautiful town thirty miles south-east of Rome. The church dedicated to the Mother of Good Counsel was built there in the fourth century. In 1356 the church was given over to the Augustinians. Restoration started in 1467, when a widow, Petruccia, sold all her belongings to help finance the project. However, funds ran out before the task was completed.



In the Alban Hills, not far from the city of Rome, lies the little town of Genazzano, where the miraculous image of Our Lady of Good Counsel is venerated. The story of the picture dates back to 1467. That same year, Pilgrims assembled on the feast of St. Mark were startled by a mysterious rustling sound and strains of sweet music, all the residents of Genazzano heard a beautiful melody coming from heaven. As they looked up toward the sky, they saw a soft white, shining cloud that slowly descended on the church of the Mother of Good Counsel. The cloud gradually vanished, revealing a beautiful painting of Our Lady tenderly holding her Divine Son in her arms.

The picture rests suspended in the air without any visible means of support to maintain its stable condition, and this for five centuries! Although painted on a piece of plaster no thicker than an ordinary visiting card, the image has withstood the ravages of time. The artist of the painting is unknown. Immediately, Mary began to cure the sick and grant countless graces.

It is said that the figures themselves represent Mother and Child after they had returned from the temple where Mary heard the sad prophecies of Simeon. Mary's eyes are half-veiled as though she were lost in contemplation, taking counsel with her God. The little Child does not return the gaze of the beholder, as happens in so many pictures, rather He draws our eyes upward to Mary as if to tell us to look for Counsel there, in the very Seat of Wisdom. It is a picture to be loved, a plain and common picture [hence our unframed treatment], a pious image to be copied and hung in the

homes of the poor. That is all the sweet Mother of Good Counsel asks for her picture: a home in our midst, by our firesides, a family to guard and watch over, hearts that will love and venerate her.

It had survived the subsequent centuries through the tumult of several earthquakes and withstood the bombing during World War II. Several altars were destroyed, walls caved in, and the roof was crushed. The icon, only yards away from the explosion, remained intact. In 1753, Pope Benedict XIV established the Pious Union of Our Lady of Good Counsel to promote devotion to Mary under this title. Pope Leo XIII added the title Mother of Good Counsel to the Litany of Loreto. Pope Pius XII dedicated his term of office to Our Lady of Good Counsel. And Pope John XXIII visited her shrine to pray for the success of the Second Vatican Council.

The icon at Genazzano is about a foot wide and eighteen inches high. It depicts a mother figure that is half turned toward her son and half toward the viewer, reflecting Mary's concern for both Jesus and his Church.

Overshadowed by the Holy Ghost, Mary became the Mother of God. His gifts of Wisdom, Understanding, and Counsel belong to her. She is Our Mother of Good Counsel because she is the Spouse of God the Holy Ghost. If to her was granted the wisdom to counsel her Son, surely she has the wisdom to counsel poor humanity. In her there is the wisdom of ages. For 2000 years, she has been watching the children of men upon this earth. Our Lady of Good Counsel knows how to help us. She can help us. She wants to aid and counsel us! Once she sees upon a soul the sign of the Cross of her Son, that soul may count upon all her assistance. She loves with an undying love all those for whom her Son died.

Our Mother of Good Counsel has been called the Madonna of the Popes. Pope Leo XIII deserves to be ranked among the great lovers of this devotion. He established the white scapular worn by her servants, and his motto is like a watchword to the clients of Mary: "Children," he told the faithful, "follow her counsels!" To all she gives what is most needed to help us in this vale of tears; she gives us her Good Counsel.

If Our Blessed Mother is willing to ask her Son to work miracles to let us know of her motherly concern, Our Lady of Good Counsel is certainly willing to speak words of advice and instruction to help us over the hurdles of our daily lives.

Whenever a crisis looms over the horizon, trying, like a black cloud, to darken the Church beneath its shadow, God sends His punishment, tempered with mercy. That mercy without limits has a name: MARY!!!

Prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel

Most Glorious Virgin, chosen by the Eternal Counsel to be the Mother of the Eternal Word made flesh, thou who art the treasurer of Divine graces, and the advocate of sinners, I, thy most unworthy servant, have recourse to thee; be thou pleased to be my guide and counselor in this vale of tears.

Obtain for me through the Most Precious Blood of thy Divine Son, the forgiveness of my sins, the salvation of my soul, and the means necessary to obtain it.

In like manner, obtain for Holy Mother the Church victory over her enemies, and the spread of the kingdom of Jesus Christ upon the whole earth. **Amen.**

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Novena to Our Lady of Good Counsel

April 18 - 26

Holy Virgin, moved by the painful uncertainty we experience in seeking and acquiring the true and the good, we cast ourselves at thy feet and invoke thee under the sweet title of Mother of Good Counsel. We beseech thee: come to our aid at this moment in our worldly sojourn when the double darkness of error and of evil plot our ruin by leading minds and hearts astray.

Seat of Wisdom and Star of the Sea, enlighten the victims of doubt and of error so that they may not be seduced by evil masquerading as good; strengthen them against the hostile and corrupting forces of passion and of sin.

Mother of Good Counsel, obtain for us our most urgent need..... **(here mention your request)** and secure for us from thy Divine Son the love of virtue and the strength to choose, in doubtful and difficult situations, the course agreeable to our salvation.

Supported by thy hand we shall thus journey without harm along the paths taught us by the word and example of Jesus our Savior, following the Sun of Truth and Justice in freedom and safety across the battlefield of life under the guidance of thy maternal Star, until we come at length to the harbor of salvation to enjoy with thee unalloyed and everlasting peace. **Amen**

Litany to Our Lady of Good Counsel

Litany:

Lord, ***have mercy on us.***

Christ, ***have mercy on us.***

Lord, ***have mercy on us.***

Christ, ***hear us.***

Christ, ***graciously hear us.***

God the Father of Heaven, ***have mercy on us.***

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, ***have mercy on us.***

God the Holy Ghost, ***have mercy on us.***

Holy Trinity, One God, ***have mercy on us.***

Beloved Daughter of the Eternal Father, ***pray for us.***

August Mother of God the Son, ***pray for us.***

Blessed Spouse of God the Holy Ghost, ***pray for us.***

Living temple of the Holy Trinity, ***pray for us.***

Queen of Heaven and earth, ***pray for us.***

Seat of Divine Wisdom, ***pray for us.***

Depositary of the secrets of the Most High, ***pray for us.***

Virgin most prudent, ***pray for us.***

In our doubts and difficulties, ***pray for us.***

In our tribulations and anguish, ***pray for us.***

In our discouragements, ***pray for us.***

In perils and temptations, ***pray for us.***

In all our undertakings, ***pray for us.***

In all our needs, ***pray for us.***

At the hour of death, ***pray for us.***

By thine Immaculate Conception, ***pray for us.***

By thy happy nativity, ***pray for us.***

By thine admirable presentation, ***pray for us.***

By thy glorious Annunciation, ***pray for us.***

By thy charitable Visitation, ***pray for us.***

By thy Divine Maternity, ***pray for us.***

By thy holy Purification, ***pray for us.***

By the sorrows and anguish of thy maternal heart, ***pray for us.***

By thy precious death, **pray for us.**

By thy triumphant Assumption, **pray for us.**

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, **Spare us, O Lord.**

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, **Graciously hear us, O Lord.**

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, **Have mercy on us.**

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,

R. And obtain for us the gift of good counsel.

Let Us Pray:

V. Lord Jesus, Author and Dispenser of all good, Who in becoming incarnate in the womb of the Blessed Virgin hast communicated to her lights above those of all the Heavenly intelligences, grant that in honoring her under the title of Our Lady of Good Counsel, we may merit always to receive from her goodness counsels of wisdom and salvation, which will conduct us to the port of a blessed eternity.

R. Amen.

Pray for us, O Mother of Good Counsel in this century of confusion as atheistic materialism, spreads its tentacles over the entire free world!

Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us!

Resources:

www.clavermissionarysisters.org

www.catholictradition.org

www.calgarycwl.ca/our-patroness

www.americaneedsfatima.org

www.catholicnewsagency.com/saint/our-lady-of-good-counsel-445