



Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan Catholic Women's League
Spiritual Development

September 18, 2021

Life is a journey

On June 7, 2013, Pope Francis said, the life of faith is a journey. *“Journeying is an art because if we’re always in a hurry, we get tired and don’t arrive at our journey’s goal.... If we stop, we don’t go forward and, we also miss the goal. Journeying is precisely the art of looking toward the horizon, thinking where I want to go but also enduring the fatigue of the journey, which is sometimes difficult. ...There are dark days, even days when we fail, even days when we fall... but always think of this: Don’t be afraid of failures. Don’t be afraid of falling. What matters in the art of journeying isn’t not falling but not staying down. Get up right away and continue going forward. This is what’s beautiful: This is working every day; this is journeying as humans. But also, it’s bad walking alone: It’s bad and boring. Walking in community, with friends, with those who love us, that helps us. It helps us to arrive precisely at that goal, that ‘there where’ we’re supposed to arrive” (National Catholic Reporter).*

The above quote was taken from Cathy Bouchard, National Chairperson of Spiritual Development Spirituality Development Communiqués August 26, 2021.

On June 7, 2013, Pope Francis said, “the life of faith is a journey”. We are all about to embark on a new journey in our new positions. This is my first term on the Diocesan Council. My previous position was Chair of the former Saint John the Baptist Council. My mother was a Life Member of the Holy Family Council in Bathurst, NB. I originally joined Saint John the Baptist Council in 1992 and took a

hiatus in 1993 to pursue my master's degree in Theological studies at AST. ***"If we stop, we don't go forward and, we also miss the goal."*** Life events came along and, I finally graduated in 2011. I am a retired Mental Health Nurse and completed a certificate in Parish Nursing Ministry in May 2019. I am also a member of the Archdiocese Care and Companionship Committee and, have served in leadership roles in my parish; Chair of the Parish council, Interim Chair of Finance Council, Transition Team and, now Chair of the Liturgy Committee. I was blessed to have had Fr Raymond as our parish priest for four years. I am looking forward to another spiritual journey as Chairperson of Spiritual Development with Fr Raymond as our Spiritual Director. To quote the above; ***"But also, it's bad walking alone: It's bad and boring. Walking in community, with friends, with those who love us, that helps us. It helps us to arrive precisely at that goal, that 'there where' we're supposed to arrive"***.

Cathy Bouchard continues by saying; "One of the main reasons women join the League is because of the opportunity to share and grow in their Catholic faith with women of all ages and experiences. They want to grow personally and as the church. This standing committee serves to assist in the spiritual growth of members through prayer experiences and the study of Catholic teachings, the role of women in the church, evangelization, mission assistance, lay ministries and ecumenism and interfaith endeavours. As members return "back to business" with their League work, I invite you to continue to pray for the success of the League and continue to assist your sisters "to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God...."

May You bless each person who took the time to gather here today and let Your hand of protection be on them throughout the rest of the week.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marie-Claire Arseneau, Spiritual Development

Dates to Remember - 2021

September 19

*National Faith Day (The Catholic
Women's League of Canada)*

September 21

*National Day of Prayer for Christians
in the Holy Land (The Catholic
Women's League of Canada)*