

PRAYER SERVICE

THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

It is suggested that, for this prayer service, a table/altar be set up with a picture of Our Lady of Good Counsel, candles and a rosary. A leader and lector are needed.

Hymn: *Hail Mary Gentle Woman*

Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with you,
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners now,
and at the hour of death, Amen.

Gentle woman,
quiet light,
morning star,
so strong and bright,
gentle mother,
peaceful dove,
teach us wisdom, teach us love.

You were chosen by The Father,
You were chosen for The Son,
You were chosen from all women,
and for women, shining one.

Blessed are you among women.
Blessed in turn all women too.
Blessed they with peaceful spirits.
Blessed they with gentle hearts.

Leader: As patroness of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, Our Lady of Good Counsel guides our work "For God and Canada." We trust that she will be with us now as we unite our hearts to pray in her honour.

All: **League Prayer**

We humbly pray You, O God our Father, to bless The Catholic Women's League of Canada. Bless our beloved country, our homes and families.
Send Your Holy Spirit upon us to give light to our minds and strength to our wills that we may know and fulfil Your great law of charity.
Teach us to share with others at home and abroad, the good things You have given us. This we ask through our Lord Jesus Christ and the intercession of our patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel. Amen

- Left:** It is truly fitting, Mary, that we should honour you, for God chose to honour you by making you the mother of His Son.
- Right:** The prophets of old spoke your praises and called you “the glory of Israel” and “the glory of womanhood.”
- Left:** The angel bowed in reverence as he addressed you, who was chosen to be the mother of God.
- Right:** And all generations have called you blessed.
- Left:** So joyfully, Mary, we praise you.
- Right:** We praise you in your spotless chastity, which made you worthy to bear the saviour of the world.
- Left:** We praise you in your virginity, which you kept so precious together with your motherhood.
- Right:** We praise you in your openness to God’s will for your life, and in your perfect following of that will.
- Left:** We praise you in your courage in facing hardships, misunderstandings and criticisms your vocation brought upon you.
- Right:** We praise you in the honour you have brought to motherhood throughout the ages and for the example you give to mothers.
- Left:** We praise you in your motherhood, which by God’s decree has made you the mother of us all.
- Right:** Yes, always and at all times and in all places, we will praise and bless you, Holy Mother of God, ever Blessed Virgin, Our Lady of Good Counsel.
- Scripture:** **Mary’s Song of Praise** (Luke 1:46-55)
- And Mary said,
“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”
- Leader:** As a response to Mary’s beautiful words, let us pray five decades of the rosary asking God to give us the openness to accept his desire for our life as Mary did.

All: O Lord, our God, by Your love and mercy, help us to imitate our patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel. Make us humble and generous in all we do for You.
Teach us to give and not count the cost, to serve others and not to ask for reward save that of knowing we have done Your will. Let the joy of Your grace overflow in our hearts and grant that we each will be builders of peace and of Your kingdom. We ask this through Our Lady of Good Counsel. Amen.

Leader: Let us join our hearts as we recite the *League Promise*.

All: For the glory of God and the good of God's people,
I promise as a Catholic woman to honour, invoke and imitate our patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel.
I promise to be a loyal member of The Catholic Women's League of Canada and to promote its interest and growth in every way.
I promise to cooperate with League officers and conform, to the best of my ability, to the Bylaws of the organization in all League activities.

Hymn: *Hail, Holy Queen*

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| <p>Hail, Holy Queen enthroned above, O Maria. Hail, Queen of mercy and of love, O Maria.</p> <p>Triumph, all ye cherubim, Sing with us, ye seraphim, Heaven and earth resound the hymn: Salve, salve, salve Regina!</p> <p>Our life, our sweetness, here below, O Maria! Our hope in sorrow and in woe, O Maria!</p> <p>Triumph, all ye cherubim, Sing with us, ye seraphim, Heaven and earth resound the hymn: Salve, salve, salve Regina!</p> <p>To thee we cry, poor sons of Eve, O Maria! To thee we sigh, we mourn, we grieve, O Maria!</p> <p>Triumph, all ye cherubim, Sing with us, ye seraphim, Heaven and earth resound the hymn: Salve, salve, salve Regina!</p> | <p>Turn then most gracious Advocate, O Maria! Toward us thine eyes compassionate, O Maria!</p> <p>Triumph, all ye cherubim, Sing with us, ye seraphim, Heaven and earth resound the hymn: Salve, salve, salve Regina!</p> <p>The cause of joy to men below, O Maria! The spring through which all graces flow, O Maria!</p> <p>Angels, all your praises bring, Earth and heaven, with us sing, All creation echoing: Salve, salve, salve Regina!</p> |
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