



The Kingston Diocesan Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

"Here I am Lord, I come to do your will" Psalm 40

Directive #2

February 1, 2014

Pope Francis wants "capillary and incisive" role for women in the Church"

In a January 25th address to an Italian women's group, Pope Francis once again expressed "vivid hope" that women will play a more "capillary and incisive" role in the Catholic Church, as well as in all venues in which "the most important decisions are adopted."

Pope Francis recalled the indispensable role of women in society, in particular with her sensitivity and intuition for others, the weak and defenseless; he is happy to see many women sharing certain pastoral responsibilities in accompanying persons, families and groups, and in theological reflection; and Pope Francis has voiced hope that the opportunities for feminine presence in the church will be expanded (see the exhortation *Evangelii gaudium*, 103).

Pope Francis vividly hopes that these new opportunities and responsibilities can be expanded even more to the presence and activity of women, in the ecclesial ambit, in civil society and the professions, without letting us forget the irreplaceable role of the woman in the family. The gifts of delicacy, of a special sensibility and tenderness, which are a richness of the feminine spirit, represent only a genuine force for the life of the family, for the irradiation of a climate of serenity and harmony, but a reality without which the human would be unrealizable.

If in the work force and in the public sphere it's important to have a more incisive role for women, that role also remains essential in the ambit of the family, which for Christians is not simply a private place, but the "domestic Church" whose health and prosperity are a prerequisite for the health and prosperity of the Church and of society itself. The presence of women in the domestic ambit thus

shows itself more necessary than ever, for the transmission of solid moral principles of future generations and for transmission of faith itself.

It's in dialogue with God, illuminated by his Word and irrigated by the grace of the Sacraments, that the Christian woman always seeks anew to respond to the call of the Lord, in the concrete context of her personal situation. This prayer is always sustained by the maternal presence of Mary. She, who took care of her divine Son, who gained the favour of his first miracle at the wedding in Cana, who was present on Calvary and at Pentecost, shows the way to walk in order to deepen the meaning and role of women in society and for being fully faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ and to your mission in the world.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel be with us in all our endeavours.

Your sister in Christ,

**Wilma Turcotte,
Spiritual Development Committee Chairperson**

***Excerpts taken from the National Catholic Newspaper Report of January 25, 2014**