

Objects of the League - a Spiritual Perspective

5. to enhance the role of women in church and society

To be *Women of Peace and Hope* we must first be women who love and are loved. Remembering who we are in God's eyes and His plan will enable us to reach out, to affect change and to help us believe in ourselves. One of the many aspects of feminine leadership comes in the form of confidence, not necessarily self confidence, but rather the confidence that comes from trusting in God. This quote attributed to Nelson Mandela reminds us to use Jesus as the ultimate model of leadership:

"As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fears, our presence automatically liberates other."

We need to lead with our hearts, trust our informed intuition (feminine genius?) and make manifest the glory of God. As *Women of Peace and Hope*, we cross all barriers
a hand of welcome, of friendship, of understanding.

John Paul II in *Christifideles Laici* (Christ's Faithful People) wrote, "If anyone has this task of advancing the dignity of women in the Church and society, it is women themselves, who must recognize their responsibility as leading characters. There is still much effort to be done, in many parts of the world and in various surroundings, to destroy that unjust and deleterious mentality which considers the human being as a thing, as an object to buy and sell, as an instrument for selfish interests or for pleasure only."

We are encouraged to move from words to deeds. Women must mentor one another, teach life skills (remember the old African saying, if one educates a woman, one educates a village). We are called to be the promoters of peace, builders of peace and makers of peace.

Discuss:

- a) As *Women of Peace and Hope* how can we carry break down the mentality that demeans the worth of women and girls?
- b) How do you see the role of women being enhanced in the church, in society?