

Objects of the League - a Spiritual Perspective

8. To contribute to the understanding and growth of religious freedom, social justice, peace and harmony.

Peace is such an overused word in a troubled world. Christian hope unfolds from the beginning of Jesus' preaching in the proclamation of the beatitudes. The beatitudes raise our hope toward heaven as the new promised land; they trace the path that leads through the trials that await the disciples of Jesus. Evangelization through word and example, supporting organizations who do the work in the field, helping women reach their potential in countries where they are not valued – these are but a few ways to contribute on a global scale. As members we are part of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO), whose aim is to promote the presence, participation and co-responsibility of Catholic women in society and the Church, in order to enable them to fulfill their mission of evangelization and to work for human development. Its recent theme is self explanatory: *Building a Culture of Peace* – with special attention to education and the elimination of poverty.

Further, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* points us toward hope:

“But through the merits of Jesus Christ and of his Passion, God keeps us in the ‘hope that does not disappoint.’ Hope is the ‘sure and steadfast anchor of the soul ... that enters ... where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf.’ Hope is also a weapon that protects us in the struggle of salvation: ‘Let us ... put on the breastplate of faith and charity, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.’ It affords us joy even under trial: ‘Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation.’ Hope is expressed and nourished in prayer, especially in the Our Father, the summary of everything that hope leads us to desire”

Participating in prayer services, such as the World Day of Prayer and other evangelical gatherings that accentuate what we have in common is a good beginning towards unity and is paramount in our growth towards peace and understanding. We are called to be one. Mother Teresa reminds us, “Kind words are short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.”

Discuss:

- a) Talk about your experiences of other faiths or religions and how you've been affected.
- b) Discuss how you think you affect others in relation to Christian unity.