



**Council Catholic Women's League of Canada
Nova Scotia Provincial Council
Spiritual Standing Committee Communique No. 1**

Care for Our Common Home

**To: Doreen Boudreau, Antigonish Diocesan Spiritual Chair
Marie Claire Arseneau, Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan Spiritual Chair**
cc. Janice MacDougall, Antigonish Diocesan President; Sandra Kline, Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan President; Nova Scotia Provincial CWL Council Executive Officers; Cathy Bouchard, National Spiritual Standing Committee Chairperson

From: Mary Myers, Spiritual Chair, Nova Scotia Provincial CWL

Date: November 8, 2021

Greetings, Sisters in the League and Father Patrick O'Neill.

Our members have been requested to hold an instructed vote regarding the change of CWL's patroness from Our Lady of Good Counsel to Our Lady of Guadalupe. My first reaction to this was "They are both Mother Mary, why are we being asked to change our patroness when both are representations of the Mother of God?" On many occasions, The Blessed Virgin Mary has involved herself in the history of the salvation of mankind - always pointing the way to her son and advocating for us. This request has opened an opportunity to learn more about the history of two of our Blessed Mother's apparitions. I am hoping that by sharing the information, with the help of the Holy Spirit, each council will be able to present an informed vote. The intent of providing this information is not to influence in any way the choice of any council.

Our Lady of Good Counsel:

Jessie Parkinson, President Elect and Organization Chair for the Nova Scotia Provincial Council, in her October meeting report, told the following:

"...in briefly researching the origins of Our Lady of Good Counsel I came across this dated May 9th 2011 from Sister Louise Zdunich NDC, in the Western Catholic Reporter, answering a question from a reader "Why is the Lady of Good Counsel patron of the CWL?" Sister responded:

"Numerous churches to Mary were built in Albania but the church at Shkodra (also known as Scutari) was a centre of special devotion. The protection received through the intercession of Mary and the beautiful painting which hung above the main altar drew large crowds. In the 15th century, when the Ottoman Turks were advancing, this church became a haven and Shkodra was the last stronghold of resistance.

When Shkodra was being attacked, two Albanians stopped at the church to pray to the "Blessed Lady" for a safe escape. They suddenly noticed the painting moving away from the wall. They followed it to Rome where the image disappeared. They heard about a miraculous image appearing in nearby Genazzano and found their Blessed Lady icon.

As reward for their generosity in renovating Rome's churches, Genazzano was given property to build a church. In 1467, it needed repairs; a local wealthy woman, Petruccia de Geneo, felt called to help. When she ran out of funds, she was mocked and the church was left unfinished.

On St. Mark's Day, April 25, 1467, during outdoor celebrations, exquisite music was heard. A cloud appeared and moved down to the unfinished wall of the church. When it dissipated, a portrait of the Blessed Virgin and the Christ Child was seen suspended on top of the wall, only touching it at the upper edge. The people marveled at its beauty." (See attachment for rationale)

The Feast Day of Our Lady of Good Counsel is April 26 and is celebrated in many different ways by CWL councils across Canada. Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

The following was taken from Catholic Online (catholic.org) introduction to a Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe by Deacon Keith Fournier.

The Aztecs were known to offer human sacrifices on a massive scale to appease nature as they understood it.

In 1531, Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego, an Aztec Indian who had only recently been baptized and became a Catholic Christian. He was a 57-year-old widower. She appeared to him 4 times.

Juan first saw Our Lady at the foot of the Tepeyac Hill in what is now Mexico City. She appeared to be a very young woman. She was in a brilliant light and told him that she was the ever Virgin, Holy Mary, Mother of the True God who is the Author of Life, the Creator of all things, the Lord of Heaven and Earth, present everywhere. Mary is dressed as an Aztec princess. The sash on her waist is worn by a woman who is pregnant. She is supported by Saint Michael.

She asked Juan Diego to tell the bishop that he was to build a Christian Church. She called him Juanito, saying "Here I will show myself as a loving Mother to you and to all those born in these lands, and to all those who love me and trust in me,..." She gave him roses, placed in his cloak or 'tilma' and told him to show them to the bishop. When the Spanish bishop asked for a sign to confirm what Juan had told him, Juan opened his cloak and the roses fell to the ground. Miraculously, on his Tilma appeared an Image of Mary just as she had appeared to him.

The bishop was unable to understand the Indian name Juan told him. It means "she who crushes the head of the serpent". He thought it sounded like 'de Guadalupe', by which name this appearance is known. (See attachment for rationale)

The Feastday of Our Lady of Guadalupe is December 12. A novena from Dec. 4 to Dec. 12 can be found on the Catholic Online Website (catholic.org/prayers/novenas/novena.php?id=13.) asking for her help in obtaining the graces the Church needs from her Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ, to end legalized abortion and build a New Culture of Life and bring conversion to the Americas.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization, Pray for us.

Both images of Mother Mary are honoured and devotion to her is strong. May the Holy Spirit guide us in voting for the choice of our patroness for the future of our League.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Myers, Nova Scotia Provincial Council Spiritual Chairperson

Our Lady of Good Counsel

Rationale from Jessie Parkinson's October meeting report:

"Sister then wrote: "Our Lady of Good Counsel became a symbol of lay involvement and responsibility due to the woman Petruccia who saw the need to repair, restore and beautify the church in Genezzano when it was in ruins." In addition the church in which the icon was originally depicted in Albania became a haven and the town the last stronghold of resistance against an advancing, brutal enemy. It seems to me that an organization which has as one of its 3 tenets Social Justice and which was founded to give aid to those fleeing oppression over 100 years ago is well served by a patroness with this history. "

The most common understanding of the word counsel is advice, but the archaic, biblical definition was "purpose". I would suggest that it is this meaning that was probably the one the "namers" had in mind when they originally coined the name; Our Lady of Good Purpose, although Our Lady of Good Advice is equally appropriate."

Our Lady of Guadalupe

In a phrase used by St John Paul II, we call Mary the Star of the New Evangelization. She guides the Church to Jesus Christ, whom she carried in her womb - Jesus, the Christ, the Savior sent from the Father.

Within 7 years the appearance of our Lady to Juan Diego helped to inspire 9,000,000 Aztecs to be baptized into the Catholic Church. The fire of the Holy Spirit brought massive conversion. The event also helped bring about an end to human sacrifice among the Aztecs. To the Indians, the picture on Juan's Tilma, was the Gospel message of a God of forgiveness and Mercy.

Scientists from NASA have carried out extensive tests on the fabric and image. There is no scientific explanation. The image is not painted, dyed or woven. The tilma is made from cactus, which ordinarily only last 20 years. Yet it is still here, leading men, women and children to conversion.

This Image of Mary, under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe, has become a prophetic symbol for the Pro-Life Movement. She is a powerful advocate for the Church in her effort to restore legal protection to children in the womb and end legal abortion. Under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mary has been declared the Patroness of all the Americas.