



Catholic Women's League

Diocese of St. Catharines

Saturday, May 4, 2024



## *Catholic Connections*

*National CWL:* [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca)

*ON Provincial CWL:* [cwl.on.ca](http://cwl.on.ca)

*St. Catharines CWL:* [stcatharinescwl.ca](http://stcatharinescwl.ca)



From left to right: Frances Murdaca, Deedee Alexandre, Lisa Fillingham, Father Richard Kowalchuk, Theresa Murphy, Sue Pellerin, Dina Marchionda, Kate Montague, Denise Papaiz

## CWL Executive: 2024-2026

**President:** Deedee Alexandre

**Treasurer:** Dina Marchionda

**Secretary:** Denise Papaiz

**Faith Chair:** Theresa Murphy

**Lead:** Frances Murdaca

**Service Chair:** Sue Pellerin

**Lead:** Lee Crampton

**Social Justice Chair:** Kate Montague

**Leads:** Lorrie MacKenzie/Syl Roach

**Communications Chair:** Theresa Murphy

**Life Member Liaison:** Janice Deslauriers

**Past President/Historian:** Lisa Fillingham

**Spiritual Director:** Father Richard Kowalchuk

### **Quote for the Month:**

"And Mary said, 'My soul glorifies the Lord.'  
- Luke 1:46

#### **Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for the Month of May:**

*For the Formation of Religious, Monks, Nuns, and Seminarians*

*The Pontiff urges prayers "so that religious, monks, nuns, and seminarians may grow in their vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual, and communal formation, leading them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel."*

## *President's Message*

**Dear Ladies,**

Welcome to the merry month of May! It's a time of transition for Mother Nature and for the CWL! The Annual Meeting of Members was an overall success; thank you to everyone who supported me in becoming the President of the CWL of the Diocese of St. Catharines. I am very grateful. And I am very excited about the new Diocesan Executive Council--wait until you meet them!

Join me in welcoming **Elizabeth Angotti** from St. Thomas More and **Katherine Kehoe** from the Cathedral; these two ladies will continue the **Catholic Connections!** Parish Presidents: please send your **monthly activities' information** to the Catholic Connections:

[elizabethangotti@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethangotti@gmail.com) and [k.keho88@gmail.com](mailto:k.keho88@gmail.com).

**Death Notices:** please send to Elizabeth Angotti and Katherine Kehoe as well and **Debbie Pine:** [debbiepine@royalpage.ca](mailto:debbiepine@royalpage.ca) as well as to National. Any questions, contact Debbie.

**CWL Diocesan Council**--two important dates:

a) **Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>:** **Zoom / 6:30 p.m.**--instructed vote: this will be an opportunity to let me know who you would like to see on the Ontario Provincial Council for the next two years. **Note:** Three Chairs: three ladies need to be selected **in total** from both columns.

b) **Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>**: **In-person / 6:30 p.m.--St. Alexander Parish, Fonthill.** This meeting is for **all Parish Presidents, Faith Chairs, Service Chairs, and Social Justice Chairs.** A “dessert bar” will be available!

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual “Happy New Year!” / Meet and Greet--Friday, September 6; doors open at 5 p.m, dinner--approximately at 6 p.m.** Max 16 / Parish: 225 max total. First come, first served. Start sending names and cheques to Dina Marchionda, Treasurer. Please see the poster attached to Catholic Connections for more information.

If you have any questions, please contact me. **Be the Lamp!** God bless.

Deedee 905-732-4782 deedecwl321@gmail.com



## **Faith on Fire at the CWL Annual Meeting of Members**

“Be who you are meant to be, and you will set the world on fire,” are wise words from a Doctor of the Church, St. Catharine of Sienna. Bishop Bergie of St. Catharines, who presided over the CWL Annual Meeting of Members Mass on April 23, 2024 at the Holiday Inn, echoed these words. Bishop Bergie believes that female discipleship is growing in the Diocese, and his message was a call to fan the flames of action for women in their parish communities. We must be inspired to recruit, deploy, and employ CWL members to grow and nurture our universal church.

To keep this fire burning, we need to build a strong foundation in our local parishes, introducing and inviting women after Mass and promoting our CWL membership by wearing our sashes and pins with pride!

The excitement was palpable at the AMM this year, with live music, priests from every corner of the Diocese, parish councils and their presidents, and more young faces and voices, with hearts blazing for truth.

The event saw the attendance of our Ontario Provincial President, Linda Squarzolo, and National CWL President, Shari Guinta. The new National theme this year was introduced: “Here I Am, Send Me”; there will be a special focus on mental health over the next two years.

Our speakers for this year’s meeting were outstanding and spoke to the messages of this theme. Adelaine Nohara, a gifted artist and



owner of “Eyes of the Heart Studio,” displayed her paintings and shared her testimony on redemptive suffering.

<https://eyesoftheheartstudio.com/>

We also had the pleasure of hosting keynote speaker, Dr. Josephine Lombardi, and promoted her new book, *On Earth as it is in Heaven*. <https://josephinelombardi.com/books/new-book/>. Dr. Lombardi offered practical applications for the faith and ways to share fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

There was a sense of unity in the Diocese with The St. Catharines Family and Youth Office present as well as businesses and community sponsorship demonstrating their support for the CWL in the Niagara Region.

Congratulations to Deedee Alexandre for accepting her new position as President for the Diocese of St. Catharines. We look forward to sharing our gifts as CWL members with the community of St. Catharines and beyond.

The sisterhood that stood together in the room for Mass and fellowship at our event shows our strength in unity with Christ. Despite all challenges and obstacles, we are still standing ready and willing to keep the fire of our faith alive in the hearts of our parishes, families, the nation of Canada, and the greater world!

***Written by: Katherine Kehoe***

# Upcoming Events

## **Crime Stoppers Educational Event:**

**Wednesday, May 15, 2024 @ 10:00am—St. Mary of the Assumption Parish Hall 169 St. Paul Crescent, St. Catharines**

All people who have telephones and computers are at risk of being scammed and losing their personal financial data and losing their lifetime savings. Seniors are at high risk of being scammed. St. Mary of the Assumption CWL is happy to announce that a police constable will be giving an educational presentation on how to protect your personal data and how to prevent being a victim of identity theft. 75 attendees must sign up before we can offer this much needed information. Please share this event to all parishioners, family and friends. RSVP by May 10th to St. Mary of the Assumption CWL president Linda Warkentin at [warkentin.linda@gmail.com](mailto:warkentin.linda@gmail.com) or 905-353-6850.

**More events below!**



# **MOTHER'S DAY TEA & SILENT AUCTION**



**Saturday, May 11, 2024**

Seatings: 11:00am & 1:00pm

Tickets: \$20.00 Each

Contact: Shelley 905-714-7677

**Auction Donations Gratefully Accepted**



# MOTHER'S DAY EXTRAVAGANZA

...is back

SPRING TULIP SALE  
BAKE SALE  
LUCKY DRAW SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 11TH & SUNDAY MAY 12TH

AFTER ALL MASSES

## BAKE SALE

Share your baking talents—  
drop off before Mass  
Visit us after Mass for some  
delicious specialties  
\$5 & \$10 tables of treats  
available for sale



## LUCKY DRAWS

Themed & non-themed  
baskets such as:

- \* "Wine Time"
- \* Spring Garden
- \* Spa Day Fun
- \* "Feeling Lucky" –  
board of scratch tickets
- \* Gift Cards
- \* Certificates

## TULIP SALES

Bring spring into your home  
with beautiful Tulips!  
Pre-sales orders:  
weekend of April 27- 28  
\$10 per bunch  
Don't miss out



WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT



*St. Julia*  
COUNCIL



1984



2024



## SAVE THE DATE: 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2024 7:00PM

ROSARY & MASS

Celebrant: Most Rev. Gerard Paul Bergie

FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2024 6:00PM

40TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER CELEBRATION

Guest Speaker:

Rwandan Genocide Survivor and Best-Selling Author

# IMMACULEE ILIBAGIZA

Canadian Italian Cultural Centre  
223 Bell Street, Port Colborne, Ontario

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 2024 1:00PM-9:00PM

SPIRITUAL PROGRAM

Join us for prayer & fellowship for the whole family: Mass, Adoration, Confession, Catechesis, Fun & Games, Marian Procession & BBQ at the Shrine

For more information, please contact Shelley Tamas:

905 714 7677

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY SHRINE/  
LE SANCTUAIRE DU ROSAIRE

4706 MILLER ROAD,  
WELLAND, ONTARIO  
L3B 5N7



## ALL ARE WELCOME!





**OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY SHRINE  
40TH ANNIVERSARY  
DINNER CELEBRATION  
FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2024**

**Tickets:**

Contact Shelley Tamas: 905 714-7677

Early Bird Tickets: \$50/Adult and \$25/Child  
After June 1st: \$60/Adult and \$30/Child

ITALIAN CANADIAN CULTURAL CENTRE  
223 BELL STREET, PORT COLBORNE, ONTARIO

- Doors Open: 5:00 pm, Dinner: 6:00 pm
- Raffle Table Fundraiser with Quality Prizes
- Dinner Includes: Pasta, Meatballs, Sausage, Chicken Supreme, Parisienne Potatoes, Vegetables, Salad, Dessert
- Cash Bar
- Book Sale Featuring Immaculee's Books

*All are welcome!*

Guest Speaker: Rwandan genocide survivor,  
best-selling author, and world-class speaker on faith, hope and forgiveness

**IMMACULEE ILIBAGIZA**

Book signing included!



**St. Catharines Diocese**  
**Catholic Women's League**



**Meet and Greet!!!**  
**Join Us!!!**

**Pierogies, Chicken, Salad, Desserts**  
**Cash Bar**

**\$25.00—advance tickets**

**door tickets not available!**

**Friday, September 6, 2024**

**St. John's Ukrainian Church--91 Lakeshore Rd., St. Catharines**

**5:00 p.m.--Doors Open**

**6:00 p.m.--Dinner**

**Bishop Bergie will give the**  
**"New Year's" Blessing!**

**Please send cheque (CWL St. Catharines) and names to:**

**Dina Marchionda:**

**8739 Milomir Street, Niagara Falls, ON L2H 0A7**

**See you there!**

**Register with your Council President by August 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Please donate to the Teen Refuge collection:**  
**shampoo/conditioner, deodorant, and soap**

## **St. Mary's, St. Catharines**

Hi Linda Warkentin,

I hope all is well. I need your help. We are experiencing a dip in our plasma to help treat patients.

Canadian Blood Services continues to work on the plasma donor centre to help save lives. I have attached a poster and eligibility info. Just wondering, if you could help us share this with your colleagues, friends and family. Thank you so much for helping us. It means a lot, and we are most grateful for all your support in helping patients.

Worldwide, the need for plasma to treat rare, life-threatening, chronic, and genetic conditions is growing. The need for plasma is 4x more than what is collected in Canada. That's why Canadian Blood Services is also increasing the amount of plasma we collect to help patients. The St. Catharines Plasma Donor Centre will help address the increasing demand for vital plasma treatments for Canadians.

Donating blood plasma together is a great way for organizations to be together in person while boosting their community impact and making a difference in the lives of Canadian patients. Saving lives together is the ultimate builder for an organization and will instill a sense of pride amongst members within an organization committed to making a difference. For most organizations, it has given their members leadership opportunities to champion the cause and expand their skills while making a difference thus, building a stronger community within the organization and thus meeting its social civic responsibility objectives.



Making the connection between plasma donation and its impact on patients who require plasma product treatment is an important message, your presence will help us make this meaningful for others.

We hope you can join us for this celebration.

### **The Need:**

- There is a growing number of patients in Canada who rely on treatments made from donated plasma to help treat a variety of life-threatening, chronic, and genetic conditions.
- The need is four times more than what is collected in Canada.
- It could take over 100 plasma donations to help treat just one person for a year.

Each week, we need **436** appointments filled at our St. Catharines Plasma Donor Centre.

If by any chance, employees would like to come as a team, I can facilitate this to happen. Again, a million thanks for all that you do and for all your support.

Stay safe and keep well,

**Lilet Raffinan (She/Her)**

Manager - Business Development

Donor Strategy & Planning

C 647-220-5855

[lilet.raffinan@blood.ca](mailto:lilet.raffinan@blood.ca)

## Spring into action

Give patients a new beginning by donating lifesaving plasma

Book now at [blood.ca/plasma](http://blood.ca/plasma)



# FOR MANY, PLASMA IS THE ONLY TREATMENT

Make all the difference by donating plasma.



## St. Catharines Donor Centre

420 Vansickle Rd  
Beside SoftMoc and Orangetheory

Monday & Saturday 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
Tuesday to Thursday 7 a.m.-7:30 p.m.  
Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

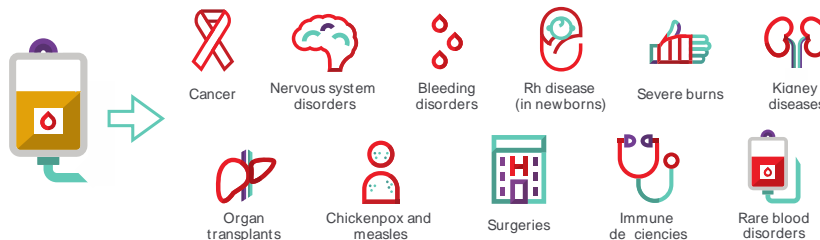
Use the camera app on your smartphone to scan the QR code to book your appointment, use the GiveBlood app, or visit [blood.ca/plasma](http://blood.ca/plasma)



Jayden,  
plasma recipient

## What is plasma?

Plasma is the straw-coloured, protein-rich liquid in our blood. Donated plasma can be used to treat a growing number of illnesses and injuries. Plasma donors are an important link in **Canada's Lifeline**. New plasma donors are critical to meeting patients' needs today and in the future.



Plasma  
for Life

# Catholic Resources

We would like to provide CWL members with a list of Catholic resources, which include apps, podcasts, articles and more.

To access them, click on the links below:

## Community Library

### Resources

We would like to provide Catholic resources to deepen our faith journey as CWL members. Please feel free to suggest any content to our team!

### Catholic Apps



Catholic Connections  
Community Library  
<https://shorturl.at/jxQ17>



Ascension  
<https://media.ascensionpress.com/>



Aletia  
<https://aleteia.org>



Get Fed  
<https://www.catholiccompany.com/getfed/>

# How the Virgin Mary shows us the way in prayer



*Philip Kosloski - published on 02/24/24*

*The Blessed Virgin Mary acts as a sign and instrument, leading us to her Son, who is the Way and the source of all prayer*

If we ever find ourselves stuck in prayer, one way to reorient our lives is to invoke the maternal aid of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains that our Trinitarian prayers also unite us to the Mary:

In prayer the Holy Spirit unites us to the person of the only Son, in his glorified humanity, through which and in which **our filial prayer unites us in the Church with the Mother of Jesus.**

*CCC 2673*

Mary is never the end of our prayers, but is a channel, a sign, who directs us to her Son, Jesus:

Mary gave her consent in faith at the Annunciation and maintained it without hesitation at the foot of the Cross. Ever since, her motherhood has extended to the brothers and sisters of her Son “who still journey on earth surrounded by dangers and difficulties.” **Jesus, the only mediator, is the way of our prayer; Mary, his mother and ours, is wholly transparent to him: she “shows the way” (*hodigitria*), and is herself “the Sign” of the way,** according to the traditional iconography of East and West.

*CCC 2674*

As many saints have remarked, the closer you get to Mary, the closer you get to Jesus.

She is able to envelop us with her maternal love but does not keep us separated from God. Instead, she is constantly drawing us closer to him.

The next time you experience dryness in prayer, try turning to the Virgin Mary and let her point the way to Jesus.

<https://aleteia.org/2024/02/24/how-the-virgin-mary-shows-us-the-way-in-prayer/>



# Beautiful, ancient Marian miracle stories can be found at Princeton web



*John Burger - published on 02/06/24*

*Scholar contends that African tradition is far older than European. It goes back to the 200s.*

There's a story dating from the 14th century that is recited in Ethiopian and Eritrean monasteries. It speaks of a nobleman from the city of Qemer who was a cannibal. One day, he was approached by a leper who begged for water. The nobleman refused three times, but when the beggar asked a fourth time, this time asking in the name of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the nobleman gave him a handful of water.

“When the nobleman died and the angels of darkness came to take him to Sheol, Mary declared that his soul belonged to her, for he had given charity in her name,” the story goes.

She begged Christ to have mercy on the nobleman’s soul, and the Lord commanded that the man’s sins be weighed against his good deeds.

“Angels of light weighed the souls of those the nobleman had eaten against the handful of water he had given the beggar, and the water weighed more,” the story says. “He was saved.”

### **For laity and researchers**

Dating from around the year 1375, this is one of hundreds of stories that are collected by Princeton University at a website called Princeton Ethiopian, Eritrean and Egyptian Miracles of Mary (PEMM).

According to Wendy Laura Belcher, professor of comparative literature and African American studies at Princeton, there are more than 1,000 monasteries and 15,000 churches in Ethiopia and Eritrea. Nearly every one has Marian stories contained in a compilation text called the “Tä’ammərä Maryam” (Miracles of Mary), used daily for prayer and read aloud during liturgies.

The PEMM website features more than 1,000 stories, 2,500 paintings and 1,000 digitized parchment manuscripts in which the stories appear. It’s designed to be inspirational for the average lay reader and a source of information for researchers.

“The easy-to-navigate PEMM website includes over 2 million pieces of painstakingly collected data documenting the development of

these Marian stories, from the very beginning, to their flourishing in Africa in the middle ages, into the present day,” according to Princeton.

## **Number one story subject**

Belcher contends that stories about the Blessed Virgin Mary “have been told by more people, over more centuries, in more countries, and in more languages” than stories about “anyone else ever.” In Europe, “Miracles of Mary” stories began to circulate in the 11th century.

But the African tradition of Marian miracle stories is even older, going back to the 200s, Belcher and her fellow researchers have found.

As many as 100,000 “Tä’ammərä Maryam” manuscripts exist in Ethiopia, yet only a handful of them and their stories had been cataloged or translated into English. The PEMM project has access to 1,000 digital copies, many of them microfilmed in the 1970s and ‘80s, Belcher said, when the National Endowment for the Humanities provided funding for people to go into monasteries and churches to do this work.

The PEMM project began at the Princeton University Library, which has the largest collection of Ethiopian manuscripts in the Americas and an unusually high number of Tä’ammərä Maryam manuscripts.

Belcher estimates that only three institutions outside of Ethiopia have more: the British Library, the Bibliothèque nationale de France, and the Vatican.

<https://aleteia.org/2024/02/06/princeton-website-features-ethiopian-marian-miracle-stories/>



### ***Deceased Members:***

**a) Eva Hunsberger**--Date: March 26, 2024--Parish: St. Thomas More, Niagara Falls--Years of Service: 12

<https://www.pattersonfuneralhome.com/obituary/eva-may-hunsburger>

**b) Joanne Rockx**--Date: March 30, 2024--Parish: Star of the Sea, St. Catharines--Years of Service: 59

<https://dartefuneralhome.com/tribute/details/9485/Johanna-Rockx/obituary.html>

### **Just a Gentle Reminder!**

When a CWL member passes away, there is a completed form that needs to be sent to **Debbie Pine**: [debbiepine@royalpage.ca](mailto:debbiepine@royalpage.ca) as well as to National. Please also send to **Elizabeth Angotti**: [elizabethangotti@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethangotti@gmail.com) and **Katherine Kehoe**: [k.keho88@gmail.com](mailto:k.keho88@gmail.com). Any questions, contact Debbie.

**The Church lists the corporal works of mercy as follows:**

1. **Feeding the hungry**
2. **Giving drink to the thirsty**
3. **Sheltering the homeless**
4. **Clothing the naked**
5. **Visiting the sick**
6. **Visiting the imprisoned** (sometimes listed as “ransoming the captive”)
7. **Burying the dead**

**The Church lists the spiritual works of mercy as follows:**

1. **To instruct the ignorant**
2. **To counsel the doubtful**
3. **To admonish sinners**
4. **To bear wrongs patiently**
5. **To forgive offenses willingly**
6. **To comfort the afflicted**
7. **To pray for the living and the dead**

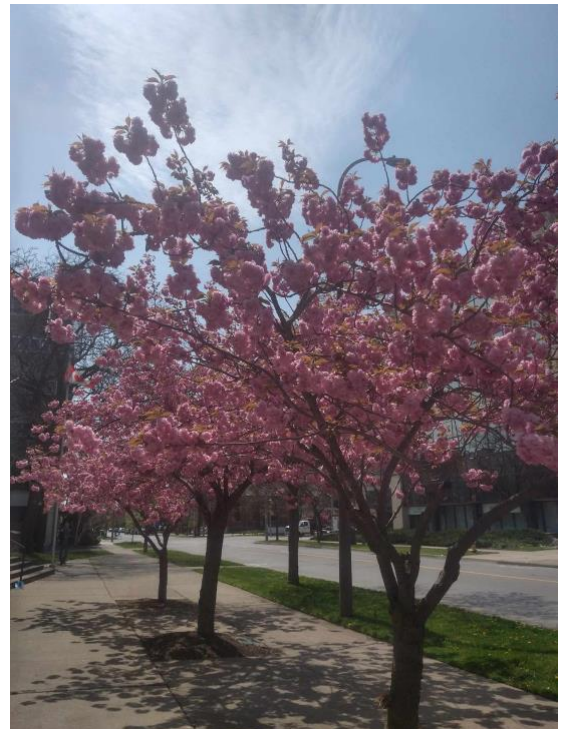


Spring Blooms

Cathedral of St.  
Catherine of  
Alexandria

Church St.,  
St. Catharines,  
Ontario

May 1, 2024





# *May is the Month of Mary*

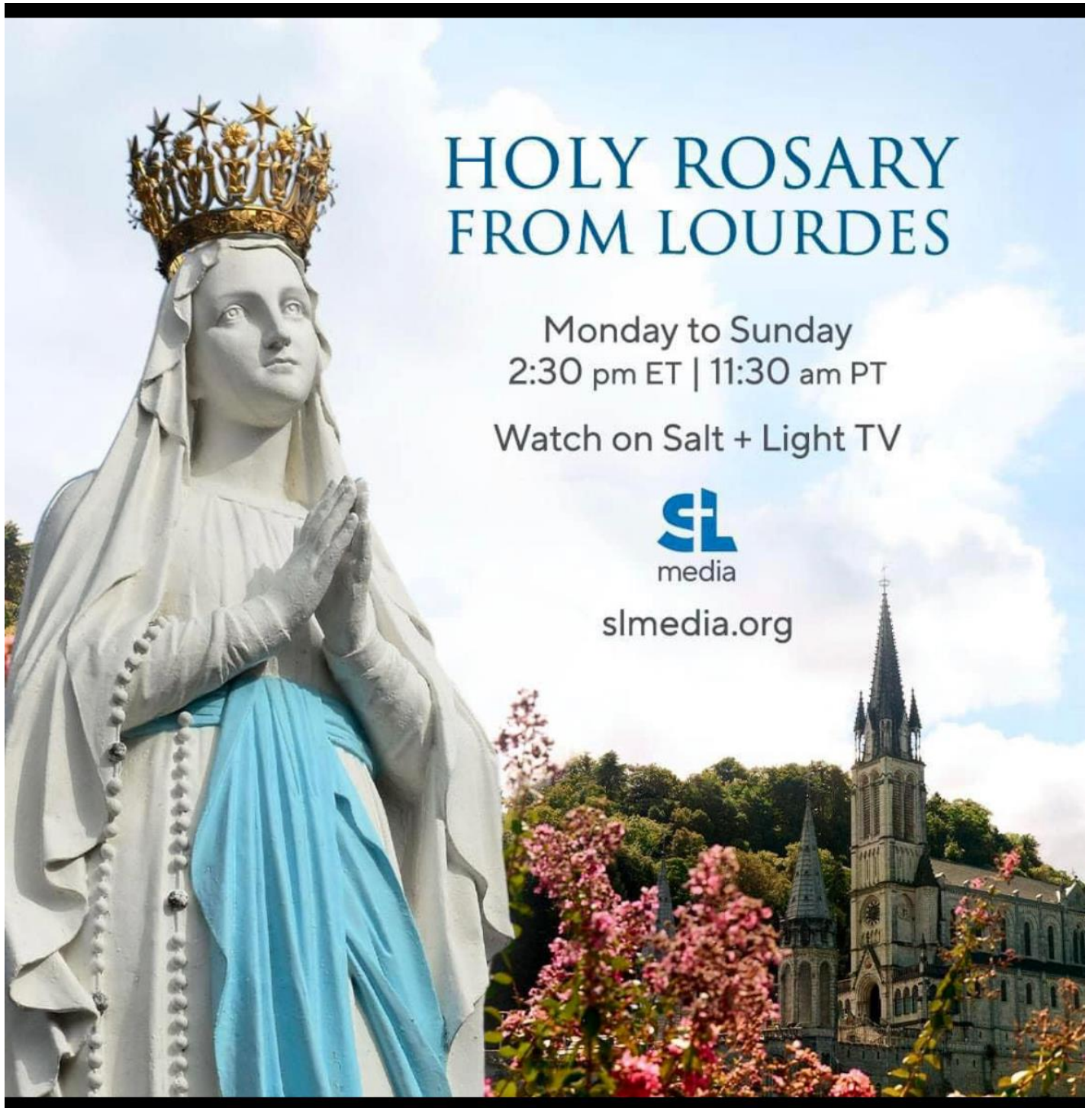
## HOLY ROSARY FROM LOURDES

Monday to Sunday  
2:30 pm ET | 11:30 am PT

Watch on Salt + Light TV



[slmedia.org](http://slmedia.org)





**RADIO MARIA**  
CANADA

Join in the Mariathon **2024 WITH RADIO**

**MARIA CANADA!** Throughout the month of May, we celebrate the month of Mary and join volunteers from around the world to raise donations to open a new radio station. We want to bring the voice and Catholic faith to every corner of the world, and your support is essential to achieve this. Join us in this beautiful initiative, where every donation counts and every action brings us closer to our goal. Together, we can bring the light of faith to those who need it most.

Let's show that solidarity and faith that can change the world! Join the Mariathon 2024 with Radio Maria Canada and be part of this story of love and hope!

Our programming can be accessed online through this website. Just Click on **LISTEN LIVE** and Choose English or Italian

Live Mariathon will take place for each language on:

May 22nd: Spanish

May 23rd: English

May 24th: Italian





**The Catholic Therapist**

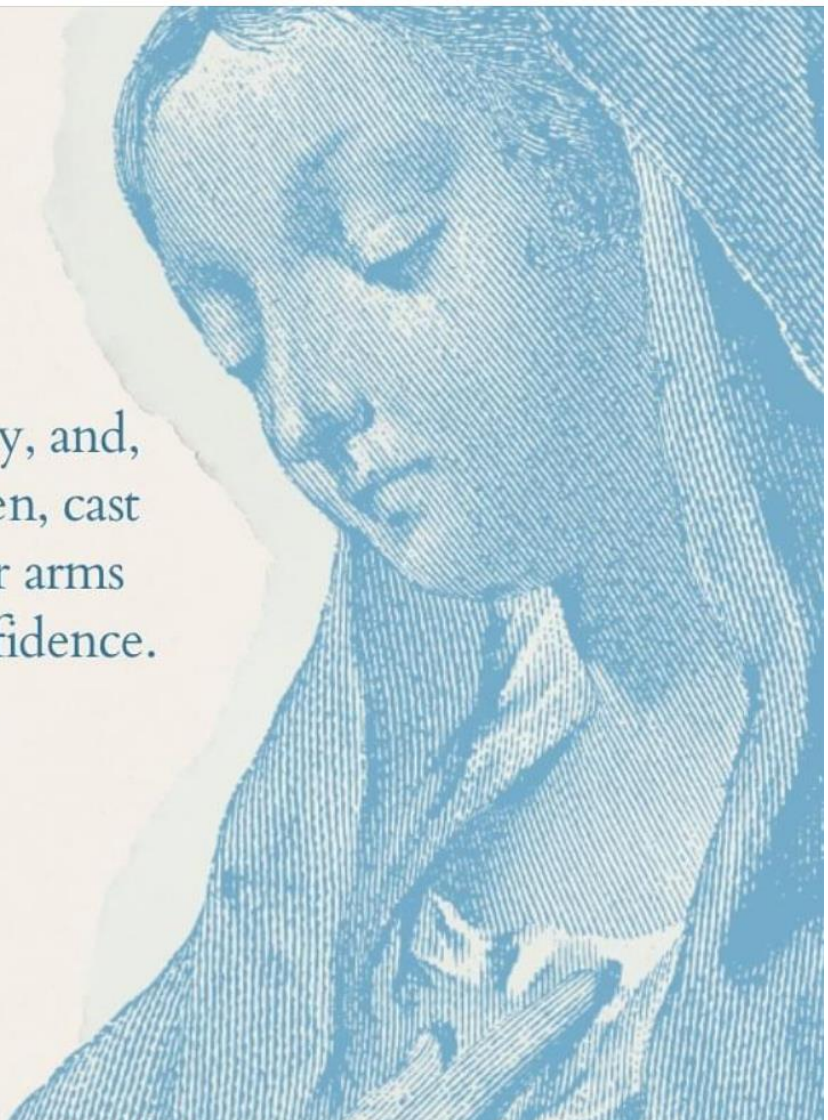


1h · 🌐

May is for Mary. Honor Mary through intentional prayer practices this month. Say the rosary, ask for her intercession, and strive to be more like her. She will lead you to Jesus 💙💜 #spiritualhealing #catholicfaith #thecatholicwoman #therapistsofinstagram #thecatholictherapist

Let us run to Mary, and,  
as her little children, cast  
ourselves into her arms  
with a perfect confidence.

— St. Francis de Sales



## MARY'S MONTH



BLUE SKIES.  
BLUE WATERS.  
BLUE AS MARY'S EYES  
GOD SCATTERS  
WITH A LAVISH HAND.  
ON EVERY LAND.  
STILL NIGHT.  
MADE LOVELY WITH SOFT.  
SILVER LIGHT.  
GOD WRAPS ABOUT  
THE WORLD WHEN DAY  
HAS SLIPPED AWAY.  
EACH FIELD  
HOLDS UP A  
GOLDEN-FLOWERED SHIELD  
AGAINST THE SHINING  
SHAFTS OF SUN.  
YET EACH IS WON.  
BRIGHT RAIN  
GOD SPILLS  
TO BRING  
TO EARTH AGAIN  
NEW FRESHNESS.  
THEN LIKE SUDDEN TEARS  
IT DISAPPEARS.  
GREEN TREES.  
THE VAGABONDING  
SUMMER BREEZE.  
THE GOLDEN DAYS  
AND SILVER NIGHTS  
HIS WILL UNITES  
IN ONE.

AND WHEN HIS WORK OF LOVE IS DONE.  
HIS WILL DECREES A HOLIDAY.  
THE MONTH OF MAY.  
AND WHY?

THAT SHE. AS PURE AS SUMMER SKY.  
WHO FOUND WITHIN AN EARTH-BORN BOY  
WHAT EARTH CONTAINED OF JOY AND PAIN  
MIGHT FIND HER FULL CONTENT OF JOY  
ON EARTH AGAIN.

BY FR DENNIS JOHN BURNS  
(1920-2009)

*Anastpaul/20*