

Pembroke Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada
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“Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves.” Letter of James 1:22

It was reported in the Catholic Register April 18, 2021 that the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has reiterated the Catholic Church's support for palliative care. It wants to “engage our Catholic faithful on a subject of crucial importance to all of us”. The Bishops are encouraging the faithful to continue to pray and to lobby our elected officials about the issue.

In the Knights of Columbus magazine, “Columbia” for May 2021, the Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E Lori, wrote an article on “Mary's Discipleship and Ours”. When we need help, we turn to Mary who is our mother and who loves us dearly. Our Blessed Mother tries to instill in us essential characteristics which embodies and exemplifies the Christian Life. Because of her singlehearted openness to God's plan, she conceived by the Holy Spirit and brought forth the savior of the world, Jesus Christ. Mary is always close to us, encouraging us to surrender bitterness and self absorption, and entrust ourselves to God's plan. Whenever we say “yes” to God's plan, we discover peace.

A second characteristic that Mary encompassed was fidelity. Mary stood by her son in all his earthly endeavors. We could say that she was his first and best disciple. It is very easy for us to leave the path of discipleship. Some of us leave the church because we hear of scandals or the church does not meet our needs or because of social pressures. Mary encourages us to cling to our faith and not become “fair weather disciples”!

Finally, another characteristic that Mary embodies is spiritual fruitfulness. Mary was given to us to be the Mother of the Church and our spiritual mother. At the cross, her full motherhood was revealed. She not only gave birth to our Saviour, but she also became the “new Eve”. We are all called to attract new followers, to reinforce and strengthen one another's faith and to show our gifts bestowed upon us by the Holy Spirit.

During the month of May let each one of us ask Mary to help us become a true disciple of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.