

**Pembroke Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada**  
**Annual Meeting of Members, May 13, 2023, Oral Report**  
**Margaret Maloney, Spiritual Development Chair**

Sisters in the League:

It is a privilege to have Wilma with us today. Her work as Spiritual Development Chair of provincial council provides parish councils in Ontario with direction, support and faith opportunities.

Today I take the opportunity to draw three important dates in May to your attention. May 4<sup>th</sup> - The 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the diocese of Pembroke. The history is beautifully outlined in the most recent issue of Ecclesia. If you have not had a chance to review it is found as well online on the diocese of the Pembroke website.

Today - May 13<sup>th</sup> Our Lady of Fatima: -To quote Msgr. Stephen Rosetti in LIVING FAITH: DAILY CATHOLIC DEVOTIONS) April, May, June 2023) "on this day 106 years ago, the Blessed Virgin appeared to three young children in Fatima, Portugal. The message was simple but urgent: pray, especially the Rosary, offer sacrifices for sinners, and make reparation. If her message was fulfilled there would be peace." He goes on to say "the apparitions of Fatima have been approved by the Holy See. Its heavenly message is as relevant today as it was when first delivered.

The third is May 31<sup>st</sup> - The visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Luke 1: 48 and 49: *"From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me".*

As Father James McKarns says- also in the previously quoted LIVING FAITH. "Mary called herself a lowly servant of God. Mary is Blessed because she is God's servant. He goes on to say that "we can all strive to be servants of God and thereby become blessed. Jesus also came to serve and not be served."

"Blessed Mary, Merciful Jesus, teach us to be servants of God"

Respectfully submitted

Margaret Maloney