

**Pembroke Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Annual Diocesan Convention, Chalk River, May 25, 2024, Oral Report  
Past President Joan Lemay**

Go you also into the vineyard. (Math. 20:4)

And the Lord said "Go"  
And I said "who me?" And He said "Yes, you"  
And I said, "But I'm not ready, I just don't have time for anything else,  
And my kids keep me busy, and I'm still working ....."  
And the Lord said, "You're stalling."

Again the Lord said "Go".  
And I said, "But I don't want to".  
And He said, "I didn't ask you if you wanted to"  
And I said, "Listen, I'm not the kind of person to write letters of protest or appeal,  
And for standing up for Social Justice.  
I don't know how to run a meeting, and I want to travel more.  
And He said "Baloney!"

And yet a third time the Lord said "Go".  
And I said, "Do I have to?"  
And He said, "Do you love me?"  
And I said, "Look I'm scared people are going to criticize me and cut me up in little  
pieces. I can't take it all by myself."  
And He said, "Where do you think I will be?"

And the Lord said "Go."  
And I said, "Here I am Lord, send me."

I found this article in a collection of articles that my mother accumulated over the years. The Holy Spirit was at work when I was motivated to go through the large manila envelope that contains so many gems that mom saved.

These words obviously spoke to my mother 50 years ago, and they speak to us now.

The CWL needs members who will take on leadership rolls in their parish councils and at our diocesan council. You are never called on to act alone. It is only May, but some councils will be holding elections this coming December. Other councils are halfway through their term and their elections will be the following year. It is never too early to start talking about succession and mentoring members to answer the call to service. Today I am asking for your prayers and responsiveness for successful succession in both parish councils and diocesan council in the Diocese of Pembroke.

Respectfully Submitted  
Joan Lemay