

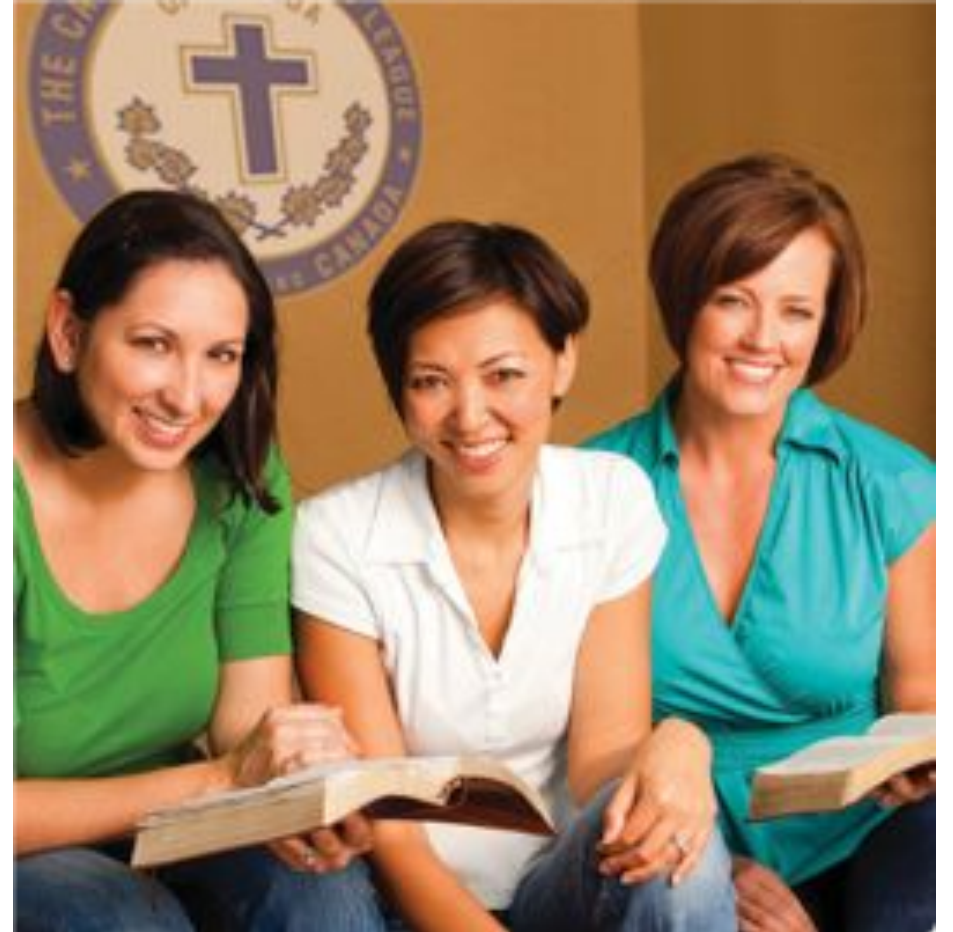


SAYING 'YES' TO A LEADERSHIP IN THE CWL

Edmonton Diocesan Midwinter Workshop 2022

ISSUE

- Unique time in history of CWL where we are re-examining our mission, values and purpose
- What are we doing, how are we doing it?
- Changes to Officers and Standing Committee Chairs have made our Executives smaller
- This was in response to the fact that many councils were (and are) having difficulties finding people to take on executive positions



NOMINATIONS

- Prior to elections, we ask for nominations for executive positions
- Nominations Committee follows up with those nominated
- Many of the women nominated say NO with varying excuses (too busy, too old, not experienced, 'been there/done that' are common reasons given).
- Particularly difficult to get someone to let their name stand for President
- This is very sad. Many seem to say NO without giving it much thought. How do we get them to take the time to truly discern a nomination?

MARY CAN BE OUR EXAMPLE



In Mary, we have an example of a woman who said 'yes' to the mission God asked of her.

What can we learn from Mary's 'yes' to encourage women to take on leadership positions?

LESSONS TO LEARN

- Mary was prepared by God by her immaculate conception, she knew and loved God, knew that God had promised a Messiah. **How are our members prepared?**
- Mary was fearful but sought more information. She asked: “How can this be since I am a virgin?” **Do our members take time to find out what is involved?**
- Mary listened and heard how the Holy Spirit would accomplish this: “the Holy Spirit will come upon you...” **Do our members have faith that the Holy Spirit will also help them to accomplish what may seem impossible?**
- Mary chose to be courageous and trust God: “Let it be done with me according to your word...” **How can we help our members to feel more courageous and take on a leadership position?**
- Mary was able to fulfill the mission God had for her

WORKSHOP OUTLINE

This workshop will have three components:

1. How do we discern how to serve in the CWL?
2. How do we prepare members to serve as leaders?
3. What support do we give those who take on officer positions or other leadership positions?



DISCERNMENT
MEANS TAKING THE IDEAS,
OPTIONS, CHOICES TO
PRAYER IN ORDER TO ASK
GOD WHERE AND HOW HE IS
LEADING YOU.



6 STEPS TO DISCERNMENT

1. Pray for guidance

- Tune into God's voice through prayer, scripture and sacraments

2. List your options

- What are the positions available, activities I could be involved in?

3. Ask questions

- Examine options and take it to prayer. Have a friend help identify your gifts.

4. Next action steps

- When narrowed down, what actions can you take to learn more.

5. Choose and trust

- Make your choice and trust in God. You don't have to be totally sure.

6. Just do it and learn

- Start, continue to reflect on your involvement in prayer and the Sacraments.

Repeat – the process never really ends.

PREPARING WOMEN FOR LEADERSHIP

We need to ensure that women are feeling confident and prepared to take on leadership roles.

There are a number of new resources that might be helpful for councils to assist members discerning a leadership role.

- Welcome Program
- Joy of Leadership Program
- Manuals
- Executive Orientation

If your council is in a period of rebuilding, it may take a while to develop members. Be open to learning and challenge yourself to take on new things.

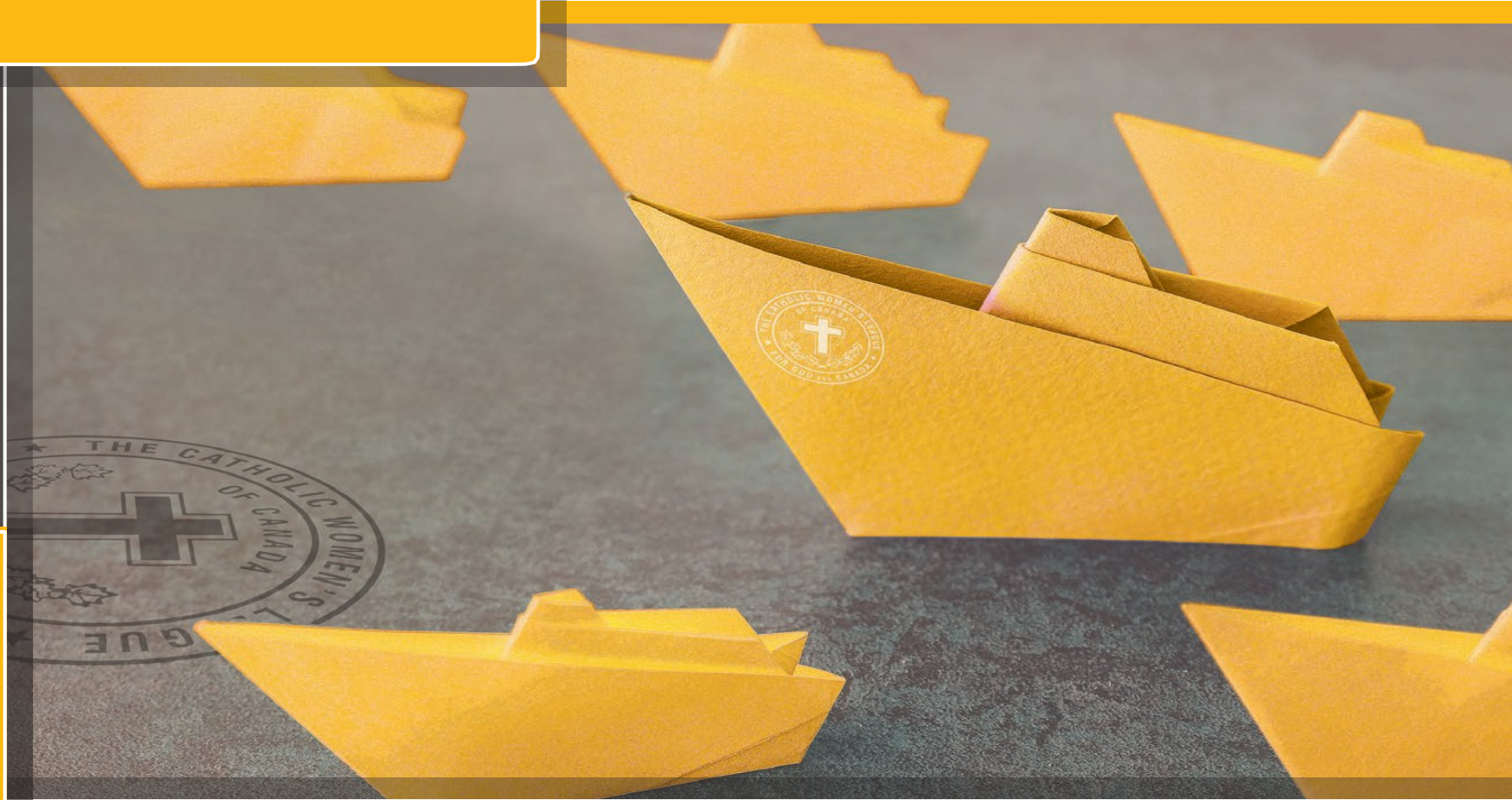
Welcome Program

Affirmation Working Group



GOAL:
Address Critical
Issues.

621



STRATEGY: Include and affirm.

The Joy of Leadership Through Engagement in Ministry – A Practical Guide for Parish Councils

Parish Options Strategic Leadership Working Group



GOAL:
Address Critical
Issues.

STRATEGIES:

- Capitalize on members' willingness to take on short-term leadership responsibilities
- Introduce project-based committees beginning at the parish level
- Restructure the existing committee structure at the parish level to respect the uniqueness of councils.

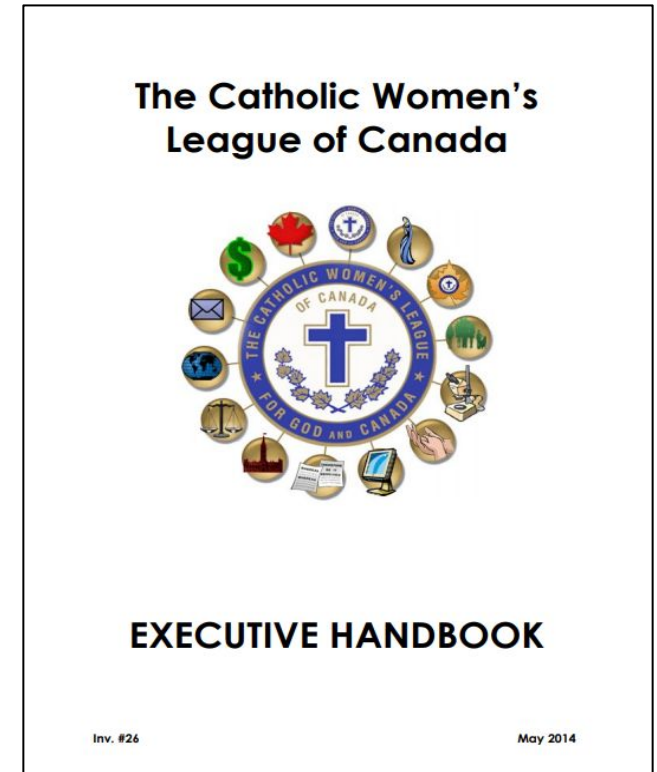
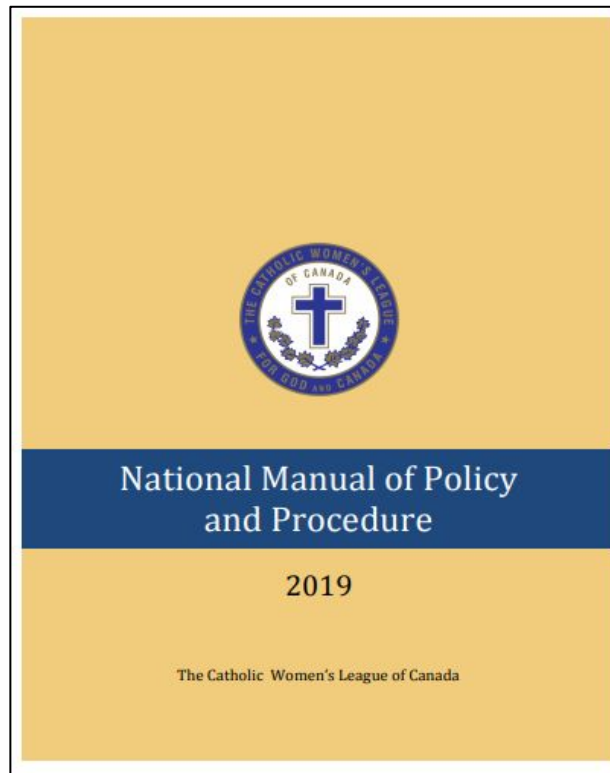
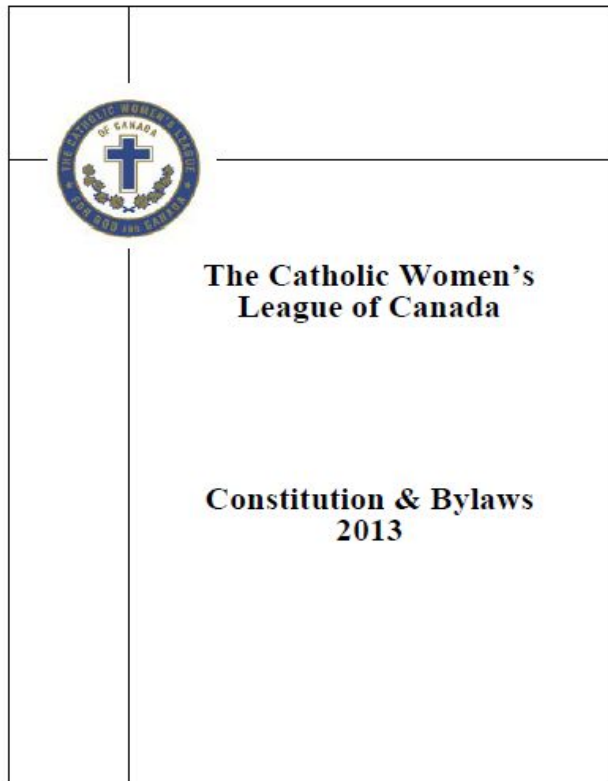


EXECUTIVE ORIENTATION #828

Modules (each takes 10-45 minutes):

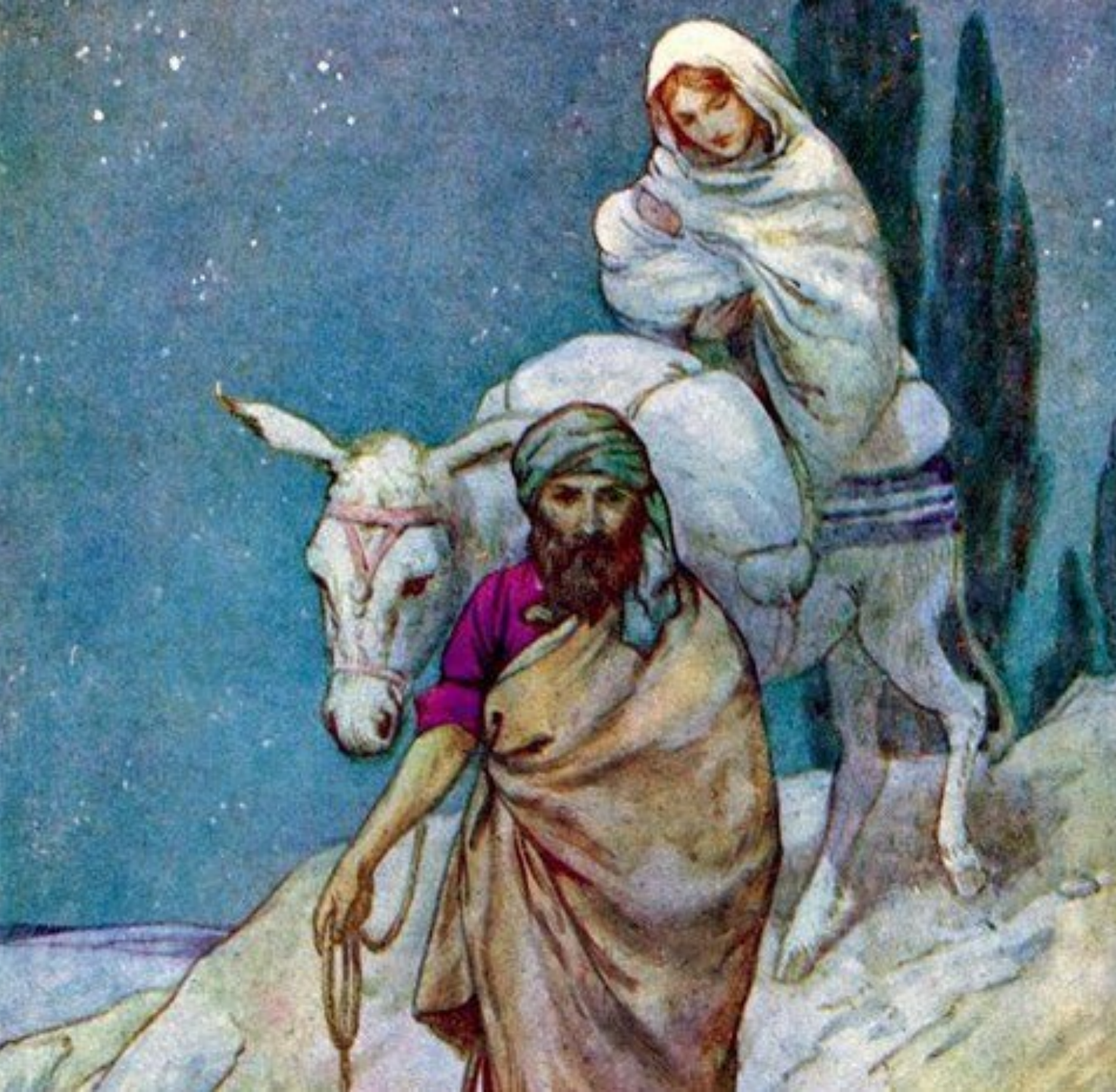
- History of the League
- Structure of the League and The Promise of the League
- Core Principles; *Constitution & Bylaws*; Policy and Procedure; *Executive Handbook*
- Duties of Officers
- Life Membership and Honorary Life Membership
- Strategic Plan Summary
- Communication
- Budgets
- Member Recognition
- Public Presence and Member Development

ESSENTIAL REFERENCE MANUALS



DISCUSSION

1. What can we do to help our members discern officer roles?
2. How can we encourage members to accept nominations?
3. How could the nomination process be improved?
4. How can we help members overcome their apprehensions?



MARY WASN'T ALONE

Saying YES takes courage. But God doesn't ask us to do this by ourselves.

15

God gives us the Holy Spirit and others to help us.

Mary was not alone. She had Joseph at her side.

CWL leaders should not feel that they are doing this by themselves. They need the support and help of members.

SUPPORT FOR OUR EXECUTIVE TEAM

- Executives should be teams that work together and support each other
- Each person is important no matter what role they have; all are carrying out the same mission
- They also need to rely on other members for support and help. It is unfair for members to leave the Executive alone, trying to do everything

DISCUSSION

How can we support members who take on Officer positions/leadership roles?

EXAMPLES OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS

Officers

- Secretary – communication
 - produce a newsletter
 - send cards
- Vice-President – organization
 - new welcome program
 - membership drive
 - greeting members at meetings
 - providing snack for meeting

Standing Committee Chairs

- Faith
- Service
- Social Justice

Each standing committee should have members who help the Chair.


STILL HAVING ISSUES FILLING POSITIONS?

It can be discouraging when nominations are not accepted and positions may be vacant.

- Don't panic and complain. All organizations have periods of discord especially due to change and other circumstances. Complaining to all your members will just cause others to become frustrated and disheartened.
- Don't vote to disband. Get more information and help before taking any action.
- Do contact the Diocesan President or President-Elect and ask for advice. If necessary, a meeting will be set up to discuss options.
- Do discuss with your Spiritual Advisor.

SUMMARY

- All are encouraged to prayerfully discern what role they will take in their councils.
- It is important for us to trust in the Lord and ask the Holy Spirit to work through us. Pray for the intercession of Mary, Joseph and other Saints to help us.
- Ask for help and support from our fellow council members. Let us walk together on this road to Heaven supporting each other.
- Who knows what the fruits of our saying 'Yes' will be?



**HERE AM I, THE SERVANT OF THE
LORD; LET IT BE WITH ME
ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD.**