



## Go Make a Difference

On Saturday, February 11, 2023, Toronto Diocesan Council (TDC) hosted their annual Development Day. Although the day was virtual (zoom), five councils met in their respective parish halls and viewed/participated as a council and enjoyed a pot luck lunch. At the break out room sessions, these five councils were able to share in person – they established their own break out rooms! There were over 300 members who attended the Day, 250 virtually, and 56 gathering with their councils. Members attended from Toronto Diocese as well as the Dioceses of Pembroke, Peterborough and Thunder Bay. Wilma Vanderzwagg, OPC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/Spiritual Development Chair and Maria Bertoldo, Thunder Bay Past President, were in attendance. The theme for the day focused on the Provincial theme, “*Go Make a Difference*”. The day began with a beautiful celebration of the Mass, live-streamed from St. Mary’s Parish in Brampton, celebrated by our TDC Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Liborio Amaral.

The morning session featured Keynote Speaker, Honorary Life Member, Barb Dowding, who gave an inspirational and motivating presentation on “*The Art of Accompaniment*”. Heart-warming testimonials were shared by Barb, and TDC’s Honorary Life Member, Margaret Ann Jacobs and Life Members Mary Hawkey, Donna Shaddick, Marlin Taylor and Mary Ellen Stinson, on who accompanied/mentored them on their CWL journeys. Barb reminded us that “the CWL is a natural relationship builder. Known for its sisterhood, the CWL embodies what it means to journey with another person.” Barb invited us to think about, then share about all the relationships in our own League life - who has accompanied us, who have we accompanied.

The afternoon session was on “*The Beatitudes – Putting the Beatitudes into Action, to Go Make a Difference, in our Councils, Communities, Country.*” The presenters in the afternoon were TDC Standing Committee Chairs, who each took one of the Beatitudes, explained what their Beatitude meant and shared ideas on how to put their Beatitude into action. The participants were then given the opportunity to share which Beatitude they felt convicted to share with their council to work on, to put into action, to *Go Make a Difference!*

Thank you so very much to Barb Dowding and TDC Standing Committee Chairs who made the day so successful, informative and inspirational!!



St. Gregory Parish Council, Etobicoke



Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Parish Council and St. Ambrose Parish Council, Etobicoke