



THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL
102nd Convention Oral Report
April 24 and 25, 2023
Ajax Convention Centre
550 Beck Road
"Called To Serve"



Name: Iris McNulty
Standing Committee: Spiritual Development
Share the Word: Compassion

Madame Chair,

Spiritual Development has been very busy. Prayer services were created for PET and Effective Meetings workshops, Development Day and Convention. A letter was forwarded to councils requesting the collection of spiritual offerings and a spiritual bouquet was created. A final report of Deceased Members was sent to Provincial Council. These names have been included in the TDC Book of Life; listed by Region and arranged for display at Convention. Lenten resources and retreats were forwarded to Regional Chairs to share with respective councils. Details of the convention Eucharistic celebrations were discussed and confirmed with the Spiritual Advisor. Prayers of the faithful were written and approved. A World Day of Prayer service was attended. Participation in an online Rosary Prayer Service in honour of Pope Francis' tenth anniversary of his papacy occurred. League Development included participation in three online presentations by the OPC. An Evening of Reflection for the Toronto council was organized on the theme of Synodality. A venue was selected; arrangements for a Eucharistic celebration were arranged. The taping of the National sponsored mass of Our Lady of Good Council was attended.

1Peter 3:8 reads: *"Be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble."* I will speak to the word 'compassion'. The word *compassion* means: 'to suffer together' and it is intertwined naturally with our Catholic faith. As believers, we uphold the sanctity of all life. Compassion speaks to the collective value we place on all humanity and our concern for the well-being of all. When one member of the body of Christ suffers; we all suffer.

Compassion calls for kindness towards others by being a good listener and being non-judgemental. Jesus was a good listener; he was attentive to the personal story of others, became aware of their needs and acted. Prayer services created for TDC activities included Scripture passages based on the theme of the presentation. These passages required members to be attentive to the Word of God and to consider what they were being called to do as Catholic women in order to serve others. Compassion means to support others, to be inclusive, to recognize their good works and success. This instils self-worth within them and helps to build up community. Individual members of council were called upon to participate in prayer



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services and the World Day of Prayer was promoted. Compassion invites us to admit when we are wrong and to ask forgiveness; to seek mercy. By admitting to our mistakes we hope that others will demonstrate forgiveness and mercy in their relationships. Jesus asks us to be in right relationship with others. Compassion alleviates suffering and creates harmony. Google states that: "*Compassion helps us connect with others, mend relationships and move forward while fostering intelligence and well-being...it harbours a desire for all people to be free from suffering, and filled with a desire to help.*" Various retreats with a theme of mercy were promoted. Jesus points the way towards mercy. He healed and forgave all who asked for forgiveness with a sincere heart. The sacrifice of his life was the ultimate act of God's mercy and love for humankind. We are called to be compassionate; to reflect mercy in thanksgiving for the mercy we have been given.

Resources including prayers for the year, creating a spiritual program, a planning workshop in how to create a prayer service, a toolkit for Faith, and a being Kind to Each Other workshop can be found on the National website in the 600 series.

The goals for the coming year will be:

- To encourage councils to implement meaningful; creative spiritual resources/documents. A webinar on different prayer styles, the study of a papal document and a spiritual pilgrimage would be helpful in fostering creativity and deeper spiritual awareness amongst members
- To develop ecumenical awareness amongst members. Two ways to address this would be to reach out to other Catholic rites to learn about their worship practices and to promote learning about Indigenous spirituality by attending the Indigenous Peoples mass at St. Ann's Parish.

My written report can be found on pages 12-13 of the Annual Report Book.

This concludes my report.

Iris McNulty