

Administrative Assistant
Oral Report
69th Annual Ontario Provincial Convention
The Catholic Women's League of Canada
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Madame President,

I chose Saints Zelig and Louis Martin. They were the first ever married couple with children to be canonized in the same ceremony on October 18, 2015. Pope Francis presided at Mass in St. Peter's Square during the Canonization. Pope Francis stated in his homily, "*The holy spouses Louis Martin and Marie-Azelle Guerin practiced Christian service in the family, creating day by day an environment of faith and love which nurtured the vocations of their daughters, among whom was St. Therese of the Child Jesus.*"

In the early years Louis intended to become a Monk but he was rejected because he did not succeed at learning Latin. He then decided to study his craft and became a watchmaker.

Zelig wanted to become a nun but was turned away by the Sisters of Charity because she suffered with respiratory difficulties and recurrent headaches. She then prayed to God to one day give her many children and prayed that they would be consecrated to God. In the meantime, Zelig became a very successful lacemaker.

It was God's plan that the watchmaker would meet and fall in love with the lacemaker. Three months later they were married in the Basilica of Notre-Dame in Alencon France.

Louis and Zelig lived simply but were very generous to the poor. The Martin's were known for their exemplary life of holiness, prayer, fasting and charity. Together they faced many tragedies. Zelig gave birth to nine children, four of whom died either as infants or young children. They continued to trust in God. The Martin's five daughters that survived all became nuns. Zelig's prayers had been answered. Their youngest daughter, Marie Francoise-Therese was canonized in 1925 and is known as Saint Therese of Lisieux.

Today, July 12th we celebrate the Feast Day of Saints Louis and Zelig Martin, the first canonized married couple.

I chose the second Beatitude; "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

Grief is just a part of living. Especially, when something bad happens to someone we love. Saints Louis and Zelig certainly lived out this beatitude with all their trials and sadness they faced as a married couple. They always remained faithful to God and His commandments. This beatitude promises us that God will always comfort us. Often this comfort comes from the people who surround us when we are in our darkest hours.

In my position as Administrative Assistant often emails and cards are sent to members or a member's family to encourage or to express sympathy and to offer prayers or a Mass for their intention.

President Pauline has allowed me to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your prayerful support that was given to my family when my son Chris was the victim of a hit and run accident on Christmas Eve. We were humbled by the out pouring of genuine care and concern. We received so many Masses, prayers, cards, well wishes, phone calls and visits. We were truly comforted by these acts of kindness. Today, Chris' body has healed marvellously, his brain trauma continues to heal and we feel so blessed to have him in our lives. Thank you, and please never underestimate the power of Prayer.

This concludes my report.

Jeannie Coleman