



**President's Oral Report  
July 2016 Provincial Convention  
Stratford Ontario**

There is little doubt that my journey in the League has been led by the Holy Spirit. A mere 27 years ago I had only heard about The Catholic Women's League and knew there were councils in our city, but little else .... Now look at me ... I stand humbly before you as Ontario's provincial president. That gives a whole new meaning to the word awesome! It also affirms two things ... God has a plan for you and it will happen, even if you work at it not happening and I'm the only thing between possible and impossible .....

Over the past year I have travelled to a variety of places and have met with a number of you. We have chatted via email, text and telephone. Admiration for each of you grows daily. I have witnessed first-hand the multitude of ways you have lived your baptismal call to service.

Suggesting a project for the entire province to embrace is on one hand a way to keep councils focused, but it can also be seen as scary, overwhelming and a bold move on the part of the president to expect everyone to get on board. Yesterday we were witnesses to all the works of mercy completed through dioceses emulating their chosen blessed. Together, as one body in Christ, we celebrated the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy with One Heart, One Voice and One Mission. I encourage you to take time to read the annual reports filed in the report book to get a full overview of all that is happening in our province. Following this convention our binder of works of mercy will be presented to the national council for inclusion in their spiritual bouquet that will be sent to Pope Francis.

During the year we have rallied together in prayerful support of our sisters and their loved ones. Each request for prayers was met with affirmation of love and support for those in need. I cannot think of any other organization where there is such a bond of caring. As a result of your prayers we have shared God's little miracles and a few big ones too!

We heard earlier that a number of parish communities have welcomed refugee families in this last year. We have truly come full circle. Our organization was founded, in part, to support immigrant families coming to Canada nearly 100 years ago.

Perhaps our greatest proclamation of unity has been our on-going and unstoppable cry for excellent, ethical palliative care. Letter writing campaigns and personal visits to members of government have been continuous as we share our concerns with respect to the issue of physician assisted dying. Councils throughout Ontario joined with their sisters and brothers across Canada in prayer for Palliative and Hospice Care on May the 4<sup>th</sup>. This twelve hours of solidarity demonstrated our collective understanding of "living more fully the Gospel messages".

The Ontario provincial council team works to accomplish great things. What one cannot do, the other one does; so that together we are great! In the words of Babe Ruth, "The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime." I believe we are worth a twoonie!

Pauline Krupa  
Ontario Provincial President