

Christian Family Life Oral Report
Provincial Convention
July 2017

Madam President:

You have graced me with the sixth gift of the Holy Spirit: piety. The dictionary describes piety as reverence for God or devout fulfillment of religious obligations.

St. Thomas Aquinas refers to piety as **the gift whereby at the Holy Spirit's instigation, we pay worship and duty to God as Our Father.**

Piety is our response to God's will. It means directing one's whole life to God. Genuine piety sees the continued presence of Christ among us in the commonplace activities of our lives.

Piety is often used to describe those whose life is centered on our faith such as our parish priest, the religious, and our Holy Father Pope Francis.

Madam Chair, under the category of **Marriage and family life** piety is shown through the bonding of vows that are made between husband and wife and the rearing of children in the Catholic faith.

Sanctity of life is piety magnified! It is our duty to protect all human life from conception to natural death.

Piety can be found in the **ministry to youth**. Earlier this year the bishops began to attain insight for the **Synod on Young People and Vocational Discernment**, to see how the dioceses can be more supportive of our youth along their faith journey and it is to help instill godliness into their lives. The Synod takes place this October.

Widows and widowers continue to express their devoutness and love to their spouse after their loved one has passed on. Recently at a Serran dinner a gentleman whose wife died heard the call from God. He joined the seminary and he was ordained in May. He truly loved his wife but once she passed his devout

fulfillment of religious obligations could not be denied. His life is a win-win situation.

The **disabled** haven't chosen their fate intentionally. For some their senses are keener than others and for this they are grateful and often their faith is resilient. We should all learn to understand their relationship with God better.

Separated and divorced individuals are often fearful of not being accepted while at times struggling to raise children on their own. With programs such as (retro vie) Retrouvaille, a lifeline for troubled marriages, they can learn that they are not alone.

Seniors can be lost souls especially if in a reclusive situation. However through the graces of God, increasing seniors programs and caring friends their lives and spirituality can continue on.

In the area of **Vocations**, piety is demonstrated most fervently. We see it in our parish priests and religious sisters. The Holy Spirit is working his wonders in the men and women who are professing their love and obedience to God as they study in seminaries and convents throughout the province. Vocations truly validate the devout fulfillment of religious obligations.

Over this past year I think of the words of Charles Dickens **A Tale of Two Cities** describes what has happened most appropriately.

It was the best of times: my most fruitful accomplishment was the presentation at St. Peter and St. Augustine seminaries promoting and informing the seminarians about the League and the Bishop F. Pappin Memorial Bursary.

It was the epoch of belief: The successfulness of those visits was evident as this year we were blessed to have 16 applications for the bursary. The most we have had in many years.

It was the worst of times; it was the season of Darkness: Sanctity of life has been condemned with **Bill 84 - Medical Assistance to Dying** despite the protests, letters and petitions. We may have lost this battle but we have all become more knowledgeable about conscience rights and medical assisted dying and we must continue to speak out against it.

It was the season of Light: It was the spring of hope: The first year was focused on the Works of Mercy and a chosen saint; letters were written and petitions signed on Physician Assisted Death and Palliative Care; updating of Bishop Pappin Memorial Bursary information, the visit to the food bank in Stratford last July. And during the second half of my term more petitions and letters to the government, directives and of course the visits to the seminaries was instrumental.

In conclusion, may we all continue to escalate in our devotion to Our Lord and revere in piety.

May Our Lady of Good Council continue to guide us in all we do for God, Canada and The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Madam President, this concludes my report.