

Oral report to 70th Annual Ontario Provincial Council Convention Spiritual Development

Madame President asked that I speak regarding the gift of wisdom as it relates to my standing committee, Spiritual Development.

I would like to begin with words from Pope Francis .. "The Holy Spirit is the soul, the lifeblood of the Church and of every Christian: He is God's Love, who makes our hearts his home and enters into communion with us. The Holy Spirit is always with us, always in us, in our hearts."

Again, as I prepared this report, I was reminded of God's hand in my life ..

- When I was diocesan president, my heart was stirred to explore the word 'Grace' and what it means to live with God's grace.
- Two years ago, Madame President gifted me with the Spiritual Development standing committee and provided each of us at the Provincial table a magnet: "Let Go and Let God."
- The Holy Spirit led me to an exploration of the Mystery of the Divine Indwelling, God at home within us.
- The new National President set our theme "Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call."
- Madame President gifts me with relating to the gift of wisdom.
- Pope Francis relates the gift of wisdom to the grace to see God's hand in everything.

Can you see the Holy Spirit at work? It is my willingness to 'Let Go and Let God' that has allowed the Holy Spirit to work through me in the standing committee of Spiritual Development, to deepen both my relationship with God and, I hope, yours. It is this deepening of relationship with God that connects the Spiritual Development standing committee with the gift of wisdom. To allowing God to be part of everything we live. For me .. what a relief when I finally "Let Go and Let God" so that my monologue ended and a conversation began. You see, when we let go, we tend to listen.

In the Bible we are told that, at the time of his coronation as king of Israel, God asked Solomon what gift he wanted to receive. Solomon did not ask for wealth, success, fame, or a long and happy life, instead he asked for "an understanding heart that knows how to distinguish good from evil" (1 Kings 3:9). Turning again to the words of Pope Francis, "If we listen to Him He teaches us this path of wisdom, he gifts us wisdom which is seeing with God's eyes, listening with God's ears, loving with God's heart, judging things with Gods' judgment."

Friends say to me often, you always think the best of people, how do you do that? I always felt a bit embarrassed by those words; however, now I am humbled as I acknowledge that my words come from the gift of wisdom.

To close I will turn again to a quote from Pope Francis, "This is why we must ask the Lord to gift us the Holy Spirit ... And with this wisdom we can move forward, build the family, the Church and we can all be sanctified. Let us ask for this grace of wisdom today. Let us ask Our Lady, who is the Seat of Wisdom, for this gift."

Madam President this concludes my report ...