

Oral Report for 70th Annual Provincial Convention – Thunder Bay July 2017
Education and Health Chair

Madame Chair,

Understanding is the second of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit enumerated in Isaiah 11:2-3. It differs from wisdom in that wisdom is the desire to contemplate the things of God while understanding allows us to penetrate to the very core of those revealed truths. In researching the meaning of understanding as it relates to our faith I came across a wonderful explanation by Scott P. Richert and I quote: *"Once we become convinced through understanding of the truths of the Faith, we can also draw conclusions from those truths and arrive at a further understanding of man's relation to God and his role in the world. Understanding rises above natural reason, which is concerned only with the things we can sense in the world around us. Thus, understanding is both speculative—concerned with intellectual knowledge—and practical, because it can help us to order the actions of our lives toward our final end, which is God. Through understanding, we see the world and our life within it in the larger context of the eternal law and the relation of our souls to God."*

The gift of understanding is prevalent in this standing committee.

Members across the province wrote letters to their members of parliament by the thousands. They visited MPP offices. They shouted in protest to anyone who would listen and they prayed. They prayed for the conscience rights of our medical professionals ... every day for months ... and they continue to pray that our government leaders will use their conscience to ensure that our medical professionals are able to work within their own rights.

Over 82% of all councils in Ontario focused actions on hospice and palliative care. They volunteered at these institutions in large numbers. They made quilts and blankets and shawls. They invited guest speakers to meetings to educate members on the needs of these institutions.

The Holy Spirit has gifted us with understanding to see the world and our lives within it...

Catholic schools were supported through prayer and action. Members lead rosary classes. They presented bibles to Grade 5 students. One thousand and forty-five members across the province are directly involved in sacramental initiation and worked with parents and teachers to ensure sacraments are meaningful to our families. They took leadership roles in parent/teacher

councils. They are grandparents and parents on field trips and trustees sitting at board meetings.

The stigma related to mental health continues to be predominant in our society. The key to ending stigma is education. There are many stories of the compassion and understanding of CWL members across this province.

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This concludes my report