

**Resolutions Report**  
**70<sup>th</sup> Annual Provincial Convention 2017**  
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As I researched what to say about the gift of counsel from the Holy Spirit, I found some interesting definitions. Counsel was defined as “supernatural prudence”, “right judgment” and “supernatural intuition”. “Whew!”

So let’s break it down into more simple language. “Counsel” is the ability to judge what we should do in a particular circumstance. When we are guided by the Holy Spirit we respond to a situation as if by instinct. The Holy Spirit speaks to the heart of the individual and instantly enlightens the person as to how to act correctly in times of trouble. It allows one to speak without fear in defense of the Christian Faith and to choose correctly what will help most for the glory of God and our own salvation

In Matthew Chapter 10, quote “When they hand you over, do not worry about how to speak or what to say; what you are to say will be given to you when the time comes; because it is not you who will be speaking; the Spirit of your Father will be speaking in you.”

Pope Francis says that counsel is gift which the Holy Spirit enables us to make concrete decisions according to the logic of Jesus and the Gospel.

To summarize these ideas counsel enables a person to judge promptly, correctly and intuitively; to reflect and then act; to know how to act to be pleasing to God; to ask God what to do and then trust Him; to develop a sense of humility of one’s own weakness and ignorance; to elevate a bad situation with grace when encountering with a spiritual need or grudge and allowing the Holy Spirit to guide one’s response; is given to enlighten the conscience in moral choices and to give counsel to others.

So how does this work in the resolutions standing committee. This year three resolutions will be brought to this convention. Think of the process that they went through to get here. Guided by the Holy Spirit, members considered the needs of incarcerated indigenous women, young families attempting to keep their children safe and nurses with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. They used their talents to study the issues, write resolutions and present them to members. The provincial resolutions committee evaluated the work they had done, made some minor adjustments and will bring them to the floor of this convention. All of these steps were accomplished with prayer and right judgment in doing the will of God to provide solutions to difficult situations. Two of the resolutions are federal matters and have been forwarded to the national resolutions committee if they are approved at this convention. The third is an issue dealt with by the provincial government, so if accepted at this convention, it will be addressed at the next visit to the Ontario Legislature.

The committee was not able to meet with the government yet this year. It is hoped that government meetings can be arranged in the coming fall. Although my term as resolutions chair will end this week, I hope to assist my replacement in ensuring the meetings take place.

I urge every council to write letters to government about our concerns. We cannot become complacent. In 2002, I worked on a resolution from my diocese asking for a tax deduction for the cost of textbooks for post-secondary students. This resolution was approved at all levels. The national committee met with the federal finance minister the following year and we rejoiced when the budget announced a \$500 deduction for textbooks. Guess what? I just learned that the budget that was presented this year and was approved as the parliament broke for the summer, has removed the deduction for textbooks. It is time to write letters again to our member of parliament, the finance minister and prime minister. If they are bombarded by letters, they may reconsider this item for the next budget.

Not every council will develop resolutions, but everyone can write letters or call their MP to voice their position on various topics. I urge you to do so personally and as a group.

May the Holy Spirit always instill in our hearts certainty, fill us with peace and may we always ask for the gift of counsel.

This concludes my report.