

Treasurer's Oral Presentation for 2017 Convention Thunder Bay

Thank you, Madame Chair

The gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit are tools for us to use in our daily lives as we care for one another in our response to God's call.

When we were given the topic of the Gifts or Fruits of the Holy Spirit and how it related to my position, as Treasurer, I didn't know which one to choose. First, I thought of perseverance, you need to persevere when you are trying to balance totals and they don't balance. Then I thought of Wisdom—wisdom to know when to walk away from the numbers for a while. Then of course there is awe and wonder, when the debits equal the credits and everything balances. However, my thoughts rested on JOY. It is the fruit of the Spirit – JOY – that calls me to do more. Joy calls me to enjoy and experience whatever comes my way.

I find joy in working with numbers. I know some of you are out there wondering – what is she saying...“working with numbers”.....how can that be. Each of us has been given gifts and one of mine is working with numbers. You have to agree that numbers do not talk back to you – well, I suppose if they don't balance they are.

Joy and happiness can be thought as being the same. Happiness is defined as a state of well-being and contentment – a pleasure or satisfying experience. Joy is much more than that. Joy is the echo of God's love in our hearts.

I experience that echo of God's love whenever I receive a telephone call and/or an email or interact with the members. When I receive a cheque in the mail to be deposited, I experience joy in seeing how generous, kind and caring you are for those who require assistance. That is an echo of God's love in your hearts. Donations that each member and council gave in 2016 clearly indicates how much love you have for those who go without. Your donation of \$1,967,318.00 exemplifies the care and concern you have.

The Executive Handbook states, “Organizations must have sound financial control in order to meet its goals”. All parish councils, diocesan councils, provincial and national must have sound financial control over all their accounts. Members must be assured that their money is safe, cared for in a solid financial manner and have confidence in the treasurer. As OPC Treasurer, I find joy in being a good steward of your money.

I will tell you that balancing the books monthly, paying bills, reviewing membership lists and reviewing investment opportunities is not all that the

provincial treasurer does. I consult with the accounting firm regarding the financial statements, reserve hotel rooms, meeting rooms and menus for meetings during the year, consulting with the convention committee and the hotel as to guest room accommodations for the convention, preparing financial reports to national, reports for provincial meetings, issuing directives and year end annual reports. Receiving and depositing cheques from councils donating to the Bishop Pappin Bursary Fund as well as sending letters of thanks to those councils – I find great joy in all of that.

Membership Development is very important in the League. I urge you to include this item in your annual budget. There are many knowledgeable and wise women in your parish and diocese to assist in this growth of your council and diocese. In planning your Membership Development, I suggest that you apply to national office for financial assistance. Criteria and forms can be found in the National Manual of Policy and Procedure, and of course, the provincial executive is available to you for help.

I am filled with joy to have been your provincial treasurer for the past 2 years. What a great and joy-filled experience it has been.

May you always be women of joy, love and action and may the Holy Spirit continue to guide you as you respond to God's call.

To all treasurers present and those wanting to be treasurers, may you find joy in your position. Also, may your debits and your credits balance the first time – every time.

Madame Chair, this ends my report.