

**Ontario Provincial Council  
The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
71<sup>st</sup> Provincial Convention – July 8 to 11, 2018  
Oral Report**

**Submitted by: Karen McDonald, Chairperson of Legislation**

**"Virgin Most Merciful"**

What does it mean to be merciful? Pope Francis says, "Mercy commits us all to being instruments of justice, reconciliation and peace. Let us never forget that mercy is the keystone of the life of faith".

I recently attended the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a council and at Mass the spiritual advisor chose the gospel of the Wedding at Cana. In his homily dedicated to Mary he said, "Mary sees with eyes open wide. She observes everyone and every event, understands the will of others, and acts". Mary saw a need..."they have no wine" ... and trusted Jesus ..."do whatever He tells you". The Virgin Most Merciful is our model of mercy and of faith.

Since legislation is social justice in action, my sub-committee and I developed a *Scavenger Hunt*. Our goal is to educate members about events that can lead to homelessness. We provided three scenarios: Marcie has three small children, wants to leave an abusive relationship but is afraid and is seeking shelter; Ben lives with chronic pain, is on extended leave from work with no other source of regular income, and is struggling to feed his young family; Sarah is an older adult whose behavior has become erratic from a psychotic or schizophrenic episode, she has been evicted from her apartment, and faces the prospect of being homeless.

We provided specific activities for members to dig for information, discover what legislation is in place and explore programs available in our communities. Members are to form a team, choose one of the scenarios, complete the suggested activities, keep notes, and submit a survey by October 16 (World Day of Hunger). I encourage all of us to participate in this *Scavenger Hunt*. You will be amazed what you learn.

Continue to write letters, sign petitions, visit your MP/MPP, and contact government officials. Believe it or not, politicians want to hear from us.

There is a reason we opposed the 50-metre protest-free zone around abortion clinics; expressed concern over an attestation clause asking us to compromise our beliefs, supported *The Time to Care Act* to legislate a minimum four hours per day of care for long-term care residents; advocated for improved care for seniors; fought for fairer workplaces; shared our views on improved access to palliative care; sought full implementation of the *Gladue* decision; and supported regulation of vaping products.

The homeless are counting on us. Faith teaches us that if it is God's will, our actions will bring about change. For the sake of the most vulnerable across our province like Marcie, Ben and Sarah ... I challenge all of us to get on the *Hunt*.