

Ontario Provincial Council Convention 2018 – Oral Report
Stephanie Spinelli- Administrative Assistant

Madam President:

Research of Mary's title, Mirror of Justice, referred me to several Catholic sources:

Franciscan Media's, Christopher Heffron, relates simply that "Mary is the 'mirror of justice' in the sense that she reflects God's social justice or "doing the right thing". She completely cooperated with God's grace and perfectly models being a disciple of Jesus. We see Mary in the image of how to live in obedience to God's law and so grow in the likeness of Christ, that is, in the pure and selfless love of God and of our neighbour..."

From scripture..."She is the mirror without blemish of God's majesty."
(Wisdom 7:26) She is like a mirror of the holiness of the one with whom she lived for close to 30 years.

Father Juan Velez uses this analogy: "...We see every day how **like** people become to those they live with and love...as husband and wife, parents and children, brothers with brothers or sisters, friends with friends, in the course of time they become surprisingly **like** each other. All of us have witnessed it, in the expression of their features, in their voice, in their walk, in their language, even in their handwriting, they become **like** each other...and so with their minds, as with their opinions, their tastes, and their pursuits..."

Similarly, in my role as administrative assistant, I find myself influenced, inspired and impressed by my provincial associates as they have embraced our theme of homelessness. Their thoughtfulness, ingenuity, and heartfelt compassion for the most vulnerable members of our society is evidenced in our discussions, our exchange of ideas and in the telling of true life stories of experiences with people who live on the streets of our towns and cities. Their directives and reports are brimming with innovative ideas, recommendations for education, suggestions for action and the recounting of successful initiatives undertaken by councils across the province.

In my own directives, my mantra has been simply to heed the scriptural call for care, compassion and empathy for our neighbour...recognizing Jesus in the face of others in particular the poor and disadvantaged. Prayers for the homeless were sourced and shared with encouragement for daily recitation to enhance our corporal works.

I would characterize the members of this Ontario Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada as naturally empathetic beings with a genuine love of humankind that makes people around them feel important and worthy of time and energy. I hope that my association with them inclines me to be **like** them. As we strive to serve the people of God and to bring attention to social justice issues, may we reflect the love and compassion of Christ.

"Holy Mary, Mirror of Justice, you reflect Jesus even more beautifully than the moon reflects the rays of the sun, pray for us that we may be a mirror of your Son."

Respectfully submitted