

**Past President / Historian  
Oral Report for 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Ontario Provincial Convention**

Shamefully, without hesitation, I chose Mary, Seat of Wisdom as the title of Mary. By nature of this position, are we not considered the wise ones who have been there and done it all? So we must be wise! I certainly cannot speak for everyone here, but I for one have a lot to learn....

Let's begin with my reason for choosing Mary, Seat of Wisdom. My initial thought of "wise one" could not be further from the true meaning for Mary Seat of Wisdom.

In my research I came across this explanation on a site called "busted halo"...seems very appropriate don't you think"... it states:

"Mary, Seat of Wisdom (also known as Our Lady of the Chair), is a very old title for Mary. ... it highlights one specific aspect of her life and experience – specifically, her role as the one who gave birth to Christ.

Artistic representations of Mary, Seat of Wisdom often show her seated on a throne, holding the Christ child on her lap and offering him for adoration. Many early Christians saw Christ as Wisdom incarnate; therefore, by holding him on her lap, Mary becomes the "seat" of wisdom. On a deeper level, the title also refers to the fact that Mary "held" wisdom inside her by carrying Christ in her womb".

As past president / historians we are the "seat" of wisdom because we are "keepers"; that is, we are tasked to keep current our history through the updating and managing of the archives. We are available to the president to perform duties as assigned by her. Often we seek out the wisdom of those who have journeyed before us to mentor and support others. There is no single time when this "seat" should be seen as the wisest... if truth be told, it is perhaps the scariest. We are mandated to be the seat of all that has gone before us so that together we walk with confidence into the future. We are the keepers of all that is precious – wrapped in our arms, keeping it close to our hearts.

One of our tasks for this report was to relate to the provincial theme of homelessness. As I share a few lines from the prayer for Mary, Seat of Wisdom, I ask you to ponder how the words speak volumes....

“Mary, Seat of Wisdom ..., open our hearts to receive your divine Son and make them like your heart, full of your own wise and generous love:

a love, that brings true peace to our lives and to those of many others;

a love, that creates an atmosphere of joy and security to all those with whom we live day after day;

...

...

a love, that does not flee from sacrifice, but that can carry the daily cross with persevering trust;

a love, that is willing to serve without looking for praise or reward, and that is thus able to comfort those in trouble;

a love, that enables us to be silent about ourselves and to heal many spiritual wounds through our reparation and penance. ...”.