

Spiritual Development Standing Committee Oral Report
71st Annual Ontario Provincial Convention
July 8 – 11, 2018
Toronto Airport Marriott Hotel

Madam President:

Spiritual development chairpersons across the province have made a concentrated, and successful, effort to provide meaningful prayer services and music that relate to your theme of Homelessness. They have been diligent in their search of good resources and some have even been inspired to write their own prayers and/or music, two of which are being offered during this convention.

Now one could be forgiven by questioning the contribution of prayer to Homelessness. But we must remember that everything we do as a League, every initiative, every resolution, every event, every action taken by our members, is rooted in prayer. We realize that nothing we do can be accomplished without God's help.

Bishop Robert Barren recently wrote that we must not only pray but be persistent in our prayer and we have done that with Homelessness. It is prayer that gives our members the strength and perseverance to advocate for those who lack adequate housing in our province.

I was fascinated when I discovered it is entirely possible that the Black Madonna, as we know her today, was not dark-skinned when originally painted but turned black as a result of accumulated smoke from votive candles, and accumulation of grime over the ages. This change did not happen overnight but was a gradual transformation.

The Spiritual Development Standing Committee is all about transformation. Prayer and music have the power to transform us from *learning* about Homelessness, to *doing* something concrete to help.

Prayer is the "wind beneath the wings" of all standing committees.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Tremblay

OPC Spiritual Development Chairperson