

## Toronto Convention Report - Provincial – Niagara Falls July 5-8, 2015

Thank you Madame Chair,

TORONTO Diocese is courageously seeking to evolve their MISSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE! A year ago our resolution and legislation chairs forwarded your challenge for councils to assess what issue in our rapidly changing secular society they wished to address. AND SO IT BEGAN!

94 councils in 7 different regions listened to the VOICES OF THEIR MEMBERS. They searched for the truth on not one but several different issues. MEMBERS OPENED THEIR HEARTS TO COMPASSIONATELY ADVOCATE FOR outreach to the homeless; healing, reconciliation & justice for our aboriginal Canadians; advocacy for access and care for the disabled and the elderly; protection of our environment; & more recently and urgently advocating for health professionals' right to conscientious objection and indeed the preservation of our basic human rights to freedom of religious expression and access to Catholic Health care inclusive of good Hospice Palliative care as Moira McQueen pointed out in her presentation). Palliative Care that does not entertain Euthanasia or Assisted Suicide

ALL OF THESE POINT TO THE MISSION TO SPEAK OUT with courage to PROCLAIM BOTH THE SANCTITY & THE DIGNITY OF HUMAN LIFE FROM CONCEPTION UNTIL NATURAL DEATH!

We now understand the importance of researching and affirming action plans of prior resolutions and position papers. We are listening ongoing to the messages from national and doing our best to carry the voices of council members up to the higher levels of the League. TOP DOWN & ALSO BOTTOM UP

We value in a new and renewed way the COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP between like minded faith filled organizations Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario, (ACBO), the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute, The Catholic Organization for Life and Family COLF, The Jesuit Forum, The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, Toronto Catholic Doctors Guild, Catholic Teachers Guild, Catholic Civil Rights, to name a few.

The challenge moving forward is to now find the courage to respond in cooperative - collective faith filled action. I invite my sisters in the League across Ontario to join Toronto Diocese towards this end with **ONE HEART ONE VOICE ONE MISSION** together as one family of Christ.

This concludes my report



Shirley Christo

Toronto Diocesan President