

In 1467 a church dedicated to the Mother of Good Counsel, in a beautiful little town thirty miles south-east of Rome, was being restored but funds ran out before completed. Saddened townspeople heard a heavenly melody and a shining cloud descended on the church of the Mother of Good Counsel. The cloud gradually vanished, revealing a beautiful painting of Our Lady tenderly holding her Divine Son in her arms, the original sacred icon of Our Mother of Good Counsel.

Today, Our Mother of Good Counsel helps us over the hurdles of our daily lives in her simple, yet profound advice “Do whatever He tells you” (John 2:5).

A little simplistic? In reality, it is the greatest advice we, as followers of Christ, could hope to hear. This is one of the reasons why we invoke Mary under the title of Our Lady of Good Counsel.

These simple words of counsel to “do whatever He tells you,” will not steer us wrong especially if we follow Jesus’ teachings in the Sermon on the Mount, in particular, what He teaches regarding doing good works.

Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan activities have focused on doing good works, and in particular, on the provincial theme of “Homelessness”. Councils collected blessing bags, stuffed purses and backpacks with hygienic products, participated in Jesse tree collections and reverse advent calendars to assist organizations that work with homeless persons. At our diocesan convention, our closing prayer service on the Saturday afternoon was entitled “*BRINGING WARMTH TO HOMELESS YOUTH*”. 34 sleeping bags, which were brought to convention by our parish councils, were blessed by our Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, Father Trevor Scarfone and presented to an organization, L’Association des Jeunes do La Rue, which helps homeless youth in Sudbury through cold northern Ontario winter nights.

Our major initiative a diocese-wide food drive called “Hunger knows no Season” was held on April 14th. All three major centres, North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury had collections with the assistance of local grocery stores and smaller communities participated by having food drives in their parishes for their local foodbank. Our councils embraced this initiative wholeheartedly and I was overwhelmed with the enthusiasm for this project. Because of all of the hard work, we collected almost 10,000 lbs. of food for food banks and soup kitchens throughout the diocese.

We have heard often that we need to be a church that evangelizesCTV news, broadcast to audiences across Northeastern Ontario, featured

information on the League, the results of our "Hunger Knows No Season" food drive, and included pictures of members in action in the communities of North Bay, Sudbury and SSM. Efforts were promoted in other media in both national languages including print media with full colour photos! Imagine how many people heard about the League and our collective efforts.

We give thanks to God for His good works done through all of the women of our diocese and our whole province. We seek His glory in everything that we do as we strive daily to heed that simple, yet profound counsel from Our Mother of Good Counsel for a life of discipleship, to "do whatever He tells you."