

2018 Provincial Convention Oral Report

Madam Chair,

It is a well known fact, that: "Virgin Most Merciful"

"The Mother of Mercy has so great a desire to save the most abandoned, that she herself goes in search of them, to help them; and if they have recourse to her, she knows how to find the means to render them acceptable to God"

~ Taken from St. Alphonsus Liguori

That is exactly what was done by members of Toronto Diocese:

- Councils formed visitation groups to reach out to the sick and elderly which focused on ministering Holy Communion to shut-ins and provided knitted lap quilts.
- Members brought aid to shelter homes by cooking and serving lunches. Helped the elderly by assisting them to get to church and running their errands, like groceries shopping. Visited retirement homes to provide entertainment and sponsored Christmas dinners for elderly parishioners who were alone over the holidays.

In Psalm 85:10, it indicates: "Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other."

- Rightly so.... Some councils had speakers from local drop in centers and Canadian Mental Health Association at their general meeting, bringing awareness on mental health. Three councils hosted the annual End of Women Abuse Mass in conjunction with the Catholic Family Services.

Mercy is not a quality we expect to see much these days. Acts of mercy are so rare that, when they do occur, they make headline news. Mercy begins with the way we feel about or toward each other and moves toward merciful acts.

- Council supported the "Out of the Cold" campaign. Another Council hosted a Sunday brunch with guest speaker Friar Tom Purcell of St. Clair Inn, a transitional housing project that offers accommodation to homeless women between the ages of 30 – 60 years who struggle with mental illness issues.

"It is our responsibility to care for one another, to create fairness in the face of unfairness, and to find equality where none may have existed in the past."

- Councils embraced the theme, and found creative ways working in partnership with their parish community through a variety of activities, not only locally but overseas too. Members extended help to the sponsored Refugee families to settle in, who were sponsored by their parishes.

It is easy to walk by because we know we can't change someone's whole life in a single afternoon. But, what we fail to realize is, that simple kindness can go a long way toward encouraging someone who is stuck in a desolate place. We need to become the people of mercy. What we have been given freely should be given away freely.

This concludes my report

Ann D'Souza, Toronto Diocesan President