

Thunder Bay Diocesan Report

“Radiation”

In physics, **radiation** is the emission or transmission of energy in the form of waves or particles through space or through a material medium. This includes: electromagnetic **radiation**, such as radio waves, microwaves, infrared, visible light, ultraviolet, x-rays, and gamma **radiation**.

The word radiation arises from the phenomenon of waves *radiating* (i.e., traveling outward in all directions) from a definite source. Radiant energy, radiation by a source into the surrounding environment. I like to think that the Catholic Women's League of Canada emulates this type of radiation in our Mission Statement as “it calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.” Witness in word and action permits our members to radiate our faith and in faith, we recognize that this witness will touch all our brothers and sisters.

The councils of Thunder Bay have been strong witnesses to the Mission of the League. They were diligent in fulfilling the theme of Homelessness. Various councils collected socks, hats, scarfs and clothing. They collected many jars of peanut butter, and boxes of crackers, as well as some individual sized peanut butter/crackers.

As I traveled through the region attending meetings, preparing for the 66th Annual Diocesan convention, I was impressed by the activities of each council. Truly the Spirit of the League was evident in each and every member.

At the Diocesan Convention, reports were submitted by each council on how they fulfilled and implemented the theme of homelessness.

A workshop was presented on Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si* by Deacon Terrance Platana, a retired judge from Thunder Bay. His insight and interpretation was truly inspiring and gave us a better understanding on how to Care for our Common Home.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police gave an informative and impressive presentation on Human Trafficking in Northwestern Ontario. They described how effortless it was to entice people in desperate circumstances, both male and female, into dependence on drugs or prostitution. They reiterated how difficult it is to remain ahead of the perpetrators, as they relocate frequently, and the victims are often too frightened to report these people to the authorities.

This presentation was followed by an informative account by a local nurse, on the issue of Street Nursing and what they encounter on a daily basis in the city. Both of these workshops gave us a small insight into the tremendous need and despair that is seen on a daily basis, in our cities. The demand for care is unlimited for the poor,

homeless, and the ill. Whatever help our Councils can provide is greatly appreciated and nothing is squandered. No donation is too small.

As we continue to focus and develop our theme, Care for Our Common Home, let us continue to radiate our love for the League in all we do and with everyone we meet. May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide us in our efforts for God and Canada.

Respectfully Submitted
Maria Bertoldo
Diocese of Thunder Bay