

## Oral Report for 2020 Resolutions-AMM July 2021

What a year 2020 has been. For most of us, we have experienced nothing like it, but through all the social restrictions and lockdowns, we persevered. In February we were able to gather diocesan resolution chairs from across the province, for a weekend of workshops in Toronto. The resolution workshop explained the new format for resolutions-no whereas clauses going forward. As a group we were able to review a proposed resolution and refine it to the new criteria. We also had the presentation of the "Find Your Voice" workshop to assist everyone present with public speaking. All in attendance appreciated the opportunity to come together to learn and discuss resolutions. Evaluations were all positive. In March of 2020, we were all ordered to stay at home. Emails and phone calls were still received regarding existing resolutions and new concerns. It was during this time that it became evident that there was a crisis in our long-term care homes. Members were encouraged to write letters and send emails to the Premier of Ontario, the Health Minister and the Long-Term Care and Home Care Minister. Our members put pen to paper to help the long-term care residents. At the time I prepared my annual report, approximately 700 members sent letters requesting better living standards including more full-time staff in these homes. Since that time, more members have written and sent emails on the tragic circumstances that became such a focus in the media. Loneliness and isolation took its toll on the residents in the homes as well as Covid-19. The pandemic brought these issues to everyone's attention and conceivably better, quality care will be the result. Women were also impacted economically, as well as mentally during social restrictions, school closures and stay at home orders. This pandemic has shown that more than ever resolutions must continue to be created by our parish councils to help the vulnerable and to help each of us answer the call of our Catholic faith. Let us pray that meaningful change will occur as a result of resolutions created during the Covid-19 pandemic and brought forward in the coming year.