

Oral Report

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March 13, 2020 our world virtually stopped. The worldwide pandemic had wreaked havoc on Canada, Ontario and the diocese of Sault Ste. Marie. In the early days of the pandemic, we were hopeful that our lockdown would be 2 weeks and then we could get on with our very busy lives. With just a few weeks before we were to celebrate our 100th anniversary in our diocese it seemed that our plans were falling into place nicely. The pandemic would be over, the world would be open and we could get on with our important work.

We soon realized that our plans would have to change. We would celebrate our convention in the fall of 2020, surely the pandemic would have subsided by then. It was not to be, and we as members were feeling very isolated and alone during the first wave of the pandemic. Although some restrictions were lifted in our diocese, I would not allow our members to meet. When the realization sunk in that this was to be a long process, we found alternate ways to “see” our sisters.

Of course the members in the parishes used their telephone lists to keep in touch with their sisters. At the diocesan level, I hosted our first executive meeting in the fall of 2020. What a wonderful experience. There is nothing like a face to face meeting with your team to get your passion for the League in gear. Covid has made us adapt to online meetings, both business and spiritual. What a gift this has been, many of our senior members who were not able to attend mass or meetings but who have a tablet or computer, were now able to watch a parish mass on the computer and some of the councils have had virtual meetings to keep in touch.

Thankfully, national office heard the outcries for help and put off the voting process for the amendments to the constitution and bylaws and the proposed change to per-capita fees. Many of our members would have been left out of the voting process which is a tenet of our constitution and bylaws.

The membership drive for 2021 was somewhat successful. Most members renewed their membership which tells me that they still have the love of the

league in their hearts. They remember the friendships and feeling of belonging to this great organization.

While preparing the 30 presidents for our AMM it was made abundantly clear that we have a lot of work to do! Many of our council's representatives are not computer literate and we are missing a demographic of members with our technology. The frustration level was palpable and our diocese will be addressing the hesitancy for technology in the coming months.

We have learned a great deal about ourselves and others throughout this pandemic, but one thing is loud and clear, The Catholic Women's League of Canada is a relevant and a required organization in our post-pandemic world.