

How has COVID affected me and my role as Spiritual Development chair? I'm not sure where to begin or where to stop! Our National and our Provincial themes have certainly taken on new meaning during this Pandemic. The themes Care for our Common Home and Loneliness have been put to the test. I believe God has certainly been by our side and knew that we would have struggles but He also knew we the women of the Catholic Women's League of Canada would put our trust in Him and with great prayer, we would have the ability to do our best to help our neighbours and each other.

I worry about the long-lasting effects that this pandemic will cause. I worry about our members. I worry was there more I should have or could have done. The isolation we have been thru and the fear of the unknown weights greatly on us. Not being able to meet in person was a challenge for many councils however it was heartwarming to see that many councils were able to embrace the virtual meeting thing. It certainly helped in feeling less isolated from our sisters in the league.

I wonder...What will it be like to meet again in person? When will be able to hug each other? I wonder...Will we recognize each other? Will we be able to pick up where we left off? I wonder...will our next in person reunion - will it be like a slice of heaven? Our sisterhood united by God's love for us and our love for Him has not changed and in many ways I attribute our sisterhood as my saving grace. As a small business owner there were many struggles and hurdles to overcome - I won't bore you with all the details but just know that online shopping isn't fun to set up! And when I was having a bad day or even on my good days, I always knew I had a sister or two I could count on to share my struggles and my joys with!

I pray...for all the people that have died due to Covid. I pray...that the end of this pandemic is near. I was never a big lover of history in school and well I look back at it now and I think oh probably because it just didn't seem relatable! But now knowing that WE are part of history by living thru a pandemic and will be discussed and study in history classes for years to come, it has changed my whole view on the importance of the past. I pray, for the Church and it's past history. I pray, for the future of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. I pray for healing and grace.

I know that no amount of prayer can erase the past, but I do know that prayer can heal the present and I am certain that prayer can and will help us in our future endeavours.

Respectfully submitted,  
Emma Rose Rayburn OPC Spiritual Development Chair