

ORAL REPORT TO CONVENTION/AMM ONTARIO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL 2022

Madam President, we were asked to show our standing committee working, praying, and playing in this oral report to the convention assembled.

Working to me is learning and growth. Over the past 3 years this included, of course, learning to function in a pandemic including becoming proficient at zoom. Opportunities to learn included:

- Catechism on several topics through reference to the *YOUCAT Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church*;
- Gifts by Pat Weller on Loneliness and Isolation and Their Ongoing Side Effects and sharing of personal experiences;
- Ways to consider vocation to religious life for our children;
- Ways to minister to youth, disabled, widowed, seniors, and families;
- Remembering to stay balanced;
- Ways to be vocal and to speak out when something is wrong;
- How Bill C-230 could protect of conscience rights for health care workers;
- Providing opportunities for reading in the Explore Corner of most directives including on the history of residential schools in Canada.

Praying comes naturally within our beloved League and the Christian Family Life Standing Committee is no exception ..

- We prayed for fathers, palliative, and hospice care;
- Through gifts from sub-committee member Shelley Tamas, we prayed for vocations and to St. Monica for Protection of our Children;
- Other prayers were offered For Walking in Love, Truth and Reconciliation in Canada, and peace in the world particularly in Ukraine;
- Instructions were given for offering blessings and members were encouraged to offer blessings often in their family, in their councils and wherever an opportunity arises; and,
- A joint initiative between Spiritual Development, Community Life and Christian Family Life to contribute to a national spiritual bouquet for Pope Francis resulted in contributions from Ontario of 25,247 masses; 15,563 communions; 23,987 rosaries; 2,494 eucharistic adorations; 335 visits to the Blessed Sacrament; 852 Sacrifices or services; 78,876 other prayers; 5,421 chaplets or novenas and 4,450 other miscellaneous contributions.

Playing was limited with not being able to gather; however, I will say that a lot of conversation was created on zoom gatherings for prayer and learning. A family time was held on zoom each Sunday during Lent. There was not a lot of participation but the few of us who attended enjoyed playing games, sharing thoughts and a lot of laughter.

To sum up, I would like to share from a lovely reflection Pat Weller submitted for the June newsletter which describe the Christian Family Life Standing Committee perfectly. She said, “We work together, pray together, play together, celebrate together, and mourn together. It is our members’ mission to find faith-filled ways to comfort, console, care and serve from conception to natural death.”

Pat’s words ending her reflection will end my report.... As we go forward, “let our faith continue to anchor us, the Holy Spirit inspire us, and Our Lady of Good Counsel guide us as we walk on this earth as the hands, feet and heart of Jesus.”