

OPC Virtual AGMM, July 2021 Communication Chair

Madam Chair,

As I take a quick look at the past 3 years of my term as Communication Chairperson, having done 30 ON-Line newsletters, thoroughly enjoyed compiling, proud of the work members are doing, reaching out despite the restriction they had to face due to covid. This quote by F. Scott Fitzgerald sums it up "The loneliest moment in someone's life is, when they are watching their whole world fall apart and all they can do is stare blankly" . Councils were busy celebrating milestones, be it service or Maple pin service award, birthdays, opening councils or their council anniversary celebrations.

I would like to highlight the "100th Anniversary of Toronto Diocese". Formed in 1921, comprising of seven regions. I was part of the 100th Anniversary committee, chaired by Mary Hawkey – Life Member. Throughout the year members participated in various activities that were put together.

First project was a challenge to all members to create a logo, there were many submissions, the chosen fitted very well with Mary, Our Lady of Good Counsel in the middle, our name on her cape, the seal surrounded by the years and the motto at the bottom which flows, from the Leagues' new mission statement spoke to our past, the present and what we wish to be, was turned it into a brooch, it got sold-out very quickly, proved to be a good fund-raiser, that paid for all the celebrations that were lined up.

Second project kept all Toronto councils busy gathering information, about 70% of the councils responded and it made for a wonderful visual display, a slide show was done, viewed at the virtual celebration on June 3rd, 2021, exact date of the 100th year, founding of the Toronto Diocesan Council. **Next project** was the Diocese history book, project led by Patricia Cross – Life Member, Volume-I of 80 years was until **2001**. We completed Volume-2 adding the next twenty years until 2021, special events and projects done, were highlighted in the book. Members and clergy joined us, in-person at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica on October 7, 2021, for the celebration of our Centennial Mass. Before Mass we recited the Luminous Mysteries. We were excited to learn that about 1,750 people viewed the Mass via live streaming.

We also had a Time Capsule that was created by Life Member Karen Lawless in 1996. Asked the councils if they wanted to add anything to it and have it passed to me to add when we opened it. I had this capsule in my possession when I was president-elect.

The celebration ended this year on April 29th, 2022, at the Diocesan convention, with each member receiving a pewter bracelet. Opened the Time Capsule, the present executives read letters that were written to them by executives in 1996. In fact, I read my letter that was written by Margaret Ann Jacobs, now an Honorary Life member.

At the end of the Closing Mass the Time capsule was blessed, with more things added along with all the present executives letters, that will be read when it will be opened perhaps in the next 20/25 years. A true celebration of sisterhood, we celebrated our One Hundred Years: Growing in Faith, Love & Service.

My written report can be found in the Annual Report book on page 5.

This concludes my report.

Ann D'Souza/Communication Chair