

Ontario Provincial Council Annual Meeting of Members 2022  
Ottawa Convention Centre, Ottawa  
Oral Report  
Past President/Historian

Madame President,

Loneliness is a universal human emotion that is both complex and unique to each individual. Because it has no single common cause, the prevention and treatment of this potentially damaging state of mind can vary dramatically.

“Loneliness is an epidemic,” says psychologist Amy Sullivan, PsyD. “We’re the most socially connected society, yet so many people experience extreme loneliness.” The problem of loneliness has a surprising impact; it can drill into both mental and physical health, she says.

COVID impacted all of us this term, with no in person meetings or gatherings of any sort. It caused isolation, uncertainty in positions and roles, inability to fulfill responsibilities and roles.

My own position was affected as I was not able to visit the archives due to the restrictions that COVID caused. I am sad that I missed out on this important piece of my role as your past president/historian. There is so much to be learned from the wise women who came before us. I encourage you to visit your archives when you are able.

In preparation for a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary skit this spring, with the Life Members in Kingston, my home diocese, Betty Anne Brown Davison and I were able to visit our local archives. It was so refreshing to see how dynamic and forward thinking our founders were. I am proud to say that the inaugural executive was comprised mostly of women from Kingston, including the first provincial president who was instrumental in developing our provincial council.

It amazed me that until the mid 1950’s women had no identity of their own, first names were not used. They were known as Miss with their last name if they were single, or Mrs. with their husbands first name or initial and last name. It must have been empowering to finally be able to have their own identity and called by their actual names.

I also learned that at the provincial convention in 1964, the Vicar General pointed out that, “The parish level of The League was the most important as it was the foundation on which the national organization is built.”

This is still true today, so hats off to all of you for all you do for The League.

I am proud to call myself a Member of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada and stand in unison with you, happy that we can again gather together and celebrate this wonderful organization.

This concludes my report,

Anne Madden, Past President/Historian 2019-2022