

**Ontario Provincial Council of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada**

75th OPC Convention, July 12, 2022

Oral Report – Short Form

Due: Prior to Meeting

Name: Helena Lessard, Peterborough Diocese

(Standing Chair or Diocesan President)

Madame Chair

The Year of St. Joseph was celebrated in Peterborough Diocese with an invitation by the bishop to join him on a tour to visit the four St. Joseph churches within the diocese. Mass was celebrated at all locations and sisters from the League were there. Different events were added to celebrate each day. The tour coincided with the communication of elected and appointed officers to the Peterborough Diocesan Council to be followed by a mentor list. However, I patiently awaited to hear from Bishop Miehm on the appointment of a spiritual advisor.

The first visit of the tour was to Douro. CWL ladies assisted with or participated in adoration, reconciliation, spiritual reflection and the chaplet and litany of St. Joseph. Many CWL sisters were present at Mass.

Next on the tour was Powassan. However, due to problems with the church foundation, the location site was the community centre. Not thrown for a loop, Powassan president and members assisted to make the change and followed Mass with a pot luck.

Next on the road was Bracebridge. CWL members welcomed one and all as we entered the church doors. Bracebridge was very hospitable with a huge banner welcoming pilgrims and the year of St. Joseph symbols proudly worn on clergy vestments and face coverings. Being in cottage country, Bracebridge and area annually see more participants in summer months and our League sisters are happy to chat. It would not be this day that the Bishop would have an answer about a spiritual advisor.

Final stop. In addition to welcome posters, CWL sisters provided hospitality at the gates on the grounds of St. Stephen's High School for an outdoor Mass and day of activities in Bowmanville, close to my previous council. The Bishop took part in activities while I took the opportunity to reconnect with many familiar faces, make new friends, learn how they view the League and what steps to take in the future. Then, I enjoyed Mass with fellow officers

and took time to chat and take pictures with ladies from my current council in Lindsay. Nice to chat with Bishop Miehm but still waited patiently. I'll say another prayer.

Well, what a month of Sundays! That was one for the record books, or in the case of the CWL, the historical journal documenting one hundred years of the CWL in the diocese! And finally, the Bishop has appointed the spiritual advisor of Peterborough Diocese for the next five years. The talented group of women, each with their unique skills, awaited the opportunity for installation and spiritual direction provided by Father Roy Villas of Bracebridge.

Together, CWL sisters along with deacons, priests and the bishop of the diocese can draw together to meet the challenges which we face every day. For the CWL in Peterborough Diocese, with the medal of Our Lady of Good Counsel as our rock, we are living the catholic life with One Step, One Day, One Prayer at a time.

This concludes my report.