



THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL
103rd Convention Oral Report
April 29 and 30, 2024
Ajax Convention Centre
550 Beck Road
"Called To Serve"

Name: Ciscily Winkler

Standing Committee: Christian Family Life

Madame Chair,

My focal topic is Faith which is one of the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:7-11) and, one of the three theological virtues. Biblically, faith is described as the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of unseen realities, (Hebrews 11:1), embodying unshakable trust in God's promises, no matter what.

As Catholics, our faith is embedded in the Nicene and the Apostles' Creeds. Pope Francis' vision of the church is one of "inclusivity, doctrinal progression and Synod; a synodal church for communion, participation and mission; while listening and being more responsive to the needs of its faithful." (catholicregister.org)

In my role as Christian Family Life Chair, I raised awareness on societal issues, including but not limited to medical assistance in dying (MAiD), and advocating for Horizons of Hope and palliative care as alternatives.

I have highlighted resources from the Office for Evangelization & Catechesis of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCC) regarding webinars on Vatican II, in preparation for Jubilee 2025, and aimed at inviting the faithful to reflect on the life of the church today.

I contributed to the collection of Spiritual Bouquet for the 34th Annual Ordinandi Dinner, appreciatively received by eight Ordinandi. Members and parish communities committed generously with spiritual and devotional offerings.

Members were encouraged to pray for the sanctity of life, marriage and family, seniors, youth, widowed, separated and divorced, disabled, singles, and religious vocations with respect to human dignity as a right.

Echoing the League's Mission Statement, "The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith and witness to the love of God through ministry and service", it is evident that CWL members are "Called to Serve". Faith without works is dead (James 2:14-26). Faith in God demands action to support our



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community with confidence. Faith shapes our identity, values, hopes, dreams and our care for others.

My League's journey has been nurtured by a supportive sisterhood, spiritual advisors and valuable learning resources, fostering my adaptation to the League's evolving environment. The League's new pillars of Faith, Service and Social Justice as standing committees have made the Christian Family Life redundant with its responsibilities now falling under Faith and Service. I am hopeful that my faith in the League will send me where God leads me.

Faith and Hope are inseparable; genuine faith transforms us, compelling acts of love and kindness. Our CWL members pray and advocate for those facing life's challenges, including health issues, loss of dignity; the threats against life, emphasizing the need for more palliative care, and the preservation of religious vocations.

There's much work ahead; the League needs your faith!

"Here I am Lord, send me! I am Called to Serve your people."

My written report can be found on pages 17 & 18 in the On-line 2023 Annual Report Book.

This concludes my report.

Respectfully submitted



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