



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: Andrea Smart

Standing Committee: Education and Health

Madame Chair:

The main focus of the Education and Health Committee is providing service to youth through the Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest, Mary Dobell Pro-Life Essay and Poetry Contests, Jean McCann Service Award, St. Michael's Scholarship and Margaret Ann Jacobs Catholic Children's Aid Scholarship.

I discovered this particular service goes two ways. In addition to providing students with opportunities to learn or improve written and verbal communication skills and grow in their faith, in turn, they provide a service to us by sharing their thoughts on topics important to them.

During the past two years I have tried to be of service to members by educating them on mental health concerns, end of life care and the environment.

It has sometimes been challenging to sort through all the available information on mental health and end of life care due to the abundance of information, an example being palliative care. I find it is often misunderstood.

Palliative Care week is May 5 to 12. I encourage councils to download the 12 Hours for Palliative Care prayer service from National's website. Use it at a meeting or ask your pastor to host all or part of the prayer service for the whole parish.

National has chosen mental health as the focus of this year's theme "Here I Am Lord, send me" It reminds me that being of service to others also means being of service to myself.

Switching now to the environment, I was surprised to learn of Green Churches Network and their informative newsletters. Season of Creation was another wonderful discovery. Their theme for 2024 is "To hope and act with Creation." The theme reminds us that the times we live in show that we are not relating to the Earth as a gift from our Creator, but rather as a resource to be used.

I enjoyed researching Beatitude #6 - Blessed Are the Pure of Heart, For They Shall See God for Development Day in 2023. It was amazing to learn the different ways



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this Beatitude can be enacted through education and share this with everyone who attended.

It has been a personal privilege to have the opportunity to have a better understanding of being of service to God through the Education and Health Standing Committee.

My written report can be found on pages 23 and 24 of the Annual Report Book.

This concludes my report,