



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: Hilarion Mitchell
Office: Past President/Historian

Madame Chair,

"To witness to the love of God through service", the past president/historian is called to serve using her experience and expertise as a member of the council.

The second year as past president/historian was an accumulation of 27 years of service in League, 17 years at the diocesan level with the past seven of them in the trinomial term of diocesan president-elect, president and past president. The past president/historian not only mentors the president but has the important role of preserving the council's archives, history and updating policies.

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

1 Peter 4:10

In answering the call to serve as past president/historian, we are connected to others that came before us, in the present and future generations. Just being in this position currently is truly the hands of God. Serving in the immediate years post 100th anniversaries for national (2020) and Toronto (2021) and the COVID-19 pandemic is the true testimony of God's presence. I feel blessed that He has placed me in the right place at the right time to live out my baptismal call through service.

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

Jeremiah 29:11

Serving others through Him we gain many blessings. It increases our ability to love and grow stronger in our faith. It becomes less about us as we see the blessings that have been bestowed upon us. Our own issues no longer consume us, making us more grateful and available to support those in greater need.

Through serving, I have seen God's handiwork, in the outcome in my League projects including the past year.

- COVID-19 Chronicles almost did not happen but was reborn after attending a Lenten retreat at Blessed Trinity.
- Toronto Diocesan Council Manual update which was 10 months of edits with assistance of the executive to adjust to the changes in the League.

- Moira Ste Marie Memorial Lecture Series – *Addressing Food Insecurity*, one of the post pandemic social justice issues.

Serving has allowed me to be a conduit with others to bring these and other topics to our members within and beyond our diocese. There were several obstacles and even personal self-doubts that could have affected the outcomes. However, they were always a success. Knowing that God is in control even when there are struggles, has cemented my relationship with Him.

In service, our unique gifts are needed for the longevity of the League as we are the *hands that share* in our work for the Church, Canada and the World.

Everything, in God's time! It was truly an honor to serve as past president/historian filled with exponential growth in faith witnessing *the love of God through service*.

My written report is on pages 10-11 of the 2023 annual report book.

Hilarion Mitchell, Past-President/Historian
Toronto Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada