

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"

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Madame Chair Spiritual Advisors and Sisters in the League:

FAITH. This word is so broad to depict it and to measure it can be linearly and organically.

I had accepted the role on blind faith 2 years ago in this very room – assumed 2 hats – the Past President of my parish council and Toronto Regional Chair. I said 'yes' with no idea or realization of how I would be "Called to Serve". I wavered and felt I was standing on unsteady ground, a member with only 6 years the CWL, nerves on high tilt at the first TDC meeting. The first person I spoke to was our Faith Chair, Iris. She, with a tranquil and welcoming demeanor, quelled the nerves that were racing when the first task asked to complete was an in-person General Meeting. Great! How do you do that? It seemed impossible.

Then a man of Faith came into the picture, Fr. Liborio, who just became TDC's Spiritual Advisor that same year. Martha & Mary was the basis of his very first report. It was his words that I had listened to not knowing their impact. Remember who Martha & Mary were? Martha out and about doing and Mary – who listened, was pensive and faithful. This 2-year term had come to make me discover through Fr. Liborio's words – I had to rely on faith and that Our Lord had a plan -that all things impossible were possible because:

- I who relies on public transportation, IMPOSSIBLE to make it to the far distant TDC meetings but thanks to a fellow TDC member & a regional chair, I could.
- Myself who has trouble asking for help, called out feeling uncertain if those I called would come IMPOSSIBLE- again, in blind faith, they did come presidents of the region and TDC. The Martha's came when help was needed in trying to reconnect a council from defaulting to disbandment. Then, very overwhelmed in the juggle and struggle of my parish council was turning into shaky ground but there was a listening ear from a couple of Toronto region presidents, to hear their stories and the support from Sue, TDC President, gave me strength, called the Mary from within me that to have faith everything will figure itself out.
- From my perspective it was more the women of my region that exemplified Faith that then I grew in faith. These parish presidents of the Toronto region though a small group in comparison to the others – they are strong, resilient



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and continue to flourish bountifully with faith. As the saying goes, great things come in small packages and faith is believing without seeing – and that I did.

My written report can be found on page 36 of the 2023 Annual Report Book

This concludes my report.

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