

President's Report - May 9th, 2022

This past month has been a real whirl wind for me. It seems I finish one thing and two more pop up that need my attention. But I do remember that attending mass on Holy Thursday night I found what I was looking for, for a while. The church was not packed but quite full and when the first Amen was said in unison, I remember thinking this is what I have missed for so long. The feeling of a true mass celebration like it was once upon a time. Though it was only one word, it was very powerful for me, to reassure me that things were hopefully going to come back to normal.

The other moment so similar to this, was at our Diocesan Convention two weekends ago. When the first song was sung by a group of women, it was like a warm blanket enveloping me with comfort and reassurance that things are going to be OK. The entire weekend was filled with lots of talking, laughing and embracing each other, as it has been 3 years since our last Diocesan convention.

The weekend had wonderful speakers, which our first one was Sandra Prather on Friday morning talk called "walk in the light" As usual Sandra is an excellent speaker, even via zoom as she got COVID the Monday before the convention. She asked us to contemplate on when has Christ come as a Light in your Life. When have you felt called to push back the darkness and let the light in.

The next presentation was Women of the Bible, Faithful Disciples. As you experienced tonight it is amazing what ordinary women have done in the past. Would we ever be able to do today what they did in the past? This presentation was followed by Archbishop Smith. Such an eloquent speaker and is very appreciative of everything that the CWL does. He talked about when there is a need, the CWL is always there to take the challenge on. There was so much more said, but unfortunately I am a terrible note taker, promise to do better next time around.

The next morning I was anxious to listen to Candida Shepherd talk about our Land Acknowledgement. Candida is a Special Ed's teacher I Sherwood Park. Her talk was very eye opening and left me with a realization that we do indeed have lots to learn about our Indigenous people. Did you know that the Indigenous have always said a Land Acknowledgement whenever they had visitors come to visit. It was a means of letting the visitors know that they were welcomed and that the land they stood on was meant to be shared. Land Acknowledgements can be very personal or can be for a group, as there is not just one correct way of doing it. She showed us a couple short videos from a couple of Chiefs, which were very informative as well. She is truly a very inspirational women and wants to continue to learn and teach others about their culture.

Of course we had the business part of the meetings. Nothing earth shattering occurred. The Diocesan will be taking \$15,000 from their excess funds to go towards the Stained Glass project at Sacred Heart of the First Peoples church. We also sold all of the cups as a fund raiser for this project with adds another \$1700. Of profit. Another \$5,000 was donated for Ukraine which will be giving to the Ukraine Canadian Congress. Ribbons with the colors of Ukraine and a Canadian pin holding it together, were also available for a donation and received \$638.35. It amazes me on how generous our ladies continue to be.

For entertainment at the banquet, we were given a “fashion show”. There were some spectacular costumes – oh I mean designer wear. Best was Loafers for your feet – where the model courageously wore loaf pans on her feet..... An evening of much laughter and oh yeah I’m still the Treasurer.....

Story about Becky Kallal

May the stars carry your sadness away.

May the flowers fill your heart with beauty.

May hope forever wipe away our tears and,

Above all, may silence make you strong.