

President's Report – June 13, 2022

Are we ready for summer? I know I am ready to kick my feet up and do some relaxing, sleeping and yes fishing as well. Was reflecting on what has been done since this past September and yes, we were in COVID mode for most of it, but we still managed to accomplish a lot. Here are a few of our projects:

- The gratitude cards that were given to all of those who had to deal with COVID on a daily basis. We gave to all the schools, hospital, pharmacies, funeral homes, senior homes, just to mention a few. In all we gave over to 90 locations, with great responses
- Christmas we had our first project with Jessie's House. With donations from all of our church members, we managed to fill a small SUV full
- In January we had our executive team change over
- At the end of January we actually had a sewing bee to use up our material by making cloth bags for future projects
- March we started up our funeral lunch services.
- Our most fun activity so far was making our paper flowers for our shut-ins. What a great project and this has brought so many smiles to a lot of people.
- Though I missed it, I heard Bingo was a big hit during the spiritual program with Marian. Trust us good Catholics to bring in Bingo to our meetings...
- Now who can forgot our ever so successful bake sale. I never thought this would be so successful and now Jessie's house will reap the benefits of it all, as you can see by the quilts that we have received so far.
- But I think the most difficult of all of our duties we had to complete was going through the changes to the National Policies and Procedures. Was such a painful process but with Femia's guidance we pushed on and got it finished. Just as a side note, the vote to change our Patroness was a definite NO and the per capita increase was also a NO. These votes are what will be brought to the National Convention in August on behalf of the Alberta council.

I am positive I have forgotten other projects/things that we have accomplished, as we are a very busy and vibrant council. I truly am looking forward to our next year together and see what else we can accomplish.

I attended the Provincial convention a couple of weekends ago, and on the Friday there were 3 speakers, which in a sense, represented the three pillars of CWL. Our first speaker was Dr. Troy Davies of Catholic Social Services, who shared his wisdom in a presentation titled: "The Eucharist: A Love Story That Every Catholic Needs to Know". He spoke about answering a question asked to him "Is the host and wine truly changed to be the Body and Blood of Jesus. His simple answer was "Why would we venerate a piece of bread and cup of wine?" Was very informative and learned lots about the consecration that I did not know before.

Father Jim Corrigan in the afternoon invited us to see how we can begin a relationship with our Indigenous brothers and sisters. His was titled Peeling the Layers of an Onion. His thought process was loosely based on the grieving process. While grieving there are different stages that a person will go through, such as shock, anger, sadness etc. The onion represents that every emotion we have is one layer of the onion and as we deal with one layer, another one is underneath it to replace the previous layer, until you come to the core of the onion, which is the acceptance. As we are just at the beginning of the truth and reconciliation process with our Indigenous people, we have to see where we are at with the changes that will be coming. We had two exercises which were both very eye-opening. The 1st exercise which was done as a group at each table where we had an envelope and in that envelope there was one or two words. We had to describe what that word meant to us. Our word was Inner-City, another was Systemic Racism and another was Residential Schools. The second exercise was a sentence and ours was "Why do we have to pay for what our Fore-fathers did?" This created some great dialogue among us. If Fr Corrigan's plan was to make people think and reflect on this very contentious issue, he succeeded, because for me, it was a realization that this is not a quick fix and we are still very divided on what should or should not be done.

The last speaker was our Past Provincial president Judy Look who explained the three-committee concept. We quickly learned that we cannot take the 6 current positions and slot them into only one of the three pillars. She explained that any

one project we work on, can be covered by all three pillars. Her example was publishing a book – Faith – will the book be faith based Service – will this book be able to provide service to a group or organization. Will the profits help the organization. Social Justice – is this book covering any of our Resolutions that we are currently working on.

She also reminded us that we are a grassroots organization, and that any project we work on should come from our own council, not necessarily from National. Hence why I placed the Retreat Suggestions. I can try to think of what you ladies would like to have a retreat on, but this is for you, therefore it should come from you as well. We, as an executive have the honour of leading our council, but remember it is our council, not my council.

So yes always something to do and never a dull moment, but wouldn't have it any other way as it truly is a great honour to be your President. Now doesn't that want you to be an executive member!!!

I hope that you all have a very restful and pleasant summer and will see you again this fall.

God bless and now a few words of wisdom:

Sometimes when you cry nobody sees your tears....

Sometimes when you're hurt nobody sees your pain.....

Sometimes when you're sad nobody sees your sorrow.....

BUT FART JUST ONE TIME