

November 6, 2023

## President's Report

So, most of the month of October was filled with my Tea Party meetings, which I wish I had done a year ago. So many wonderful meetings, great ideas brought forward and best of all I got to spend some quality time with many of my fellow sisters from our council.

So yes, the next step, will be identifying centres that need assistance. A couple of weeks ago, I attended a session on poverty, and Susan Coughlan and Ruth Meiklejohn were also in attendance. This was sponsored by the City of Spruce Grove and FCSS from Stony Plain and perhaps others. Unfortunately, this was a 4-part series and I only attended the last one, but I think I was meant to be there, especially for this session. The group reviewed previous sessions which from what I can tell, was to determine issues that can lead to poverty. They created a Poverty Iceberg, where issues listed below the water level, which is where there is potential for prevention to occur. Above the water level is where the person goes into crisis which resulted from the issues identified below not being dealt with. We were then broken into groups and asked to see how we could help with our time/talent/treasurers, to help those in need. Many different ideas came forward, which was great to see and I am hoping that those who sponsored these sessions are able to perhaps start working on them. One example was one man is starting a Men's Shed group. As most men do not feel comfortable in talking in big groups or about issues they may be dealing with, this organization brings men together to work on projects and while working they start to talk and open up. Some of the issues might be just loneliness, but this is a way to connect with others in the community who need a bit of a helping hand.

There were so many ideas and great conversations but what I was able to find was a contact from the city of Spruce Grove, who has a list of all agencies that helps others in need. Now of course this list is only as valid as organizations let the city know they are doing something, but it is a great start. I am hoping to be able to find the same kind of listing from the Town of Stony Plain. It will take some time, to identify what each groups needs are, if any at all, but I believe it will be beneficial, whether we take on a specific challenge as a council, or as an individual

person. I do know that the common thread among all groups is finding volunteers to help out.

I do know that one group that is in need of funds and volunteers is Auggie's café. They have lost sponsors since the pandemic and of course the need has not gotten any less but only grown. The ladies who have been helping out at Auggie's since its beginning are starting to burn out and of course are getting older as well.

With great timing, last week I was sent the link to Archbishops Dinner 2023 and in particular the speech from Archbishop Smith, called "Tell the Story, Show the Picture". It is 30 or so minutes long, but very worth listening to. I will send the link out with the minutes. One thing that I took away from this, was that people are losing hope and how do we as Catholics help them find that hope. In a very abbreviated recap of how to help those with no hope was so Tell the Story, talk about the gospels that have been written, but then also Show the picture by putting our actions behind our words.

So yes, we can say what needs to be done and perhaps give money to those causes, but is that enough? Can we step out of our box and actually help out where you feel you can be most helpful?

This month is all about remembering, so let us take the time to remember how fortunate we are to have what we have, be able to do what we want to do and go where we want to go. Let us also take the time to remember that there are those who do not have the same fortune as us or even to have the ability to feed, clothe or house themselves. I have faith in all of us as Catholic Women League sisters, that we can all make a difference in someone's life by just lending a hand when we can.



# Saint Francis, the first Cat-holic

