

The 85th Timmins Diocesan Convention was held at the Encore Club in Kirkland Lake and hosted by Mary, Queen of the World and Holy Name of Jesus councils.

Colleen Perry, President Elect and Organization Chair person of the Ontario Provincial CWL council joined us Friday for our Pre-Convention meeting. The meeting opened with our recognition of the Indigenous peoples who inhabited the land. Annette had an opening prayer for us and I welcomed everyone. We reviewed the Convention agenda and spiritual program. The resolution script was discussed and a motion was put forward to accept the resolution "Utilizing Health and Physical Education Specialists in elementary schools" to be presented during the convention so that it could be moved as accepted. The acclamation process for our new executive was discussed as well as the spiritual retreat which will take place September 28 in New Liskeard. Anne Plaunt and Shirley Gravel presided over the instructed vote for the new Ontario Provincial Executive elections. We concluded with prayer.

Colleen Perry than gave a workshop on Mentoring which was very informative and well received.

Our convention officially began Saturday morning with a presentation by Maria Mclean from the Temiskaming Health Unit. She spoke on Climate Change and the dangers it is imposing on our society and world. She was very well spoken and showed a video of Greta from Sweden who is speaking around the world about Climate Change. Maria's presentation was well received.

Following that presentation we opened our business session with recognition of the Indigenous Peoples of this territory and a welcome to everyone. Business included the Credentials Report, Roll Call, Standing Rules, acceptance of the agenda, correspondence and Colleen's greetings from the provincial council.

We celebrated our opening Mass at the Encore club. Delores crowned Mary while her daughter sang Ave Maria just before Mass started. Fr. Wayne Mills Officiated at the Mass.

Following Mass we enjoyed lunch. The Memorial Service for our deceased members of 2018 began our afternoon and lead into our reports. We heard a report from the council secretary on the pre-convention meeting and a report from Fr. Wayne our Spiritual Advisor. Wilma Peeters gave a financial report and a motion was made to accept the 2018 financial statement. It was carried. The executive council reports this year were based on a woman from the bible. Each president and executive member spoke briefly on their council activities for 2019 or standing chair projects and then spoke about the woman they had chosen. President Audrey Shelton gave her report first, followed by the eight parish council presidents and a couple of the standing chair people.

After our nutrition break, Colleen Perry gave her presentation called “The Spirituality of Service”. It was enjoyed by everyone. Anne Plaunt and Armida Millions sorted the donations that were brought to the convention. Donations of socks (male and female), soaps, suckers, feminine products, shampoos, toothpaste, woolen hats, new sneakers, crocs, canned goods etc were donated. The donations were shared with Living Space, Dr Simone’s Canadian Food for Children charity, The Yo!Mobile and women's shelters in our diocese.

We finished the day with prayer and then were dismissed until the evening banquet. The banquet was held at the Encore Club and was a Turkey dinner. Messages of support were given by local dignitaries. Following the meal, a country band entertained us. It was a very fun evening!

Sunday morning we began with prayer, registration report and a supplementary credentials report. Nora asked for Roll Call and then we heard the rest of the diocesan officers’ reports. A quiz on Women of the Bible had been handed out on Saturday and the answers to the quiz were discussed at this time. Many people reported having really enjoyed the reports and quiz.

Frances Freeman announced the membership awards which were awarded to St. Pat’s Council. There were a few Years of Membership certificates as well. Anne Plaunt lead the Elections Acclamation Process. A full council minus one standing chair was acclaimed.

Everyone then went to Holy Name of Jesus church for Sunday Mass. At the conclusion of Mass, Father Wayne gave a blessing upon the new executive.

Our lunch was at the Encore Club followed by the conclusion of our business. Shirley Gravel led the Resolution Presentation. The resolution was passed with no amendments. We announced the winners of the executive displays. They each received a plastic luminous rosary inside a beautiful rosary pouch. We finished our convention with the Installation Ceremony of our new executive.

Our Post convention meeting was held directly after our closing prayer for the convention. Past executive and new executive members attended. The motions to approve the agenda, approve new signing authorities and to pay outstanding bills were passed. The special collection from our opening Mass total was \$474.50. It was split evenly between Kirkland Lake Mental Health Association and their Food Bank. A motion was made to accept Shirley Gravel and Bernice Duncan as accredited delegates to the Provincial Convention in July 2019. A motion was passed to pay for the registration fee for Annette and Armida to attend the Living Space Summit in Timmins this fall. Annette outlined her “Garbage Project” that she would like all councils to participate in. We discussed the Spiritual Retreat day which will be held at Our Mother of Perpetual Help parish on September 28, 2019. The fall executive meeting will be in Kirkland Lake on October 19th.The meeting adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted: Audrey Shelton