

Past President/Historian Report to 2021 AGM

Madam President, Fr. John and sisters of the League:

The Catholic Women's League of Canada is a National organization rooted in gospel values and calling its members to holiness through service to the people of God. You may recognize that as the Mission Statement of the CWL from the past.

I chose the National Theme of 1993 which was "The Catholic Women's League of Canada rooted in gospel values". That statement is taken directly from the Mission statement at that time.

What are our "gospel values"? I look to the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy as the gospel values that we relate to as Catholic Women League members. These works keep us "rooted" in God's second commandment "Love your neighbour as yourself".

We accomplish the Corporal Works of Mercy when we:

Feed the hungry; through soup kitchens and food banks.

Give drink to the thirsty; serving tea and coffee to those at funeral luncheons.

Give shelter to the homeless; supporting Covenant House and donating clothing.

Visiting the Sick; belonging to Visitation Committees.

Visiting the prisoner; our visits and phone calls to our home bound members.

Bury the dead; by attending funerals and being part of Honour Guards

Giving Alms to the poor; raising money to support charities in need.

We accomplish the Spiritual Works of Mercy when we:

Instruct the Ignorant; educate our members on Legislation and Resolutions.

Counsel the Doubtful; take leadership roles in our parishes.

Admonish Sinners; we remind each other of what Jesus expects of us.

Bear Wrongs patiently; we are role models in our communities of how to forgive.

Comfort the Afflicted; we send out cards and prayers for those in need.

Comfort the Sorrowful; attending to widows and widowers in our parishes.

Pray for living and dead; we ask for prayers and have Mass intentions said for our members.

If we can follow the 14 Works of Mercy, we will be well on our way to sainthood!

One of the Works of Mercy that relates to the Past President Chair is to Counsel the Doubtful. As Past President it is my duty to serve in a consultative capacity by giving guidance to the president and executive members.

Past Presidents are also to facilitate the study and implementation of the Constitution & Bylaws. This would fall under the Spiritual Work of Mercy to Instruct the Ignorant. Unfortunately, I have not had an opportunity to do so during the pandemic.

As historian, I am responsible for archives and history. This can relate to the Corporal Work of Mercy to Bury the Dead as I keep a scrap book of our member's activities and copies of the Books of Life in the archived materials.

As you can see, gospel values viewed through the Works of mercy are an integral part of The Catholic Women's League calling us to holiness through our service projects to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Respectfully Submitted

Audrey Shelton

Past President, Timmins Diocesan Council