

Spiritual Development Report to 2021 AGM The Open Door

The Open Door was the National theme chosen for the years 2000 to 2002. According to the information on the National website under 100th anniversary celebrations, the following was established in those years. "In 2000, The League participated in the World March of Women, which sought to draw attention to the need for government to address the issue of poverty and violence against women. The League was involved in a planning committee for the march, under the auspices of Women's Interchurch Council of Canada (WICC), but did not support one of the demands – the right to free, public abortion services – and remained firm in its commitment to respect life from conception until natural death. In this same year, the WUCWO Endowment Fund aimed to raise \$1 million to aid WUCWO in becoming a financially autonomous organization.

In 2001, Catholic Missions in Canada (CMIC) was launched as a temporary National Voluntary Fund, a new evangelization project. Parish Councils were invited to twin with a mission. Also, an all expense paid trip to the National Convention was offered as a membership incentive for a new member and her sponsor.

In 2002, a committee reviewed the structure of the League, examined the roles and responsibilities of its various levels and compiled a clear and informative resource, *Leading the League*, to inform new members about the organization and assist facilitators of leadership training workshops. As well, the League scarf was made available to members."

In the spring of 2003, our diocesan convention was held in Kirkland Lake, hosted by Holy Name of Jesus Parish CWL. The Open Door was the theme of the convention and they did a wonderful job of emphasizing the theme in their decorations. At the Saturday night banquet, there was a wooden CWL Open Door at each delegate's place, thanks to the creative workmanship of Ollie Rivard and his wife, CWL member Jean Rivard.

As Spiritual Development Chairperson, I chose the former National theme, The Open Door, to relate it to my standing committee. When I agreed to become chair of this committee, the door opened to welcome me to new challenges and discoveries. I was led to new learning – organizing retreats, planning prayers for conventions, forming spiritual bouquets, discovering new resources and much more. Once I opened the door, I discovered the endless possibilities of enriching my own spirituality plus that of members. I discovered new ways to pray and benefit from so much – different types of prayers, Novenas, Lives of Saints, spiritual readings and presentations,

spiritual celebrations, Liturgical celebrations, special rosaries, TV Masses, podcasts, and a plethora of resources on the internet.

There has been so much to share with my League sisters especially during these months of dealing with the pandemic. Because our activities were limited, it created more opportunities for prayer. In the directives I sent out, I tried not to overwhelm them with too many spiritual exercises and suggestions, but it was difficult to pick and choose. I sincerely hope and pray that members were receptive to opening the spiritual door to new and enriching spiritual experiences and refrained from the temptation to temporarily shut the door!

Marie Black

Timmins Diocesan CWL Spiritual Development Chairperson