

Pope Francis tells us “Giving something to someone in need, is always right. It should be done with respect and compassion while looking into the person’s eyes”.

As our focus was on homelessness, Angela had asked all the Regional Chairs to suggest to our councils that they collect items and/or money for their local shelter at their Christmas socials. She wanted us then to report to her what they had collected. Of course I did just that and for the next few weeks, I received many emails sharing what each council had done throughout the year to support the homeless in their community. I can honestly say that in 2017, the women of the London Region were inspired by the Spirit to respond to God’s call to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and shelter the homeless. I was so impressed with the number of clothing drives, sock drives, food drives, toiletry drives, and besides all of these donations, the London Region councils donated approximately \$13,000.00 to assist the various agencies who support the homeless. Among these service groups were St. Joseph’s Hospitality Centre, the Food Bank, Grace’s Café, Hospitality North, The Men’s Missions, My Sisters’ Place, Unity Project, the Salvation Army Centre of Hope, Inn Out of the Cold, and the St. Vincent de Paul Society. I am truly blessed to have had the privilege to be the London Region Chairperson and work with such an amazing group of women.

Speaking of amazing groups, I’d like to inform you about London Central Committee. It is under the direction of a chairperson who is presently, Irene Kennedy and made up of the 11 League Councils in the city of London as well as liaison officers for Birthright, the Children’s Aid Society, the Cancer Society, ANOVA, previously known as Women’s Community House and Catholic Missions in Canada. Central Committee meets once a month to share information. A huge responsibility of Central Committee is to host the Bishop’s receptions which include the Rite of Election, the Mass of Chrism and the Anniversary Mass held at St. Peter’s Cathedral Basilica. They also support and participate in the Mass for the Unborn and Their Mothers held every December 28th. At Christmas time, each council donates money which in turn is used to purchase Christmas gifts for those in the Parkwood Institute for Mental Health.

Madame President, Women in the London Region will continue to be inspired by the Spirit to help the homeless in 2018 and beyond.

Respectfully, this ends my report.