

I am proud to say in 2016, ALL Councils in the London Region participated in the 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care. Some councils paired up to ensure there was always someone in the church praying, some councils organized it so that throughout the day their members prayed from home and some set it up so that many of their parishioners were also involved in the prayer service. As part of this day, many councils had available the petition from National and a free will basket for donations. I am sure that on May 4th 2017 we will again have 100% participation – the women of the London Region, Inspired by the Spirit, will Respond prayerfully to God’s call for Palliative Care.

In 2016 the London Region councils donated \$5,000. to hospice care. Two of our councils held fundraisers in their community. Holy Cross Council raised \$1200.00 by participating in the Hike for Hospice and St. Patrick’s London raised \$1,000. at their spaghetti dinner. Our Councils’ generous donations were given to St. Joseph’s Hospice in London, Strathroy Hospital Palliative Care, Elgin General and Serenity House in St. Thomas. I am confident they will again be generous in their support.

Last year with the encouragement of Bishop Fabbro, many councils in the London Region hosted an extensive letter writing campaign either following Mass or in the evening following a presentation by Alex Schadenberg, the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition International Chair. This year, our members were encouraged to sign the e-petition: e-673, to have our voices heard in government to have home care included in the Canada Health Act as an insured service. During the 12 Hours of Prayer on May 4th, London Councils are again encouraged to have participants sign the petition requesting our government to specifically identify hospice palliative care as a defined medical service covered under the Canada Health Act.

Madame President, inspired by the Spirit, London Region Women have, and will continue to Respond to God’s Call!

Respectfully, this ends my report.
Joan Lobsinger