

A Speech for 2018 Convention

Inspired/Guided by the Holy Spirit, how have I responded to God's call in my position as Spiritual Development Chair?

The Holy Spirit guided me even before becoming the Spiritual Development Chair of the London Diocesan Council. I had originally decided not to put my name forward to go onto the council and prayed to the Holy Spirit to guide me in what He wanted for me. It wasn't long before I was approached to accept a chair on the council. After conferring with my husband and with his support, I accepted. My thought at the time was "Wow, The Holy Spirit certainly took no time in giving me an answer to my prayer." The last chair I expected to receive was that of Spiritual Development, but understood that it was what the Holy Spirit wanted for me. When I couldn't understand why I was honoured with this position, my good friend Pat Daamen told me that others often see in you gifts that you don't see in yourself. That gave me the self-confidence to move forward and do the best job that I could even though it was not always perfect.

At the beginning of my tenure, I was much more a Martha than a Mary. Busy with trying to find prayers, spiritual programs and create meaningful directives as well as looking after the Book of Life, I wasn't taking the time to "hear" what the Holy Spirit was trying to tell me – "take time to smell the roses". In other words He was telling me to take the time to sit quietly and be with him and the inspiration would come. That is one of the greatest lessons I have learned. In taking that additional time for prayer, my faith has deepened and my prayer life is much more vibrant and meaningful.

By sharing the types and forms of prayer with the parish council Spiritual Development Chairs, I humbly pray that others have been impacted in their prayer life as well.

The Holy Spirit has been at my side and guiding me through this two year tenure. The many women in the Catholic Women's League – the diocesan executive as well as the ladies of the parish councils that have hosted Lenten Retreats, Days at Our Lady of the Rosary Shrine, Fall Regional days, etc. have been willing to share their gifts and experiences and in turn helped me to grow in my relationship with God. Their faith and joy in the Lord shines through. I say thank you to all of you.

I would especially like to thank Jackie Detailleur, a member of St. Benedict's Council in Sarnia for agreeing to be on the Book of Life sub committee. She has done an exemplary job in looking after it. That has given me the time to concentrate on the other requirements of this position.

During this time I have gained confidence in what I am capable of accomplishing, acquired additional organization skills as well as oral and written skills. It has been a wonderful learning experience for me. In conclusion, I would like to share this prayer with you.

Heavenly Father,
You created us out of love,
And you made us to love one another.
Help us to love one another
And serve our brothers and sisters
Using our many gifts
To help those less fortunate
and in need of our assistance,
especially the poor, the homeless,
and the unemployed.

Amen

Madame president, this ends my report.