

Resistance. For plants and animals, the ability to withstand poor environmental conditions or attacks by chemicals or disease. The ability may be inborn or developed.

Madame President,

London Diocese has seen its share of changes within the environment, especially due to chemicals or disease. Once the bottom of a great glacier lake, our lands have been subjected to multiple changes. As the water temperatures in our many streams, rivers and lakes rose, the nitrates and phosphorus levels decreased. This variability of the biological assemblies created havoc on our fauna and flora. With over 90% of our wetland being lost through the rising temperatures, protection is underway to support the diversity of wildlife. Modernization of man's progress on earth has resulted in chemical spills that nearly killed our Great Lakes. At our 99th annual convention, we heard from a panel of environmentalist on the state of our common home, and how they are working to restore health to the areas. Sister Joan Atkinson presented on the Laudato Si, the spirituality needed to encourage and embrace our common home. We continue to relate **Take Action** initiatives posted on our website in support of the many issues related to Care of Our Common Home.

In a similar way, the 95 Catholic Women's League Parish Councils of the London Diocese are adapting to changes within the structure of our communities. The formation of family of parishes have brought uncertainty of roles, responsibilities and stability within our councils. Some are resistant to the changes and continue to serve their communities like nothing is happening; others are folding to the new pressures; and still others are learning to adapt, work with each other and withstand the season of change.

Our membership goes on championing such issues as abortion, human trafficking, homelessness and environmental concerns. Our ladies tirelessly serve the poor with humbleness; feed the hungry; and clothe those in need. 18,942 pairs of socks were gathered and distributed throughout the diocese to various homeless shelters, and other organizations looking after the needs of the homeless and poor, migrant ministries and others. Ongoing liaison with Farmtown Canada and the Courage For Freedom campaign has shown the compassion and empathy for those caught in human trafficking situations. On July 30th, we will be supporting the Courage For Freedom spearheaded by minor-aged girls that have been brought out of this slavery. This is their campaign along the 400 series highways in Ontario...did you know that 60% of all human trafficking in Canada is initiated along the 400 series highways? These young girls have shown resistance to their surroundings and are being lifted up with our awareness and support of their road to freedom! Please consider going to an EnRoute near you on July 30th 9:20 am in support of their plight.

We continue to educate, engage and empower our members through our resolutions and work in our communities to make a remarkable change in our environment so that the next generation builds resistance to the anti-Catholic lifestyle in our modern world.

Madam President, this ends my report.

Rebecca McCarrell, London Diocesan President

July 16, 2019