

Oral Convention Report Mary Bannon: Resolutions

Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call

How do I do that as chairperson of Resolutions?

For the first part of our theme in my ministry as Resolutions Chair I have come to realize that as David Wilkerson, *The Cross and the Switchblade* says, "The Holy Spirit is in charge here. We should write it for all to see on the lintels of every doorway we build. But we will do better: we will write it in our lives and in all the lives we can reach out to and touch and inspire with the living Spirit of God."

It has been a steep learning curve for me to let the Spirit be in charge, let the Spirit lead and inspire me. Those of you who know me well are aware of my propensity to want to control situations, events and yes, even people. But in the last two years the Spirit has inspired me to listen, to let go and let God, although I am still a work in progress. I have discovered that I cannot serve in this ministry without the Spirit's breath telling me that this may be a good issue to pursue in the form of a resolution while instructing me to have patience waiting for those issues on which our councils are working.

And now, the second part, Women Respond to God's Call. For me, this response is so closely linked to the first part of the theme since I have tried to connect my response to God's call to what the Spirit asks. I have discovered myself paying attention to news reports, to friends' suggestions, to my own prayer, all ways in which the Spirit is inspiring us resulting in a small council responding to God's call to support nurses as first responders who suffer from PTSD. What joy it was for me to see that become law! I have written directives to share how resolutions have changed our country when they are passed into law and encouraging you to take action on resolutions in prayer, support, letter writing and guest speakers from your own communities on issues in which we are interested. I hope you enjoyed reading them as much as I did writing them. I hope those who attended the workshop on Monday learned about resolutions to help you in your response. We are now embarking on Madame Provincial president Anne Madden's issue of homelessness.

You have all impressed me with your passion for these issues and your action even with the challenges you face.

To conclude my report I would like to share some words from a favourite author of mine, Max Lucado: "Don't worry about having the right words; worry more about having the right heart. It's not eloquence he seeks, just honesty. The people who make a difference are not the ones with the credentials but the ones with the concern."

