

Remarks to Volunteers for the 2017 National Convention

28 October, 2017

Bishop Grecco, Fr. Brian MacDougall, CWL members, invited guests

Firstly, let me apologize for not being with you this evening. I am attending the National Executive meeting in Winnipeg this weekend. I was and am extremely proud and honored to be your Provincial President. When I was first approached to sit on Provincial Council, I felt very privileged to assist the CWL in whatever role I was to undertake. Through your continued prayers and support, I have been guided through these five years of the planning process for the 2017 National Convention. We here on PEI have been very fortunate to have co-chairs Elaine Black and Laurie Smythe provide us with their spiritual guidance, leadership, and effectiveness in gathering an exceptional planning committee with excited and efficient enthusiasm for the journey we undertook.

Each parish council and all our members planned ways to contribute their financial support to the planning budget including spaghetti dinners, concerts, and selling journals and flashlights. Members kept all of us in their prayers and responded so positively to all of the requests for participation on various committees, making items for gift bags, providing breakfasts to delegates, and offering warm Island hospitality to everyone you met.

I remember the first visit we had with Bishop Grecco regarding planning for the convention and PEI roles and responsibilities as host committee and I believe he was surprised that we were planning years ahead for the convention. How quickly time flies. Fr. Brian MacDougall was appointed Provincial Spiritual Advisor in July and very quickly became immersed in the planning process - and he demonstrated his special God-given talents throughout the convention.

CWL PEI was also very fortunate to have the support of the Knights of Columbus from several councils – they responded to our requests for assistance and we are so very grateful for all the help they provided.

National President Margaret Ann Jacobs and the national executive have expressed to me and a number of you their gratitude for such a warm, welcoming, and very

well run convention. In our Post Convention meeting, they all indicated to me how meaningful and spiritual the convention was.

Lastly, I would like to again thank all of you for everything that each one of you has accomplished during this five year process. We are indeed fortunate to have such wonderful sisters in the League. Your kindness, hospitality, and loving care and concern that you have for one another and for the success of the convention here on PEI is something that all of us should hold very deep in our hearts.

In closing, a passage from Psalm 148:13 **Let them praise the name of the Lord: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven.** May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to bless each and every one of us as we work For God and Canada.

H. Irene Gallant