

## PRESIDENT

Annual Report: 2025

# of Councils Reporting: 20/27

### **Has the council focused on the national theme, *Here I am Lord, send me?* If yes, how?**

All councils focused on the national theme through a variety of activities. Of the reporting councils:

- 35% or 6 councils attended an online webinar
- 24% or 4 councils hosted a guest speaker on the theme
- 12% or 2 councils attended a retreat
- 6% or 1 council participated in a workshop
- 53% or 9 councils focused on the theme in other ways, for example, through service activities in the parishes and nursing homes; at meetings, conferences and conventions; and in prayer.

### **Has the council focused on the national focus of mental health? If so, how?**

All councils reported focusing on mental health throughout the past year. Of the reporting councils:

- 37 % or 7 councils focused on the relationship between mental health and homelessness, job security, violence, etc.
- 32% or 6 councils hosted speakers on mental health topics
- 32% or 6 councils distributed up- to- date information pertinent to mental health
- 26% or 5 councils focused on learning how to get help for those with mental health issues
- 26% or 5 councils focused on mental health in other ways, for example by raising money for organizations supporting mental health initiatives and by visiting homes of adults with mental health disabilities.

### **Letter sent by national president to the prime minister of Canada on behalf of all members expressing “dismay and concern about the plight of women and children who are living in appalling conditions in Gaza” urging the prime minister to press for sustained humanitarian aid and an end to the ongoing conflict.**

- 70% or 14 councils reported being aware of the letter
- 30% or 6 councils reported they spoke out on the issue.

### **Quarterly national communique packages**

- 95% or 19 councils reported receiving quarterly communique packages
- 94% or 16 councils reported they found the information useful
- 88% or 14 councils reported the information was timely
- 100% or 17 councils who answered this question reported the information was shared with council members.

### **Attendance at national convention**

- 60% or 12 councils reported they had considered attending a national convention while 40% or 8 councils had not considered attending
- Those who had attended a national convention reported they enjoyed conventions because they provided opportunities to: network with other councils; meet members from across the country;

make new friends; attend workshops and exchange ideas; learn new information; visit other places; grow in their faith; and rejuvenate members who do not attend meetings. It was noted that information learned included maintaining membership in a time where Catholics no longer attend Mass and recruiting in a busy society.

- At future national conventions respondents would like to see more member participation in the resolution dialogue; oral reports from provincial presidents, prayer as a topic for discussion, lower costs and increased accessibility to members.
- When asked what prevents council members from attending national conventions, by far the most common response was the cost of attending. Other responses included travel and distance issues, health and mobility issues of some members and conflict with other commitments. One council commented that national convention was “too expensive for our small council to attend. We are interested in attending the Halifax one and are currently fundraising in hopes of sending a few members of our council. We do have a handful of older members who did attend a few of the national conventions.”

### **President’s Activities: (January – December 2025)**

- With diocesan officers presented two workshops and one training session for 74 participants
- With 4 local councils coordinated a Lenten program, St Peter’s Journey, for members and parishioners
- Member of the Resolution Committee and Resolution Review Sub - Committee
- Member of the Antigonish Diocesan Website Committee
- Organized and chaired the Antigonish Diocesan Convention/AMM in Antigonish in April 2025
- Attended the NS provincial convention in Sydney River in June 2025
- Attended the National Convention in Toronto in August 2025
- Organized and chaired Fall Conference in Stellarton in October 2025
- Participated in Mass for Shut-ins
- Presented a workshop at the diocesan-provincial retreat in Amherst in September 2025
- Organized and chaired diocesan officers’ meetings in Jan, Feb, April, May, Sept, Oct, 2025 and diocesan executive meetings in April and October 2025
- Prepared memos for councils and newsletter articles for the 2025 spring and fall newsletters
- Regularly viewed the national website
- Attended webinars: Finding Hope in the Fight Against Human Trafficking, Jan 2025; Hope in the Midst of Turmoil: A Lenten Webinar, April 2025; Walking Together with Indigenous Sisters: Making Connections, June 2025; Family Violence: Challenges & Opportunities for Catholics, Nov 2025
- Attended to incoming and outgoing correspondence
- Peer reviewed Leadership in the League, Module 835C, D2L Brightspace
- Engaged in implementation of the action plan for the Antigonish Diocesan Resolution 2025.01

I wish to thank all those councils who submitted annual reports.

Anne McCormick,  
Antigonish Diocesan Council President