

Provincial Convention Oral Report

2019

Madam President;

“to know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived, that is to have succeeded”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

In 2018 the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie continued to work for God and Canada. Our ladies embraced the homeless and found new initiatives to help combat homelessness. The members listened to guest speakers on indigent people, donated 5 tons of food during our 2018 food drive, Hunger Knows No Season. The 3 regions of our Diocese all participated on the same day to work together on the food drive. Our Diocese also donated 35 sleeping bags to homeless teens in the city of Sudbury, and culminated with the Warmth and Comfort Project where the ladies of Sault Ste. Marie donated 4006 socks, hats, mittens, scarves, peanut butter and crackers. This initiative spurred on October in some of our elementary schools. The students donated warm items to a local initiative called Joyful Socks, where the items are stuffed with toiletries and donated to people in need at our local soup kitchen.

Care for our Common Home has been enthusiastically adopted by our councils this year. The members have taken a pledge to use less water in their homes as suggested. We were fortunate enough to witness 2 presentations by Paul Baines, the project coordinator for Blue Community ,who, along with the Sisters of St. Joseph are a part of “Blue Communities” Their belief is that water and sanitation is a human right. The group also works by providing information regarding the Great Lakes, which affects all of us here. They would like to see a ban on the sale of bottled water in municipal facilities and municipal events. And they promote publicly financed, owned and operated water and wastewater services.

Schools, religious communities and faith-based groups have also adopted principles that treat water as a common good that is shared by everyone and is the responsibility of all.

We all have a carbon footprint. It is our choices that decide the size of the footprint we want to leave as a legacy for our children, grand children and those that come after them.

carbon footprint

noun

Definition of carbon footprint: the amount of greenhouse gases and specifically carbon dioxide emitted by something (such as a person's activities or a product's manufacture and transport) during a given period. Merriam Webster dictionary

By reusing, reducing waste and recycling we can reduce our carbon footprint. Purchasing local products where available reduces our carbon footprint by eliminating shipping costs.

It has been estimated that 28% of Canadian greenhouse gas emissions result from the "provision of goods," which means the manufacturing, transport, and final disposal of "goods" which include consumer products and packaging, building components, and passenger vehicles.

By buying used products and reselling or recycling items you no longer use, you dramatically reduce your carbon footprint from the "provision of goods."

45% of our greenhouse emissions result from burning fuel for electricity and heat. By switching to renewable energy, imagine the reduction in our footprint.

Many other worthwhile projects help to reduce, reuse and recycle to lessen our carbon footprint such as, days for girls, the resurgence of cloth diapers etc.

Madam President,

This concludes my report.