

## **OPC Convention ORAL Report Summary July 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**Report:** Hilarion Mitchell, President, Toronto Diocesan Council

### **Environmental Term: Detergents**

Madame Chair:

Greetings on behalf of nearly 7,300 members from the Toronto Diocese! I stand before you and this assembly as the new President of the Toronto Diocesan Council, 2019 – 2021.

By now, you're all aware of Pope Francis Encyclical Letter *Laudato si'*: *Care for Our Common Home* (May 2015) in which he writes, "As individuals, we are called to protect humanity and the planet while living our faith."

The *Care for Our Common Home* and the *Provincial Homeless* themes were readily embraced by your Toronto sisters. Our prayer room at convention and Indigenous Day Mass incorporated both themes. Under Community Life, councils participated in the Provincial Project Warmth and Comfort. Socks, peanut butter, crackers, etc. were collected with an overwhelming 15,955 items distributed to shelters, food banks and drop in centers. Other initiatives included the "Nearly New Dress for Success" for women returning to work and diaper drives.

The Education & Health Chair circulated "*The Hope Within Us*" report from the Roman Catholic Church and the United Church of Canada on climate change. Members were asked to work on nine League resolution action plans including 2018.02 (Flushable) and 2015.02 (Microbeads). Councils responded to the Provincial Recording *Secretary Ink or Toner Printer Cartridge Project Challenge*. Others focused on the recycling 3 Rs "*Reduce, Reuse and Recycle*" on plastic bags and water bottles, water conservation, planting initiatives, reading product labels or recited the Prayer to Sustain. One region provided reusable water jars as door prizes. Karen Van Loon, Canadian Chapter of the Global Catholic Climate Movement was the guest speaker at our Diocesan Convention. The convention mass collection of \$2,512 was shared with the Faith & Common Good and the Jesuit Forum.

### **Environmental Focus Topic**

I selected detergents as they are a part of our everyday lives and their use has lasting environmental implications. Detergents are cleaning products manufactured from synthetic chemical compounds. Detergents include phosphates and surfactants that are present in many industrial and home cleaning products such as laundry and dishwasher detergents.

Phosphate is added to reduce spotting and film on dishes, remove food and grease. Phosphate is a naturally occurring mineral and is essential to plant growth. It is used as a fertilizer in the agriculture sector. Too much phosphates creates excess algae and plant life which decreases the available oxygen for aquatic life.

**Please Note:** A summarized, point-form version, of the above report to be sent to the recording secretary by June 25th. The summarized version for the minutes NOT to exceed 15 lines. Please use Verdana Style – Font 11.

Surfactants are the agents that give dishwashing liquid its wetting, dispersing and foaming ability. Surfactants in detergents are toxic as they also affect aquatic life as they weaken the protective mucus layer that coats fish, protecting them from parasites and bacteria and cause severe damage to the gills of fish.

The use of environmentally friendly cleaning products or ecofriendly cleaners will improve water systems and aquatic life. May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide us as we care for God's Creation and humanity. Refer to the Toronto Report in the 2018 Provincial Annual Report book for the works completed by the 98 councils in Toronto Diocese.

In Faith, Service and Justice,

Hilarion Mitchell,  
President, (2019 – 2021)  
The Catholic Women's League of Canada, Toronto Diocesan Council

**Please Note:** A summarized, point-form version, of the above report to be sent to the recording secretary by June 25th. The summarized version for the minutes NOT to exceed 15 lines. Please use Verdana Style – Font 11.