



Summer 2014 is memorable for its personal challenges. First off, I had severe bites and contracted Black Fly Fever. Really, I thought my brain stopped functioning. But it passed eventually. As chair of a health coalition, I dragged myself to Saturday market booths and addressed several MPPS along with colleagues at Queen's Park on behalf of Saving Our Hospitals campaign in July.. Together across Ontario, our coalitions garnered close to 67,000 ballots in two weeks for keeping essential services inside hospitals as guaranteed by the Canada Health Act. The Minister of Health called upon us and encouraged a greater groundswell to support him in a divergent caucus. Now we are up to 80,000 votes.

I commit to a community shared agriculture, so along with my own gardens, I canned and cooked more than all of the cooks on the cook channel and there is not one space left in the freezer. I spent time every week with grandchildren and that was terrific. Truly, thankfulness is in order. God is good. Thanksgiving was a wonderful acknowledgement of God's generosity.

My parish, Holy Name celebrated three whole days for its 50th anniversary. As part of the concert choir, I sang every day at events. This was the point where I needed a secretary, to remind me that I was doing a small exercise with CWL women to help them prioritize how to improve the parish kitchen used for funeral masses the next day. It only happened by the grace of God. I still have to collate and graph the results.

Meanwhile, CLC business sunk to the background and piled up. Now I am getting back on track. Central Region has committed to a Common Apostolic Mission (CAM) in Hispaniola to support Haitians and their offspring who are now denationalized by recent DR legislation. It supported a fundraiser, facilitated by Pilgrims on a Journey, to help defray expenses for its member, Shelley Koehler, who will work alongside Father Mario, SJ., in Haiti for two months. CREXCO is still very focused on the logistics of sponsoring members to travel there. We are trying to develop a proposal format that the auditors will find acceptable with some guidelines from CJI. The work will take place at St. Ignatio School and Centro Bono, along the Dominican Republic border and where there is a centre where Haitians with equity issues can come for support and direction.

Along with these events, CREXCO has met a few times since the National Assembly. We facilitated an energetic group at a Central Council Meeting to review and learn more about our CAM project and Formation development. A new topic has come up which ask how we can support our aging members in each Community. This will be ongoing.

Our formation team has been very busy following up with enquires from different parts of the region. They have also reorganized and established a plan for communities to co-share the responsibility for Stage One of formation (Welcoming and introduction to

CLC). They have vision and are going strong. A working Task Force was formed through a murmuring process at a Central Council Meeting in 2013 to develop and facilitate a plan for attracting members to sit on CREXCO or be a CAM leader. I do not jest when I say that I have had to assume the responsibility for the Coordinator of Communities and Secretary positions after they were left open and unfilled. Besides being officially the Central Rep to National General Council, I think "horrors" if our Treasurer leaves because that would mean only the ecclesiastical assistant, JP Horrigan and myself would be steering the ship. I can not add and subtract so this would not be good. I was fired from a bank once. I just could not keep those numbers in a square.

On November 8th we will have our next regional Council meeting In Toronto. We hope that we can build enthusiasm for members to participate in insertion trips to Hispaniola. We also want to address ongoing issues like aging in CLC and co-responsibility, and of course, CREXCO and the CAM. It will be a great opportunity to build a sense of unity and especially for the Stage One Formation. Are we on track for living alongside Jesus? Are we living on the frontiers? Our evaluation affirms our intent.

The grace we asked for at National can give us courage at this sensitive time. I leave with prayer:, *May we, quote, "deepen our confidence and trust in God's love and however God calls us", and may we, quote, "respond with the power of the Risen Jesus", unquote.* (from the message of Mary Balfe and Peter Chouinard, Co-Presidents, after the National Assembly, 2014).