

WOMEN OF MERCY – UNITED WITH ONE HEART, ONE VOICE, ONE MISSION

Women were united in prayer, in dialogue, in spirit at the North America Regional Conference held in Halifax in August. God's love and mercy were witnessed and shared as the women prayed together and played together! Beautiful liturgies and celebration of the Eucharist were highlights. Special meaning for me was the pilgrimage to St. Mary's basilica to the Holy Door and crossing that door with arms around a friend who had just recently lost her husband! His love and mercy was with us!

The main presenter at the conference was Sister John Mary of the Sisters of Life. She spoke of her work in Toronto with pregnant women and those who have suffered from an abortion. She spoke of her vocation as a love story humbled by mercy. To be women of mercy was like Mary at the Annunciation, to delight in others and share His love and mercy with others. I observed our delegates doing just that! Sister gave us many examples of personal encounters with women who came to their door, found acceptance, love and mercy. She shared how these encounters changed the lives of these women.

The evidence of God's mercy was shared in personal testimonies. Life-changing events and the impact of God's mercy were present in childbirth, in journeying with the dying, the joy of adoption, and the despair of family tragedies and divorce. A young priest told of his turning away from God for many years, and finally returning to prayer. His mother never gave up and continued praying the rosary for him. She was a woman of mercy!

This beautiful Jubilee Year of Mercy will soon be over. I pray that, as we continue to share in God's love and mercy, we show our merciful hearts to the world and joyfully spread the Good News of the gospel!