

Health Association of Canada Annual Convention, Cooperation of Church and State Conference and the CCBI conference.

It was a great privilege for me to attend the WUCWO General Assembly in Arlington, Virginia. We live in a wonderful environment where poverty and war are something we only hear about. For some of the women present, poverty and war are a part of their every day existence. We, who have so much, must learn to share with those who have so little. A message was read from Pope Benedict XVI, who stated, "Wherever and whenever people set out in the splendour of holiness, they are on the pathway to peace." For me, the highlight of the event was the sessions where women shared their concerns. The theme of the assembly was *Women Peacemakers – United in Faith and Action*. All the women present felt that the true road to peace is through education. They want to educate the women and children in their countries. They need our help and we can help them.

Judy Look, a diocesan president-elect, gave me a wonderful idea. A priest in her parish stated that to us a penny is a nuisance, but to the poor in developing countries, a penny is a blessing. My challenge to all members is to save your pennies, collect them at meetings, and then send the money to a country of your choice to further the education of their women and children. You won't miss the pennies but, together, they will make a tremendous difference for the poor.

Our provincial convention was held in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, on June 16-18. Our guest presenters were National President Agnes Bedard, National President-elect Lorette Noble and Julie French of the National Council of Catholic Women. All three gave wonderful, much appreciated workshops for the 127 women present in the Great North.

We are currently working on membership awards to be presented for the first time at our annual provincial convention in June 2007. Awards will be given to the council with the biggest increase in membership and one to the council with the biggest percentage increase in membership. The awards will be named after Father Walter Krewski who served as diocesan and then provincial spiritual advisor for many years and is one of the CWLs biggest supporters.

We will continue our program to promote Christ in Christmas as well as promoting Christianity in the public sector. We hope to meet with the provincial government this fall to discuss resolutions adopted at this convention.

In 2007, Alberta Mackenzie will be celebrating 60 years of service "For God and Canada." Our convention will take place June 1-3 in Fort McMurray. We are very pleased to have National Spiritual Advisor Bishop Richard Smith and Bishop Frederick Henry from Calgary Diocese participating with us. You are all welcome to join us for this great anniversary.

God be with you all and thank you so much for your friendship and prayers.

B.C. & YUKON PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT



Barb Dowding

What a pleasure it is to report to you on behalf of nearly 9,000 members in B.C. & Yukon. We are six dioceses ranging in size from the largest with 49 parishes to the smallest with only two. Distance, travel

time and weather play a big part in how we meet and communicate. Our challenges are similar to those across this great country, but today I want to focus on the wonderful things going on out west.

The CWL is alive and well. For at least the fifth straight year, our membership has increased and we are inching ever closer to our short-term goal of 10,000 members. The provincial convention in Whitehorse had an outstanding attendance, especially since it was so far away and very expensive to get to. We believe this is a direct result of the enthusiasm generated from the national convention held last year.

We offer subsidies for travel to a provincial convention and, again this year, we were overwhelmed with applications. We hope to find more money to assist our members to attend conventions, particularly accredited delegates.

Building on the legacy of kindness, we are committed as a new executive to focus this term on TEAM: **t**each, **e**vangelize, **a**nimate and **m**otivate our diocesan councils and one another. One of my goals is to take ownership of the teaching role of the provincial level.

We continue to honour our declaration to raise awareness about trafficking. Thanks to a grant from the National Development Fund, we were able to bring Sr. Pierette Boise, CND, to Whitehorse where she gave an excellent workshop. The diocesan councils are still passing the video *Sisters and Daughters Betrayed* to parish councils and, most importantly, all diocesan councils have agreed to try to bring the play "Lost in Trafficking" to their area.

Like last year, we presented all diocesan councils with the same workshop. The topic of discernment was perfect as we had been focusing on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We wanted to encourage members to recognize, not only the gifts and charisms of others, but of themselves too. Members like to be affirmed and this workshop certainly made that easy to do.

We dedicated our convention to asking graces through the intercession of the servant of God, Pope John Paul II, for the healing of our League sister Jackie Lenarduzzi. Members were asked to pray for her every day. Jackie continues to battle, and is cheerful as always and confident that God will hear our prayers.

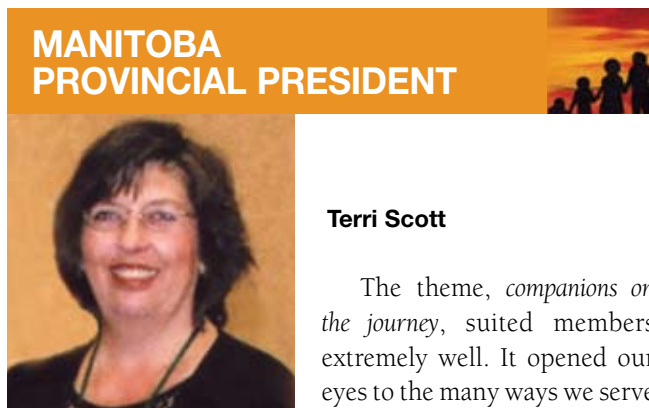
The motion to increase the provincial per capita fee by

\$1.00 per member passed. This is to be kept aside to offset expenses expected when next hosting a national convention.

I know we'll hear a lot more about WUCWO during this convention, but I must say the privilege of attending the Study Days in Arlington, Virginia, has to be the highlight of my League life so far. What a fantastic learning experience! I am committed to ensuring more exposure and awareness at all other levels of the League for the importance of this wonderful group of Catholic women.

One thing that particularly stands out for me comes from the talk by Fr. Polidoro and that is the need for conflict resolution and the importance of recognizing our own abilities to generate peace, to look for the positive – always – and to start within ourselves a cultural revolution for positivity and peace.

When asked what we should focus on this term, these are some of the suggestions I received from the provincial executive: generosity, patience, wisdom, forgiveness, understanding, love, inspiration, joy and gentleness. What a team!



Terri Scott

The theme, *companions on the journey*, suited members extremely well. It opened our eyes to the many ways we serve each other as companions and

how we treat those who are on the journey with us. Each of Manitoba's three diocesan conventions contemplated what companionship means and it was truly inspiring to all who attended. Manitoba has many projects to be proud of. I would like to share three special highlights with you.

The first highlight is our Day of Celebration, held in February. This day is dedicated to take time for ourselves and to fill current needs. This year, our guest, National President Agnes Bedard was truly an inspiration as we discovered what being a companion meant to her these past two years. We laughed and cried as she related details from her journey as national president. We became engrossed in the activities she led us in, as they engaged our minds and our hearts. Agnes' presence always leads to a full house and lots of fun. Thank you, Agnes, for joining us.

A second highlight is the provincial convention. Keynote speaker, National Spiritual Advisor Bishop Richard Smith, presented *Deus Caritas Est* (God is Love), Pope Benedict XVI's first encyclical letter. Members were grateful for a clearer understanding of this letter and its practical importance regarding personal encounters with Christ.

Also at convention, we presented a resolution prepared and gifted by Winnipeg Archdiocesan Council entitled *Bullying in a Technological Age*. I encourage other provincial councils to consider a similar resolution to present to their provincial governments requesting that each school clearly communicate to students, parents and teachers the required code of conduct as it relates to bullying and on-line bullying and to ensure the implementation and enforcement of the code of conduct. A child's growing years should not be fearful, but enriching.

The third highlight is the wonderful work of our members throughout the year. For example, because of the long distance between parishes, Keewatin-The Pas Diocesan Council initiated the use of teleconference calls to facilitate membership and participation in the diocesan executive. St. Boniface Diocesan Council presented a fall workshop for understanding temperament and personality types and Winnipeg Archdiocesan Council will be reactivating a new parish council this fall, as well as preparing for national convention in 2008.

In September, I am looking forward to the annual visit with the Manitoba provincial government. Delegates from our provincial council will be joined by a delegation of observers that include representatives from each of the three diocesan councils, Military Ordinariate members from St. Marguerite Bourgeois Chapel in Winnipeg, Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada and the Knights of Columbus. The presentation to the premier and as many cabinet ministers who are able to attend will no doubt evoke exciting dialogue.

Members had a very enriching year that started with a personal reflection led by Agnes. We were enriched at the provincial convention by our theme speaker, Bishop Smith, and by the presentation of the resolution on bullying in a technological age. Our membership grew with the addition of a new council because of technology and workshops culminating in more effective communication. I look forward to meeting the provincial government in September to discuss our resolutions and to inspire them as Manitoba members continue to inspire me.



Lise Medford

Do you know how many of our military personnel made their last trip home? As of today, we have 26. I realize that