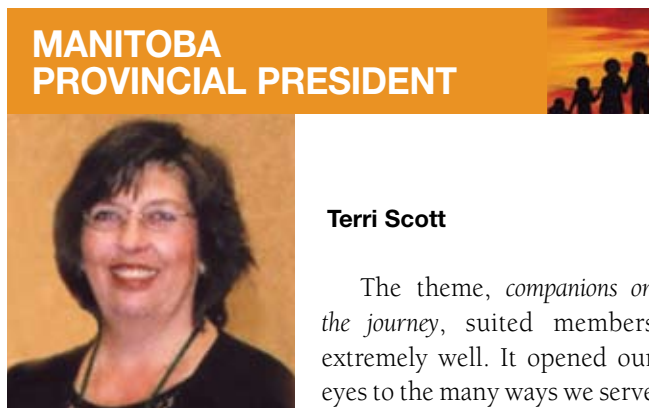


\$1.00 per member passed. This is to be kept aside to offset expenses expected when next hosting a national convention.

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 Bourgeoys 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