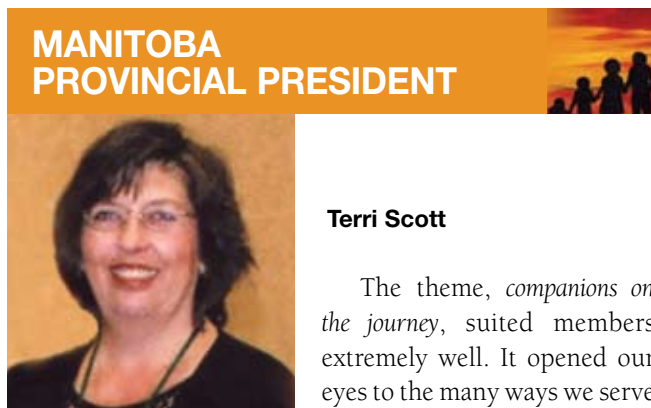


\$1.00 per member passed. This is to be kept aside to offset expenses expected when next hosting a national convention.

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

there is a price in peacekeeping, but this is too many. Some of the overseas serving military members are actually our CWL sisters.

What is Red Friday? Many Canadians, like you, me and all our friends, simply want to recognize that the vast majority of Canada supports our troops. Our idea of showing solidarity and support for our troops with dignity and respect starts this Friday and continues each and every Friday until the troops all come home, sending a deafening message that every red-blooded Canadian who supports our men and women afar will wear something red.

By word of mouth, let's make Canada on every Friday a sea of red much like a homecoming football game in the bleachers. If every one of us who loves this country will share this with acquaintances, co-workers, friends and family, it won't be long before Canada is covered in red and it will let our troops know the once silent majority is on their side more than ever, certainly more than the media lets on.

The first thing a soldier says when asked, "What can we do to make things better for you?" is "We need your support and your prayers." Let's get the word out and lead with class and dignity, by example, and wear something red every Friday.

On another note, 4-Wing CFB Cold Lake has an invisible ribbon campaign. This represents the families that are left at home and the support team. We, the CWL Military Ordinariate, are part of this. Some of you may have seen the yellow or blue ribbons. The yellow ribbon represents support of the troops and the blue is for peacekeepers.

Several members are visibly walking the talk "For God and Canada." Ruth Grattan and Irene Roach received Dollard Medals for long service to their parishes. Dorine Doucet is a national bursary recipient. Pamela Bryson-Weaver's work in promoting support for autistic children in the province and her international development work in Vietnam demonstrate her willingness to *cast into the deep*. Mary Ryan researches and writes to support the national executive and leads the Women's Inter-church Council of Canada chapter in Fredericton.

Continuing to serve the province and the League are three new life members: Frances Firth, Mary Pilgrim and Jacqueline Waye. They join the 22 other life members who act as mentors, most of whom are in active service. Five life members are serving on provincial council. Gertrude Nowlan has been appointed to the national archives sub-committee and is writing the provincial history to commemorate 70 years of the League in New Brunswick. The pride of New Brunswick, Ann Doucet, completes her second term on the national executive. Constance Firlotte replaces Barbara Firlotte as life member liaison.

Members understand the important role the League plays in this country, both in personal faith development and in fostering a society consistent with Christian values. We are presently preparing for the 60th provincial convention in Fredericton in 2007. The spirit was certainly moving at this year's convention in Dalhousie, where St. John Bosco Parish Council hosted its first-ever provincial convention and National President Agnes Bedard delivered energetic and reflective addresses on WUCWO and *companions on the journey*. Several new members commented that they had no idea what the League is all about. Another gift to our provincial council this year is Spiritual Advisor Rev. Stanislas Paulin, an insightful and faith-filled priest who is also a gifted musician and homilist. We look forward to his counsel and presence in the years ahead.

The four new diocesan presidents, Georgina Babcock, Judy Durepos, Hazel Robichaud and Rosemary Gorman, already have plans for continued spiritual nourishment and education. Bathurst Diocesan Council will study the *Executive Handbook*, a strong indication that many new members have joined recently and that the Spirit is moving women to accept leadership positions. Saint John Diocesan Council is focusing on spiritual development, following responses from the full day provincially-sponsored workshop, Friends+Bread=A Difference, facilitated by Betty Anne Brown, National Chairperson of Spiritual Development. Provincial Community Life Chairperson Anne Arseneau will represent the council at the presentation of research on family caregivers and home support workers – needs, expectations and the situation in New Brunswick – at the end of August.

NEW BRUNSWICK PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT



Anne-Marie Gorman

The League is alive and well in New Brunswick. More than 3,000 members in 55 councils saw new leadership in all four dioceses in the spring. Women continued to be willing to serve and walk with their sisters on this journey that challenges us to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Since January 2006, councils have heard speakers on various types of cancer, domestic violence against women, various federal bills, nursing home care and costs and WUCWO. The provincial council continues to confer with New Brunswick provincial government members, an arrangement that began in 2000. The sessions are interactive, timely and informative for both government officials and League members.