

members and 23 life members.

Our provincial convention was hosted by Yarmouth Diocesan Council. A new executive was elected, including the appointment of a secretary and a life member liaison. Two life members were installed. Our guest speaker was Honorary Life Member Irene Lefort.

A motion was passed to increase our provincial membership per capita fee to \$3.00. The extra dollar will be used for the next national convention held in Nova Scotia. Three resolutions were adopted. One, entitled Amendment to the *Incompetent Persons Act*, was directed to the Nova Scotia provincial government and the other two will come to the convention floor this week.

The provincial council formed a committee to present workshops at the deanery level. Our first workshop was held in Sydney on March 11<sup>th</sup> and we met with eight parish councils. These workshops with their focus on resolutions, legislation and leadership development will continue through the fall.

A provincial website is being developed.

The play, "Lost in Traffic," is on tour with three designated stops in Nova Scotia. Performances in Halifax, Antigonish and Sydney will soon be advertised. The purpose of this play is to raise awareness of the exploitation of women and very young girls who involuntarily become involved in human trafficking and the sex trade. Councils are involved and some have already made monetary contributions and attended planning meetings to help advertise the play.

Given that our mission as a League is to address the problems that threaten our society in light of the gospel, then the strong voice of the CWL is greatly needed on the issue of human trafficking. The theme has awakened us to the fact that our companions are many and varied as we make this League journey. It is easy to make companions with like-minded people, but to companion with the downtrodden presents its challenges.

Recognizing the strength of our membership, we have to – more now than ever – lobby our governments and work on behalf of the under-privileged.

several parish council anniversary celebrations. It is good to meet the members who do all the work and give us such a good reputation.

In early September, the president-elect and I had the privilege of meeting with the Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops to discuss resolutions and other pertinent matters. We will repeat this pleasant experience on September 28<sup>th</sup> this year. Tom Reilly, the general secretary who retired at the end of June, was presented with a gift for his very valuable contributions to the resolutions process and for his assistance in obtaining insurance for provincial council. He has been a wonderful asset and we are very grateful for his assistance.

I had the opportunity to attend two conferences dealing with euthanasia and assisted suicide, one organized by EPC, and the other by COLF. The former had speakers on demographics which focused on the aging of our society with fewer children and two speakers with disabilities who would be prime candidates for euthanasia in a more liberal society. If you look around, you need to be concerned about a society that sees the aged as a financial handicap and may encourage you to shorten your life as a fiscally positive move. The second conference included many working in the medical field and was equally interesting, stressing the positive ways of dealing with challenged individuals. An interesting part of the latter conference was a speaker on end-of-life directives. Many people who have made a living will apply it only to very specific circumstances when they would not want to be resuscitated (when they are 99, terminally ill and not mentally alert). The conference certainly pointed out the need for people to be aware of the ability of the medical profession to keep patients comfortable in the last stages of life with good pain management.

Though April and May are somewhat hectic in Ontario with 13 diocesan conventions, what a great shot in the arm they are for those privileged to attend them. Alexandria-Cornwall Diocesan Council celebrated its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The seven conventions I attended this year along with those the president-elect and vice-presidents visited were wonderful joy-filled celebrations.

The WUCWO Study Days experience was a second-in-a-lifetime experience for me, as I attended in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, in 1983. This trip was a learning experience from beginning to end. We are proud to have Agnes Bedard as the North American representative to the WUCWO board.

Our provincial convention, ably hosted by Peterborough Diocesan Council in Lindsay, was a great inspiration with speakers on evangelization and understanding our Muslim neighbours. A very positive atmosphere prevailed contrary to what you may have read on LifeSiteNews. Be wary of the truthfulness of your sources of information. Resolutions on greenbelt legislation, euthanasia and assisted suicide, pest control products, Ontario Works program, plastic bags, marriage and renewable energy

## ONTARIO PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT



**Shirley George**

What a joy this past year has been for me as it relates to the League. Working with national and provincial officers, provincial and diocesan presidents has been a real pleasure, as has attending

were adopted by the delegates. Leadership courses and training programs are well underway.

I want you to know that I have the second best position in the world (Agnes Bedard has the best one, she says) as president of Ontario Provincial Council and I highly recommend the job.

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT



**Mary Hagen**

The highlight for Prince Edward Island Provincial Council was having National President Agnes Bedard at our 2005 provincial convention.

Another highlight was the 2005 fall conference, which proved to be an excellent venue for giving updated information. Parish priests were invited from the community in which the conference was held to address the theme *companions on the journey*.

In keeping the lines of communication ever-open, Communications Chairperson Ginny Grant and Corresponding Secretary Louise Larkin called each of the 44 councils and requested that a contact person be named in their council who would make sure that the provincial council's biannual newsletter would be copied and received by **every** member. Reports tell us that this was especially appreciated.

In April 2006 meetings were held across the province in the four deaneries. The council presidents in the area plus another executive member were invited. Provincial council members chaired the meetings and positive comments were received.

The annual provincial convention was held in May, with 200 members in attendance. Resolutions adopted were on drug facilitated sexual assault and educating the public on the dangers of smoking while driving with children present. Both of these were submitted by St. Paul Parish Council in Summerside. The council also agreed to submit to the provincial government a petition recommending that newly-licensed drivers be accompanied in the front seat by drivers with at least four years of experience during their first year. This resolution was presented by St. Pius X Parish Council in Charlottetown. The executive met with the premier and several cabinet ministers regarding these issues on July 21<sup>st</sup>. Concern was expressed for PEI's youth in these matters. The executive is now watching for follow-up.

The provincial council was privileged to welcome three new life members at the convention, Agnes Arsenault, Velma

Blacquiere and Bertha Lawless. This brings the total of life members to 13. We look forward to the sharing of their wisdom and support.

The provincial executive's goal for 2006-2008 is to build on present initiatives – i.e. continue having fall conferences and use them **effectively**. Our plan for the coming conference is to promote the Liturgy of the Hours. A member of the chaplaincy team at our local hospital will address the members on palliative care. A WUCWO display will be a prominent part of our conferences and Provincial President-elect Marian Marshall will give an overview of our wonderful experience at the General Assembly.

One goal has already been achieved. Five life members have agreed to be a resource for the five new provincial executive members. A second goal is to deepen our spirituality by following the program *Spirituality: A Day of Discovery*.

It is my desire to meet as many as possible of the grassroots members. I will offer the support of the provincial council to those councils whose membership numbers are declining, especially as clustering of parishes takes place.

Membership recruitment can come in the most unexpected ways. We must remember that it is in the every day-ness of life that we touch people and we must accept a new member where she is at when she joins the League.

I look forward with excitement and hope as I serve as provincial president and on the national executive as well. I hold these positions in awe, but hope there will be some fun along the way.

## QUEBEC PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT



**Pearl Bridgwater**

While Quebec parish councils have managed to attract a number of young people to their ranks, members still struggle with declining membership because of aging members and a certain number of non-renewals. Another major issue is the difficulty of getting members to assume leadership roles. Provincial executive members have been asking themselves, could the problem of non-renewal and fear of leadership be linked? Are members staying away because of boring or badly planned meetings? Have we equipped members and prepared them to assume leadership roles? On the next annual workshop day, which is scheduled for October 28<sup>th</sup>, an attempt will be made to address these questions with specific workshops.