

LOVE'S WORK IS NEVER "DONE"!

Lorette Noble
National President



It's over for another year. The wonderful, hard-working members in Quebec welcomed over 650 League sisters last August right here in Montreal for the 87th annual national convention. It was the eighth time a national convention occurred in Montreal, and this time the whole provincial council came together to host the event. Our Lady must have been smiling on us, and the sun also shone on us all the way through. *Love One Another?* Yes, we did. There may have been a glitch or two – these things happen in the best of families – but on the whole everyone who came learned, loved and laughed together once more, and took home good memories.

We also worked! You will see in this issue the adopted resolutions and the actions members are being called to take, so that members' individual voices are added to the representations the national delegation shall make to federal government leaders later in the fall. *Members* know they're concerned about these issues. The *federal government* needs to hear this concern expressed by you. Remember too, that any past resolution that has not been answered by the various levels of government remains on the front burner, and the delegations to government can and must continue to bring up these issues whenever they meet with each relevant level of government. Past resolutions are not forgotten or filed away and we must make certain that government representatives don't forget them or file them away either.



No matter how well members think they know the process for arriving at consensus, it never ceases to amaze how coming together to examine the way a concern is expressed results in ever more fine tuning to get it just right. With patience and understanding this was achieved once more on the floor of convention and, in doing so, delegates learned a little more about this year's issues and about the League's resolutions process.

Conventions are the best of times in the League story. It's when members can sit back and look with joy and probably quite a bit of amazement and relief at another year's accomplishments. No matter how reluctant officers are to write reports, these are living records of the League story and so worth hearing and reading about. The more these stories are shared, the more other women will hear them, and who wouldn't want to belong to such a caring group of "do-ers"?

This year's reports from the provincial presidents and elected national officers covered such a wide gamut of activities, they are quite breathtaking. You will also find them in this issue.

On Gathering Day, delegates were moved to laughter and, at times, to tears by Judy Savoy, comedienne and inspirational speaker. She shared key moments of her life journey, revealing how spirituality is an important anchor in our lives. Marc Cardinal Ouellet, archbishop of Quebec City and primate of Canada, shared his vision and hope of a renaissance of Catholics' attachment to the central core of sacramental life – the Eucharist. The Ark of the New Covenant, which graced the cover of the last magazine, is still traveling from diocese to diocese across the country. Try and attend the celebration when it visits your parish or diocese. It is a beautiful symbol for the upcoming 49th International Eucharistic Congress, to be held next June in Quebec City, Quebec. Have you planned to attend? Enquire how you may do so through your diocesan office.

Thanks to some sleuthing on the part of a couple of convention planning committee members, the great great niece of the League's foundress, Bellelle Guerin, was invited to drop in on the convention. Following Cardinal Ouellet's talk, Carroll Guerin showed delegates a beautiful sterling silver bowl which had been presented to Bellelle in 1910 when the first Eucharistic congress was held in North America in Montreal, Quebec. It had been presented in appreciation for her effort in helping to organize that

congress! It was a moving, historic moment for all present.

This past year, I have been blessed with the opportunity of meeting and getting to know so many of you by attending six diocesan and five provincial conventions. Once more I experienced the vastness of Canada and realized that many attending a convention at diocesan level would not be able to go to the provincial one, let alone a national convention, mainly because of distance, time and expense. So it was a unique opportunity to learn about the challenges and remarkable achievements of members where they live and as they work to fulfil the mission of the League.

It was also heartwarming to see how every council had embraced the theme *Love One Another* in so many tangible ways, including use of the theme logo. Just to give you an idea, at one diocesan convention each parish president gave her report with a member of her council standing by her side holding a large heart on which was an image, inscription or symbol illustrating each activity that council had undertaken the previous year – a kind of League “show and tell” report! It was so creative and such fun, and all delegates wanted to have a closer look at these achievements during the breaks.

I became aware that it is no accident that the constitution is contained in the little “C & B” book. The articles in it must answer to such a variety of needs dictated by the very nature of Canada’s geography and the diversity of needs in each community. It is a tried and tested blueprint for action, but not meant to be an unbearable yoke! In every corner of the country, the work being done by members is truly astonishing, no matter how big or small their council and, deservedly, they receive recognition from all who witness and benefit from this unflinching dedication and support. Well done!

This coming year, the national executive will be looking to project the League’s image in ways likely to attract the attention of younger women. It will need your ideas and prayers as well as your expertise, so take this as a call to action. Come forward and let us hear from you!

Many of you have participated in the consultation carried out through focus groups on the structure of the standing committees. One thing is certain, the League’s structure does allow for consultations with members from every level, and thus enables a truly representative response.

National officers have each put together some ideas to kick start parish council activities this fall, and you will find them in this magazine. Councils will surely find a couple or three to ignite their enthusiasm for continuing work “For God and Canada.”

What a commandment and what a challenge it is to *Love One Another!* And when the going gets a bit rough, as sometimes it is bound to do, we must learn, little by little to love even more and rise to the challenge. What other choice is there for peace in our world?

May Our Lady of Good Counsel encourage and comfort us and may God bless us all. ✠

ST. NINIAN PARISH COUNCIL ANTIGONISH, NOVA SCOTIA



Members of St. Ninian Parish Council gathered together with students from the Coady International Institute for a pot-luck meal. Five of the eight recipients of the League bursary were on hand to receive a certificate of achievement and small gift. Pictured (l-r): Veronica Mogboh, Nigeria; Phum Ndlovu, South Africa; St. Ninian Parish Council President Marie Linden; Anthia Cyril, St. Lucia; Sura Alasady, Iraq; Sabah Bahieg, Egypt.

ST. ANN PARISH COUNCIL FLIN FLON, MANITOBA



In May 2007, St. Ann Parish Council hosted the Keewatin-The Pas annual diocesan convention. Many members present thought it unique to have a mother and her three daughters all members of the same parish council.



WE WILL LOVE WITH OPEN ARMS

Used with permission of Dan Perry.

See Page 34 & 35 for verse inspired provincial banners.

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| #1. We will love with open arms.
We will call the stranger friend.
We will welcome all as guest.
We will love with open arms. | #2. We will grow in unity.
We will sow the seeds of peace.
We will spread the Spirit's fire.
We will love with open arms. |
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