

shared time with us. The visit must have been a success because the next year, when we visited Canada, the CWL invited us to a small city near Toronto, where they made me honorary member of the League. Wow, Rosa Tarlovsky de Roisinblit!"

A footnote to this heartwarming story – Honorary Life Member Jean Mahoney was a member of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace delegation that in 1983 went to Argentina to join in the daily grandmothers' march and offer them "visible support", as you will read on page 73 of the League history, "Except the Lord Build the House...". Incidentally, the "small city near Toronto", site of the 1983 national convention, was Saskatoon! Jean's visit to Argentina and sharing of her experience resulted in a huge letter-writing campaign by members. What a ripple effect of a simple action so many years ago! †

## ALBERTA MACKENZIE



**Donna Prevost**  
Fairview, Alberta

What a wonderful year Alberta Mackenzie parish councils have had in 2007. There has been an increase in membership, the formation of five Catholic Girls' Leagues and the strengthening of St. Joseph

College Campus Council. On another note the provincial council has said goodbye to 130 deceased members.

Alberta Mackenzie had five dioceses and 9,904 members at the end of 2007. For 2008, the provincial council is shooting for 10,000 members.

The theme of *Love One Another-Embracing Christ in the Eucharist* was truly adopted across the province. Conventions and workshops had wonderful titles such as *God is Love*, *Love Life-caring for each other*, *Love One Another as people of the Eucharist*, *The Eucharist-source and summit in our lives*, *Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life*, and *God's Gift of Love and God's loving response*.

It is evident that working and studying together is rooted in the love God has for us and our response to His loving gift of the Eucharist.

In the words of Zainab Salbi, winner of the Conrad Hilton Humanitarian Prize, "Women are the glue that keeps families and communities whole. No society can progress if women are not fully engaged."

League members in the province are "fully engaged" working together to make changes to society as they come to grips with social issues and, through knowledge, resolve to act.

Some areas of action are poverty, human trafficking, sponsoring a refugee family, global mining accountability, proper burial of unborn human remains, ridding meetings of Styrofoam, and becoming more aware of nuclear energy coming to the province. Members continue to be generous to various charities such as Adopt a Seminarian, women's shelters, Catholic schools, donations to countries that have had a natural disaster, pro-life, and Pennies for the Poor. Over \$5,000 was donated to a Burundi, Africa, orphanage, with the money used to cover expenses for education and health care for orphans.

Focus areas were on faster and more inclusive communication regarding timely issues with the use of e-mail, becoming more effective in keeping records to preserve archives, and using the mentoring method for League development.

Poverty was a focus of one diocesan council. Strategies were developed on how to approach the issue of homelessness. Letter writing was ongoing to members of parliament regarding affordable housing in Alberta.

Human trafficking was a predominant interest in every diocesan council. Members attended workshops, listened to speakers, wrote to members of parliament, learned more about this problem in Canada and are trying to find ways to take action to stop this activity.

A resolution, Proper Burial of Unborn Human Remains, from Grouard-McLennan Diocesan Council, was not accepted for presentation at the 2007 annual national convention but is being worked on for re-presentation.

So many celebrations happened throughout the year. Councils continued to recognize the achievements of members since 1912. Sixty years is now a common anniversary with one council celebrating 87 years.

League visibility increased this year. Members were present for honour guards at celebrations and funerals, wore CWL scarves, and sponsored more advertisements and articles in various newspapers.

Women continued to take stronger roles on school boards, in all areas of church liturgy, parish councils, and on boards for organizations. Alberta Mackenzie members are truly "fully engaged" in their communities.

There has been more awareness of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations through the "adopt a country program" introduced by National Past President Agnes Bedard.

I attended four of the five annual diocesan conventions and was honoured and blessed to be able to attend the 49<sup>th</sup> International Eucharistic Congress held in Quebec City. It was an exciting and educational time.

St. Joseph College Campus Council is hosting a conference this August to train attendees on how to start a campus council. Hopefully some university students from across Canada can attend.

One diocesan president reported that "the Catholic

Women's League is both gift and ministry." The reports show that this is definitely true of the women of Alberta Mackenzie. They give the gift of themselves and serve in so many ministries. The League is truly blessed in Alberta Mackenzie. †

## B.C. & YUKON



**Marianna Caldwell**  
Aldergrove,  
British Columbia

This time last year B.C. & Yukon Provincial Council did not have a president-elect so, for the first time, an election for president was held. This new president is happy to report a full slate of officers was elected.

To date, through marketing and creating enthusiasm, the provincial council has reached its goal of over 9,000 members, and continues to grow. In order to celebrate parish council successes in building membership, the provincial council brought back the practice of presenting a special certificate, which this year was awarded to a parish council that attained 50 new members, doubling its membership!

Another goal set was to take ownership of the teaching role at the provincial level as education is paramount. A workshop encompassing the different facets of communication was presented in each diocese. But most importantly a comprehensive Leadership Development and Public Speaking Workshop was held throughout the province, providing an opportunity for members to gain the knowledge and confidence to accept an executive position.

Making inroads into the public sector and having voices heard on current issues is critical, especially with the approaching 2010 Olympics. While the League has always worked well with the Knights of Columbus, it now enjoys a truly collaborative relationship and shared objectives such as human trafficking. Together, we have undertaken a huge letter writing campaign and brought concerns regarding brothels at the Olympics to the attention of Mayor Sam Sullivan of Vancouver. Just imagine the impact if all Catholic men and women across Canada joined forces to support family values and the protection of the most vulnerable!

The burning interest members have in these issues was apparent by the 10 resolutions received this year. In March, the provincial delegation met with both Liberal and New Democratic Party caucus members to present and discuss the resolutions. The positive reception received, the interest and the comment that these visits are like "their consciences" made for a successful meeting.

*A Journey of Memories*, a mammoth book project preserving

the testimony and resourcefulness of life members and their journeys, was published thanks to Life Member Thelma Varcoe. Life members are hoping to establish a cultural award that will recognize and celebrate Catholic artists and authors.

For everyone who is familiar with the work carried out by Domestic Abuse Services-Our Lady of Good Counsel Society in Vancouver, I am pleased to announce that it has purchased a safe house to be used as secondary housing for women fleeing domestic violence.

I continue to be astounded at the work and successes in the diocesan councils. From the smallest and most remote to the bustling metropolitan councils, parish councils manage to get the work done. The challenges are clear but I believe if members are kept informed, encouraged and educated, the League will reap the rewards. My goals are to build and fine tune the programs already in place, meet local needs and care in a special way for existing members.

Under the protection of Our Lady of Good Counsel, may we continue to work "For God and Canada". May God bless League endeavours. †

## MANITOBA



**Suzanne Kiazky**  
Brandon, Manitoba

"When we make others know they're welcome and that they belong, then we know that we all belong." Jean Vanier

Come, pray, celebrate, rejoice, and affirm!

The Manitoba Provincial Council celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in June. Archbishop James Weisgerber, of Winnipeg, wrote in his greetings for the convention booklet, "Sixtieth anniversaries are usually called 'Diamond Anniversaries', and I believe this is a fitting term for this celebration. The League, at all its levels, is very much a diamond in the life of the country, province, diocese and parish. You provide both beauty and sparkle to the Church, a beauty and sparkle that clearly reflect the Holy Spirit's presence in your lives and in your work."

Members of three diocesan councils enthusiastically fulfilled the theme of *Love One Another*. The St. Boniface Archdiocesan Council held a successful convention. Guest speaker, Carlin Mackey, spoke in response to the 2007 Manitoba Provincial Council resolution entitled Affordable Housing for People Suffering with Mental Illness. President Colleen Holloway also spoke of her own experiences. Elections took place and Manitoba welcomed Rolande Chernichan as president. Keewatin-the Pas Diocesan President Ella Nogier gets excited about her five parish councils' accomplishments