

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 60th 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