

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

– no parish council is closer than two hours apart. A year ago one council was threatening to disband, but this year it has a full executive. Ella has encouraged her members to dig in and they did just that. She was re-elected for a second term as president. Winnipeg Archdiocesan President Albertine Moran and her executive have educated their members with workshops during their convention. Goldilocks and the Three Chairs was presented by Manitoba Provincial President-elect Susan Bernier and the diocesan executive shared a Tapestry of Faith and Love with those assembled.

In his last message, Manitoba Spiritual Advisor Fr. Martin Bradbury wrote, “You truly are a gift from God, and when you see or hear of a problem, you immediately look for a solution, and once one is offered, you use every bit of energy and ingenuity to solve it. I thank God for bringing you in my life.”

I would be remiss in not mentioning the mentoring that is done by 20 life members. Though some face the challenges of age and cannot participate in the same way they once did, the provincial council thanks them as they continue to bless the League with their love and prayers. Members were saddened by the death of Life Member Kathleen Williams and, at the end of May, members said farewell to Life Member Catherine Bird who moved to Yorkton, Saskatchewan, to be closer to her daughter. But she is here with us today. Thank you for the memories!

“Thank you” is not enough to express my gratitude for the work the 2008 annual national convention planning committee has done in the past five years putting this event together. The fruit of its hard work is so evident since participants have gathered here in Winnipeg. It is because of my League sisters that my heart is bursting with pride as I stand before you all welcoming you to this fine province of Manitoba.

May you have many beautiful memories of your time spent with us. ✚

The Military Ordinariate serves not only those in active military service and their families, but also those closely affiliated with the military and those who have contributed years of service to their country.

The members of Military Ordinariate are the same as you. They are Catholic women who come together to help their parishes and communities and to grow in faith. There is also a secondary connection, the military.

Members include serving members of the Canadian Forces, both reserve and regular force, and their family members, retired military members and parishioners who attend the base chapels.

At one time the provincial council had 33 parish councils across Canada and Europe, but that number has diminished due to base closures. There are presently 15 active councils, including Comox and Esquimalt in British Columbia; Cold Lake and Edmonton in Alberta; Shilo and Winnipeg in Manitoba; Borden, Kingston, Ottawa, Petawawa and Trenton in Ontario; Gaagetown in New Brunswick; and Greenwood, Halifax and Shearwater in Nova Scotia.

The provincial council's bishop is Bishop Donald Thériault, who is referred to as the Military Ordinary.

Since councils are located all over Canada, there is only opportunity to meet during conventions. Fall and spring meetings are not held. The administrative committee meets by teleconference twice a year to conduct business. Yearly conventions are a vital link for members to openly discuss League issues and concerns and get to know each other.

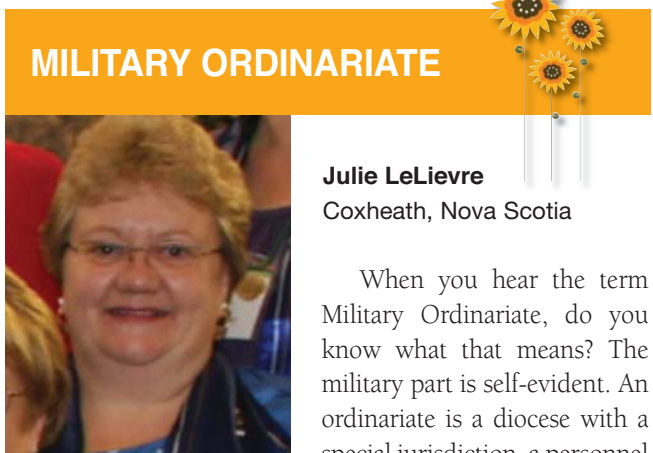
Members continue to be a big part of chapel life on the bases, particularly because the spiritual advisors are also military chaplains and often are required to be away from base on courses or deployment. Members serve the church as Eucharistic ministers, lectors, religious education teachers, RCIA instructors and parish council members, and provide hospitality and decorations.

During the recent annual provincial convention in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and in recognition of the 49th International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec City, a 24-hour adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was held. It took place from the evening of the opening mass until the banquet the following day and was greatly appreciated by all in attendance.

The provincial website at www.cwl-mo.ca has been revised with a new look and will include current information.

One area of concern is a lack of women taking on leadership roles at the parish and provincial levels. This is not a new issue, nor unique to the ordinariate. But the Military Ordinariate has an added rule. To maintain military status, and because councils are operated within military bases, executive members must be currently serving military members or immediate family members. To meet this extra requirement, many parish council presidents are recycled and fewer women move on to the provincial level.

Two years ago the bishop approved a change in the Declaration of Eligibility for Holding Office within the Military



Julie LeLievre
Coxheath, Nova Scotia

When you hear the term Military Ordinariate, do you know what that means? The military part is self-evident. An ordinariate is a diocese with a special jurisdiction, a personnel connection rather than territorial. Unlike other dioceses, which have a certain geographic boundary, the Military Ordinariate is located anywhere in the world where Canadian military personnel are stationed.