

– 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 49<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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

## MILITARY ORDINARIATE



**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.

Ordinariate, which allows the provincial president to appoint retired military members, or their family members, for a two year term to fill vacant positions at the provincial level.

Elections were held this past May for the provincial council and four positions were left vacant. All positions have now been filled, and the provincial executive includes eight active military family members, one military member and two retired military family members.

I ask for your continued support for the military personnel who are serving in Afghanistan and other hostile locations around the world. Wearing red on Friday is a visible way to show support for Canadian troops who are risking their lives to offer hope and stability to the people of Afghanistan.

Please pray for their safe return and also pray for their families here at home, that the time will pass quickly and uneventfully. Please pray for the men and women killed in the line of duty. May they rest in peace and may their families find solace in God's love. ✠

## NEW BRUNSWICK



**Jacqueline Wayne**  
Carlingford, New Brunswick

The New Brunswick Provincial Council is seeing a slow but steady decline in membership, which consists of just below three thousand members; including twenty four Life Members. Members

continually seek to fulfill the mandate of our organization by actively living the theme, *Love One Another*. The numerous accomplishments that have been achieved in the past year give members confidence to set new goals and projects to take on, as well as, face future challenges.

Members of St. Mary of the Angles Parish Council of the Edmundston Diocese enthusiastically witnessed a first, the Ordination of Father Gilbert Doddatto. Father Doddatto is the new spiritual advisor for the Diocese and is very supportive of the League. Members are anticipating the reactivation of a number of councils. Members welcomed National President, Lorette Noble to the Annual Convention, which was also a first for the Edmundston Diocese.

Members are saddened by the disbanding of two parish councils, St. Theresa's in the Moncton Archdiocese after celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and St. Anthony's in the Saint John Diocese with over 70 years of service; we celebrate however the reactivation of St. Gabriel's Council in the Bathurst Diocese.

A small provincial delegation met with government representatives to discuss resolutions passed at National. These

included Hospice Palliative Care: An Integral Component of The Canadian Health Care System, Government Funding for Police Records Checks, Global Accountability for Canadian Registered Mining Companies as well as the Provincial resolution on Dating Violence. The discussions are interactive, timely and informative for both government officials and League members.

The members continually write letters to various levels of the government expressing their concerns on very important issues, the latest being the presentation of The Order of Canada Award to Henry Morgentaler.

A history of the Provincial Council entitled, *A Sixty Year Journey of Service 1948–2008*, written by Life Member Gertrude Nowlan, is now complete. The book is a valuable compilation of material from the beginning of the Provincial Council in New Brunswick.

The Provincial Council has submitted one resolution, "Toxins in Household Products" which is being presented at national convention.

Members continually take every opportunity to make their presence visible by wearing their CWL scarf as they attend demonstrations and conferences such as the March for Life Rally and the National Pro-Life Conference.

The spiritual growth of the members is enhanced through education, special celebrations and services organized by the members such as workshops and retreats; "Love One Another", "Stewards of the Earth", "WUCWO" and "Family Violence"; presentation of "Turning the Tide" followed with a discussion; ongoing discussions regarding the subject of embryonic stem cell research; attending annual conventions at all levels and having the opportunity to listen to the phenomenal speakers; parishes celebrating 50<sup>th</sup>, 70<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries; members receiving the Bellelle Guerin Award; members attending World Day of Prayer, Christian Unity Week, Women's Inter-Church Council meetings, Women of the Bible series as well as members participating on various committees in their parish.

Information is incoming from the diocesan chanceries regarding liability insurance. Several councils have purchased insurance outside the diocesan coverage; however more will need to do so.

There has been much discussion throughout the year on the subject of proper burial of human remains. Research continues, and hopefully will bear fruit in the immediate future.

Councils face the continuing challenge of maintaining membership and recruiting new members. Regardless of the many creative ways we seek to recruit members, personal contact is still the most effective way. In an effort to share the benefits of belonging to the League, several council members present other parish members with a gift membership for one year. With the membership, comes *The Canadian League* magazine, which is an excellent way to educate others about the League.

A number of councils feel the need to raise funds for the