

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 50th 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 50th, 70th and 75th 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

diocese, as the per capita fees are not sufficient to cover the operating expenses. Unfortunately, councils have had to resort to ticket sales and other raffles to meet commitments. Raising per capita fees will certainly have to be an issue, so councils are not spending valuable time and energy with fund raising ventures.

As we continue to seek opportunities to fulfill our mandate, to passionately live the theme, *Love One Another*, we will embrace our challenges as well as our accomplishments. It is our hope to gain some new momentum by offering a number of leadership workshops to the members throughout the province. †

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR



Ellen Kilfoy
Marystown, Newfoundland
and Labrador

It is a privilege to bring greetings on behalf of members in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Nine hundred and fifty members in 27 parish councils continue to persevere despite the many challenges facing their councils and communities, especially the out-migration of young people and, in particular, young families. Members are to be commended for their dedication to the League, parishes and communities.

One of my responsibilities is to encourage leadership development through the promotion of workshops. It is important to encourage members to develop their talents and skills to achieve personal growth and to help them identify and address the barriers that prevent them from accepting executive positions. The League has a responsibility to provide members with the resources they need to develop their leadership skills and to empower them to feel at ease in accepting a more involved role in the League.

One issue of significant importance to me is recruiting and maintaining membership. It is important to have new members in order to grow and flourish, but it is even more important to maintain the current membership. It is a challenge because members lead very busy lives. They have family and work commitments and sometimes find very little time for meetings. The League needs to be aware of the needs of members and strive to achieve harmony and peace in parish councils.

Spiritual development has always been a priority in parish councils. Every effort is made by members to participate in prayer services, rosaries, novenas, monthly mass, retreat days, ecumenical prayer services and fellowship evenings.

Members are active in every aspect of parish life as catechists, Eucharistic and hospitality ministers, pastoral care team members, on bereavement committees, and so on. Members need to support each other, share ideas and get together for social gatherings. They must continue to affirm the dignity of women in family, religious and single life, and to encourage women to nurture and respect their God-given gifts.

The annual provincial convention was held in St. John's. It was hosted by Mary Queen of the World Parish Council, Mount Pearl, and St. Kevin Parish Council, in the Goulds. Two hundred and four individuals attended and thoroughly enjoyed it.

The fall meeting will be held October 17-18 in Grand Falls-Windsor.

Parish councils have been encouraged to host the 2009 annual provincial convention. This will be a mini-convention because of the hosting of the annual national convention. It is also an election year for the provincial executive and members have been encouraged to offer themselves for executive positions.

Councils have celebrated anniversaries, presented service pins, and written or are in the process of writing their council histories. One member, Mary Ezekiel, was presented with the Bellelle Guerin Award. These are all signs of the dedication, commitment and passion members have for the League.

League members have a voice. It must be used to demand change to benefit those who have no voice – the unborn, homeless, aged, sick and working poor. Members are encouraged to speak out and write letters against anything that is offensive to women and families or affects the well-being of members and society in general. It is quite evident from the annual reports that members are fulfilling the Mission Statement by giving so generously of themselves and are working faithfully to build up the kingdom of God by their commitment and love for one another.

The provincial executive is grateful to life members who are providing support and advice to parish councils and to executive members. Their encouragement and support enables many to continue. They have a wealth of knowledge and experience and are committed with strong family and social values. They are deserving of admiration and respect.

Pope John Paul II wanted each local church to “find fresh heart and enthusiasm” for its mission, and this applied particularly to the apostolate of lay Catholics such as the League. He said to remember the past with gratitude, live the present with enthusiasm, and look forward to the future with confidence.

Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Council looks forward to welcoming members to its beautiful province next August. It is a province rich with history, culture, natural resources and natural beauty. Participants may catch a glimpse of icebergs, whales, birds and wildlife. Enjoy the hiking trails, parks, historic sites, scenic driving routes, festivals, adventure tours, crafts and, of course, shopping. It has been said that