

English, French and Spanish; processing through the streets of Quebec City with the Blessed Sacrament; and participating in a penitential celebration followed by individual confessions and in the closing mass on the Plains of Abraham with Pope Benedict's homily broadcast via satellite. Do not let the Congress become just a memory; share this essential story.

Pope Benedict XVI inaugurated the Jubilee Year of St. Paul at a ceremony on June 28<sup>th</sup>. The year runs until June 29, 2009. Pope Benedict chose to declare this year as a commemoration of the 2,000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of St. Paul. He has extended an invitation to every Christian to be a missionary of the Gospel. In his homily, Pope Benedict said, "Paul wants to speak with us today. That is why I wanted to convoke this special 'Pauline Year': to listen to him and to drink from him, as our teacher, in the faith and truth, in which are rooted the reasons for unity among the disciples of Christ." He continues, "Above all, we ask ourselves 'Who is Paul?' 'What is he saying to me?'"

I encourage you, individually and in your parish councils, to study St. Paul's life and his teachings during this jubilee year. To start you off, a list of books available from Novalis and *The Word Among Us* and all the information needed for ordering them will be included in the fall issue of *The Canadian League*.

Thank you to all who donated to the voluntary funds under this standing committee. The following amounts represent donations collected and interest earned from July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2008. For Catholic Missions In Canada, the amount is \$26,598, an increase of approximately two per cent over last year. For the 49<sup>th</sup> International Eucharistic Congress temporary fund, the amount is \$17,676, bringing the total contribution to \$26,901. This marks the close of this fund.

Continue the good work you do under this committee. Remember to share our story whenever and wherever you can, live joyfully, and *Love One Another!* †

**Novalis:** The following books are available for study during the Pauline Year:

- *The Apostle Paul: An Introduction to His Writings and Teachings*
  - *Dying and Rising with Christ: The Theology of Paul the Apostle*
  - *Paul, Missionary to the Gentiles (Leader's Guide)*
  - *101 Questions and Answers on Paul*
  - *Pillars of Paul's Gospel – Galatians and Romans*
  - *According to Paul: Studies in the Theology of Paul*
- Tel (800) 387-7164; Fax (800) 204-4140  
Email: [cservice@novalis-inc.com](mailto:cservice@novalis-inc.com); Website: [www.novalis.ca](http://www.novalis.ca).

**The Word Among Us:**

- *The Gospel According to St. Paul*
  - *Romans and Galatians: A Devotional Commentary*
- Website: [www.wau.org](http://www.wau.org) †

## ORGANIZATION



**Danielle McNeil-Hessian**  
Bedford, Nova Scotia

The spring parish council mailing saw the *Handbook for Organization Chairpersons* sent to councils across the country. The handbook includes tips for facilitating small groups, public speaking, recruiting, planning and guidelines for workshop facilitators as well as much more. It is a handy resource for all councils.

I would like to draw your attention, in particular, to the many workshops included in the handbook. Select at least one that fits the needs of your council. One workshop that is not included as it wasn't available at the time of printing is *One in the Spirit*. This workshop is the initiative of member Claire McKay and builds on *Spirituality: A Day of Discovery* but associates the different spiritualities with women saints. One Military Ordinate parish council in Greenwood, Nova Scotia, came up with a very innovative way to begin this workshop and keep members in touch over the summer. At their wind-up dinner in June, a scroll wrapped with a coloured ribbon was placed at each member's spot. After the meal, the members were asked to meet with their sister members who had the same colour ribbon. Next, the group was given the name of the saint and the spirituality associated with the colour. The women left the dinner with the direction to research the saint, meet in August to share their findings, and then compile the information to share with all council members. The women will learn about the spiritualities of the different colours and will eventually learn about their own spirituality and that of their other sisters in the council. The summer networking also provided the women with an opportunity to get to know each other better.

The national membership roll indicated 97,472 members in 1,321 parish councils as at December 31, 2007. In this time when many organizations are experiencing declining membership, the League is doing very well. Five provinces have increased membership and one remained the same. It is important that members remember to celebrate the accomplishments of the women in the parishes.

The new membership computer program is up and running at the national office. This past membership season will be used as a benchmark to determine how to improve the receiving and recording of membership. For example, it will be used to determine the level of seasonal staff to be hired to accommodate the membership process. One important aspect to improve the turn around time for recording membership is

the accuracy of the information received. The new process does not recognize invalid postal codes or provide for discrepancies in addition. Technology is great, but the information is only as good as that which it receives. As each new membership year begins on January 1<sup>st</sup>, parish councils are encouraged to send in their membership lists in a timely manner in order to improve the accuracy and turn around times for diocesan and provincial per capita fees.

Based on input received from members across the country, the national executive established an ad hoc marketing committee. A firm has been consulted to assist the League as it goes forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This is a very exciting time and members are encouraged and hope-filled as they look to the future.

In 2008, there were 14 members awarded life membership and at the end of this convention one woman, National Past President Agnes Bedard, will join the ranks of the honorary life members. It can not be overstated that these women continue to be not only a resource for all levels but an inspiration as they continue to journey with us in the League.

The Bellelle Guerin Award proved to be very popular in its inaugural year. There were 29 women who, in the opinion of their peers, were deserving recipients of this prestigious award. This pin should be worn with pride as it recognizes these women who have given extraordinary service to the League in the spirit of the first national president.

One significant statement in the new organization handbook, "To sell the CWL you must be sold on it yourself", is critical as we go forward. Let us remember to be sold on the League and to be Christ's presence in parish and community. Organization begins with the letter "O", standing for open – open to the spirit and to change, open to new ideas, new members and, yes, new ways of doing things.

Mahatma Gandhi said, "Be the change you want to see in the world." I say to you, "Be the change we want to see in the League." For God's sake and the sake of the League, keep going! †

person" (Catholic Organization for Life and Family (COLF) *Families, where are the saints of the third millennium?*).

Fr. Anthony Gittens, keynote speaker for the National Association of Vocation and Formation Directors conference, said, "We must seek to be disturbed! We are sent to be a Godly disturbance in the world: a counter-cultural undertaking!"

Many young people today seek to be a "Godly disturbance" in the world; to live "counter-culture" as evidenced so recently at the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia. COLF's newly released message on *Marriage in the Catholic Church* is a document that members can offer to today's young people contemplating marriage.

Young people are taking up the challenge to defend the unborn and this year thousands of youth participated in the National March for Life in Ottawa, Ontario, and many of the leaders in the pro-life movement are the young people. The League responded to the challenge and joined with the Knights of Columbus across Canada to participate in the March for Life at provincial legislatures. Thank you to National Chairperson of Resolutions Betty Anne Brown for being the League's voice for the unborn in Ottawa. Thank you also to members in every province who embraced the challenge and marched for life. I believe that the League was a more visible presence this year. The National March for Life, May 14, 2009, will mark 40 years since former prime minister Pierre Trudeau's omnibus bill decriminalized abortion in Canada. Let's strive to march in greater numbers in 2009!

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, the governor general of Canada named Dr. Henry Morgentaler to the Order of Canada. A letter was sent to the Rt. Hon. Michaëlle Jean expressing the League's "profound disappointment and distress" and asking that this decision be revoked. Naming Morgentaler to the Order of Canada has accomplished one positive outcome and that is to make Canadians aware that the abortion debate is not settled; Canada is without laws regulating this practice and without any protection for the unborn child!

Two private members' bills are of particular importance to this committee:

- Bill C-484, *An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (injuring or causing the death of an unborn child while committing an offence)*, passed 2<sup>nd</sup> reading in the House of Commons and was sent to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights. Members need to send individual letters to all committee members urging them to have full hearings on Bill C-484, especially here in Winnipeg and in Edmonton where pregnant women and children have been victims of violent crime. A list of committee members may be obtained from the government website.

- Bill C-562, *An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (right to die with dignity)* was introduced by Member of Parliament Francine Lalonde and received first reading on June 12, 2008. The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (EPC) warns that the reintroduction of such a bill threatens the lives of people with disabilities and other vulnerable Canadians.

## CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE



**Ann Doucet**  
Rothesay, New Brunswick

"As Christians of the third millennium, we cannot yield to indifference or to fear. The daring of the first Christians is an example that calls us to go against the tide and to build a family culture, a civilization that respects the sacred character of life and the dignity of each