

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND



**Marion Marshall**  
Cornwall,  
Prince Edward Island

It is a pleasure for me to be here presenting my first report for Prince Edward Island Provincial Council. Canada's smallest province has just over 2,500 members in 44 parish councils. This year 13 of the 37 parish councils that sent in reports noted an increase in membership and were recognized with certificates. The provincial council is fortunate to have one new life member, Judy Lewis. This brings life membership in the province to 14. The council is blessed to have them share their wisdom, gifts and talents.

Each spring, deanery meetings are held when the executive meets with parish council presidents and some of their parish executive. It is an opportunity to pray together, share concerns, ideas, successes and also share fun and fellowship. Members are very enthusiastic about these meetings, knowing they are not alone with their challenges and learning so much from ideas shared with other councils. It is hoped that next year it may be open to any member who wishes to come.

The highlight this year was to have National President Lorette Noble attend the 86<sup>th</sup> annual provincial convention. Lorette gave a workshop on *Love One Another*. Participants were reminded it is easy to love those who love us, but we're challenged to find ways to love those who are difficult to love.

In May, members joined with the Knights of Columbus for the National March for Life. Mass was held and then members proceeded to the legislative buildings. I had the privilege of giving a presentation along with the Knights of Columbus, Priests for Life, and the P.E.I. Right to Life Association.

In June, members attended the 49<sup>th</sup> International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec City. It was a spirit filled week where attendees felt one with God and each other.

There are several new members on the provincial executive and they have been paired with life members who will help by offering their wisdom and support. The executive hopes to hold a leadership training day in order to be better equipped to serve the membership.

Membership remains a challenge. A pilot project is planned to survey four parish councils, two that are doing well and two that are struggling. From those that are successful, much can be learned about what works, and

from those that are struggling, much can be learned about what doesn't work. With the results, a plan will be put together to share with every council. It is hoped that the end result will be an increase in membership.

The Catholic church community on Prince Edward Island faces many changes with the restructuring plans that are occurring in the diocese. Change brings with it fear of the unknown. The challenge for the League is to remain united, maintain membership, and support each other and the church community. It is my goal to be available to any and all parish councils that need help and support through this transformation process.

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, the provincial council was shocked to hear Dr. Henry Morgentaler was named to the Order of Canada. A few days later, the premier of Prince Edward Island was approached by women's groups who expressed frustration that abortion services are not provided in the province. Currently, Prince Edward Island is the only province that does not offer abortion service either in Island hospitals or private clinics. The premier responded by saying the provincial government is not looking to change its abortion policy and the system now in place seems to be working. In response to these issues the provincial council contacted all parish council presidents asking them to have members write to the governor general to voice their concerns. They were also asked to write to the premier, minister of health, and attorney general to commend them for the stand they have taken on abortion and to thank them for protecting the lives of the unborn, the innocent victims of abortion. †

## QUEBEC



**Ellen Peterkin**  
Deux Montagnes, Quebec

Wow! A year has passed by already; it seems like yesterday that Quebec Provincial Council was hosting this convention in the *belle province*. I realize that this will be my final oral report as the Quebec Provincial President and I have mixed feelings, feelings that I thought I would never have. I really thought that I would do my time and that would be it, and then overnight it became much more. What a gift the League has given me!

Quebec Provincial Council has much to be thankful for. It is very fortunate to have active life members. Every time they are asked to share their talents, they have done so with open hearts. Since January, they have facilitated three workshops, taken on provincial responsibilities and