

Saint John Diocesan Council was sad to report that the amalgamation of the two parish councils reported on last year proved to be unsuccessful, and they have reverted to their original charters. In a letter written to Bishop Robert Harris it appears that a charter could not be issued due to the name St. Stephen not being approved. The individual councils are carrying on and positive feedback has been received.

Many members participate in the World Day of Prayer held the first Friday in March. The spiritual growth of members is a priority and the one third prayer, one third business and one third social activity guideline is implemented as much as possible. Guest speakers made presentations to the diocesan and provincial conventions on palliative care and caring for the addicted and vulnerable in our communities. Bobby's Hope House in Saint John is the first residential palliative care home in eastern Canada. Guest speaker Sandy Johnson stated that fearing death is natural, facing it alone is not. Sister Arlene Brawley spoke about the Sophia Recovery Centre, a non-residential house where women come to continue healing from an addiction after having already gone through a program. Counselling is offered to these women and assistance is offered for those who wish to go back to school or university. Many of the centre's clients volunteer at the house.

April 26th, CWL Day of Peace and Hope, was celebrated by most councils with special masses, dinners, pot-lucks, awards and pin presentations. Members were the greeters, readers, Eucharistic ministers and presenters of the gifts and petitions at mass.

In April, Ann Doucet and Connie Firlotte represented the League at a ceremony remembering the Longshoremen's union's action on July 3, 1979. They blockaded the port of Saint John, refused to load a shipment of heavy water going to Argentina's nuclear generator, and protested the repression of human rights in Argentina. A song was written commemorating this action with the refrain, "No hot cargo for Argentina, No hot cargo for Argentina". At that time the League also participated in a letter writing campaign during the presidency of Jean Mahoney.

This being the *Year for Priests*, a spiritual bouquet was presented to Father Stanislas Paulin to thank and honour him as he continues to serve as provincial spiritual advisor for a second five-year term. He goes above and beyond as he serves the League. After our fall executive meeting, he will present a mini-retreat and expand on the new theme when announced.

We continue to be proactive, writing to present opposing views to government officials, but also thanking them when they take positive steps in legislation. For example, a letter was sent to thank members of parliament when Bill C-384 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (right to die with dignity)* was defeated.

Provincial council has submitted two resolutions, Prescribing Statin Drugs to Children and Youth and Addition of Chrysotile Asbestos to Rotterdam Convention List of Hazardous Chemicals for Prior Informed Consent.

There was a good turnout at the annual March for Life in May. Blue scarves were much in evidence. In Jackie Waye's absence, I brought greetings to the 400 plus men and women who marched to the Mother and Child House. Jackie and I also attended the

annual New Brunswick Right to Life dinner where Mary Ryan spoke about the right of the aborted fetus to a proper burial.

Celebrating together builds community; Jackie was invited to attend the 50th anniversary at St. Anthony Parish Council, Glen Levit where members gathered to celebrate mass and enjoy a banquet followed by a guest speaker, awards and pin presentations. Jackie was also invited to be guest speaker at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Council's 75th anniversary celebration. She spoke about our theme, *Women of Peace and Hope*, and assisted in the presentation of awards and pins. It is an especially rewarding part of being provincial president.

The fall is shaping up to be a busy few months. We have sent out a notice of meeting for the fall executive meeting and retreat and sent along an e-copy of the policy for review. The focus will be on education and workshops for the new executive. An annual report mini-workshop was presented at the provincial convention and it may be repeated at the regional meetings. With the assistance of life members and guidance of Father Stanislas Paulin, we will move forward and become *Women of Peace and Hope*. †

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR



Agnes Kenney
Mount Pearl,
Newfoundland and Labrador

This has been a very good year for the provincial council of Newfoundland and Labrador. Many positive things have happened for which we are very grateful to the

Lord and Our Lady of Good Counsel.

One of our largest councils – Basilica Parish Council – did not have a president for two years. Now they have a new president and a full executive. They are certainly letting us know that they are "alive" and "on the ball". They organized and brought to fruition two meaningful endeavours in April and May just after they were installed as a new executive.

On April 15th they invited Regional Palliative Care Manager and Consultant Laurie Anne O'Brien to speak to members of all 15 councils in St. John's area on the topic of palliative care. Ms. O'Brien's presentation was very informative and with her dedication and commitment to palliative care, she had a fund of knowledge to draw upon when speaking on the topic. Of course, afterwards we had our eats and get-together with friends.

Then on May 8th Basilica Parish Council hosted a Health and Wellness Day and invited all councils in the area. The day began with a brief reflection and opening prayer by the spiritual advisor followed by the opening presentation, "Spiritual Dimension of Wellness", by one of the council members, a

nurse educator. Other presenters were nurse educators who spoke on poly-pharmacy, mental health tips, and loss and grief. There were other nurses who volunteered their time to carry out health assessments for members present. Without the time, talent and treasure given freely by these nurses, the event would not have been able to take place. This was stewardship in full swing! There were lots of prize draws and door prizes and all were donated. There was a prepared lunch which meant lots of chatting as well! Great fun was had by all!

St. Theresa Parish Council lay dormant for a year. The previous executive really thought they would have to disband. We have to thank those members who would not give up and continued to have hope that one day they would have a president and full executive once again. I was present for the installation on our feast day. All were happy that they had an active council and we are expecting great things from them.

In late 2009, it appeared that we would have a problem getting a host council for our June convention in 2010. However, thanks to Holy Trinity Parish Council, Torbay we did. We were privileged to have National President Danielle McNeil-Hessian present. At this convention we had two offers to host the June 2011 convention. It was decided that since the last provincial conventions and the national convention were held in the eastern part of the province, we should go west to Corner Brook for our June convention in 2011 and the following year to Manuels, Conception Bay South. It was great to be able to have a choice.

The final very positive thing was when I least expected it in late June. I received a call from a former member of Sacred Heart Parish Council, Heart's Desire with the news that she had been meeting with a new group of ladies in the parish who wanted the League council reinstated. Sacred Heart Parish Council had disbanded in 2007 and now the Spirit was urging them to get started again; there was much work to be done in their parish and they felt they could accomplish more of God's work as members. Their pastor was anxious to have a League presence in both of his parishes as there is already an established council in St. Patrick Parish, Carbonear. The Lord has willing instruments to do His work and they were anxious to get started. Another member of the provincial executive and I met with them to discuss the *Constitution & Bylaws* and *Leading the League*. We decided to meet the following week for a mini-workshop – 2 ½ hours on *Leading the League*. It was great that some members of their neighbouring council could be with them for support. We did have the installation of officers at 4 p.m. mass. They have a great spirit and attitude so things should go well with them. Now we have 28 councils.

After all these positive things happening we did have several disappointments at the provincial level. A number of provincial executive members resigned. We have our work cut out for us to fill these positions, so we ask for your prayers.

This then, is real living – the joys and disappointments. It's what we do with these ups and downs that's important. Soon after the news of the resignations, I received an e-mail from a

friend. The title was Nothing Happens by Chance. It goes on to say that every day is there before us a present sent to us by God, a whole day to use in the best way possible. Sometimes it comes with problems, sadness, deception, even tears. But other times it comes with surprises, happiness, success and achievements. We are reminded that every day the present is there, not always what we wish for but it is the best for us, what we need now. Life does not care about what we want, just about what we need. †

NOVA SCOTIA



Mary MacDonald
Halifax, Nova Scotia

For the first time in our 62 year history, Nova Scotia elected both a president and a president-elect. This was due to the untimely passing of our former president, Marian Hepditch-Littlepage, in March 2009. At our Saturday evening banquet I received my life membership along with Joan Bona. It was truly a memorable weekend for me.

Over the past few years the church in Nova Scotia has faced many challenges with the closing of churches in all three dioceses, the allegations of abuse against several of our clergy, the pornography charges against one of our bishops, and the sale of church properties to cover lawsuits against the church. Despite all this, I am happy to report that membership has remained stable. We were able to recruit exactly the same number of new members as we lost through death and those who for several reasons chose not to renew.

Members across the province continue to be *Women of Peace and Hope* in their parishes and communities. Many times their work appears to go unnoticed but when you read the annual reports it is amazing the wonderful things that are being done by these women, working with the sick, visiting hospitals, assisting in various fundraising activities, teaching Christian values to young people and truly being disciples of Christ.

I know a member in my parish council who turned 89 years of age last month and she volunteers two days a week at a hospital. She told me she has been volunteering there for 22 years. She even takes a bus to and from her home. This is just one example of how we are making a difference. I know there are many other members who are doing similar things and this is true right across Canada. *Women of Peace and Hope* let their light shine through their actions.

Two new churches were built in the Diocese of Halifax replacing churches that were sold, and they both opened this summer. Several churches in all three dioceses were closed