

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

and parishes were amalgamated. The Diocese of Antigonish welcomed Bishop Brian Dunn in January, and members were invited to participate in the installation ceremony.

Churches celebrated the *Year for Priests* in a variety of ways. Some parishes chose to also invite former priests to celebrations, and members of the congregation from young children to adults spoke of the influence priests had in their lives.

A number of anniversaries of ordination were celebrated. Archbishop Anthony Mancini of Halifax celebrated his 40th anniversary this year. Our present spiritual advisor, Father Doug Murphy, celebrated his 50th and our former spiritual advisor, Father Jim Richards, his 40th. Several other priests celebrated milestones as well.

The provincial council will be holding a workshop at the end of August. We will be meeting with our diocesan counterparts to familiarize them with the duties of each standing committee and to answer any questions. Part of the workshop will be devoted to a prayer service. It is an opportunity to meet the diocesan members we work with throughout the year as well as to work together to come up with ideas on how we can better promote the League.

In closing I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the presence of National President Danielle McNeil-Hessian, at many of our meetings, events and conventions where she was called upon to speak. We are very proud of her and we know she will continue to promote the League for many years to come. ✚

At executive meetings held in October 2009 and February 2010, we had workshops or speakers on the following:

- protocol presented by Janice Deslauriers, Mary Lou Watson and Mary Jane Yaeger
- the new sacramentary and changes to the celebration of liturgy presented by Bishop Anthony Tonnos of Hamilton
- mentoring presented by Margaret Ann Jacobs, Pat Rivest and Anne Madden
- the new church presented by Father Con O'Mahoney
- FACE – Friends and Advocates of Catholic Education presented by Lou Rocha with guest Paula Peroni, president of the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association

Members of provincial council attended workshops and conferences and submitted detailed reports. These included:

- Theology of the body
- Ontario Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse
- March for Life
- Alliance for Life Ontario
- Abuse Perpetuated by Technology
- One Vision One Voice

Mary Lou Watson, chairperson of the standing committee on education and health, attended the annual Catholic Health Alliance of Canada conference representing national council.

In September 2009, president-elect Marlene Pavletic and I met with the executive committee of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario. This meeting updates the bishops on provincial council's issues and plans; the resolutions from the last convention are presented and future plans are discussed. We had a very positive dialogue.

Our meetings with provincial government were very successful. Pauline Krupa did an amazing job working with her member of provincial parliament from Thunder Bay, Bill Mauro, who assisted us in obtaining meetings with six ministers (or their policy advisors or aides) and the premier. It was quite the experience to be invited into the Legislature for question period and to be introduced to the House. We even ended up on You Tube!

We have been discussing a government day for later this year when we will have our meetings with the various ministers and then host a reception for any of the ministers who are at Queen's Park that day. This is a positive approach to raising the profile of the League in Ontario with members of provincial parliament.

We had two applications for the Bishop Pappin Memorial Bursary and both seminarian applicants are the recipients of a \$1,000 bursary.

The *Year for Priests* was celebrated throughout the province in many ways, such as luncheons, dinners and special services and celebrations. Provincial council presented Bishop Tonnos with a spiritual bouquet at the February meeting, assuring him of our prayers in appreciation of his vocation and his dedication to the League.

Provincial council has once again committed funds to host a day of development for diocesan chairpersons of organization and

ONTARIO



Shari Guinta
Waterloo, Ontario

Interesting and incredible issues have been discussed and worked on over this past year in Ontario. Since the executive was formed a year ago there has

been a continued focus on Catholic education, mentoring, League development and membership.

The diocesan councils were given \$1,000 toward Project Outreach and were encouraged to plan a day for members and invite a speaker from their own area to speak on issues that provincial council had highlighted the previous year, such as abuse of women and children and palliative care. Councils were amazing and creative in planning these outreach days, and it was satisfying to see the councils offer days of reflection and various workshops on resolutions, membership recruitment and leadership training and take advantage of national and provincial development funds. This is a continuing initiative.