

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.

resolutions in the fall. We will bring the chairpersons in to Toronto and offer some training for them. This is a very important and progressive initiative, and I look forward to hosting these women along with Marlene Pavletic and Pauline Krupa.

Membership is a concern. Although we have seen an amazing figure of 3,316 new members in Ontario, those not renewing number even more. I suggested to delegates at our annual convention held in July to pay the membership of non-renewing members and then send them a letter inviting them back. As well, I encouraged all councils to have major membership drives in their parishes to ensure that every woman in the parish knows about the League and is invited to join.

At the 63rd annual convention held at the Nav Canada Center in Cornwall, we had key note speaker Father Ted Hughes, chaplain for Correctional Service Canada (Ontario), who spoke on our theme *Women of Peace and Hope in the Footsteps of Mary*. He was witty and serious at the same time and brought a poignant message to the delegates. He drew a parallel to Mary's experience having her son imprisoned to the violence we experience today in society and encouraged the League to be aware and involved in restorative justice.

Master Corporal Jenna Lafave from the Canadian Armed Forces spoke about her career in the military, including her mission in Afghanistan. This beautiful 22 year old woman personified *Women of Peace and Hope*, recounting her interaction with the Afghan people in a dangerous and violent environment.

Two workshops were offered. One was presented by Danielle McNeil-Hessian and Marlene Pavletic and the other by spiritual development chairperson Betty Colaneri.

Bishop Tonnos gave a report from the spiritual advisor's luncheon, and it was suggested that some training be offered to spiritual advisors regarding the League.

The convention had a joyful upbeat atmosphere to it. Everyone enjoyed a parade of fashion celebrating the '80s and letting delegates know that Ontario was showing off the 1980s at national convention.

Two resolutions were presented and adopted – Raising Awareness of Anaphylaxis and Financial Assistance for Diabetic Supplies.

For the future I hope to see:

- further awareness of the state of Catholic schools in Ontario
- strong effort for increased membership including innovative, smart promotion of the League in the parish
- increased cooperation and dialogue between councils and spiritual advisors
- sound communication between levels of the League
- much more training within the dioceses on leadership roles, serving on executive, information about the League and parliamentary procedure. †

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND



Zita Cameron
Cornwall,
Prince Edward Island

It is an honour for me to be presenting my first report for the provincial council of Prince Edward Island. We have 2,427 members in 43 councils. One council disbanded, but all members joined a neighbouring council where they were welcomed with the celebration of mass, a meeting and social time. The provincial executive was invited to this celebration.

Although recruitment is always a struggle, 13 councils showed an increase in membership. We have 15 life members on whom we can depend for prayers and encouragement as we strive to fulfill our roles in the League.

In February, we presented 15 bursaries to university college students. Each March, there are four area meetings for all members. Three different members of the provincial executive attend one of the meetings, which keeps the provincial executive and all parish council members connected through an open exchange of ideas. This year, concentration was on resolutions and their importance to the League. Members appreciate these meetings as they learn that they are not alone in their work for the League. These meetings always begin with prayers and conclude with time for interaction among those present. We have had four meetings with some women in one Charlottetown parish to help revitalize the council. Mary Hagen, Marion Marshall and I spoke at the three masses. We have some positive interest from a few women interested in accepting executive positions.

This year, the *Year for Priests*, the League and the Knights of Columbus were encouraged by Bishop Richard Grecco to plan celebrations for our priests. There were four gatherings throughout the Island. Each celebration was slightly different with either a mass, or banquet, or entertainment but all had a meet and greet so parishioners could show their appreciation for the priests. The provincial president and the state deputy presented certificates to each priest. Certificates were sent to those who were unable to attend in person.

The Friday evening of the annual provincial convention, after the crowning of Mary service, I presented a workshop on the beatitudes and the Objects of the League and how they are interactive. On Saturday, we had a memorial service for our deceased members and then we presented roses to 18 members who were present at a convention for the first time. Bishop Grecco spoke on hospitality. He said that we must learn to give generously and to receive graciously. Two