

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 63<sup>rd</sup> 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

resolutions were discussed and adopted at this time. One was on the palliative home care drug program and the need for it to be continued. The second one concerned the rare metabolic disorder called phenylketonuria and the high cost of the low protein specialty foods.

In May, the national Walk for Life in Charlottetown began with mass and a walk to the legislative buildings. I gave a presentation on the sanctity of life as did the Knights of Columbus, Priests for Life, and the PEI Right to Life Association. There were a few provincial politicians present to show their support.

In June, three members of the provincial executive met with representatives of the government to discuss our two resolutions.

In the fall, we will have two conferences to which we have invited a speaker who will give a presentation on the benefits of healthy living. These times are another opportunity for the provincial executive to listen to parish council members and to hear their ideas and concerns about the League.

We will continue to have leadership workshops for all councils, especially those who are having problems filling executive positions.

As I begin my two year term as president, I am anxious to meet more members on the Island who have so many talents and gifts to offer the League. May we, with God's help and the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel, continue to serve the League with love and sincerity. †

We had the pleasure of presenting two well-deserving members with the Bellelle Guerin award and three councils were presented with certificates to honour their 90<sup>th</sup> anniversaries. Montreal City Parish Council has the distinction of holding charter number one.

The closing mass was celebrated by Bishop Luc Cyr of Valleyfield. He used the League prayer as the focal point for his homily. Many members were very inspired by this.

Our project of reorganization continues to move forward, one step at a time. In the fall, members of the provincial executive will meet with parish councils to give them our plan of action. This is a long range project. We expect that this project will not be completed for at least five years.

We continue to encourage our members to take advantage of workshops to help them develop leadership qualities. Our "WOW Team" (Workshop on Wheels) has been ready and willing to present workshops, but unfortunately our councils are not taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity. In the past, we have offered a provincial workshop day but this year, when we started looking at numbers, we realized that we were reaching less than 10% of our membership and it was the same members that were coming year after year.

Our project for the coming year will be to provide leadership training, in our councils. The project will commence with a day for the provincial executive; diocesan officers and parish council presidents will attend a one-day leadership workshop. Once these members have received the training, we will then move out to the parish council level. And because of our past experience with our WOW Team we are not going to wait for an invitation. We will be contacting council presidents and setting dates. If they won't invite us, we'll invite ourselves.

The Quebec provincial executive is determined to keep the League an active participant in the parish community and to keep *hope* alive in our members. Bellelle Guerin had *hope* 90 years ago and so our *hope* has its roots in the past and we certainly believe in the future. †

## QUEBEC



**Diane Lemay**  
Longueuil, Quebec

The Quebec provincial convention this year was held in Valleyfield and hosted by two parish councils. It was well attended with over 100 members present. It was a

weekend of *faith, fun and fulfillment*. Deacon Ron Boyer, vice postulator for the cause of Blessed Kateri Tekawitha, spoke on her life; then a group of native dancers from Kahnawake ranging in age from 3 to 60 entertained us with some of their dances. Everyone was encouraged to take part and we were taught the circle dance. A great time was had by all. A note of warning: Do not wear sneakers when doing this type of dance – bare feet are better.

Our guest speaker was Sister Lorraine Caza from the Congregation of Notre Dame. Sister Caza gave a very inspiring talk on our theme, *Women of Peace and Hope*. She posed the question, "Do we recognize the surprises of the Spirit in these times of turmoil, when *hope* and *peace* seem out of reach?"

## SASKATCHEWAN



**Gerri Holmes**  
Eston, Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Provincial Council is very proud! Three of our members have recently received papal honours. Honorary Life Member Jean Mahoney has been named Dame Commander of Saint Gregory the Great.