

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 90th 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.

The *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* Cross of Honour was presented to Life Member Velma Harasen and Honorary Life Member Vivian Bosch.

The provincial executive meeting was held at Manitou Beach at the end of February. National President-elect Velma Harasen gave a presentation on her recent trip to India and Nepal. The executive gathered socially to hold a sing song with two talented guitarists and many good voices. It was nice to be able to take the time to just “be” amidst the business sessions, even though we were reported for being too noisy.

I attended two out of three of our diocesan conventions. It is really unfortunate that given the amount of days in a year we have to overlap. This was to have been avoided for 2011, but I see that two diocesan councils chose to move their dates and we once again conflict.

I attended the ordination of Bishop Donald Bolen to serve the Diocese of Saskatoon – phenomenal! This was the third ordination that I have been fortunate to attend and never have I seen as many church dignitaries from all over the world in one room. The Diocese of Saskatoon has lost its last two bishops to Manitoba. Our vicar general urged the new bishop to please stay away from the Manitoba border.

I was unable to attend the 100th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Regina but have been told it was spectacular. I also attended the Knights of Columbus Provincial State Convention and brought greetings. This is one classy celebration.

Saskatoon Diocesan Council hosted our provincial convention with a committee combined of six parish councils. Our national president was in attendance, brought greetings and was our speaker on Tuesday. In her opening remarks she spoke about her goals as national president, her journey with Saskatchewan members, and the achievement of all members present. She shared an emotional, personal story regarding a health challenge faced by one of her children. The continued vigil of support and prayer from family and friends resulted in

a miraculously complete recovery for her son; they never gave up [hope](#). She asked us, “When you are caught in the storms of life, are you afraid? Who is guiding the boat; do you stay the course?”

She then led the members in a reflection on [peace](#) and [hope](#) and concluded her presentation by recognizing the members for their work in the name of League.

With enthusiasm and humour, Judy Savoy our theme presenter, spoke about how we get [peace](#) from our head to our heart and how we express it. In her presentation, she dramatized the Gospel of Mark. She explained how we can hear the voice of God through the storm of life if we are still and listen. [Hope](#) does not disappoint us if we place our [hope](#) in God and not in ourselves. It will never come without prayer. You will never find time to pray; you have to make time to pray! Prayer is your lifeline to God and it is a matter of life or death. To be *Women of Peace and Hope*, we need to be people of faith and [hope](#) and without forgiveness there is no [peace](#) nor love and not much [hope](#).

We had two resolutions for the convention, both of which were adopted. The first, a ban on Canada’s export of chrysotile asbestos to developing countries, and the second was directed to our provincial government on nuclear fuel waste management.

The provincial council’s 50% share of the mass collection was given to support Esk-Omi Missions.

For the *Year for Priests* we presented our spiritual advisor with a spiritual bouquet in gratitude for his dedication. Our social justice award recipient this year was Renee Lajeunesse of Saskatoon. Twelve of our province’s members received funds from the National Bursary Fund.

Let us continue to work as *Women of Peace and Hope* to the best of our ability in whatever is good and for the glory of God. ✠

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



I always look forward to receiving *The Canadian League* magazine. I was particularly delighted to receive the spring 2010 issue.

What a brilliant idea to honour our existing and recent national spiritual advisors on the cover in this the *Year for Priests*. It was also fitting to feature Bishop Douglas Crosby of Corner Brook and Laborador carrying the Olympic torch. These men are beacons of light for today’s priests. They shine in their ministry and offer us [peace](#) and [hope](#) with their ongoing support and spiritual guidance.

Kudos to the editorial staff of *The Canadian League* magazine! Life Member Eleanor Arless, St. Edmund of Canterbury Parish Council, Beaconsfield, Quebec