

The Canadian League



Official Publication of
The Catholic Women's
League of Canada
Volume 87/No. 3/Fall 2011

Printed in Canada

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

OFFICERS

Spiritual Advisor: Most Rev. Martin Currie
Archbishop of St. John's
President: Velma Harasen
President-elect: Betty Anne Brown Davidson
1st Vice-President: Barbara Dowding
2nd Vice-President: Mary Nordick
Secretary-Treasurer: Judy Lewis
Past President: Danielle McNeil-Hessian
Spiritual Development: Margaret Ann Jacobs
Organization: Betty Anne Brown Davidson
Christian Family Life: Peggy Roche
Community Life: Barbara Dowding
Education and Health: Pearl Bridgwater
Communications: Mary Nordick
Resolutions: Anne Gorman
Legislation: Terri Scott
International Relations: Velma Harasen
Laws: Danielle McNeil-Hessian

PRESIDENTS OF PROVINCIAL COUNCILS

Alberta Mackenzie: Sheila Houle
B.C. & Yukon: Nancy Simms
Manitoba: Jacqueline Nogier
Military Ordinariate: Barbara Thuen
New Brunswick: Joyce Green
Newfoundland and Labrador: Lidwina Critch
Nova Scotia: Mary MacDonald
Ontario: Marlene Pavletic
Prince Edward Island: Zita Cameron
Quebec: Janet McLean
Saskatchewan: Tillie Aessie

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kim Scammell
C-702 Scotland Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3M 1X5
Tel: (204) 927-2310 Toll-Free: (888) 656-4040
Fax: (204) 927-2321 Toll-Free: (888) 831-9507
E-mail: national@cwlc.ca Web site: www.cwlc.ca

EDITORIAL BOARD

National Chairperson of Communications:
Mary Nordick
National President: Velma Harasen
Executive Director: Kim Scammell

The Canadian League is published three times a year by The Catholic Women's League of Canada. Material may not be reprinted, in whole or in part, without permission of the publisher. Subscription rates: Annual national membership fee of \$8.00 includes subscription rate of \$2.00. Non-members, \$8.00 per year. Agreement number 40007536 ISSN-0384-630

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	1
Spiritual Advisor's Message.	2
Highlights of the 91 st Annual National Convention.	4
Welcome New and Returning National Executive!.	8
Oral Reports from the 91 st Annual National Convention	9
Called to be Leaders	26
A Journey of Solidarity to Peru with Chalice	28
Women Against Poverty – In Action	30
Letters to the Editor.	31
Congratulations to 2011 Bursary Recipients!	32
Annual Disbursement of National Voluntary Funds	32
Introducing Alberta Mackenzie Provincial President Sheila Houle	33
Introducing Manitoba Provincial President Jacqueline Nogier	33



Convention photos courtesy of Glenda Klein and Barbara Fawcett

National Office Staff Directory

Executive Director: Kim Scammellexecutivedirector@cwlc.ca
(national executive and policy)
Membership Coordinator: Diane Havens membership@cwlc.ca
(membership renewals, changes and years of service)
Office Assistant: Janice Jones officeassistant@cwlc.ca
(bursaries, Book of Life and parish council records)
Executive Assistant: Diane Kelln executiveassistant@cwlc.ca
(life members and resolutions)
Senior Accounting Clerk: Valroy Anderson accounting@cwlc.ca
(orders and per capita fees)
Communications Assistant: Barbara Fawcett communications@cwlc.ca
(magazine and e-newsletter)
All other inquiries should be sent to info@cwlc.ca
for forwarding to the appropriate respondent.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Velma Harasen
National President

As members begin a new decade in the life of The Catholic Women's League of Canada they look down the path toward its 100th birthday, full of gratitude. Members owe a debt of gratitude to the women of vision who came before, and it's now up to today's members to ensure the continuance of a vibrant, strong organization celebrating 100 years and beyond! The unanimous vote in favour of the national per capita fee increase, not only proves members' commitment to the League, but should provide a strong financial base for many years to come.

As I travelled throughout the country attending 11 conventions this past year, I witnessed councils both large and small, alive with activity and enthusiasm. I met exceptional women dedicated to the Objects of the League.

Membership remains stable, but would be on the rise if all members would renew and if those dear departed sisters who have gone to their eternal home had not transferred their memberships to the council in heaven! New councils are being formed, and those councils that experience bumps and bruises along the way seem to find a way to work things out. Efforts need to be directed at welcoming back members who have not renewed their membership for whatever reason.

The 91st annual national convention was, in true League fashion, an experience in *faith, fun and fulfillment*. Members were spiritually nourished by the Eucharistic celebrations and prayer services, challenged by presenters and treated to excellent entertainment and fun! I would encourage you to read all the reports contained within these pages.

Four resolutions were adopted, additional ones were directed to national chairpersons for appropriate action, while others of provincial nature were circulated. Again, you will find these outlined in detail. Plans are underway for the League delegation to take these concerns to the federal government.

The national leadership development team, a committee struck by the national executive, has been hard at work. The first priority (the promotion) is encouraging facilitation of one leadership training workshop this year. Three particularly successful workshops were streamlined and mailed to every diocesan and provincial council, providing a choice that would best suit local council needs. It doesn't matter which workshop councils choose; it matters only that they choose

one! We recognize the need for leadership and believe this to be a step in the right direction!

Our Women Against Poverty "Change for Change" project was well received and parish and diocesan councils embraced it in many creative ways. One small diocesan council raised \$4,000 for a local food bank; one teamed with Catholic Family Services – hoping to raise \$4,000 and raised close to \$9,000. One council refurbished old furniture ready for the dump, held a raffle and raised \$2,800 for a women's shelter. One member made an afghan, sold raffle tickets at her convention and donated the money to an Aboriginal women's shelter. One council collected 1,200 boxes of Jello® and bagged fresh bread to make over 1,000 baskets for needy children. This is just a glimpse of what can be done when members believe they can make a difference in their neighbourhoods and then courageously exceed all expectations!

Women *Centred on Faith & Justice* continue to strive to make the needs of the poor a priority and so Women Against Poverty will continue to be a focus. Each parish and diocesan council is invited to participate again, and to remember the poor in a special way on April 26th, the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel.

In the coming year, I would encourage members to focus on yet another form of poverty – spiritual poverty. How can members reach out and support those who are struggling with issues of faith? How can those who have stopped going to church be welcomed back? How can faith be instilled and nourished in children and grandchildren? Of course, members must continue to nourish their own faith before they can pass it on!

In a world where many carry such heavy burdens, members are called to recognize and restore the rights of all and to join together with a new sense of community, awareness of all peoples' needs, for one another and for this fragile planet. Members are called to make human dignity as visible as the stars in the sky.

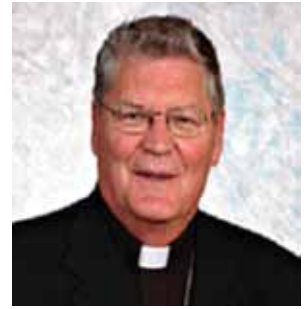
I look forward with humility as I continue to serve as your president. †



For God and Canada

CALLED TO BE BRAMBLES

Archbishop Martin W. Currie
National Spiritual Advisor



This is a transcript of Archbishop Currie's homily delivered at the closing mass of the 91st annual national convention of The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

You are all dedicated CWL members. I'm sure that you have had an experience like mine. I've often had the experience of going out to find volunteers to do a job or serve on a committee. You go to the first person. She listens attentively to your invitation and then she politely refuses your request to serve. She has visitors coming from away, and must attend to them. You are saddened that she does not accept your invitation. On the other hand, you know that she is a gifted hostess. You recognize that she would enjoy and be good at this role of hospitality to which she's committed herself. So... you approach a second candidate. He listens to your request but he refuses because he has promised his sister that he will do some renovations. He's good at that sort of thing; he's a gifted carpenter. And he likes to help his family when he can. You are frustrated that he did not say "yes," because he'd be perfect for the job you had in mind for him, but you understand that he made a family commitment that utilizes some of his gifts in service to others. Often, you approach all kinds of people to take on a responsibility, but they choose to use their gifts in other places and other ways. Often, the person who is available to do the job is not the person you would have chosen. It's not the person you would have thought best suited for the role. But what do you do?



In the first reading that we heard proclaimed today, the trees tried to decide which tree should be king over all the rest. They went to three trees in succession – the olive tree, the fig tree and the grapevine, but each had a legitimate excuse as to why they would be poor choices. They argued that they were already producing good fruit. They could hardly justify calling a halt to what they were already doing, changing direction, to

take on an unknown job, or walk an unfamiliar path. Finally, the trees asked the bramble tree to be king, and the bramble tree accepted. Brambles don't produce good fruit. Brambles don't make the world a more beautiful place. Brambles snarl things up. But none of the more beautiful or productive trees had the generosity to serve.

Doesn't this sound a bit like the life of the leader that we described earlier? You try to call on the best people to take on responsibilities, but often the "best" cannot step up to the plate, and you are left with the brambles.

Now, you have a choice set before you. You can see the brambles as tangly, pesky weeds that snarl up the garden. Or, you can try to see beyond this to see the bramble as God sees the bramble. Maybe the person who stepped up to the plate is

not the most gifted organizer. Maybe he or she is not the most articulate.

But God definitely has a way of seeing that is not my way. Often, I have found that unexpected people bring special gifts and insights to leadership and to teams. They bring ideas and perspectives that I would not have thought of. Sometimes they turn out to be the best team-builders and collaborators because they naturally draw others on-board.

They know their gifts and

limitations, and realize that it's not all about *me*, but about *us* and what God is doing in, for and through us. So, perhaps, after all, a bramble can teach us something. Perhaps the bramble can teach us to see with God's eyes.

God has a way of seeing that is not my way. God has a way of moving and acting and doing things that is not my way. This comes out clearly in the gospel that we heard proclaimed earlier. If I am being honest, I identify most with the workers who got hired early in the day. They agreed to a certain wage, but when they saw others being hired throughout the day and receiving the same wage as they, these workers got their hopes up. Then, when they got the wage they had agreed to, they grumbled. They were disappointed, even though the landowner was being honest and forthright. I suspect that I would read this gospel

very differently if I identified with the worker who got hired later in the day and still received the same wage as the one hired earlier. Then I would be celebrating the generosity of the landowner, rather than questioning his judgment. If I identified more with the worker hired last, I might certainly have a more grateful heart. And I might be a more pleasant person and a more hopeful person from this point on. God's justice is good news for the oppressed, for the brambles. But it is also good news for all.

God sees beyond the obvious. When God sees with eyes of mercy, compassion, justice and love, God sees the gift that the bramble can be, the gift that the bramble can offer, the gift that the bramble can become. God is a bountiful God. God sees that every worker needs and is entitled to the landowner's concern and generosity. God shows that it is never enough to give with a stingy heart. We are called to imitate the God of bounty, of

overflowing generosity, of mercy, compassion and justice.

You have chosen as your theme, *Centred on Faith & Justice*. To be centred on faith and justice means, in part, to try to see the world and the people in it as God sees them. This means seeing people, and the world, and ourselves with eyes of love. When you love someone, you don't always have a warm, cozy feeling. Love is a decision. When you love someone, you make a commitment to be there for that person, through thick and thin. To be a person of faith and justice is to be a person of deep commitment. Roses come and go, but brambles stick around forever! To be a person of faith and justice is not just to see and call forth the gifts in the brambles around us. To be a person of faith and justice is to be a bramble, to be tenacious in sticking up for the little ones, fierce in defending what we see as right.

May the Eucharist that we share here strengthen us and nourish us to be people of faith and justice. †



AUGUST 17, 2011

1st READING: JUDGES 9:6-15

Then all the lords of Shechem and all Beth-millo came together, and they went and made Abimelech king, by the oak of the pillar at Shechem. When it was told to Jotham, he went and stood on the top of Mount Gerizim, and cried aloud and said to them, 'Listen to me, you lords of Shechem, so that God may listen to you. The trees once went out to anoint a king over themselves. So they said to the olive tree, "Reign over us." The olive tree answered them, "Shall I stop producing my rich oil by which gods and mortals are honoured, and go to sway over the trees?"

Then the trees said to the fig tree, "You come and reign over us." But the fig tree answered them, "Shall I stop producing my sweetness and my delicious fruit, and go to sway over the trees?" Then the trees said to the vine, "You come and reign over us." But the vine said to them, "Shall I stop producing my wine that cheers gods and mortals, and go to sway over the trees?"

So all the trees said to the bramble, "You come and reign over us." And the bramble said to the trees, "If in good faith you are anointing me king over you, then come and take refuge in my shade; but if not, let fire come out of the bramble and devour the cedars of Lebanon."

AUGUST 17, 2011

GOSPEL READING MATTHEW 20: 1-16

The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went.

When he went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon, he did the same. About five o'clock he went out and found others standing around. He asked them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go and work in the vineyard."

When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat."

But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to the last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous? So the last will be first, and the first will be last.



For God and Canada

FIDELITY, BOLDNESS & COMPASSION

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 91ST ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

Barbara Fawcett
Guest Journalist

Gentle waves of quiet conversation rose and fell as some 650 League sisters gathered over an hour before the opening mass. St. Paul's Basilica, founded in 1822, the oldest Catholic church in Toronto, was the site of a joyful mass and official opening ceremonies of the 91st annual national convention on a humid August 14th evening. Spiritual advisors from all over Canada, one bishop and three archbishops concelebrated the mass. Archbishop Thomas Collins noted in his homily that "the mark of the CWL is fidelity, boldness and compassion" and called League members to go forth and spread a "new evangelization" and make a difference in society through love and service.

National President Velma Harasen addressed the assembled at the official opening ceremonies. "We are drawn together as His dear disciples – *Centred on Faith & Justice* and we are here to share, to learn, to pray, to laugh, to re-acquaint with our League sisters and greet new friends we're about to meet... So, as we begin our mission of service, let us be joyful in this house of prayer and let us spread that joy throughout the convention."

The fun of the convention was already well underway. After being warmly greeted by host council members on August 13th, League sisters enjoyed a happy evening either attending a



dinner performance of “Disco Fever” by Famous People Players or dining and cruising the Toronto harbour under a full moon. The morning of August 14th had begun with two double-decker buses full of members wending their way through many Toronto neighbourhoods and past famous landmarks.

A new feature of this year’s convention was a daily issue of *Convention News*, available in print and on-line, which celebrated both the conventional and unconventional aspects of this annual gathering.

In typical annual national convention fashion, informative displays were also a wonderful gathering place for communication and witness.

On August 15th the keynote address, *The Poor Have the Good News Brought to Them* by Dr. Nancy Reeves and Ms. Linnea Good focused on spiritual and psychological concepts and strategies to help empathetic members working for justice to avoid the pitfall of “compassion fatigue” from giving too much (different from burnout). Dr. Reeves said, “Nurture yourselves and let God nurture you for the long haul.”

She explained that the difference between social fairness that focuses on partiality and leaves all involved diminished and social justice that focuses on equality and solidarity, which gives dignity to all involved. Metanoia, a change of heart,

is a gift of the Spirit. These concepts and many more were amplified by powerful anecdotes and music with insightful and sometimes lighthearted lyrics led by Linnea Good.

The power, presence and gift of God in the Eucharist was central in the presentation and was aptly stated by Pope Benedict XVI; in the Eucharist, “Jesus draws us into himself.”

Concurrent presentations were offered by Dr. Reeves and Ms. Good and Sr. Sheila Fortune from Catholic Missions In Canada.

Sr. Sheila Fortune, a Sister of St. Joseph, shared insights gained while serving as parish life coordinator at Tshukuminu St. Anne Parish in Natuashish in northern Labrador. She reviewed the history of the Innu, their struggles and their victories, explaining, “We walk with the people and help them with their hopes and visions. We must be invited. Forty years have moved their way of life with incredible speed. We honour their traditions and history.”

The evening feature of August 15th was the Taste of Toronto International, a buffet feast of delicious international cuisine and breath-taking multi-cultural entertainment. Indeed, some of the performers were League sisters, themselves.

On August 16th the first business session was called to order by Velma Harasen. The greetings brought by



representatives of a number of women's faith organizations from many denominations revealed a unity of passion for the support of faith communities, missions and social justice all pursued in a spirit of sisterhood.

With an honour guard of honorary life members, 18 new life members were invited to dip their hands in holy water, make the sign of the cross and approach Bishop Fred Colli with their hands held open. Bishop Colli commissioned them with the words, "receive the Sign of the Cross on your hands, that through the touch of your hands in service to the women of God, you may know God's presence in your life." The life members and their League sisters, many armed with cameras, were deeply moved by the ceremony. Called were: Mary Antonio, Georgina Bourke, Lois Charlebois, Doreen Gowans, Joyce Green, Anna Hawkins, Gerri Holmes, Sheila

Houle, Dorothy Johansen, Fran Lucas, Anne Madden, Suzanne Mullins, Carol Pitcher, Donna Prevost, Sandra Stajduhar, Bev Weiler, Wilhelmina Wicha and Barbara Woodland.

Members also gathered to honour the memory of members and spiritual advisors who have gone from this life to their eternal rest in Christ. The leader explained, "God is the glory and joy of each of our departed members whose memory we celebrate today. A rose, a symbol of life in Christ, will now be presented as a living memorial to each one." Velma Harasen placed one white rose in memory of departed spiritual advisors.

Beautiful and thoughtful liturgies graced the sessions throughout the convention and were a noted highlight for many members.



In response to the crisis of famine in the Horn of Africa, a collection, taken during the convention, netted well over \$4,000.

As the convention came to a close, its success was evident to all. Meetings had been engaging; key note presentations were challenging and inspiring. Reports had been shared from all provincial councils and all standing committees. Spirited debates were undertaken with an attitude of respect. Important work was done and plans for new projects begun. Velma Harasen sent all members forth with the words, “Be joyful in your service!”

The closing mass was celebrated at St. Michael’s Cathedral. Taking inspiration from the parable of the trees in the Book of Judges, Archbishop Martin Currie reminded the members “To be a person of faith and justice is to be a bramble, to be tenacious in sticking up for the little ones, fierce in defending what we see as right.” †



WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING NATIONAL EXECUTIVE!



Front Row L to R: Mary Nordick, Danielle McNeil-Hessian, Archbishop Martin Currie, Velma Harasen, Betty Anne Brown-Davidson, Barb Dowding

Middle Row L to R: Lidwina Critch, Tillie Aessie, Jacqueline Nogier, Zita Cameron, Nancy Simms, Margaret Ann Jacobs, Marlene Pavletic, Mary McDonald, Janet McLean, Pearl Bridgwater

Top Row L to R: Joyce Green, Anne-Marie Gorman, Barbara Thuen, Judy Lewis, Terri Scott

Missing: Sheila Houle and Peggy Roche.



Returning national officers and new and returning provincial presidents reaffirmed their commitment to serve the church through The Catholic Women's League of Canada. Their recommitment was welcomed as was their gift of faith, trust and service.

ORAL REPORTS

The following oral reports were given at the 91st annual national convention in Toronto, Ontario. They may have been edited to fit space available.



Velma Harasen
Regina, Saskatchewan

My journey in year one as national president was filled with interesting events in a diverse country made whole by a dedicated sisterhood who

share their faith and work tirelessly in service to God's people, particularly the poor and the marginalized. Despite the fact that many of our conventions are scheduled around the same time, I was able to attend six diocesan and five provincial conventions.

I headed out for my first annual diocesan convention at 5:00 a.m. after retrieving the cab driver who, at 3:30 a.m., went to the neighbours to pick me up! Arriving in London, I was greeted by a wonderful member and beautiful pink tulips, a sure sign of spring in the pouring rain! I arrived just in time to hop the bus for the opening mass at the beautiful St. Justin's Parish. The very full agenda included a panel on "helping others in our midst", dealing with poverty issues in the community. London, the largest diocesan council, was celebrating its 91st annual convention, with 520 at the gala banquet! What a celebration, including the Hawaiian fun night!

The Moncton annual diocesan convention, attended by 60 delegates, was held in a church basement. One of the speakers, who was a new member and helped prepare the lunch, spoke of her work with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. On to Miramichi for the Saint John annual diocesan convention and the beautiful Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel adorned with Easter lilies on its "Christmas/Easter tree". The first Aboriginal lieutenant governor, Honourable Graydon Nicholas was guest speaker at the banquet and I had the honour of having his wife as my dinner partner.

In Unity for the Saskatoon annual diocesan convention, we paid tribute to Sister Julianna Heisler who served as its spiritual advisor for ten years, and welcomed Honorary Life Member Claire Heron to the position. In the course of that convention, I shared rooms with both. I think I can safely say I'm the only national president who shared a room with two spiritual advisors!

Toronto's 90th annual diocesan convention was two days packed with speakers, reports, awards, and time for fun! There

were evening sessions as well, and highlights included the many youth education awards and listening to the winners of the public speaking contest. Council displays focused on partnership with Catholic Family Services "Women Helping Women". At the closing banquet attended by over 600, Archbishop Thomas Collins spoke of his three most recent visits to Rome. I had the opportunity to spend time with Honorary Life Member Mary Mathews.

St. Catharines annual diocesan convention allowed me to see the "garden city" area by bus from Toronto airport, as well as the wine country of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Suitcases of supplies were collected for the missions in Brazil and Peru, and parish councils proudly exhibited projects for the poor. The crowning of Mary prayer service was beautifully conducted, as it was in all the centres in Ontario that I visited.

My first provincial convention was in Pointe Claire, Quebec, beginning with an evening of entertainment, socializing and food and hosted by St. Luke Parish Council. Once again, awards were presented for increase in membership and certificates were awarded for councils holding workshops. Twelve life members gathered for a luncheon and a celebration of a life member's special birthday.

My journey west began in Penticton in the beautiful, warm Okanagan Valley, the site of the B.C. & Yukon annual provincial convention. The "League shuttle" was always at my service! I was pleased to be part of the pre-convention executive meeting. Four resolutions provided for a lively resolutions dialogue. B.C. & Yukon was proud of new councils formed, including one in Dawson City and at the University of Victoria. Membership has increased for the past nine years and the target of 10,000 members is in sight! Beautiful handmade centerpieces depicting the logo adorned the convention tables. I was able to spend time with Honorary Life Member Marie Cameron.

I left one day early in order to attend the Alberta Mackenzie provincial convention in Fort Saskatchewan. I travelled from 28 degrees to snow showers and two degree weather accompanied me from the Edmonton airport. It was a special honour to meet Elsie Yanik, a truly amazing woman whose life story was highlighted on video at the closing banquet. At 94 years of age, she continues to be an inspiration, and recipients of the prestigious Elsie Yanik Award are members whose achievements are exemplary. I attended the post-convention meeting where the new executive made plans for the future and began work on its response to the Slave Lake fire disaster and its focus on homelessness.

A flight to Saskatoon and the hospitality of Mary Nordick readied me for the Saskatchewan annual provincial convention in Battleford. Four Saskatchewan honorary life members were in attendance – Jean Mahoney, Heather Kolla, Claire Heron and Vivian Bosch.

It was a challenge, but a joy, to attend these three provincial conventions in six days! We do have a large country!

It was back to Ontario for the last provincial convention, this one in Hamilton, only to be awakened the first morning by a fire alarm in the hotel and a quick exit down ten flights of stairs! We were given a guided tour of the beautiful Royal Botanical Gardens on a very hot, humid day, followed by the opening mass in the Cathedral of Christ the King, being told that it was indeed the only air-conditioned cathedral in Canada! We were grateful. We enjoyed time together with Bishop Doug Crosby, and heard about the work being done at the Good Shepherd Centre for homeless and abused women and children. Father Rico Passero, newly ordained and a recipient of the Bishop Bernard F. Pappin bursary award, told of his journey to the priesthood. What a fine young man and a credit to the priesthood! His aunt happens to be Ontario President-elect Betty Colaneri. We celebrated “Christmas in July”, and danced in the heat of the night following the gala banquet!

I didn't miss a flight or lose my luggage. I gave presentations, brought greetings, conducted workshops, spoke at banquets, presented life memberships and Bellelle Guerin awards, and met many members from parish councils, along with family members. What a special time!

I proudly carried the Canadian flag at these conventions and realized the privilege, and the honour of representing all of you at these marvellous events!

The venues were different, the numbers in attendance varied, speakers and programs dealt with the theme in many different ways, but the dedication, enthusiasm and sisterhood was the same everywhere I went! We are welcoming new members and new councils. The League is indeed alive and well!

I represented the League at a number of parish council anniversaries and special events. I issued communiqués, addressed concerns, wrote magazine articles, prepared reports, wrote letters, received and sent numerous e-mails, received and made numerous phone calls, kept in close contact with national office, and enjoyed every bit of it!

The 37th annual delegation to parliament addressed the resolutions adopted at the 90th annual national convention along with issues that remain of great concern particularly relating to poverty. We were well received and encouraged to meet more frequently.


I attended the annual plenary of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops held in Cornwall, Ontario where the League has observer status.

The League was represented at an anti-poverty forum in Ottawa, the National Presbyterian Women's Gathering in Toronto,

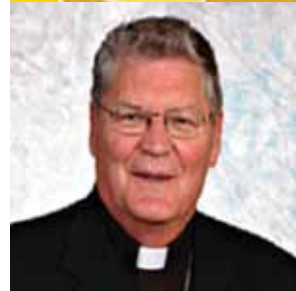
the Third International Symposium on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide in Vancouver, and the ENDOW Conference in Calgary.

Women Against Poverty and the national “change for change” project were embraced by many parish and diocesan councils across the country in a variety of creative ways. Money was raised for women's and children's shelters. Members depicted the poor and as beggars outside the church holding a sign “brother can you spare a dime?” Money was collected for a family who lost their home in a fire. There was a wake-a-thon, milk bag mats made for Haiti, pennies for Africa, a yard sale, raffles and a “fill the cupboards” for the food bank project. Restored furniture from discards was raffled for a profit. Many amazing accomplishments, all in service to God's people, were achieved by women who are truly *Centred on Faith & Justice*.

I look forward to the coming year and can only hope it will be as rewarding as the first! †



SPIRITUAL ADVISOR



Most Rev. Martin Currie
Archbishop of St. John's
Newfoundland and Labrador

Discussions among the spiritual advisors revealed good relationships between them and their councils. Many spiritual advisors characterized the League women as intelligent, qualified and well connected within the parish and larger communities.

The levels of structure in the League, parish, diocesan, provincial and national, function well administratively.

The amount of support for its members was noted, and is particularly important in the Military Ordinariate where the League can become an instant family.

We thank you for your support. There may be an aging membership in the League but this is universal. There are large untapped resources and tremendous potential for the future. Go back to your roots and welcome immigrants and refugees. The League can build on the tradition of welcome.

Partner with the priests to bring the new *Roman Missal* into the parishes. Some priests say they are too busy to come to meetings. That is only half true. At the beginning of the year, mark in a few dates and ask the priest to speak on specific topics. An active role is important. Give the spiritual advisor something to do to be a part of the whole council.

Some of the priests feel challenged in their authority by very strong female personalities. Dialogue so you can work in harmony. Sometimes a pastor comes to a parish with no experience. Explain the function of the spiritual advisor; it is a question of collaborating

for the good. Regardless of past experience... a positive welcome to the League can soothe hurt feelings.

Workshops at diocesan levels are helpful. Nobody wants more work. We need to look for a generous spirit. Recycling is not healthy. We need to begin to get new people to take on leadership roles and bring their gifts, experience and ideas. Mentor younger members to help them to feel comfortable.

Younger members need to use the media more effectively. The League has a great story to tell, that beautiful history, the resolutions and the wonderful work that is being done. How do you tell your story? Get that positive message out.

Visit seminars and speak to the seminarians about the League. Protocols can be discussed e.g. funeral palls. People get a brand new idea of the League. Hotel days are expensive; set aside a fund to help more people attend. The faithful presence of the poorer members of the diocese is needed at conventions so everyone can discover the good of the League.

I thank the priests and am grateful for the willingness of everyone to work together. †

this gain was offset by a \$200,000 to cover operating expenses. The growth is attributed to having a properly diversified and well-managed portfolio which is monitored on a regular basis by the finance committee.

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures reflects a slight decline in per capita fees, a six percent increase in product sales, less spent on the convention in Ottawa as concessions were given for the number of members booked into the convention hotel, less spent on provincial council grants (none were requested), more emphasis on advertising, fewer national sub-committees meeting less frequently, purchase of the newly-redesigned life member pin, the addition of one new staff position at national office, and the cost of recruitment for one staff person. The resulting deficit is lower than in the prior year.

The interim Statement of Revenue and Expenditures for the first six months of 2011 reflects an anticipated negative result as compared to the 2011 budget approved in November 2010, primarily due to the way in which the magazine must be delivered as directed by Canada Post.

(Note: Financial statements as reviewed by Judy may be obtained upon request from national office.) †

SECRETARY-TREASURER



Judy Lewis
Summerside, Prince Edward
Island

I am presenting the audited 2010 financial statements as audited by Scarrow & Donald LLP, chartered accountants. We wish to thank Kim Scammell,

her team at national office, as well as the administrative committee for their hard work and attention to detail to obtain the best possible financial results for the League.

Please refer to your copy of the audited report for 2010 which was conducted by Scarrow & Donald LLP Chartered Accountants, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. As stated in their covering letter to us dated August 16, 2011, and I quote, "In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Catholic Women's League of Canada as at December 31, 2010 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles".

Some items on the Statement of Financial Position changed from the prior year. The reasons are: the cash balance increased due to the prepayment of 2011 per capita fees. Accounts receivable decreased due to the switch to pay in advance policy for orders. Investments increased in value by six percent over 2009; however,

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Kim Scammell
Winnipeg, Manitoba

It gives me great pleasure to present this, my 13th report to national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. I will elaborate on three items of interest to members in 2011 – the membership processing system, the on-line order system, electronic funds transfer and "Catching the Fire".

The Membership Processing System: When I first began with the League, there was no membership deadline; memberships were accepted and processed all year. Then an August 31st deadline was set. Then a May 31st deadline was set. Then a February 28th deadline was set. Meeting each of these targets had become an increasing challenge for staff and for staffing.

More than 88% of the membership was processed by May 15th thanks to a streamlining of the processing system, setting up a "triage" system to identify remittances packages that were incomplete, and the parish councils that remitted membership early and on-line.

The On-line Order System: The new on-line order system is intended to compliment the on-line membership system

where users may order and pay for supplies directly into the ordering system.

Electronic Funds Transfer: This is another feature available to on-line users. The council designate records electronically the members for which she has received payment. With an authorization form on file, national office completes the membership transaction by debiting the council's bank account in the amount of the invoice.

Both decrease the dependence on office staff and increase the accuracy of transactions.

Diocesan and provincial councils have also been offered the opportunity to receive their share of the per capita fees in a monthly automatic deposit to their accounts.

And my final topic – “Catching the Fire”. On July 21st I left the office hoping to enjoy yet another restful evening at home. Left on my desk on display? One draft copy of a “Catch the Fire” toolkit – a working project of a sub-committee of the national executive. In the wee hours of that night, national office became the first to catch the fire. We caught the fire in an office; in a washroom; in kitchen; and in the warehouse where inventory is kept. I am relieved to report that everything of substance and everyone was unharmed.

It has been chaotic and challenging, but by God's grace, the League carries on its work, a little tarnished and a little sooty, but still holding steadfast “For God and Canada”. †

The Eucharist must be the wellspring of nourishment as we strive to serve as Jesus did. So celebrate and pray together as a council. It unites us in a single spirit, helps to focus on the League vision and purpose and gives direction to our endeavours. Prayer brings a new depth of relationship to councils regenerating motivation and commitment.

Provide a variety of opportunities to pray together as a council. Experience liturgy of the hours and *lectio divina*. Study *Caritas in Veritate* or *Verbum Domini*. Lead in the implementation of the new *Roman Missal*. Use the three brochures that have been developed to promote a strong bond between the League and spiritual advisors. We are anxious to work together in mutual respect to develop our faith community.

Gently and warmly welcome all members who may be heavily burdened. Reach out to others in faith and show by our actions that we are caring, compassionate members of the family of God, actively pursuing dignity and justice for all.

Change our hearts, O Lord – change our minds that we may truly change the world as women *Centred on Faith & Justice*.

It is with great appreciation that I announce the contribution made by members to Catholic Missions In Canada – \$28,637.96. Thank you for your generosity. †

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT



Margaret Ann Jacobs
Elmvale, Ontario

Members are challenged by many burdens in society today – physical, emotional, financial or possibly challenges created by prolonged poverty, illness or discrimination.

We members are challenged to prepare and cultivate our hearts so we can listen and hear the word of God. There is a need to allow this source of life to grow within us. Only then will we be able to respond to the many challenges we face as women *Centred on Faith & Justice*.

Chairpersons have the privilege of providing opportunities for the spiritual development of members – studying Catholic teachings, discovering the role of women in the church, promoting evangelization and mission assistance, furthering members' involvement in lay ministries, and encouraging ecumenism and interfaith endeavours. There are so many possibilities to act on our call to service and change our hearts.

But building the kingdom of God requires action – relentless, persistent, non-judgmental and innovative action.

ORGANIZATION



Betty Anne Brown Davidson

When people look at you, what do they see? Do they see a woman who so loves Jesus that she reflects Him in the way she lives her life? Is your council an oasis of peace, love, faith and justice?

Members are called to be ardent women of faith. The church and our parishes depend on us, and our families see us offer the gift of self to mirror Christ in the world each day.

Mirrors focus heat to start a fire! Interest can be sparked in those we invite to join in our commitment “For God and Canada”. Personal invitation is still the best recruiting tool.

In order for this fledgling fire to continue, it needs to be tended and supported. This is where leadership training comes into play. This year, national office sent out samples of three leadership resources to each diocesan and provincial president. Leadership training is the priority this year.

Members are hungry for League training and development. For the rest of this year and into the spring, the national development fund is earmarked for leadership training.

As I looked at national office's rapid processing of memberships this year, I could see a turn-around coming. This is marvelous news! On-line registration has proven to be widely accepted by councils across the country.

This year, two parish councils must have enjoyed their membership incentive award from last year. Our Lady of Lourdes in Coquitlam, British Columbia and Our Lady of Sorrows here in Toronto did not have to submit any fees for members. This was the League's way of saying thank you to each member for the recruiting success last year.

Now for next year, 2012, we are offering a fresh incentive. In keeping with the theme *Centred on Faith & Justice*: National treasury will send a \$250.00 cheque to the first two councils from which over 50% of the annual membership fees are received – one electronically and the other by regular mail. This money is to be used toward the council's local justice or anti-poverty project.

In conclusion, as I look out over this sea of faces, I behold the face of Jesus. May you continue to be a reflection and a sign of His love in the world. ✚

World Youth Day 2011 is being held this week in Madrid, Spain. The theme is *Rooted and built up in Jesus Christ, firm in the faith*, (Col.2.7).

The first World Report on Disability was released in February by the World Health Organization and the World Bank. This document will help broaden members' minds in the ministry to the disabled.

Involve seniors in the various ministries of the parish council and make them feel needed once again. Seniors have the gift of knowledge. Involve the widowed, separated and divorced as well. Be proactive and give them a call, talk with them about happy events and most of all, listen to what they have to say. Listening and being there for someone is very comforting to those who feel lost and alone.

Vocations are often thought of as a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. There are many other groups of people who have a vocation or calling as well. When praying for vocations to the priesthood please remember to include a prayer for the lay people of the parishes. ✚

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE



Peggy Roche
Torbay, Newfoundland and
Labrador

How many can remember a time when the rosary was prayed together each evening and a meal wasn't started unless grace was said?

Encourage families to get back to the basics with family prayer, including single-parent families.

Members attended the 14th Annual National March for Life events as well as the Third International Symposium on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide.

Members have remained generous and supportive by contributing \$10,848.27 to the national voluntary fund earmarked for pro life.

The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition and the Rasouli family have unanimously won the precedent-setting Rasouli Decision which states in part that doctors are required to obtain consent before they can withdraw life-sustaining treatment. This is a victory for the rights of individuals in Canada. However, doctors have the right to appeal the decision in the Supreme Court.

Each and every one of us should have living wills in place just in case there is a medical situation where loved ones are faced with making a decision for us. Make clear your wishes about end-of-life situations.

COMMUNITY LIFE



Barbara Dowding
Port Moody, British Columbia

Last year's donations to Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace totalled \$69,299.17.

Community life is like a massive buffet, filled with variety and selections. Many of you have made the choice to undertake amazing work in the name of charity and justice to alleviate misery and hopelessness.

To really make a difference in eliminating poverty, we have to identify and embrace our own personal call to action. It is daunting to look at the situation at home and abroad and not feel overwhelmed and inadequate.

Christian social outreach depends on God's grace, not our own abilities or skills. We are instruments in God's hands; we are not alone in our work to build a better world.

Women Against Poverty has provided focus on violence against women, trafficking and refugees and immigrants and how lives are impacted by poverty.

But there is so much more. Catholic social teaching notes that the moral test of a society is how it treats its most vulnerable members. With a nine percent increase in food bank use last year and nearly 900,000 people assisted each month, as well as more than 100,000 children living in poverty nationwide; we have far to go.

On solidarity – Catholic teaching tells us that we are our brothers and sisters’ keepers, wherever they live. In our own country, First Nations homes are 90% more likely to be without running water than those in the rest of Canada.

And where do we stand on the pain and suffering of the First Nations, Metis and Inuit people, particularly the women? How do we respond to the extreme poverty, soaring suicide rates, exploitation and trafficking that exists there?

As the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada events unfold across Canada, there are many ways the League can be the face and heart of the church. Listen carefully and attentively, offer assistance and be part of the healing. Blessed Pope John Paul II said, “No peace without justice. No justice without forgiveness.”

Let us build healing bridges for our First Nations’ sisters and make food banks a thing of the past! It is so encouraging hearing of the work being done by the Sisters in Spirit program and especially gratifying to know our sisters in the United Church share the same concern.

It is pretty clear what we are being asked – so go ahead and say “Yes Lord, here I am!” †

to advocate for adequate access nationally. The League was represented at the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada seminar.

This year members sent a total of \$29,166.90 to the national voluntary fund for Matercare International.

Members continue to take on the responsibility for personal education. They attended more conferences and retreats and shared reports with other members.

This year there were 19 applicants for national bursaries; 14 applications were readily approved and one more is on hold pending completion of the application form and renewal of membership. The total value of bursaries awarded was \$5,975. The total since the establishment of the fund in 1990 is an impressive \$198,876.65. National bursary applicants came from four provinces. Presidents at all levels are asked to promote the national bursary in their respective areas.

The League has supported the Coady International Institute since 1961. Donations received this year totalled \$28,040.96. The report from Coady and the biographies of the recipients of the 2009 and 2010 bursaries are on file. There were three League scholarships given in 2009 and four last year. The Coady International Institute has a new director John Gaventa. Thank you for your generous support of these two funds. †

EDUCATION AND HEALTH



Pearl Bridgwater
Candiac, Quebec

Canadian statistics indicate that baby boomers approach retirement age naturally dreaming of stress-free lives. Unfortunately, the current state

of the health care system, the lack of family physicians and care facilities for the elderly, if not improved, could make it the impossible dream.

We members have to do our part to change that forecast by changing our lifestyles. It has been proven that regular physical and social activity result in better health and continued independent living in later life. In addition, if you are lucky to have a family doctor, carefully prepare for doctors’ visits and take along a list of questions you want addressed by your doctor, which will make the visit more productive. Lastly, revisit resolutions, 2003.04 Healthy Living for Life and 1996.08 Partnership in Health Care. Both encourage all members to petition members of parliament and to take control of their own health.

Another issue in health is the continuing shortage of complex and assisted care beds for the elderly. Some provinces are better equipped than others. The League has long supported palliative care, and members need to continue

COMMUNICATIONS



Mary Nordick
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Communicate, communicate. How, when, where, why, what do we communicate? How do we communicate? Effectively, efficiently, precisely, knowledgeable, persistently, and most importantly, passionately. Always remember that the best advertisement for the League is a passionate, dedicated member. We communicate through words, through who we are, and what we do.

When do we communicate? When it is time to celebrate, inform, commend, defend beliefs and human rights and dignity, question laws, practices and attitudes and be a voice for the voiceless.

Where do we communicate? In our parish councils sharing good news, informing and visioning. Among all levels of the League at convention, electronically and in print. Some specific communications media in the League are the Web site, *Be League* and *The Canadian League*. The Web site has been revamped to be more user friendly. *Be League*, the monthly e-newsletter is popular with its regular readers. Unfortunately, such readers are not in the majority. *Be League* needs your help. Please, check it out on the Web site on the 15th of each month and encourage sister members

to take a look. What makes *Be League* is that it is member driven. Send us what you want to see in it.

Why do we communicate? We communicate to spread the good news of the gospel, to share good news in the League, to inspire members, to get jobs done effectively, to raise concerns with members, the larger community and government at all levels, and to be an advocate and voice for those who have no voice.

In addition to communication within the League, the communications standing committee promotes and supports the Catholic media. Salt + Light is a great example.

Finally, what do we communicate? This past year we have been promoting Women Against Poverty, and I am delighted with the response across the country. Read about these projects in the magazine and newsletter and keep the stories coming. I would like to issue a challenge. We have done very well in identifying poverty in our communities and in becoming involved in hands-on ways of immediately relieving that poverty. Now comes the hard part. How do we go about eliminating poverty and its causes, at home and abroad?

What changes do we need to make in our lifestyles? What changes to laws and government policy do we need to lobby for? These are the stories I hope to report over the next year! †

of dollars to produce, resulted in many recommendations following hundreds of interviews. The need to urge the federal government to support this report was made apparent by the myriad of faith-based presenters. Members can do much to support the recommendations through letter-writing campaigns and invitations to members of parliament to discuss poverty with the League. The recommendations in the poverty reduction plan mirror many of the League's resolutions, which make action on the recommendations relevant and topical.

Finally, 2010.02 Income Tax Credit for Children's Participation in Arts and Cultural Activities was addressed in the recent federal budget, and 2010.01 Chrysotile Asbestos is getting a great deal of media attention that with members' actions, may eventually keep the mineral underground.

Letter-writing campaigns are at the heart of League strategy for change. To that end, I urge each council to monitor the number of letters written and responses received and to report these numbers in their parish council annual reports under the standing committees. The dialogue begun through these letters will be a significant move towards success. It may not be today, but one day, we will have affected changes for those nameless and voiceless for whom members speak.

It continues to be my pleasure to serve the League. On the hundredth anniversary of Marshal McLuhan's birth, I shall close with his words calling us to action, "None of us are passengers on [spaceship] earth; we are all crew members". May the League 'crew' continue to be *Centred on Faith & Justice*. †

RESOLUTIONS



Anne Gorman
Stanley, New Brunswick

This report covers resolutions subjects being studied, Women Against Poverty, and previous resolutions requiring attention.

First, one can safely say the topics researched are a testament to the voice of Mother Theresa who said in part "... faith in action is love, and love in action is service". The service given the League is readily evident in the many and varied subjects that you have adopted at this convention.

Secondly, to address Women Against Poverty initiatives, communiqués, memos and personal contact are meant to keep the cry of the poor uppermost in members' minds.

In March, Betty Anne Brown Davidson and I attended a conference in Ottawa hosted by Citizens for Public Justice, to air concerns following the release of the federal government's all-party report on poverty reduction (*Federal Poverty Reduction Plan: Working in Partnership Towards Reducing Poverty in Canada*). The report, which took three years and millions

LEGISLATION



Terri Scott
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Legislation should be about the love! With love comes a desire to protect, through rules in our homes and legislation in our country.

With federal elections in May and summer recess there has not been much movement on the legislative front, only discussions on future efforts.

Members are urged to write letters to government on matters of concern. Bill C-304, *An Act to Ensure Secure, Adequate, Accessible and Affordable Housing for Canadians* is especially timely in light of the spring flooding that ravaged much of Canada this year. Residential and farm lands have been marked as unusable and people have had to be relocated. This bill calls for provision of temporary emergency housing and shelter in the event of disasters and crises.

The federal government intends to pass legislation to expand mandatory minimum sentences, and to cancel extra credit for time spent awaiting trial. This would necessitate expansion of some prisons and would include a mega-prison for maximum-security prisoners. Adding extensions, rather than building a new prison, ignores the need for local feedback.

Bill C-4, *An Act to Amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*, was introduced October 2010. This bill is seen as unbalanced as it will deprive some individuals of an independent review. Members are urged to study this bill.

Members' input on these issues can make a difference. For instance, Bill C-268, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code* (minimum sentence for offences involving trafficking of persons under the age of eighteen years), passed unanimously in June 2010, shows that government heeds and cares too. This is only the 15th time in Canadian history that a private member's bill amended the Criminal Code and it is due, according to Member of Parliament Joy Smith (Kildonan-St. Paul) in large part to members' letters.

I have often encouraged new members to attend conventions to see the "big picture" of the League and in December, I saw for myself the really big picture. It was in attending parliament's question period and meeting the various federal ministers in Ottawa, including the prime minister, that I realized that I had a choice in bringing out the best of our politicians. So if you care—dare—to write letters and make phone calls. †

The committee will continue to benefit from the experience of professional archivist Judi Cumming and the knowledge of Life Member Shirley Bernier.

Currently we have national archive material at Library and Archives Ottawa and in the Archives of Manitoba. The committee will reexamine this practice and decide where the materials should be held.

My responsibilities as chairperson of laws is challenging as I am the type of individual who usually relies on someone else for an interpretation of the law. I am amazed at the vision and insight that led to the creation of the *Constitution & By-Laws* and the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*, but there is always a new twist or a wrinkle that needs to be straightened out.

Members are reminded that, in addition to the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*, their own councils should create a policy and procedure manual to assist in carrying out the business of the League. I suggest that executives at all levels create or review their manuals, have them approved at a general meeting and share the knowledge to pique the interest of future leaders.

Often we hear comments about the number of aging members. I believe it is not the age but the attitude of members that makes the difference in the success of the League. We may need to do an attitude adjustment in order to shed a bright light on our organization. At our opening mass we were urged to go out with boldness, fidelity and compassion and as members of the League we have accepted that challenge many times over. Let us continue to do so as we go forth in our communities, provinces, country and the world striving to be *Women of Peace and Hope, Centred on Faith & Justice*. †

LAWS



Danielle McNeil-Hessian
Bedford, Nova Scotia

The past president is called to serve in a consultative capacity – where one needs to find the balance between saying too much or too little. With such a capable executive, I have enjoyed my first year in this position.

The National Archives Committee continues to organize and catalogue materials at national office. Honorary Life Member Marie Cameron has tendered her resignation as chairperson of the committee and I would like to thank her for her wisdom and unwavering commitment to preserving the history of the League. The recent fire at the national office underlines the importance of safeguarding records that document the League's history.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Velma Harasen
Regina, Saskatchewan

The Centenary Assembly of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO), under the theme *You Will be my Witness* gathered in Jerusalem in October with over 500 women from more than 60 countries; 31 attended from Canada. Maria Giovanna Rugeiri from Italy is the president general for 2010-2014. Maribeth Stewart is vice-president for the North American Region and Luba Kowalczyk of the Ukrainian Catholic Women's

League of Canada will be our representative for the next four years. She attended the board meeting in Rome in May and has submitted a report. The board will attempt to promote individual membership, increase subscriptions to *Women's Voice* magazine, explore fundraising projects, seek sponsors, pursue grant applications and reinforce representation at the United Nations in New York and Brussels as well as at international conferences.

The priorities for the next four years, under the theme *Love in Action*, include poverty, education of women and assistance to the Holy Land. The general theme for 2011 is *Women in Action*, with emphasis on increased education opportunities for women and promotion of ecumenical and interfaith dialogue.

The League's WUCWO national voluntary fund was established in 2005 to assist women with financial limitations to attend board meetings. Donations from local parish councils go into WUCWO general funds to be used for this purpose. The total contributed for the year 2010 was \$9,176.28. The board member from Cuba had her expenses fully covered and, at the recent board meeting, it was decided to assist the Czech Republic with payment of its dues. Regional vice-presidents receive an allotment of \$600.00 for activities in their region.

The League has submitted articles for *Womens Voice*, the WUCWO magazine on education and the media.

The League was invited to submit names to be part of the 2011 Canadian delegation to the 55th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. The two nominees were not accepted. †

Homelessness is our focus, and a major part of this focus at this time is the Slave Lake and area fire relief project. Because of the massive destruction caused by forest fires in our northern dioceses, an immediate provincial initiative was undertaken to provide effective assistance as soon as possible. Archbishop Gérard Pettipas was contacted and he suggested that financial aid be channelled through the Grouard-McLennan Archdiocese. A letter advising all councils of provincial support in this matter was sent to the diocesan council presidents to be distributed. Each council will determine the amount and manner of obtaining contributions.


Councils have implemented many ways of dealing with the poor and homeless in their dioceses. One such plan is "Change for Change", which uses monetary change to produce change for the poor in their community. Another suggestion is to invite guest speakers who have volunteered in developing countries.

The keynote speaker of the annual provincial convention was Archbishop Richard Smith who spoke about Edmonton's interfaith commitment to ending homelessness and focused on the document produced by the group, Capital Region Interfaith Housing Initiative. Archbishop Smith is a citizen representative on the Edmonton Homeless Commission and he has been working on ways to engage Edmonton's faith leaders in the collective mission to shelter the homeless. Archbishop Smith mentioned NeighbourLink Calgary which is the coordinating foundation that links various groups, societies and service ministries that are available.

In 2012, Edmonton Diocesan Council will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the start of the League in Canada! On February 11, 2012 a centennial gala will be held. In Edmonton and on behalf of the organizing committee you are all invited.

The national planning committee for the 2012 convention has been a very busy group – gathering, thinking and planning so that we are ready to greet our guests. †

ALBERTA



Sheila Houle
Morinville, Alberta

Paid memberships totalled 10,022 in 2010 and I am certain the numbers will grow again in the coming year. There continue to be inquiries to form new councils, one of these being Behchoko a settlement, about 110 kms west of Yellowknife.

The provincial initiative, Pennies for the Poor, concluded at the end of 2010, with a total of \$41,900.32 being sent to Sister Maria Goretti in Burundi, Africa! That's over 4 million pennies! The new initiative, Nickels for the North, was set up to provide assistance to our sisters in the north as they work to attend conventions and meetings throughout the year.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Catholic Women's League of Canada is a national organization rooted in gospel values calling its members to holiness through service to the people of God.

Oral reports continued on page 20.

91ST ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION R

2011.01 PROHIBITION OF PRACTICES RE HUMAN REPRODUCTIVE MATERIAL

Whereas, The *Assisted Human Reproduction Act* imposes only selective regulations for the practices of alteration, manipulation and treatment of human reproductive material; and

Whereas, The Supreme Court of Canada noted that parliament could have prohibited absolutely the practices of alteration, manipulation and treatment of human reproductive material; and

Whereas, Manipulation and mistreatment of human reproductive material may result in the destruction of human embryos; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in 91st annual national convention assembled urge the federal government to prohibit absolutely practices of alteration, manipulation and treatment of human reproductive material that result in the destruction of human embryos.

Issue Summary

The *Assisted Human Reproduction Act* (2004) Act) imposed some regulations on the practices of alterations, manipulation and treatment of human reproductive material and according to the Supreme Court of Canada, parliament could have "prohibit[ed] absolutely the practices ... of altering, manipulation and treatment of human reproductive material" which includes "sperm, ovum or other human cell or a human gene, and includes a part of any of them"

The Supreme Court indicated that it is within criminal law to control the combining of any part of the human genome with any part of the genome of another species

The League urges the federal government to prohibit absolutely the practices of alteration, manipulation and treatment of human reproductive material that would result in the destruction of human embryos and/or the combining of species.

Action Plan:

- Write to the federal government to prohibit any practices of altering, manipulation or treatment of genetic material that would result in the death of a human embryo or the combining of species or genetic selection. Send a copy of your letter to your local MP.
- Invite a guest speaker on the subject of ethical embryo research.

2011.02 CHILDREN OF MISSING AND MURDERED ABORIGINAL WOMEN

Whereas, Aboriginal children, including children of missing and murdered aboriginal women, are disadvantaged compared to other children; and

Whereas, The families and community members of missing and murdered aboriginal women who assist with child care or child rearing would benefit from specialized support programs and social services; and

Whereas, The United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child* states that children and families are entitled to special care and assistance; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in 91st annual national convention assembled urge the federal government to extend support programs and services nationwide

- for children of missing and murdered aboriginal women
- for families and community members who become their caregivers in keeping with the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*; and be it further

Resolved, That the national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in 91st annual national convention assembled encourage provincial councils to urge their provincial and territorial governments to provide and/or extend support services for children and families of missing and murdered aboriginal women in keeping with the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

Issue Summary

The Canadian Council of Provincial Child and Youth Advocates (the Council) states that aboriginal children are disadvantaged compared to other Canadian children, with significant gaps in education, health, safety, living conditions, sport and recreation; and are also at a high risk for sexual exploitation and violence (Canadian Council). There are 582 known cases of missing and murdered aboriginal women (NWAC, Fact Sheet). Their children are faced with the same disadvantages as their aboriginal sisters and brothers, with the added challenges of coping with the loss of their mother and being wards of other caregivers.

Aboriginal children, including those of missing and murdered aboriginal women, are the responsibility of all Canadians. All levels of government are urged to implement support programs and services for the caregivers and children of missing and murdered aboriginal women. Effective supports, services and social conditions that are aimed at child development and well-being are required across Canada.

RESOLUTIONS

Action Plan:

- Write letters to the prime minister and members of parliament, urging the federal government to implement Canada-wide support programs and services for children of missing and murdered aboriginal women.
- Invite someone to speak on this subject to foster awareness in your council.

2011.03 NATIONAL ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION REGISTRY

Whereas, Canada does not have a national organ and tissue donation and transplantation registry; and

Whereas, A national registry with a comprehensive database could make information about organs and tissues available for donation throughout Canada ensuring that more Canadians receive the organs and tissues they urgently need; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in 91st annual national convention assembled urge the federal government to establish and implement a national organ and tissue donation and transplantation registry

Issue Summary

In 2007 and 2008 there were more than 2,000 organ transplants performed in Canada, while at the same time more than 4,300 Canadians remained on a waiting list for transplantation. During that period 215 died without receiving the transplant that might have saved their lives.

Canada is the only country in the western world without a national organ donor registry. Instead, each province has its own provincial agency to deal with organ donation, and often there is no way of telling if a suitable donor is available out-of-province.

More people could be saved if Canada had an effective organ donation and transplantation system that was less bureaucratic, and better coordinated. Canadians want a system that ensures equitable access to donation and transplantation, no matter where they live.

Action Plan:

- Write letters to the prime minister and members of parliament, urging the federal government to establish and implement a national organ and tissue donation and transplantation registry.

2011.04 CAFFEINE IN ENERGY DRINKS

Whereas, The caffeine content of energy drinks poses serious health risks to children and adolescents; and

Whereas, Energy drinks do not have adequate warning labels for all the additives that contain caffeine; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in 91st annual national convention assembled urge the federal government to engage in a program of public education focusing on the harmful effects that caffeine in energy drinks has on children and adolescents; and to make it mandatory for manufacturers to clearly label the total amount of caffeine from all sources in energy drinks.

Issue Summary

Caffeine is a central nervous system stimulant as well as a stimulant of heart and skeletal muscles. It is also a diuretic that can accelerate water loss. Health Canada advises a maximum daily caffeine intake of no more than 45 mg for children aged 4-6, 62.5 mg for children aged 7-9 and 85 mg for children aged 10-12. Health Canada suggests that the daily caffeine intake for adolescents be calculated to no more than 2.5 mg/kg body weight. Despite these ranges, the caffeine content in energy drinks is known to be as low as 50 mg per can/bottle and up to as much as 505 mg per can/bottle.

When caffeine-containing products such as energy drinks are consumed in quantities that contribute to higher than the recommended caffeine intake, or are consumed in combination with alcohol, the health effects can be harmful and even lethal.

Current regulations require disclosure and caution regarding the caffeine content of beverages but manufacturers do not list stimulant properties from other additives also present (e.g. yerba mate or cocoa).

Action Plan:

- Write letters to the prime minister, the minister of health and the local elected members of parliament, asking that Health Canada engage in a program of public education focusing on the effects of caffeine in children and to legislate stricter regulations, making it mandatory for manufacturers to clearly identify on its labels all the caffeine additives in energy drinks.
- Write letters to the premiers, the ministers of health and the local elected members of the provincial/territorial legislatures, asking that provincial/territorial governments enact legislation that determines where, how and to whom energy drinks can be sold in a province or territory.

B.C. & YUKON



Nancy Simms
Kamloops,
British Columbia

Serving with *Respect & Compassion* is the B.C. & Yukon theme guiding us as we focus on homelessness and mental illness.

I attended four annual diocesan conventions and heard of the incredible work being done throughout the province. Councils found innovative ways to create “Change for Change” and were able to financially and physically offer assistance at St. Vincent de Paul centers, food banks and soup kitchens. Councils volunteer at women’s shelters and financial aid goes to women’s basic necessities. Beauty nights were held for women living on the streets or in shelters to feel better about themselves and to prepare them for upcoming job interviews. Councils held prayer programs for the homeless, while others gathered to knit blankets to give to those in need.

On the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel there were many activities, including four councils gathering for mass, dinner and a guest speaker who was the coordinator of their city’s Homeless Action Plan

Councils met with local agencies to gain understanding about the connection between mental illness and homelessness. At least one parish priest hosts a mental first aid course to help parishioners recognize the signs of mental illness and where to obtain help for those in need.

The annual provincial convention was also dedicated to the homeless and those suffering with mental illness. Four resolutions were adopted at the convention and forwarded to the resolutions standing committee for consideration.

Human trafficking has been an issue that many councils wrote letters about and stayed educated on and one diligent member developed a one hour high school presentation. The presentation has been given nine times and will be again.

Three of the six diocesan councils presented leadership workshops for their members and at all diocesan conventions I or the president-elect facilitated ninety-minute workshops entitled “You are the League.” At the provincial mid-term meeting workshops were offered on the League election process, Canadian legislation and the history of Canada.

Due to the many recent changes in provincial politics, meetings with the provincial government have been delayed to a possible fall meeting.

For the ninth year in a row B.C. & Yukon has realized an increase in membership. By December 31, 2010 there were

9,685 members and since January with back-dated membership the 2010 numbers have grown to 9,835 with five new councils receiving charters. One of these new councils is at the University of Victoria – the second university League council in Canada. †

MANITOBA



Jacqueline Nogier
Snow Lake, Manitoba

Councils in Manitoba strive to maintain a connection with members in many ways. All three diocesan councils have hosted workshops on a variety of topics in order to

inform their members.

The provincial council hosted its annual Day of Celebration in February with Sr. Nuala Kenny who spoke on “Women of Hope” and the “Clergy Abuse Crisis”. She explained the history of the issue and indicated ways in which members can support priests and bishops. A record number of members attended this presentation.

St. Boniface Diocesan Council hosted a resolutions workshop that educated members on the proper way to write and present a resolution.

Winnipeg Diocesan Council annual convention had Sr. Eva Solomon as the guest presenter while Keewatin-The Pas Diocesan Council hosted a workshop that centered on women in the bible with guest speaker Sr. Terisita Kambeitz.

Four resolutions were adopted at the annual provincial convention. Resolutions originated in each of the three diocesan councils and reflect varied needs and concerns of women in Manitoba.

Prayer cards containing the Prayer for Victims of Violent Death by Sr. Eva Solomon were also distributed to all members at the convention with a request to pray it daily. Manitoba President-elect Monica Brechka spoke on the importance of giving blood. Manitoba provincial council is a Partner for Life and members can donate blood on behalf of the League. The timing of donations around holidays and long weekends was stressed.

An orientation on the national and provincial League Web sites was given with information on the efficiency of on-line membership. A meeting with the premier has been rescheduled to follow the provincial election on October 4th.

It was with great pride that Manitoba members were informed that Life Member Dr. Rayleen DeLuca received the Order of Manitoba for her work as a clinical psychologist pioneering research in the area of victims of abuse.

Members said goodbye to three life members as they continued their journey with God – Doreen Ferraton, Mary Bennett and Catherine Bird. Their gift of knowledge and service will be missed.

The members in Manitoba work hard “For God and Canada” in all the work done in the name of the League. They continue to see Christ in those around them. †

MILITARY ORDINARIATE



Barbara Thuen
Winnipeg, Manitoba

An ordinariate is a diocese with a special jurisdiction, a personnel connection rather than a territorial one and can be located anywhere in the world where Canadian military personnel are stationed. The Military Ordinariate serves those in active and retired military service and their families, and those affiliated with the military and base chapels. Provincial status was granted in 1965 and it became the 11th “province”. Like Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador, there is only one diocese.

We have our own Military Bishop, Bishop Donald Thériault, who resides in Ottawa and advises Padre Hope Winfield.

Fourteen councils are located on military bases across Canada with approximately 300 members; the only opportunity to meet in person is at the annual provincial convention which rotates from base to base. The only unique policy is that council presidents and provincial officers must be military members or military members’ spouses.

This year’s provincial convention was at CFB Trenton. The 10th anniversary of Operation Common Ground celebrated the gathering of Catholic and Protestant women from military base chapels across Canada.

Reports from council presidents include many Women Against Poverty projects and plans.

Due to financial constraints the Military Ordinariate meets via conference call in the fall and the spring. While business is done, growth and development of the team is not possible. The membership voted this year to provide the funds for the administrative committee to meet in person this fall, providing an opportunity for regular business, a review of the manuals and policies, and an opportunity to get to know one another a little better and enjoy a spiritual retreat. We are truly grateful

to the members for this opportunity. Membership numbers are increasing and all positions on the provincial executive are filled. Once again, the work of the Holy Spirit was felt among us at this year’s convention.

The “Book of Remembrance”, created by Lise Medford to honour military members who lost their lives in Afghanistan, will remain open and we will keep these courageous men and women and their families in our prayers. We also remember those who have returned with visible and invisible injuries.

I began my term as president by challenging members to rekindle their passions – for prayer, faith, the League - its mission and sisterhood, and for discovering and developing our spirituality. I look forward to hearing from members about their passions and how they are being rekindled. †

NEW BRUNSWICK



Joyce Green
Fredericton, New Brunswick

It was a pleasure to travel with Velma Harasen to attend the 74th Moncton annual diocesan convention, then on to the 90th Saint John annual diocesan convention in Miramichi City.

Our guest speaker was Lieutenant Governor Graydon Nicholas, the first Aboriginal lieutenant governor in New Brunswick, who remembered his mother hosting League meetings in their home.

I presented a leadership workshop at the 62nd Edmundston annual diocesan convention and was pleased at the enthusiasm and discussion. A second workshop on watercolour technique inspired many women to create their first works of art.

For the second year, New Brunswick Provincial Council was a co-sponsor for the right to life march. I brought greetings to a gathering of 300 plus men and women. Bishop Robert Harris spoke about the sanctity of life. I also attended the Focus on Life fundraising dinner. Several speakers talked about adoption, a new focus for the right-to-life- campaign.

I also attended the 90th anniversaries of St. Peter and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception parish councils. Ninety years represents an amazing contribution to the League.

We welcomed Archbishop Martin Currie, as guest speaker for Saturday morning who also made a brief presentation at the banquet. He spoke about the abuse in the church, a sensitive but important subject. The new *Roman Missal* was introduced and discussed. On Saturday morning six local priests attended a spiritual advisor’s workshop led by Father Stanislas Paulin, provincial spiritual advisor. Anne Gorman and Sister Almyre

Doucet acted as liaisons and answered several questions about the League. Future workshops will be offered in other dioceses.

The four diocesan presidents reported on the Women Against Poverty projects on or near April 26th. There are many reports of food banks donations, socks and underwear donations to women's shelters, a community garden and offers of cooking lessons. A poster showed the great diversity of actions taken. During the convention a special collection was taken to be given to the Kennebecasis Valley Food Bank.

In cooperation with the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation, five councils plan to designate November as Family Violence Prevention Month, which may include focus in homilies and bulletin inserts.

In the fall, three day-long leadership workshops are booked in the Fredericton, Woodstock and Moncton areas and hopefully one in the Miramichi area.

I feel blessed to be working with such a committed group of women and to receive the support and guidance of our spiritual advisor. †

for provincial executive and parish presidents to connect, recommit and be spiritually nourished. Regular contact will be maintained by telephone. Anne Walsh, director of adult faith development for the Archdiocese of St. John's, spoke on the social teachings of the Catholic church. Parish presidents gave presentations on the many faces of poverty.

At the annual provincial convention in Corner Brook, Bishop Peter Hundt spoke on the Holy Father's Encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* (Charity in Truth). A new provincial executive was installed and new Newfoundland and Labrador Spiritual Advisor, Father William Hearn was welcomed. We sent a resolution forward entitled Energy Drinks.

Provincial goals include provision of more League development and leadership training, support for parish councils on the verge of disbanding and renewal of contact with those who have recently disbanded. We will work with parish priests to establish new councils. We also plan to meet with the provincial government after our October provincial elections to address League concerns and recent resolutions.

The membership numbers in our province are small but we have a group of very dedicated women committed to the League mission statement. Provincial council aims to assist and support them in their endeavours, promote a positive attitude about our future, remain united, and encourage and support each other in our work "For God and Canada". †

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR



Lidwina Critch
Goulds, Newfoundland and Labrador

It is a pleasure to report to you as president representing Newfoundland and Labrador. We welcomed two new bishops, Bishop Peter Hundt, and Bishop Anthony Daniels. Past President, Agnes Kenny, attended both installations and brought greetings. We welcomed Premier Kathy Dunderdale the first female premier in our province's history and sent a letter of congratulations. Labrador elected the first Innu to serve in the federal cabinet. The Hon. Peter Penashue became minister of intergovernmental affairs and president of the Queens Privy Council for Canada; our provincial council congratulated him by letter as well.

Councils embraced the theme *Centred on Faith & Justice*, and the Women Against Poverty projects. The initiatives are impressive with some innovative projects being reported. These included support for mothers in need, mission support in Haiti, women's shelters, volunteering and supporting soup kitchens and drop in centres, school supplies for children of food bank recipients, pillowcase dresses and shorts for missions in Dominica and Peru. Donations received through the "Change for Change" project were channelled to various local community projects.

Winter meetings had been previously dropped for financial reasons, but were reinstated this past year – an opportunity

NOVA SCOTIA



Mary MacDonald
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Councils in Nova Scotia embraced the theme *Centred on Faith & Justice* through new and established projects. At our annual provincial convention a PowerPoint presentation illustrated the variety of responses. "Change for Change" was also very popular and members donated funds raised to various charities.

We honoured our first national president from Nova Scotia, Marguerite M. Burns, by inaugurating a plaque which will be inscribed with the name of the council hosting the provincial convention each year in her memory. This plaque will be passed on each year to the hosting council with a smaller permanent plaque for the host council.

Father Gregory MacLeod, a community activist, spoke on responses and solutions to injustice and poverty. It was noted that a donation of \$0.25 a week from each member would net \$65,000 per year. The voluntary contributions would be gathered by the provincial treasurer for donation to a selected cause or project.

Councils throughout the province celebrated significant milestones of 90, 85, 65, 50 years and under. At these events pins were given to members to mark the number of years they dedicated to their council. Some members were awarded the Bellelle Guerin award for their dedication to the League and others received a Maple Leaf service pin. We look forward to many more milestones in the coming year.

Life membership was presented to a member of our executive at our provincial convention. Over the past few years we have seen the amalgamation of councils because of closure of parishes, and in June it was announced that the Diocese of Yarmouth will now become part of the Archdiocese of Halifax. Within the next few months our diocesan presidents will be working on the transition with much sensitivity and understanding to ensure a good working relationship.

We are planning a provincial workshop at the end of August which will include the executives from all three dioceses along with our provincial executive. Danielle McNeil-Hessian will do a presentation on the election process. Committee chairpersons will exchange information with their counterparts on the diocesan level.

As well, all three dioceses are planning workshops in the fall on a variety of topics. I look forward to the next year and continuing our work "For God and Canada." †



Marlene Pavletic
Thunder Bay, Ontario

All councils worked with the national theme *Centred on Faith & Justice* and the provincial sub-theme *Led by the Spirit* in very creative ways.

Presentations were delivered on human trafficking, refugee issues and the ongoing suffering still experienced in Haiti. Members volunteered at local food banks, school breakfast programs, soup kitchens and homeless shelters and in third world missions.

Alexandria-Cornwall Diocesan Council made sleeping mats from milk bags for Haiti. Toronto Diocesan Council raised \$8,000 for "Women Helping Women". Thunder Bay Diocesan Council focused on Aboriginal issues. St. Catharines Diocesan Council sent suitcases of school and medical supplies to a South American mission. Kingston Diocesan Council twinned with a council in Kingston, Jamaica and the president and vice president from Kingston, Jamaica attended the diocesan convention.

Bishop Douglas Crosby provided information on the new *Roman Missal* at the provincial winter meeting. The provincial manual of policy and procedure was reviewed and accepted.

Policies were developed for members of the executive holding "high risk" positions and to address issues surrounding privacy.

The provincial council worked with national office to expedite the membership process and encourage the use of automatic funds transfer services.

Over several years membership had been declining but increased slightly over the last year, thanks in part to creative recruitment initiatives. For example, Hamilton Diocesan Council sent letters to Catholic school boards encouraging teachers to buy memberships. St. Catharines Diocesan Council promoted the League at a Catholic school convention. Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan Council has been dealing with church closures and members were encouraged to transfer to other parish councils.

Leadership training was promoted and with financial assistance from national and provincial development funds much training was accomplished.

The provincial team met with a number of provincial government ministers at very first meet and greet reception held at Queen's Park. The event was organized by provincial resolutions chairperson Pauline Krupa, with the assistance of Member of Provincial Parliament Bill Mauro (Thunder Bay-Atikokan) and his staff. Nearly 100 ministers, members of provincial parliament and/or their staff attended. Ontario President Shari Guinta introduced the provincial team and Bishop Anthony Tonnos was supportive of the event. A PowerPoint presentation ran continuously and a brochure highlighting the League in Ontario was distributed. The provincial council is very proud of this worthwhile event.

The provincial government will be holding an election this October. There continues to be a movement against Catholic education. Six deserving members received life memberships and now serve national council in this new capacity.

Seven seminarians are receiving the Bishop Bernard F. Pappin Memorial Bursary.

Sadly we lost two past provincial presidents – Peggy Nastasiuk and Verna Morgan. We acknowledge the passing of Most Reverend Paul Marchand and Most Reverend Francis John Spence.

A new provincial executive was installed at the convention. We look forward to working with our new provincial spiritual advisor Bishop Fred Colli and continuing the good work of the League during its term. †



For God and Canada

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND



Zita Cameron
Cornwall,
Prince Edward Island

I am pleased once again to give this report on behalf of members in Prince Edward Island.

As the year began with the new theme, *Centred on Faith & Justice*, I was invited to bring greetings to the United Church Women's annual meeting. It was interesting to learn that they, too, were working towards social justice by seeking a living wage for all Islanders.

Some councils made use of "Change for Change" to raise money to help others within their own parishes.

Every year the provincial council has a gift bag for which tickets are sold. This year the money was donated to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the host city. Also, a substantive collection taken at the celebration of the Eucharist was donated to Catholic Family Services.

A workshop at the annual provincial convention titled *Approaches to Social Justice* was facilitated by the president-elect. As a result of a questionnaire, it was learned that members would like us to work on addictions and mental health. Thus, at the fall conferences, we will have a speaker who will give a personal talk on her addiction and how she eventually overcame it. Another speaker will inform us on how the Canadian Mental Health Association can help those suffering from mental illnesses.

Members were pleased to welcome Sister Nuala Kenny to the convention. We will loan a copy of her presentation to parish councils that wish to discuss further the implications of the clergy crisis.

All members were encouraged to attend the march for life. The president addressed those present and encouraged them to continue their work against abortion and to do it with love and kindness.

In late spring, some members walked the full length of the Confederation Trail to bring awareness to an "Eradication of Poverty" initiative.

The provincial executive took time, after the convention, for a day of reflection facilitated by a member. This gave us a chance to look at our lives, strengths, weaknesses and what issues challenge us on a daily basis. This proved to be a wonderful day and brought the members closer spiritually and made them more appreciative of the courage and determination each member brings to the executive table.

Although few in number we appreciate the opportunity to be present at this convention and will be sharing what we have learned with fellow members from our province. †

QUEBEC



Janet McLean
Dorval, Quebec

During the coming year, the newly-elected Quebec Provincial Council will focus on training at the grassroots level. The executive, together with the Workshop-on-Wheels

teams, plans to visit all parish councils, offering leadership training sessions to Quebec members. The focus will be to provide members with a better understanding of the League and how it functions. We want to get back to the basics, using the League Mission Statement and the Objects of the League as our starting point. Our hope is that this will give many members the confidence to accept leadership roles in their parish councils. We also feel that if members have a better appreciation of what the League has to offer they will be encouraged to invite other women to join them as League members.

Quebec is continuing the restructuring process begun last year. Because the 25 parish councils in Quebec are located in seven different dioceses, it was becoming difficult for some dioceses to elect an executive. Several diocesan councils have made the decision to disband. This means that the provincial council will communicate directly with the parish councils and the parish council president will become part of the provincial executive. We are encouraging our members to see this as a positive step as it will strengthen the ties between the provincial and parish levels. As this is an evolving situation, the provincial executive will be working hard this year to help parish councils adapt to these changes.

Quebec has chosen two organizations which councils will support in the coming year as part of the Women Against Poverty campaign. These are the Breakfast Clubs of Canada (concentrating on those in Quebec) and the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal. Basic information has already been given to all parish councils on these two organizations and the provincial chairperson of community life will pass along more information as well as asking for ideas and feedback from the parish councils. A raffle of a handmade afghan was held at our provincial convention and the funds raised have already been sent to the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal. We know that our Quebec councils will be actively looking for ways to support these two organizations. †



For God and Canada

SASKATCHEWAN



Tillie Aessie
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

The first order of business for the year was a presentation of a resolution passed at the 2010 provincial convention entitled “Nuclear Waste Disposal”. The resolution called for broad consultation on nuclear fuel waste storage and urged establishment of a committee representing “stakeholders” to discuss the issues around nuclear waste. Another resolution adopted passed at this year’s convention calls for a nuclear waste management agency at arms length from nuclear power companies.

At our winter meeting and workshop, Honorary Life Member Vivian Bosch and Father Ed Hengen presented a tearful, heartbreaking and uplifting workshop on justice and faith. Our province’s focus on our new theme is *Creating Awareness for the need of Affordable and Inadequate Housing* sparked many events undertaken to “See what we can do to make a difference”.

Donations were given to Columbus Bosco Homes in Saskatoon, Unity and District Health Unit, St. Joseph Seminary in Edmonton, Native ministry, the Rama pilgrimage site, Interval House, a home for abused women in Saskatchewan, Catholic Family Services of the Battlefords and the Good Neighbour project in Regina. Families were directly supported in Humbolt, Rosthern, Regina and Slave Lake. Sixteen parish councils donated to Station 20 West in Saskatoon, an inner-city grocery store initiative. The total amount collected is estimated at \$150,000.

Although most of these were group efforts, several individual members were involved in global “Change for Change” events, supplying a drinking water well and providing school supplies. In Puerta Villiarta, Mexico, “Children at the Dump” establishes better living quarters for families living in cardboard boxes, making sandwiches and distributing them at the dump.

The June convention was held in Battleford with quest presenter Lorraine Hartsook, a motivational speaker whose passion is to empower, equip, encourage and entertain. Throughout the mini-workshop presented by Vivian Bosch and Father Ed Hengen on Justice and Faith you could hear a pin drop. Every year the provincial council hands out an award to young women engaged in social justice work. This year’s

social justice recipient is Andrea Pearson from Shaunavon.

Plans are underway for the fall gathering of the provincial executive meeting and workshop using the new leadership workshop materials distributed. A large turnout is anticipated for the training of those on the diocesan and regional executives. †

NATIONAL OFFICE NOTES

Online users now have the opportunity to make electronic funds transfers. A designated council member makes an electronic record of the members for whom she has received payment. This record generates an invoice which she and national office receive instantly by e-mail. With an authorization form already on file, national office completes the membership transaction by debiting the council’s bank account in the amount of the invoice. And *voila!* The membership is completed with no paperwork, postage, snail mail or delay.

Diocesan and provincial councils have also been offered the opportunity to receive their share of the per capita fees in a monthly automatic deposit to their accounts. This is especially beneficial for councils where distances separate executive members, and makes the job of the treasurer a little easier.

Contact Valroy Anderson at national office for further information on this new service.

The Canadian League is available on-line at www.cwl.ca. Back issues are also displayed for five years and articles are linked to related standing committees. It is convenient, mobile and as one member put it, “clutter-free”. If you mislay your current issue of the magazine or are trying to find an older article, please visit the Web site to find the information you need. You can always print and share the pages you want.

If you would like to cancel your print version, please advise national office and you will be removed from the mailing list. A number of members have already made this request.

CALLED TO BE LEADERS

Betty Anne Brown Davidson

National President-elect and Chairperson of Organization



Whether we like it or not, our names have been called. At our baptism, Jesus said to us, “You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last...” (Jn 15.16). To emphasis the point, our confirmation sealed that covenant with a once and for all “brand”: the flame in our hearts, burning with love, desire, energy, enthusiasm and the gifts of the Holy Spirit to help make it happen.

This fruit that we are called to bear is our responsibility to make a difference in the world, here, now, right where our feet are standing. This is our time on earth to shine and to leave the world a better place by our passing through it. We do this by listening to the Lord and responding to His promptings. The League can be a vehicle to effect positive change and allow God’s kingdom to come “on earth as it is in heaven.”

“How do we do this? I am only one person, Lord! Don’t you understand?” you may plead.

Yes, He understands and within the League the tools exist to make things happen. We just have to use them. We need to stretch out of our comfort zones, to let go and give other people the chance to try their hand at taking charge of things locally. Then we

need to move our bodies, study, practice and learn to perfect our leadership skills. The League offers us a safe, encouraging place to put our talents into action.

To bear fruit, members look to the future to provide for the success of those who will follow. The League’s 100th anniversary is on the horizon. The 91st annual national convention has just been celebrated, and most members will be active in celebrating the centenary. Are we going to limp across the finish line or shall we dance?

In order to dance, members must be balanced and healthy. Balance differs for different generations, but in every age bracket we are invited to balance our spiritual, emotional and physical selves. The League can do this with its faith, fun and fulfillment opportunities. Opportunities abound in parish, diocesan and provincial councils to take executive positions and participate completely in League life.

Spiritual growth can be nourished through retreats, study and spiritual exercises offered under the spiritual development standing committee. But how do we encourage leadership training, mentoring and practice.?

Excellent, practical workshops already exist. Three have been placed in the hands of diocesan and provincial executives with strong encouragement to offer local members across

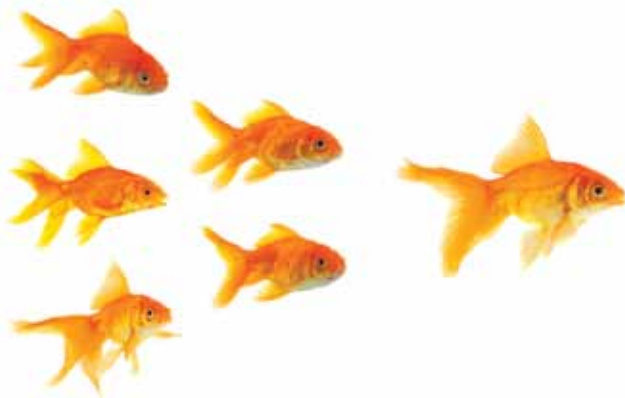
Canada something in the way of leadership training this autumn or spring. Use the tools, testimonials, tricks and skills to go out there and make a difference! We are the modern day disciples of Jesus; He has no other plan.

Member development must become a priority in parish councils. It is time to spend time and money on ourselves if we are going to dance into 2020. Provincial and national development funds are available to bring members together for

the purpose of leadership training. Years ago, some councils developed the idea of “Memdev” – 10% of all funds raised were set aside to pay for members to attend development days and conventions.

The camaraderie, energy and new ideas are contagious; members return home from League events full of enthusiasm. These can be opportunities to learn leadership skills.

Members can become comfortable while public speaking, write and present accurate, brief and concise reports, set up an



agenda and run an effective meeting, welcome guests with polite protocol to council events and encourage members to express their views eloquently to provincial and federal governments. In a way, the League is like a greenhouse; it grows leaders!

Leadership training has proven to increase membership in dioceses and provinces where it occurs. Training even a few key people has been shown to have an indirect benefit on others; their enthusiasm becomes infectious.

League sisters are called to encourage natural-born leaders by fostering their personal spiritual growth, providing unconditional acceptance of one another's gifts. Let us focus on nine years from now and how we are going to get there. What will we look like? Thanks to leadership training now and the passing on of the word, we will proudly say, "100 years old and still going strong!"

Suggestions for a leadership formation event:

- Prepare the trainers.
 - Give time for some practice and guidance. Don't let them just read everything; they need to understand it and make it their own.
 - Choose positive members who are "high on the League".
 - Include someone from outside the council's "catchment" area; she may be more credible to the group.
 - Select a teaching team to vary the content and appeal of the message.
- Begin and end the training events with prayer and a meaningful reflection.
- Plan to make the events fun, yet practical.
- Include basic knowledge of the League; especially for the newest members.
- Give basic orientation for new executive members – crucial to getting them "up and running" as soon as they take office.
- Use League resources as the backbone of the training.
- Vary event activities, brainstorm, meditate, share one on one, write a private message, as a small group, design an art piece or act it out for the larger assembly, do a craft to demonstrate the idea, sing, exercise.
- Encourage each participant to have lunch with a person she hasn't met yet. †



For God and Canada

NATIONAL OFFICE NOTES

As Gilbert and Sullivan's Ko Ko sang in *The Mikado*, "I've Got a Little List". National office will now be able to track those members being recognized with Bellelue Guerin awards and Maple Leaf Service Pins. Councils will no longer need to send notices to see announcements published in *Be League*. As Ko Ko concluded, "...they'll none of 'em be missed."

The new on-line order system compliments the on-line membership system and both are receiving positive reviews. Users have the opportunity to order and pay for supplies directly into the ordering system. This round-the-clock access to the system is a popular feature and the enhanced privacy and security of credit card information is another plus, as credit card numbers are no longer included on fax or e-mail messages. Further information is available from Janice Jones at national office.

NATIONAL COUNCIL REGRETFULLY ADVISES

THE PASSING OF LIFE MEMBERS

Catherine Bird
Yorkton, Saskatchewan

Pearl Keon
Cobden, Ontario

Carmel Kerr
Perth, Ontario

Peggy Nastasiak
Barrie, Ontario

Moira St. Marie
Oshawa, Ontario

A JOURNEY OF SOLIDARITY TO PERU WITH CHALICE

Barbara Lyons

Member St. Gregory the Great Parish Council, Picton, Ontario



In a spirit of solidarity, and with a packed itinerary in hand, I travelled to Peru in March with 30 like-minded people from across Canada. There we witnessed the work at sponsor sites in areas of extreme poverty and met the local teams, which, with the support of Chalice, direct the programs according to the greatest needs in their area. Given the talents and skills of our group, our volunteer activities included dental care, physiotherapy for adults and children, house painting projects, crafts, play with children and numerous painting workshops given by Nova Scotia artist Holly Carr.

Three sites were visited. At each of the sites we were greeted with posters, red and white balloons, and handmade Canadian flags. The warmth and gratitude with which we were welcomed, the joy on the faces of the children and parents and the love we felt and received brought us to tears.

Our first destination was Chiclayo in the northern desert. We were welcomed by the women from Centro Esperanza (Centre of Hope) who lead the programs and projects that assist children and mothers. Women have very little status in Peru and accept this as their lot. Many are unwed or abandoned mothers or wives subject to abuse/violence. Through education and workshops they learn their rights, what constitutes a healthy family and are given the power and the where-with-all to stand up for themselves and their children. Sponsorship enables these children to attend school. Some who are now in university have come back to volunteer at the centre.

Then, we visited La Ladrilla, a community of extreme poverty with limited access to water, no plumbing, and small adobe houses with dirt floors. One room was divided by a curtain to house, in some cases, a family of six or more. In

addition to an art project with the children and craft instruction for the mothers, teams painted the homes of two families whose mothers have offered their homes for support group meetings. Bright colors were used and the houses were painted inside and out. Gratitude poured forth from the adults. Children gathered around us wanting to give hugs and have pictures taken.

We returned to our quarters physically and emotionally drained and in awe of the people we had met who have so little and who live in so much hardship and yet have so much joy and love to give. We know that Christ was truly in our midst.

At Canete, south of Lima, we visited Saint Ann's orphanage, where 27 girls ages 8 months to 18 years, whose mothers had abandoned them or are too ill to take care of them, were being brought up by several religious sisters. We helped with chores and prepared lunch for 200 people, including families of some of the sponsored children. The women in the nearby communities have taken advantage of handicraft workshops offered, have come to recognize their talents and have gained some self-esteem. They have a small business making chocolate, jewellery, cards and other crafts, which we supported.

El Pino, located in Lima, is a slum community built on steep hills. The area is dangerous, the buildings are hovels in disrepair and garbage is thrown in the streets, as the city will not pick it up. At the top of the hill is the Centre of The Good Shepherd run by Sister Karla and her team. The centre offers a community program called "My Healthy Pino" which offers help through talks, workshops and support given to individuals who make an effort to improve their environment through cleanliness, hygiene, repairing and organizing the home and



improving family relations. A contest titled “I have my house clean” was held prior to our arrival. The five winners had their houses painted by our teams. Children lined up for dental work, children and adults received physiotherapy, and Holly led children and adults in painting a mural of nature and forest themes on the walls of the basement library and study hall.

There is a beautiful chapel in this building where mass was celebrated in English and the music was sung in Spanish giving another beautiful moment of solidarity. It is noted that the guitars used in the music ministry were purchased through the Chalice gift catalogue.

A very special time for some in the group was visiting with their sponsor child and family in their homes. Witnessing these encounters moved us all.

As predicted, this mission was a life-changing experience. To be with people who live with so much hardship yet are so forthcoming with joy, love and gratitude is awe-inspiring. How did I feel as I left Peru? Some of the words I would use include inspired, loved, humbled, grateful and emotionally richer. I ask God to keep me focused on the needs of others as I return to my comfortable lifestyle. †

Note: Chalice is the new name for Child Care International, a Catholic sponsorship program operating out of Springhill, Nova Scotia.

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

On March 1st, Ontario Provincial Council hosted a meet and greet reception at Queen’s Park as part of its annual visit with the government. The idea was sparked by Member of Provincial Parliament Bill Mauro (Thunder Bay/Atikokan) who suggested it to Ontario Chairperson of Resolutions Pauline Krupa in 2009. It was brought to full flame by the support of Ontario President Shari Guinta and the entire provincial executive.

Approximately 100 people attended, including ministers, members of provincial parliament and staff. Provincial Council President Shari Guinta remarked that the League was there to dialogue and offer assistance.

The theme, *Centred on Faith & Justice* was promoted, as was the Women Against Poverty initiative. The event was well received and the provincial council was encouraged to plan a similar event in the future.



WOMEN AGAINST POVERTY— IN ACTION

Kay Barrington

Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Chairperson of Education and Health

The Women Against Poverty campaign provides members with the opportunity to make a difference – to change the face of poverty.

As a nurse educator for almost 30 years, I know that poverty is both an education issue as well as a health issue, a year-round reality that surrounds us all and is most keenly felt during holidays. Poverty can lead to social isolation, low self-esteem, stigmatization, depression, substance abuse, poor work and/or school performance and on goes the list. When the body is not nourished physically, socially and spiritually, it slowly deteriorates.

To reduce the impact of health problems arising from poverty, the natural intervention would be a counter-poverty measure e.g. where there is hunger, provide nourishment; where there is isolation, provide socialization/companionship. But for that counter-poverty measure to be sustained, there simultaneously needs to be an education/intervention around how to eliminate, or, at least, minimize the state or condition of poverty. Sometimes the education component will be overt e.g. a presentation or providing literature. Other times, education will occur naturally e.g. when providing a nutritious lunch, the lunch itself represents education in action.



Members could design a 12 month **Women Against Poverty Activities Calendar** with a specified event assigned each month and promote participation through their parishes, families, friends and co-workers. Some ideas might include:

September: Contact a local school to coordinate the donation of appropriate brown bag lunch items for teachers to distribute anonymously to those children who are without a noon meal. Councils could also provide school supplies to distribute to students in need.

October: At a traditional time of thanksgiving in Canada, councils could prepare mini-baskets of easy-to-prepare, nutritious baked goods for donation to families in need through a local food bank. Include the recipes.

November: During the month associated with the remembrance of departed souls, consider the spiritual needs of the poor by offering an open invitation to the community to join in praying the glorious mysteries of the Rosary on Wednesday nights for the month, followed by light refreshments and an

opportunity for socialization. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide your creativity and the new council activities may enhance contact with a larger community and potential new League members. May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide us in our work as Catholic women. †



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Just a quick note to say what an excellent job you all did in the production of the latest *The Canadian League* magazine. I particularly liked the Women Against Poverty pieces – short, loaded with good ideas, very eye-catching. The cover too was exceptional. And of course, I liked the pages with Barbara Thuen, Diane Lemay and Terri Scott – all MO or ex-MO members – woo hoo!

May I make a suggestion in the form of a “letter to the editor” or something to be inserted in the next issue for all to read? This is coming from my experience of working as the manager of the local women’s shelter. Could you consider that the next time you buy yourself a new package of underwear or new pjs, you buy an extra of each and donate them to the local shelter? When a woman escapes with the clothes on her back, she needs pjs and underwear, items that are often not available in secondhand stores and not something we want to wear used in any case. Another wonderful donation would be a gift certificate from the local lingerie store for a fitting and a new bra. Women living in poverty with children tend to spend on themselves last. Even when a new bra is desperately needed, she will put it off when she has to choose between food for the table, gas for the car, clothes for the kids and her own needs. This donation would be “uplifting” for a woman in need.

Life Member Theresa Winchester
St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Kincardine, Ontario



Dear Readers,

As I sit here at the kitchen table, *The Canadian League* magazine sits open beside me. It is volume 70, number 4, Winter 1995. This contained the 75th anniversary project “Prayer Partners”. I decided to write to my prayer partner who lived in London, Ontario to see if she would like to correspond with me or would she like me to say the prayers suggested. She responded with a delightful letter, stating that she would like us to correspond.

So over these many years we have been getting to know each other and our needs. We remember each other on birthdays, wedding anniversaries and such. On March 21st at 9:20 a.m. I answered the phone and she was calling me to wish me a happy 89th birthday.

I have been an active League member and have a 20, 50 and 60 year pin as well as a CWL button. I converted to the Catholic faith shortly before my marriage in 1943 so I would qualify for a 65 year pin. The reasons I have written this letter is to suggest you do the same as you did in 1995.

Lois Kearney
St. Joseph Parish Council, Bellville, Ontario

ERRATA AND UPDATES

Johanna Mathieu of St. Francis Xavier Parish Council, Stoney Creek, Ontario reports that the cost of providing backpacks of school supplies for children in need is \$60.00, not \$33.50 as reported in the Fall issue.

We apologize:

St. Francis Xavier Parish Council, Stoney Creek is in Ontario not Alberta

Centenarian Pearl Keon’s name was misspelled and Martha Bonomi is a proud member of St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish Council in St. Catharines, Ontario (not Pierceland, Saskatchewan -- home of her goddaughter).

CONGRATULATIONS TO 2011 BURSARY RECIPIENTS!

In 1988, the League received two generous donations with no stipulation as to their use. In response to the call for lay formation in the Holy Father's apostolic exhortation *Christifideles Laici*, and in light of the expressed desire of the League to foster members' service "For God and Canada", the national executive agreed by motion that these donations be used to establish the National Bursary Fund. Subsequently, in 1990, the national bursary was established as an endowment fund with the principal amount invested and the interest earned annually to be distributed as bursary awards. The fund is used to provide financial assistance to members meeting the established criteria, and who wish to pursue studies in adult faith formation and/or youth ministry.

The League is grateful for the many donations received specifically for this fund. Through careful administration, the League has been able to increase the number of awards annually. Bursary applications are available on request from national office or can be downloaded from www.cwl.ca and must be sent to national office with a postmark of no later than May 31st.

Carol Brownrigg, Kincardine, Ontario
Catherine Giroux, Esterhazy, Saskatchewan
Patricia Frederick, Toronto, Ontario
Theresa A. Helen Hilbig, Regina, Saskatchewan
Linda Delia Howell, Regina, Saskatchewan
Helen Keller, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Catherine Mardon, Edmonton, Alberta
Marilyn Maughan, Esterhazy, Saskatchewan
Ruth-Ann Muldoon, Trenton, Ontario
Jennifer Pinto, Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba
Marilyn Sparrowhawk, Esterhazy, Saskatchewan
Loretta Jean Tetzlaff, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Laurie Van Den Hurk, New Lowell, Ontario

ANNUAL DISBURSEMENT OF NATIONAL VOLUNTARY FUNDS

The national voluntary funds constitute monies forwarded by councils to national office for disbursement annually to the appropriate agencies. These funds are collected from July 1st to June 30th each year with the amounts announced at the annual national convention.

The 2010-2011 collection amounts for these funds are as follows:

Coady International Institute	\$28,040.96
Pro-Life Fund (Birthright)	\$10,848.27
Canadian Conference for Development and Peace	\$69,299.17
MaterCare International	\$29,166.90
Catholic Missions in Canada	\$28,637.96

INTRODUCING



Sheila Houle
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial
President

Sheila was born and raised in Edmonton, Alberta by parents of Irish/Scottish descent. She is the eldest of four children, having two brothers and a sister. Her parents raised the family

in a faith-filled atmosphere of hope and love, which laid the foundation of Sheila's meeting the many challenges of Christian living.

After graduating as a registered nurse from the Edmonton's Misericordia Community Hospital, Sheila married Lucien and moved to Morinville. They have four children – three sons and one daughter. The two elder boys live in Morinville, the youngest son lives in British Columbia and their daughter lives and works in Montreal. Three wonderful grandchildren have livened up the holidays and are a continual source of joy.

Sheila has been an active member of St. Jean the Baptist Parish Council for over thirty years, even though her mother started her out at the age of eight as a 'kitchen helper' for the annual Mother's Day tea. Sheila's membership was taken out in 1966 during her mother's term as parish council president – the council needed a treasurer, and her mother volunteered Sheila!! One of her most loved tasks has been teaching the first reconciliation and first communion classes at the parish rectory. The privilege and honour of serving as Eucharistic minister and lector have been a means to strengthen her love for Jesus.

Sheila continued working as a nurse at the Sturgeon Community Hospital in St. Albert until 1993, at which time she took up full-time volunteering which included chairing the Morinville Historical and Cultural Society and the Musée Morinville Museum, holding a position on the senior citizens' board, serving as a member of the library board, and teaching knitting and other crafts to the seniors.

Throughout the years, Sheila has worked at the parish, diocesan, and provincial levels of the League and each level has been a great learning experience. She has made many friends from one end of Canada to the other; grown spiritually beside her sisters in the League; and learned to laugh and enjoy life working "For God and Canada". All of these enable her to live her life as a Catholic woman should.

The next step of Sheila's journey is to represent the members of Alberta Mackenzie to the best of her ability, and with God's help, this will be accomplished. †



Jacqueline Nogier
Manitoba Provincial President

Jacqueline Nogier was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan but moved to Snow Lake, Manitoba as an infant. Her parents, like many others who moved to the small mining town, were only staying for a couple of years to save a little

money, but ended up making Snow Lake their permanent home. Jacqueline is lucky enough to be living down the street from where her parents still live.

Jacqueline married her husband Clarence, also from Snow Lake, after they both graduated from the University of Manitoba with bachelors of education. After marriage, their first job was in the United Arab Emirates. They lived and taught in the capital city of Abu Dhabi for two years. They have lived and been employed as teachers in Snow Lake ever since. Clarence and Jacqueline have two sons who still attend school where their parents teach.

Jacqueline joined the League in 1997 with her mother Ella. Since then, she has held numerous positions at the parish level. In 2000 with an infant and a two year old in tow, she became the Keewatin-The Pas Diocese President. She held that position for two consecutive terms. It was during that time that Jacqueline really got a first-hand taste of what being part of a provincial and national organization really meant. During that time she grew to learn that the League was rooted in the activities of the parish councils while at the same time a national organization striving to better the lives of women and families both in Canada and around the world. She attended her first annual national convention in 2004 in London, Ontario and was amazed and awed at what Catholic women can accomplish when they work together in unison across the country.

At the provincial level, Jacqueline has served in the positions of chairperson of education and health and organization, and now begins her two-year term as provincial president. She looks forward to continue to grow the Manitoba Provincial Council into a truly provincial council with having equal representation from all three dioceses across the province. She hopes to reach out to Catholic women in Manitoba who, for whatever the reason, have not joined the League thus far. †

ST. JOSEPH CALASANCTIUS PARISH COUNCIL,
NORTH BATTLEFORD, SASKATCHEWAN

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of St. Joseph Calasanctius Parish Council, a stained glass window of Our Lady of Good Counsel, created by Linda Lawson, was blessed and presented to the parish during mass. Mass was concelebrated by Bishop Albert Thevenot, Fr. Val Besas, Fr. Gerard Legaspi, and Fr. Phinh Do.

Mass was followed by supper, fellowship and entertainment. A history of the council was available along with a display of council archives. For entertainment, various members loaned their wedding dresses which were modelled by girls from John Paul II Collegiate. After much guessing the owners of each dress were matched with the models.



CELEBRATING
A SIGNIFICANT
ANNIVERSARY?
LET US KNOW!

Should your council wish to be listed as having celebrated a significant anniversary, please send your request in writing to national office. Notices will be placed in the issue directly following the anniversary date.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Parish Councils Celebrating Anniversaries

90 Years

Sacred Heart Parish Council
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan

Sacred Heart Parish Council
Wingham, Ontario

St. Augustine of Canterbury Parish Council
Brandon, Manitoba

St. Finnan Parish Council
Alexandria, Ontario

St. Francis Xavier Parish Council
Camrose, Alberta

St. John the Evangelist Parish Council
Woodslee, Ontario

St. Joseph Parish Council
Kingsbridge, Ontario

St. Paul The Apostle Parish Council
Coniston, Ontario

St. Simon & St. Jude Parish Council
Tignish, Prince Edward Island

85 Years

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish Council
Thorold, Ontario

St. Theresa Parish Council
Rosetown, Saskatchewan

75 Years

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Council
LaPasse, Ontario

50 Years

Lower North Thompson Parish Council
Barriere British Columbia

Sacred Heart Parish Council
Liebenthal, Saskatchewan

St. Paul Parish Council
Regina, Saskatchewan



MEMORIES OF MABEL CURRIE

Janice Christie took the opportunity to sit down with Mabel and her son, Bishop Martin Currie, to discuss his road to the bishop's chair and the inspiration of his mother.

Mabel Currie shared her faith throughout her life and her children have known only love and humility and prayer. She quietly accepted God's invitation when He asked something special of her.

When she was fifteen, Mabel had begun, ironing the linens for the church she loved so well, and continued with this work until she was in her 70s. She continued living out her faith in concrete ways and walking up over the hill to Saint Peter's to attend mass every day with her husband. She spent years being active in community life through the CWL, all the while raising her children with the same gentle faith.

Mabel's second child, Martin, was affected by the example set by his parents. He became instilled with the same sense of faith. Upon graduation from high school Marty attended Saint Francis Xavier University and it was during those years that the seeds were planted in his mind to think about the seminary. "It is a very personal and gradual process to come to a decision about the priesthood. It is between you and God," Marty explained. He added, "You feel that He is speaking directly to you." Marty accepted God's invitation and was ordained on May 12, 1968 in Saint Peter's Church in Sheet Harbour.

Mabel Currie was surrounded by her family in October, 2010 as she celebrated her 90th birthday. She lived a happy and active winter and then passed away suddenly and peacefully in the Spring of 2011. In his eulogy for his mother, Archbishop Martin Currie reminded the congregation of Mabel's deep devotion to God and in particular to the Blessed Mother. The local members of the League will miss her spirit, her laughter, her faithfulness and her humour. She lived her life in faith and has now gone on ahead to rejoin her beloved husband, Everett. †

ST. ANN PARISH COUNCIL, PENTICTON, BRITISH COLUMBIA

In late March, in response to the "Change for Change" initiative, St. Ann Parish Council in Penticton, British Columbia voted to support one of the council's "sweet sixteen" members, Elyse Blais, in her endeavours to go to Senegal with a group called Yaakaar, Students Without Borders. She took with her a council donation of \$200.00 to be given directly to the group's sponsored orphanages and schools upon arrival.

This humanitarian aid would offer a young child the possibility of attending school for an entire year. The council felt privileged to support Elyse in her quest to aid the less privileged and she said, "Thank you for helping me make the world a better place one tiny step at a time".

Upon her return home Elyse gave a comprehensive Power Point presentation and described daily life at the schools and orphanages she visited. The photos of happy and smiling children living in comparatively impoverished circumstances made council members reflect on the affluence of Canadian life and how much more could be done to help those living in developing countries. Elyse described her experiences as life-changing and plans to continue participating in such projects in the future.



ST. MARGARET PARISH COUNCIL, THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO

For half a century the members of St. Margaret Parish Council have gathered to share in prayer and friendship and work on a number of community projects. On the third Friday of every month some of the members help out by serving lunch at St. Andrew's Dew Drop Inn.



Back Row: (L-R): Bob Ham, Pat Morriseau
Front Row: (L-R): Maureen Ahokas, Sylvia Nordstrom, Marlene Pavletic, Bunny Dornan, Marty Ham, Judy Muloin, Lynne Lark, Gayle Caron

KINGSTON DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Kingston Diocesan Council was a proud recipient of a very special gift from Marjorie Facette, diocesan chairperson of legislation. Marjorie presented the council with a ceremonial tablecloth to be used at annual diocesan conventions and other events. The cloth is embroidered with the names of all life members in the diocese and creates a lasting tribute to them.

Life Member Barbara Hendry noted, "First, I believe we owe a debt of sincere thanks to Marjorie as she represents true Christian womanhood modelling our Patroness, The Blessed Lady. She appreciates all senior members. The beautiful tablecloth says thank you to the life members in our diocese in so many ways. It is creative and unique. My hope is that every diocese will adopt it as a thank you."



Magazine Deadlines

Winter issue – November 30, 2011

Spring issue – February 28, 2012

Fall issue – July 31, 2012

WELCOME BACK TO REACTIVATED COUNCIL

St. Patrick Parish Council
Markham, Ontario

St. Veronica Parish Council
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario



For God and Canada

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Congratulations to the following centenarians!

Marian Bergeron 108 years May 26, 2011
Queen of Peace Parish Council, Victoria,
British Columbia

Bennie Panaro 102 years July 5, 2011
Sacred Heart Parish Council, Calgary, Alberta

Gwen Barnett 102 years February 2, 2011
St. Anthony Daniel Parish Council, Scotland, Ontario

Marie Rose Leblanc 102 years May 10, 2011
St. Louis Parish Council, Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia

Margaret Froment 101 years August 25, 2011
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Council, Westbank,
British Columbia

Virginia Hogue 101 years July 31, 2011
Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish Council, Deep River,
Ontario

Adela Bittman 100 years May 4, 2011
St. Aloysius Parish Council, Allan Saskatchewan

Florence Darby 100 years July 15, 2011
St. Joseph Parish Council, Stratford, Ontario

Veronica Hof 100 years July 20, 2011
Holy Family Parish Council, Medicine Hat, Alberta

Regina Jacek 100 years October 1, 2011
St. Aloysius Parish Council, Allan, Saskatchewan

Alice Jacobs 100 years May 8, 2011
St. Michael Parish Council, Leamington, Ontario

Eva Lauber 100 years July 29, 2011
St. Veronica Parish Council, Dorval Quebec

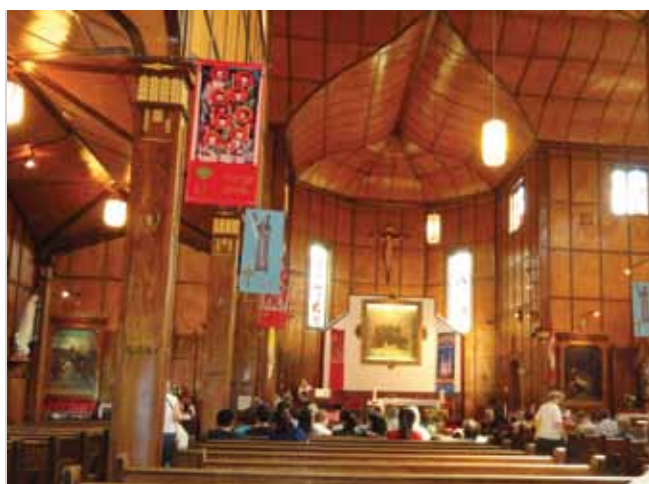
Lucy McGregor 100 years March 17, 2011
St. Francis Xavier, Renfrew, Ontario

Beatrice Paleczny 100 May 4, 2011
St. Louis Parish Council, Waterloo, Ontario

Barbara Risling 100 March 3, 2011
St. James Parish Council, Wilkie, Saskatchewan

Mary Ryan 100 years February 14, 2011
St. Anselm Parish Council, Toronto, Ontario

Theresa Warren 100 years May 23, 2011
St. Stephen Parish Council, North Vancouver,
British Columbia



MARTYRS' SHRINE

On August 18th, some 42 members made a day-long trip to the Martyrs' Shrine in Midland, Ontario, constructed as a place of peace to honour eight Jesuits martyred in the 1640s. Organizer and guide Bonnie Brennan noted that it was timely to visit "our holy land" in this the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the Jesuits in Canada.



RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO
CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT
C-702 SCOTLAND AVENUE
WINNIPEG, MB R3M 1X5
E-MAIL: MEMBERSHIP@CWL.CA

PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 40007536