

# INTRODUCING



**Fran Lucas**  
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial  
President

Fran was born and raised on a farm near Chipman, Alberta, to parents of Polish descent. She has one brother and one sister and is the youngest child. Her eldest sister, along with 16 other high school students, was killed in the Chipman-

Lamont school bus/train accident in 1960.

Fran is married to George and they have one son, Andrew, who was married this July. Fran's parish is St. Joseph Basilica where she has volunteered her time at the parish office as well as coordinated wedding rehearsals. She has been a Eucharistic minister for the past 10 years and continues to find it a very rewarding ministry.

For a number of years Fran had her own consulting company delivering training sessions for Alberta Tourism. Looking for other challenges she was recruited by Northlands in 1991. After years as its training manager, she is now the manager of volunteer services. To relax, Fran enjoys walking and reading; weekend trips to the mountains are wonderful escapes for her and George.

Fran has been a member of the Edmonton diocesan fieldworkers for the past eight years; she was on the Spiritus committee, Archbishop Collins' Strategic Planning Committee on the Definition of Marriage, the committee that recommended the revisions to the *Catholic Girl's League (CGL) Administration Manual* and is currently on the Catholic Conference 2010 planning committee. In July 2004 she started a new group of young League women who chose the name for their group to be the "Bizarre Women". The definition of this "bizarre" is "strikingly out of the ordinary". The challenge for these women was and continues to be to look at ways the League can successfully recruit and retain members. They remain strong members at their parish councils, many of them having been the president. In 2005, while Edmonton diocesan president, Fran was instrumental in the start up of a council at St. Joseph's College at the University of Alberta. This is still the first of its kind in Canada. In January 2007, she organized a CGL at the Jean Forest All Girls Leadership Academy in Edmonton.

Over the past 20 years, the League has offered Fran a wealth of opportunities to grow spiritually, make new friends in a number of provinces, and, in the past three years, to work with young women and girls whose love for the League should be bottled and sold!

As the newly-elected provincial president, Fran is humbled to represent the Alberta Mackenzie membership and is prepared to work hard in support of the 10,000 plus members she represents. †



**Susan Bernier**  
Manitoba Provincial President

Susan is a charter member of Notre Dame de Lorette Parish Council in 1989, and much to her own surprise, came home from that organizational meeting as president-elect, serving the new council with her family, one sister-in-law as charter president

and the other as convener. Since that first meeting, Susan has let her name stand for election with a willingness to serve where called, having held an executive position at some level of the League for all but one year of that time.

Susan has also served the League as an animator for Project Grow, public relations and publicity chairperson for the 1999 and 2008 annual national conventions and convention guest journalist for five years. Awarded the maple leaf service pin by her parish council and life membership by St. Boniface Archdiocesan Council, Susan now serves as president of the Manitoba Provincial Council.

Celebrating 30 years of marriage to Leo (and his very large extended family), they are parents of four and very proud grandparents of their first grandchild, Sebastian, born just two days before the provincial convention this spring. Working full time as an office administrator for a general contractor, Susan balances her time by living family life fully in faith and hope gathered in celebration for any and all occasions, and in moments stolen away, reading on the deck in summer or "curled up cozy" in the winter. †

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## REGINA ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL

The opening mass at the Regina archdiocesan convention was held on the CWL Day of Peace and Hope, April 26, 2009. The Prayer of the Faithful was read by National President-elect Velma Harasen while attendees held candles and stated the refrain, "Lord, hear our prayer and let it begin with me." The experience was very moving for all in attendance and a sign of their commitment to the theme, *Women of Peace and Hope*.

