

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR



Agnes Kenney
Mount Pearl,
Newfoundland and Labrador

It is a pleasure to bring greetings from Newfoundland and Labrador, the youngest province in Canada. The provincial council is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. It is an honour to present my first report as provincial president in my own province as it hosts the 89th annual national convention.

In our province, there are 27 parish councils with a total of 950 members. There are 41 members on the provincial executive and also 12 life members. We know that we can call on our life members whenever we need them to avail of their knowledge and expertise.

The 29th annual provincial convention (a mini-convention this year) was held in Deer Lake with 55 members in attendance. This was an election year for the provincial council and it was blessed to elect a full slate of officers. It was great to see Past President Ellen Kilfoy receive her life membership. She has joined a group of gifted and supportive individuals who continue to offer their services to the League.

Councils were presented with anniversary certificates, one council for 15 years and another for 20 years. We had three councils celebrate 35 years in this year of 2009. One council, St. Pius X, St. John's, is celebrating its 35th anniversary. It is quite an accomplishment for all councils celebrating anniversaries and is a testimony to the commitment and dedication of all members.

A lively discussion was held on whether we should have a mini-convention again next year. It was pointed out that a full convention is always held in a larger centre as several councils come together to host it. Many members felt that it is becoming more difficult to have people come from a distance to attend a full convention. The decision was made by an overwhelming majority that there would be a "no frills" mini-convention in 2010 for the purpose of transacting business. We would revert back to a full convention in 2011 as it is an election year.

We had a session entitled Issues Dialogue during the convention. The presenters, a panel of four, consisted of a life member who spoke on the general duties of League officers, a past president whose topic was communications, a president who spoke on goals and priorities and a president-elect whose topic was education. Members were free after the presentation to pose questions to the panellists, which sparked discussion on same.

As provincial president, I am very aware that we consider spiritual development a priority in our provincial and parish

councils. Every effort is made by members to participate in prayer services both in their own councils and in large groups during seasons of the church year, the season of Advent, for example. There are also days of retreat that councils set aside during the year to spiritually refuel members so that they can better carry on the work of the League. Some councils have fellowship evenings where they invite members of other Christian faiths to join with them in prepared prayer services for the occasion, with a social gathering afterwards.

One issue that is very important to all of us is maintaining and recruiting members. It is important to maintain our current membership, but it is also very important to have new members in order for the League to grow and spread to other parish communities.

Members have to be visible so that the general public can see what our gospel values are and whom we are concerned about in today's world – the poor, handicapped, homeless, unborn, victims of abuse and the aged. Members are encouraged by all levels of the League – national, provincial and parish – to telephone or write letters to local papers and their provincially and federally elected representatives on matters that affect the well-being of all members of society.

As a new provincial president my primary aim will be to visit as many parish councils as possible for various events. When I visited councils the previous two years I found it very rewarding, and I know that the members really appreciated my being with them. I will offer my encouragement and support, something we all need on our journey of faith. I will take advantage of any invitation from councils to present a workshop or to speak on a particular topic during my visit with them. I look forward to serving as provincial president where I can offer my commitment, enthusiasm and skills to further the understanding and knowledge of the League as an instrument of service "For God and Canada." †

NOVA SCOTIA



Janice Peddle
Centerville, Nova Scotia

It is bittersweet for me to stand before you this afternoon as Nova Scotia provincial president. As you all know, our provincial president, Marian Hepditch-Littlepage, passed away in March. In her memory, the provincial council has established a monetary prize that will be given to a Catholic female graduate from the Atlantic School of Theology. It is called the Marian Hepditch-Littlepage Prize.