

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.



Shari Guinta
Waterloo, Ontario

As an example of the varied age range of our members in Nova Scotia, in the month of May, we had a 21-year-old member graduate from St. Francis Xavier University (StFX), a 30-year-old member announce her pregnancy and a 93-year-old member honoured for 70 years of membership. What a wonderful testimony to our organization.

This past year the provincial council took on the buy-a-net malaria prevention program that was presented at the 2008 national convention. Every parish council was given a kit and presentations were made at all diocesan conventions. I do not have an exact account, as it is still ongoing, but I know that we have netted a few villages and many, many children. We are proud of the response to this project.

A provincial/diocesan executive workshop is planned for August. National Chairperson of Organization Velma Harasen will be pleased to know that we will be doing the *One in the Spirit* workshop in the morning. A computer workshop entitled *Computers Don't Byte* and roundtable discussions will complete a very informative day.

A main concern of the provincial executive is the lack of interest in annual reports. The provincial council can't have an accurate idea of what is going on in the province when only 56% of the councils are reporting. We have had a lot of discussion on this and are planning on doing better in the future.

National Chairperson of Community Life Mary Nordick mentions in her communiqué #3 that human trafficking continues to be a concern leading up to the 2010 Olympics. She asks members to continue educating themselves and others on the issue and writing to government. What a surprise for us Nova Scotians to hear that charges of human trafficking were laid in Halifax. We learn so much about so many issues as members, but do we realize it can happen in our own backyard? Thank God for our ever diligent police officers.

There is a 50th anniversary being celebrated in Nova Scotia which is of interest, the anniversary of the Coady International Institute. The Coady is part of StFX and claims well over 5,000 graduates in 130 countries. It uses campus-based leadership educational programs that touch not only attending students but countless others who have had Coady reach out to them in their homeland through training and partnerships. One of its honorary alumni, Mother Theresa (1975) said, "The spirit of concern which St. Francis Xavier University expresses in deeds through its Coady International Institute among the poor of the world, is very close to my heart."

Coady Director Mary Coyle says that future plans include the development of an international women's leadership trust, expanding youth programs to enable more Canadian youth to experience the world first hand and initiating programs to support the development of leaders among Canadian Aboriginal communities. Through the national voluntary fund, we are a part of this great institute. We can be proud that we can offer people [peace](#) and [hope](#) and play a part in welcoming the stranger.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide us in all we do. †

As Ontario Provincial Council moves forward in its 62nd year, maintaining, marketing and reenergizing its membership will be some of the major tasks facing the 2009-2011 provincial team. The provincial council celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2007 and a project was initiated to raise \$60,000 for The Call of The Poor, an organization that helps to build schools, drill wells, construct homes and many other worthwhile projects without any donated funds going to administration costs. At the provincial convention held in July, the \$60,000 goal was reached to the great joy and appreciation of all present, especially retiring Past President Shirley George.

After attending a conference entitled *Communities Working Together To End Violence Against Women* President Margaret Ann Jacobs and I realized that this most amazing conference should be shared with others. It would be a progressive vision if the message of stopping the violence against women and children could be shared throughout the dioceses and so "Project Outreach" was born. It was suggested that dioceses should tap into their own resources in their communities to educate members and the community about the phenomena of violence along with other issues such as palliative care.

To help diocesan councils, the provincial council offered \$1,000 toward the costs of having an outreach function such as a day of information with a speaker, panel or workshop for members within the community. Diocesan councils have planned this day with topics such as aging in place and senior friendly communities, community care access, trafficking of women and children, development and [peace](#), Saint Vincent de Paul, Wells of [Hope](#), seminars on youth (police, youth justice system, health unit, positive parenting, youth counsellors), palliative care and violence against women and children.

Membership was a focus for many councils throughout the province and we were happy to see a slight increase for 2008. Chairperson of Spiritual Development Pauline Krupa designed an amazing Pauline resource that included a DVD presentation with scriptural references, prayer and list of resources for use for the Year of St Paul. It can be found on the Ontario Web site. Pauline also has worked on Walking With a Living Saint where councils present a real woman's living history as a saint in our own time.

Chairperson of Community Life Carmel Rumleskie worked with a committee that designed a kit with information on