

who served as our spiritual advisor for the last ten years and welcomed our new spiritual advisor, Fr. Paul Batchilder.

The amalgamation of churches in Prince Edward Island continues to present challenges for councils. Some churches have amalgamated, but at this time only one of our parish councils has disbanded. We have learned a lot through the process. Taking time to meet, discuss options, and discern what is best for the council is a challenge. The provincial council has offered to put on workshops with those councils who are facing the challenge of disbanding or amalgamating.

We are blessed to have 14 life members who serve as mentors. We are grateful for their support and encouragement, and the knowledge and experience they share with us.

In May, I met with P.E.I. Right to Life and the Knights of Columbus to organize the annual March for Life. Attendance was up at the march this year. Priests for Life, P.E.I. Right to Life, the Knights of Columbus and the provincial council all spoke about the sanctity of life and the protection of the unborn, the innocent victims of abortion. Provincial politicians were also present and they were supportive.

Workshops and leadership training will continue to be a priority this year. We *hope* this training will encourage those who are hesitant to take on leadership roles, to step up and say “Yes” when they are approached. We are planning workshops for our fall conferences on hospice palliative care. Members from the Hospice Palliative Care Association of PEI will give a presentation, share ideas, provide information, answer questions and address concerns that are shared by many. We *hope* this information will show us how we can reach out to and support families and friends who are struggling and also show us how our councils can assist the association here on Prince Edward Island.

I have been blessed as I travelled across the Island meeting with grassroots members in parishes, at workshops, anniversary celebrations, fall conferences and the provincial convention. The gifts and talents shared by so many have enriched our lives. We are proud to be members of the League. May we go forth as *Women of Peace and Hope* and continue to share those gifts and talents with everyone we meet. †

WEAR YOUR LEAGUE IDENTITY WITH PRIDE.

New permanent bevelled name tags are available for order through national office.

These gold-coloured, durable plastic tags, measuring 1" x 3", will incorporate the enameled CWL crest and will be engraved with your name. The weight is light enough to grace a variety of fabrics. The name tags come with a standard lockable broach pin backing with the option of a magnet backing for a slight additional cost. These new tags will be a dignified way to identify yourself as a League sister as you offer parish ministry or greet others at convention. These permanent pins are offered at a cost of \$7.85 for the broach pin and \$9.50 for the magnet backing. Taxes and shipping are extra.

QUEBEC



Diane Lemay
Longueuil, Quebec

Last year, Quebec provincial council was challenged to recruit 100 new members. Many parish councils met the challenge and recruited new members,

some recruiting as many as seven. Unfortunately it just wasn't enough to make that 100 mark. But, because we are women of *hope*, we believe that next year we will break that 100 mark.

Our provincial convention was held at the end of May with over 100 members present from various parts of the province. The special guest was National President Danielle McNeil-Hessian who conducted a workshop using the *CWL Day of Peace & Hope Activities Kit*. Members participated with great enthusiasm, and it gave them ideas on how they could use the kit in their own councils. Four councils celebrating significant anniversaries received certificates. One member was presented with the Bellelle Guerin award for her outstanding service to the League. Two resolutions were adopted, one on monosodium glutamate which was forwarded to the national resolutions committee and one on home care workers who are not covered under workers' compensation if they are injured on the job. This resolution will be presented to the provincial government. A new provincial executive was installed at the closing mass and Spiritual Advisor Fr. John Torrance was installed at the same time.

With the appointment of Fr. Torrance to provincial level, we lost him as a diocesan spiritual advisor. This particular diocesan council has a shortage of priests and so, based on recommendations from the diocesan council, the bishop appointed a laywoman to the position of diocesan spiritual advisor. This same diocesan council also has two laywomen appointed as parish spiritual advisors.

Members continue to be very active in their respective parishes and in their communities. They provide strong support to their parish councils but are reluctant to take executive positions. We have identified this as a major problem and *hope* that in the next two years we can provide these members with the necessary tools and skills to give them the confidence to become leaders. Our life members will be the backbone of this endeavour, facilitating workshops and acting as mentors. They are very generous with their time and talents and we are so fortunate to have them.

A long term project that will commence in the fall will be to study the possibility of eliminating the diocesan level

leaving just the two levels, parish and provincial. At the present time we have two dioceses with only one parish council in each and two dioceses with only two parish councils in each. Our **hope** would be to make the provincial council stronger.

Joan Chittister, in her book *Scarred by Struggle, Transformed by Hope*, says that, “**Hope** is rooted in the past but believes in the future.” Chittister also says that, “The spirituality of struggle gives birth to the spirituality of **hope**....” Our struggle with declining membership and a diminishing pool of leadership resources spawns our **hope** and our belief in the future. †

SASKATCHEWAN



Gerri Holmes
Eston, Saskatchewan

I welcome this opportunity to serve the League at this level. The *One in the Spirit* program was presented by Honorary Life Member Claire Heron and Chairperson of Spiritual

Development Tillie Aessie at a fall workshop and received rave reviews. The provincial executive meeting saw us putting the finishing touches on plans for the provincial convention and making decisions to start putting funds in place for hosting the 2013 national convention to be held in Regina.

Letters were sent commending the Catholic, Anglican, Ukrainian and Evangelical Lutheran bishops of Saskatchewan on the stand they took regarding the nuclear power issue with the provincial government, encouraging it to present the issue from both sides. Provincial council also wrote letters to the premier of Saskatchewan and ministers of health, environment and renewable resources and energy with regard to establishing a parallel partnership (renewable development partnership) to the uranium development partnership to compare all possible energy sources. Members were also encouraged to write letters opposing Bill C-384 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (right to die with dignity)*. After listening to Fr. Mark Miller, we are all aware of the seriousness of this issue.

Gravelbourg hosted the provincial convention on June 1st-2nd. National President-elect Velma Harasen brought greetings on behalf of national council. She reported an increase in membership but challenged us to continue our efforts and encouraged us to use the *CWL Day of Peace & Hope Activities Kit*. She facilitated a workshop on faith, fun and fulfillment, stating we need to look at our attitudes and be encouraging as executive positions are hard to fill. She gave us examples of why members don't step forward, taking us into

a brainstorming session to look at ourselves and our councils and then identifying areas of concern and what we could change. Feedback and some personal journeys were shared. She encouraged us to proclaim joy and share our talents that are God-given.

Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, our theme presenter, based her presentation on what **peace** might mean using symbolism. She chose women who were awarded the Nobel **Peace** Prize, giving a brief profile as to why they received this award. She shared their work and efforts for **peace**, stating we can bring **peace** and **hope** through League work.

The provincial council's 50% share of the mass collection was given to Catholic Connections, a group which was formed from Catholic identities (Saskatchewan dioceses, school, hospital, League and Knights of Columbus) to identify ways in which they might work collaboratively to help resolve issues, meet challenges and achieve goals.

We welcomed a new executive at this convention as well as a new spiritual advisor, Fr. Frances Hengen. Retiring President Yvonne Colleaux was awarded the Bellelle Guerin award. The national bursary was awarded to 14 recipients, five from the Diocese of Saskatoon and nine from the Archdiocese of Regina.

In closing, I must share a **peace** and **hope** kit story from St. Anne Parish Council, Saskatoon. Its chairperson of Christian family life made Teddies for Tragedies, placing a red maple leaf crest on the chest of each teddy bear. A carrying bag was also provided. Another lady made a prayer shawl in red, white and blue with a large red maple leaf on each end. They were presented to immigrant families – the shawl, a special prayer card and a teddy bear for each of the children. The families thought it was a great welcome to Canada. †

SCARBOROUGH REGION OF THE TORONTO ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL

Two busloads travelled from St. Boniface Parish in Scarborough early one morning headed for the 2009 March for Life in Ottawa. Men, women and children took time out from their busy lives to be part of the thousands who gathered on Parliament Hill to listen to the various speakers. One teenage girl wowed the crowd with her passionate and sensitive presentation; several members of parliament came out to greet and support the marchers.

The huge numbers of Catholic high school students on the hill were amazing. They stayed throughout the heavy rain all afternoon and retained their zeal and enthusiasm during the long, cold walk when most of the umbrellas were blown inside out. As Scarborough Region Chairperson of Christian Family Life Anne Rode proclaims, “Even the heavens were weeping over those 40 years of abortions!”