

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**  
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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 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>. 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!”