

UPWARD AND ONWARD...



Lorette Noble

National Past President and Chairperson of Laws

At a recent elections meeting, someone who had been overwhelmingly nominated for president of her parish council expressed her hesitance about taking office. To everyone's amazement, a past president, who had held office many years before and continued to be an active, supportive member of the parish council, suddenly stood up and said, "Dare to do it! I was just like you all those years ago and thought I couldn't possibly accept the office of president because, for one thing, I didn't dare stand up and speak in public. But, you know, everyone helped me all the way through and I did it! So you should try it, too." Well, she certainly had no problem standing up and speaking publicly then and, guess what? The hesitant candidate took office and, as promised, everyone is rallying around to help.

If she hadn't, what could have happened is that the outgoing president might well have thought, "If no one's ready to stand, I had better stay on so that our council can keep going..." But, history has shown that, in many cases like this, the council becomes less involving of its members who are then quite happy to let someone else (often the same person) remain in the same office and do the work.

Past parish council presidents especially should try to set their goals on service to the League in an "upward and onward" movement. The diocesan level needs you and

the experience you have acquired to help promote the League's work in a wider context, continuing to educate members by bringing grassroots vision to the table. If there are personal reasons why, as outgoing president, you cannot fulfill this role, then become a mentor and enthusiastic supporter of your council, especially its new members. In other words, at election time, **dare to be silent** so that a new person on the eligibility list will be moved to take office. Then offer all the help you can to make things work. This is how new leaders emerge.

Not long ago we received a wonderful letter at national office from the son of a deceased member, saying how his mother had learned so many leadership skills through her membership in the League that had helped her raise her family on her own when her husband died early in their marriage. What a marvelous testimony!

Holding office in the League does not assume that you have all the qualifications for the post to which you are elected from the start. We have all learned from our on-the-job training. As Christ often said, "Do not be afraid...I am with you". If we are all called upon to be the eyes, hands and feet of Our Lord, then we must all "rally round" and help each other. This is our faith. And then, think of the fun everyone can have working together and the sense of fulfillment this can bring. Are you ready for the challenge? †



THANK YOU FATHER STAN

New Brunswick Provincial Council

Members of New Brunswick Provincial Council would like to express their sincere thanks to their provincial spiritual advisor, Father Stanislas Paulin, "Father Stan".

Father Paulin and provincial spiritual advisors across the country give essential support and guidance instrumental to the success of their councils' endeavours to do the Lord's work. May God continue to bless you Fathers, especially in this *Year for Priests*.