

# INTRODUCING



Saskatchewan Provincial President  
**Joan Petracek**

**J**oan was born and educated in Nokomis, Saskatchewan. Following teachers college, she taught briefly before marrying Arnold. For the past 30 years, they have lived in Esterhazy, Saskatchewan, farming the third generation family farm. Their four children were raised there. Oldest son Alan operates the grain farm; Michael manages a business in the agro-industry; Alison is an elementary school teacher; and Julie, a former stay-at-home mom, has returned to university.

While rearing children, Joan was actively involved as a leader of Brownies, Girl Guides of Canada and the 4-H Club. She taught Grade 7 catechism for many years and gave piano lessons. In Our Lady of Victories Parish, Joan has served in music ministry as organist for the senior choir. She also had time for Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults and marriage preparation and attended adult bible classes.

After serving as Regina archdiocesan president, Joan was provincial resolutions and organization chairpersons. She has been a League member since 1972, joining St. Patrick Parish Council in Lethbridge, Alberta. Both her mother and grandmother are long term members. Last fall, Joan presented her mother, Mary Simpson, with a certificate for 59 years of service.

Joan claims that her closest and dearest friends are League sisters. She has had many wonderful trips with these women to national conventions. For Joan, it's an annual adventure. She believes that every Catholic woman should experience this wonderful companionship. She states, "The spiritual growth and knowledge we gain is a treasure."

Saskatchewan Provincial Council's goal is to maintain membership, establish a provincial website, update the manual of policy and procedure and reintroduce *Spirituality: A Day of Discovery*. †

## Magazine Deadlines

August 31, 2006

November 30, 2006

February 28, 2007

All copy should be sent to national office.



Quebec Provincial President  
**Pearl Bridgwater**

**P**earl was born in Diego Martin, a village about six kilometers from the capital of Trinidad, West Indies. Her mother was Catholic; her father a convert. Trinidad, named for the Trinity, was a great place to be Catholic. From elementary school to teachers college, Pearl was educated by nuns. Carmelites in elementary school, Holy Faith nuns from Ireland in secondary school and Holy Name sisters in Catholic Women's Teachers College. Add to this the unequal fervour of her father, Pearl was reminded daily to be grateful and to appreciate the value of prayers.

Pearl has three surviving children, two daughters and one son. Her eldest daughter lives in Pennsylvania and owns an interior decorating firm. Her youngest daughter is an oncology nurse clinician at Jewish General Hospital in Montreal and her son is a Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer living in Vancouver. Her first child, a boy, died at birth. She is blessed with six grandchildren, two girls and four boys.

In 1967, Pearl came to Canada to teach for the Sault St. Louis School Commission of LaSalle, Quebec. She was required to pass a proficiency test in Quebec law in order to obtain a permanent teaching certificate. After completing a McGill University program, she obtained both a bachelor and masters of education degree. After completing her education, Pearl became the only teacher with integrated special education students at the Kindergarten level in her Commission.

In 1984, Pearl, who had never heard of the CWL, was approached by a member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish Council in Candiac. She was invited to its Communion supper and, later that month, to her first CWL meeting. She is proof positive that the personal approach is the way to go.

Pearl has been organization and spiritual development chairpersons at parish, diocesan and provincial levels, and community life and education chairpersons at the provincial level. It is as provincial secretary, her most challenging position, that she experienced the most growth. She received her life membership in 2000.