

National Chairperson of Laws Anne-Marie Gorman

Madame president,

The year 2023 to date has seen much activity. Updates to the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* were adopted at the 2023 mid-year board meeting in March. Following this meeting, I proceeded to attend the mid-year executive meeting of the B.C. & Yukon Provincial Council to facilitate the discussion for the Unity Outreach initiative. The information gleaned from the members was submitted to the national office, where it was collated with all other provinces and the Military Ordinariate. Follow up with the B.C. & Yukon provincial executive will occur in the fall as per the terms of the Unity Outreach terms of reference.

I met with my provincial counterparts as many completed their terms, to ascertain progress on the initiative regarding parish council policy manuals. This is a work in progress, but I am pleased to say that many councils that have not had a manual previously have developed one. Of course, many councils already had a manual, so they were of help to other provinces that needed assistance. The guidelines on the national website are sufficient, but some councils have developed workshops on the “why and how” regarding manuals of policy and procedure and are happy to share them with others.

Eligibility letters for the 2023 election cycle were circulated, and nomination letters were shared via the national office. The election will occur at this meeting.

I sat on the national bursary committee, which met on June 13th. Information is in National Chairperson of Education and Health Margaret Schwab’s report.

The proposed amendment to Part XIV, Sections 2, 3 and 4 of the *Constitution & Bylaws* was circulated and the resulting voting forms have been returned.

One of the main duties of my position was to update the archives. After much delay, I was able to meet in person with the national archives committee—Honorary Life Member Margaret Ann Jacobs, professional archivist Life Member Blanca Stead and myself, and the office liaison casual staff of Deborah Woodbeck and Monique Sass. I cannot emphasize enough the amount of work conducted by Blanca and Margaret Ann and the preparatory work done by Deborah so that we could follow guidelines and leave the archival materials as updated as possible for the time we spent at the office between June 1-5, 2023. Besides sorting out duplicate copies of magazines, annual meeting/convention programs, liturgy books, and report books, we did likewise with annual minutes of executive meetings and conventions. This is an ongoing need. The days and early evenings were full, but for the short time we were there, we accomplished all we could. We learned that all motions must be kept for three years, only coated paper clips should be used to secure papers, and all staples must be removed from materials before recycling. These may seem like small things, but it is important to know for future work. All histories of councils that were received by the office are in the “Publications” box, so provinces hopefully will have shared or will share a copy of their history with the office for use by future provincial and national archivists.

Several recommendations were made by the committee, some of which will be evident in proposed revisions to the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*.

Finally, an initiative by Novalis to publish a book on Catholic women and their contributions to the church is ongoing. The League was invited to submit a chapter to the yet unpublished book, *The Call of the Heart: Reflections on Women of Faith, Courage and Vision*. After reaching out to the honorary life members for input, Honorary Life Member Irene Lefort offered to draft some material to initiate the League's chapter. As this is a work in progress, information will be forthcoming as it becomes available.

Madame president, this concludes my report. †