

Journey with Life Member

Nora Kelly

I was a Charter Member of St. John the Baptist Parish Council, New Glasgow, N.S. when the League was organized in 1945. I joined because I felt the Catholic Women's League is truly the voice of the Women of Canada.

In 1950 I moved to Halifax and joined St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Women's League for three years. The Parish was divided and new boundaries were established and I was in the Canadian Martyrs Parish near St. Mary's University.

The League was organized in 1954 and I was a Charter Member and as "Ways and Means" Convener, raised funds to furnish the sacristy. I served as President of the Council from 1955 to 1957. We had a very large and enthusiastic membership under the directorship of the Jesuits, (Father E.M. Brown).

In 1961-1963 as Diocesan President, I represented the League at the Citizenship Court, held at the Court House and presided over by the late Judge V.J. Pottier when the new citizen's received their Citizenship papers.

The judge commended the League members for their participation as this was their first appearance at the Citizenship Court. Also laid a wreath at the cenotaph on Remembrance Day. During World Refugee Year, I served on the Committee to welcome three families from Yugoslavia and was Integration Convener. I worked with the Sisters of Service at the Port of Halifax and served on their Board. I Convened the 42nd National Convention in 1962, August 11-16.

In 1966-1968, as Provincial President, I attended the Catholic Women's League National Convention held in Montreal in 1967, Canada's Centennial Year. After business sessions I attended Expo '67 and viewed the book called, 'Women of the Century' the late Alice M. Hagen (J.C.) of Mahone Bay, noted artist and the first President of the League in N.S. Also in this book was a short biographical sketch of the late National President Marguerite M. Burns. I represented the province on the Committee on Amendments of the Constitution and By-Laws of the League which was held at the Cenacle Retreat House, Toronto.

I served on the Research Committee to study the necessity of a home for residential and nursing care residents, after a resolution was passed at the Halifax Diocesan Convention. The late Msgr. W.H. Smith was the Director at the time. St. Vincent's Guest House was officially opened May 13, 1966 by the late Madame Vanier, wife of the late Governor-General George P. Vanier. I served on the Board of Directors for ten years.

I am now a gratified resident at St. Vincent's and fortunate to be able to participate in religious and other activities. Archbishop James H. Hayes awarded me a Life Membership at the Provincial Convention held in Sydney in 1968. I served on the National Committee of Community Life.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to bless the League for God and Canada.

Respectfully submitted,
Nora W. Kelly (Mrs. James F.)
Life Member