

"HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY"

Life Member Newsletter – May 2014

Spring is finally hit Nova Scotia and it's time to look ahead for new adventures. Both the Provincial and the Halifax-Yarmouth councils will be holding elections this year. We wish all the candidates good luck and hope they are aware of the Life Members support on their election.

Another reminder of the dates of the upcoming conventions:

National – August 10-14th – Crown Plaza- Lord Beaverbrook Hotel - Fredericton, N.B.

Halifax-Yarmouth – May 9-11 – St. Vincent de Paul & St. John XXII - Dartmouth

Antigonish – April 25-27 – St. Theresa's – Sydney, N.S.

Provincial – May 30-June 1st – Our Lady of Lourdes – Stellarton, N.S.

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Two weeks ago I learned that a booklet of the Life Members histories was compiled sometime in 1998. It included four names that National did not give me when I requested the names of all the Life members of N.S. However there is no information about U.J. Pineau of Antigonish Diocese. She was Provincial President 1958-1960. I would appreciate any information you might have on her. The other three are: Ruth Menear, Iola MacEachern, Ellen McKinley. I do have their stories.

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I am enclosing two stories today, Julie Lievre and myself. I started this project hoping to get **some** of your stories and I have exceeded my expectations. There is one more to come and that will mean only 6 are missing. Thank you for your support.

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See you in Stellarton. Peace.

Ann Bradbury, N.S. Life Member Liaison

Journey with a Life Member- Julie LeLievre



I joined CWL in 1979 in Shilo, Manitoba. 2014 will be 35 years as a member.

Since my husband was serving in the Canadian forces, we moved frequently and I joined CWL wherever I was living including, Shilo MB; Saint John, NB; Gagetown NB; Petawawa, ON; Toronto, ON; Kingston, ON; Halifax, NS. Upon his retirement we moved 'back home' to Cape Breton and am presently a member of Our Lady of Fatima, Sydney, NS. Since moving here in 2007, I served as Resolutions & Legislation chairperson and secretary before being elected in 2013 as the president.

Served on the executive of various councils over the years, including chairperson of every standing committee, treasurer, secretary and president (president elect & past president). Served as council President at three councils- Our Lady of Lourdes, Kingston, ON; Our Lady of Shilo, Shilo MB and am the current president at Our lady of Fatima, Sydney River, NS.

Elected to the Military Ordinariate (Diocesan-Provincial) council in 2000, and served at that level for 12 years, completing my final term as past president in 2012.

Organized and facilitated CWL training workshops on various topics including, spiritual, leadership, teamwork, CWL structure and history. During my term as Military Ordinariate President I was able to visit each base from NS to BC, and do CWL training with each council. Co-chaired the 2006 MO convention at CFB Halifax. I was awarded CWL Life Membership in 2012.

Served as sub-chair for the national Christian Family Life (2010-2012) and Resolutions (2012-2014) standing committees. Composed prayer service for the national prayer booklet. Prepared an article on environmentally friendly "green" products which was published in the League Magazine. Attended the first project Grow training session at the national convention in 2012.

As the current president at OLOF I have chaired our annual Tea & Sale, organized our council's 55th anniversary celebration and in Jan 2014, I organized a prayer day at our CWL council and did a presentation on female saints.

I am honoured to be a member of the Catholic Women's League of Canada, and am truly blessed to have developed many lifelong friendships and fellowship with many CWL sisters. Through my involvement with CWL my faith and spiritual growth have flourished.

Julie LeLievre

Journey with Life Member - Ann Bradbury



I first joined The Catholic Women's League in May of 1979 at St. Stephen's Parish, Halifax, N.S. The following spring I was voted Corresponding Secretary and continued to be on an executive every year since. At one time in my history I was actually on the executive of three different levels of the league!

Early in my CWL career I learned that not all the work in the League is glamorous. I was on the back-up committee of the 1981 National Convention held here in Halifax. My "jobs" consisted of ; directing traffic at the Archbishops residence, carting orange crates for the picnic at Mount St, Vincent's grounds, crowd control at the closing banquet, delivering jugs of water to the delegates tables, moving chairs around of the executive head table and helping to dress nude, skinny models for the fashion show.

I held most convenorships in my own council and became President in 1984 and was awarded the Maple Leaf Service Pin in 1987. The outstanding memory of that time was when our council invited the babies baptized in that year, along with their parents and relatives to celebrate the feast of the Presentation of the Lord to the Temple with Mass followed by a reception. The Chronicle Herald sent a photographer to cover the story for the Religious page. We had a big snowstorm that day, but 13 of the families came anyway. The next day a picture of all the babies, our priest and I was front page news. The picture was the width of the page and was at least ¼ page long. Imagine the CWL on the front page of a main stream provincial newspaper.

During my presidency, I convened the Halifax Diocesan Convention at our parish. This was very special to us as Marie O'Malley, our Past President, was the Diocesan President at the time.

I continued my journey by serving on the Halifax Diocesan Council for a number of years and became Diocesan President in 1994. As President I was able to attend two National Conventions, one in Vancouver and the other for our 75th anniversary, in Edmonton, Alberta. The 1995 convention in Edmonton was made more memorable as our diocesan resolution asking "the CCCB to continue a dialogue with the Holy Father concerning the ordination of married men" was sent to the National Convention floor. It made for a very lively debate. I will always remember the 1994 National Convention in Vancouver as I travelled and roomed with the late Donna Whitehead.

During my two years as Diocesan President I welcomed in my home a group of spiritually motivated women for our executive meetings. In preparation for the 1995 Diocesan Convention, Father Claude MacLean celebrated Mass in my living room, a time I will always cherish.

In 1995 my first convention as Diocesan President was hosted by St. Thomas More CWL. Danielle MacNeil Hessian took on the unbelievable task of the theme development using the Day of Discovery program. It worked great.

In 1996, St. Joseph's and St. Theresa's co-hosted the Diocesan Convention. The planning committee had the children of the parish make colourful cards for each member and on the back asked each of us to pray that a wish of theirs be granted. My little person wanted me to pray for a BB gun!

As Diocesan President, I was invited to several councils as guest speaker and/or facilitator on different subjects and as a member of the Gertrude Project. I was also a guest speaker at our annual Afternoon of Reflection on one occasion. When the G8 countries met in Halifax, I had an invitation as Halifax Diocesan President, to the lecture given by Hillary Clinton, the wife of the United States President, which was held at Mount St. Vincent University.

In 1998 I joined the executive of the Nova Scotia Provincial Council and served 6 terms. **In June 2008, I was presented with my Life Membership by National President, Lorette Noble.**

In 2009, I spearheaded a campaign for the Buy a Net Program across our provincial councils. We raised enough funds to buy nets to save 25 villages in Ghana from the terrible diseases caused by mosquitoes.

In 2012 I was appointed Life Member Liaison for Nova Scotia by the Provincial President, Debbie Samson. This past two years I have endeavoured to gather the memories of all the Life Members of Nova Scotia and I almost succeeded.

In 2009 I became president of my own council at Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta (amalgamation of St. Stephen's and St. Joseph's parishes) and co-convened the 2011 Halifax Diocesan Convention with St. Catherine's President, Theresa Richard.

Over the years I have organized several events, such as workshops, fairs, muffin breakfasts, special Masses, banquets and fund raisers. For 5 years I organized the Halifax Diocesan Walk for Life. All the monies raised from the walk were donated to organizations that enriched and celebrated Life.

My most vivid memories on this journey are of the incredible dedicated women, our Spiritual Advisors and the many friends that I have met.

The Catholic Women's League has helped me become more confident. Not that I have become more competent, just more confident the members will accept my incompetence.

God bless The Catholic Women's League!

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“I can do things you cannot; you can do things I cannot; but together we can do great things for God”.