



The Catholic
Archdiocese
of Edmonton

Joy in Christ
100 Jubilee
1912-2012

Jubilee 100 Biography Project

Biography of Madelon Lefebvre

Submitted by St. Maria Goretti Parish, Devon, AB
prepared by Patricia March, Parish Chair

Madelon and her husband, Dennis, moved to Devon in July, 2002 from St. Paul, Alberta, and soon became involved in St. Maria Goretti Parish. They are the parents of two grown sons, Shane and Chad, and have two grandchildren, Tegan and Rylan. Currently Madelon is retired from the local Home Hardware; however, she returns occasionally when she is needed.

In consideration of who should represent St. Maria Goretti Parish in the Archdiocesan Biography Project for the Centennial of the Archdiocese of Edmonton, I could think of no one else better than Madelon Lefebvre. She is a dedicated servant of the Lord who excels at organizing events and motivating others to participate for the benefit of our Parish. She is humble; in fact, she was very reluctant to let this process unfold in celebrating her contributions, as she always emphasizes the team effort that it requires to participate in these many projects. However, many of us recognize the total dedication of this lady to motivate and organize people. She is a very hands-on leader who works right beside all of the committee members. She is the first to come forward to serve and the last to leave. Her motivation to be involved stems from her deep faith in the Lord and her call as one of His followers to love and serve others, especially those most in need of love and service.

As many projects over time have involved dealing with financial matters, Madelon has emphasized a strong community commitment to the businesses in town. As they have been so generous in giving to our Parish community, Madelon makes sure that we give back to them in our support for buying local, since, without their business support, we would not have been as successful with so many of our projects. This mutually beneficial attitude has brought forth good relationships between our Parish and our community.

Upon moving to the Parish, Madelon soon became involved with hospitality, fundraising and finance. In her capacity as Fundraising Chair, Madelon has inspired a variety of activities that not only supported the everyday funding of the Parish, but also the heavy involvement of the major fundraising "Raising the Roof" campaign that saw the successful reconstruction of the church building.

Some of these activities including helping organize three Oktoberfest celebrations with dinner, dance, cash bar, silent, live and take-a-chance auctions, and raffles. Not only did Madelon chair the committee throughout the planning and implementation, she also was involved with the ticket sales, meal preparation, setup and cleanup, and post evaluation.

Along with Fundraising, Madelon has worked with the Finance Committee. As the longest standing member of Finance, her duties now include bringing her wisdom and experience to mentor many new members who have come forward to serve in this capacity.

Madelon was a member of the Catholic Women's League before moving to Devon and she has continued to be an active and involved member in this organization. Before becoming President in December, 2008, she served on the Community and Family Life standing committee and was very involved in the CWL's work in the Parish. Under Madelon's presidency, we have seen a growth in focusing on the spiritual development and service to the parish aspects of the CWL. As with all other efforts, Madelon encourages active participation of the members and shows by example how our servant stewardship should unfold. Madelon was also chairing the Zone 8 President committee to help organize the Diocesan convention held in April 2013.

Since October 2007, Madelon has spearheaded an outreach project for our Parish, that is, the Blanket Campaign for the inner city. Old blankets are obtained from donations from hotels, the public and the local Thrift shop run by the United Church. They are then recycled by covering them with new material and making them over into blanket rolls. Once completed, they are then delivered to the inner city agencies in Edmonton for distribution to their clients. As well, a collection is taken up in the Parish and wool socks and mitts are bought at a discount, and along with a contribution from Home Hardware, go along with the blanket rolls. This project grows yearly with more blankets made, more socks and mitts bought, and more people involved. Now becoming more of an ecumenical project in our town, the ladies from the United Church joined our women this year for the sewing.

Another ministry that Madelon has been involved with is Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist in which she regularly and reverently participates and is always available to step in if another member is away. In this capacity, she also acts occasionally as a Minister to the Sick, bringing communion to those in the seniors centre, the hospital or to shut-ins.

Madelon's service to our Pastors is evident. Whether it be setting up a new office configuration, repairing faulty equipment, getting the best deal for new furniture or appliances for the rectory, Madelon is there to serve. Madelon's global knowledge of how things work, fixing and repairs, are always at the service of our Pastors who have relied on her for a multitude of projects over the years. With the skills of a woman like Madelon, who needs a man around for getting things fixed?

In conclusion, we offer to you as our representative of an outstanding, dedicated, faithful example, Madelon Lefebvre, who has blessed our St. Maria Goretti Parish with her humble service to our Church.