

typing the resolutions we found and categorizing them based on today's standing committee structure. These resolutions were reviewed by the respective standing committees that were assigned responsibility for resolution action and follow-up. The resolutions that have been achieved or that have become outdated and obsolete were archived. Resolutions that have been adopted as policy but never achieved have been placed in on-going folders. These folders, complete with all relevant correspondence and actions taken over the years, will be given to the standing committee chairpersons following the post-convention meeting.

It is hoped that this information, in a readily available format, will assist standing committee chairpersons to continue to act on those resolutions that still demand our attention. And it is hoped that the chairpersons will use *The Canadian League* to continue to inform members about these issues so that we all can work together toward achieving the goals envisioned by the parish councils who first researched and wrote on these important topics. This is our first attempt at developing a process to bring focus to our resolutions follow-up. While the process will probably need to evolve as the concept is worked with over the next two years, I'm positive that the fruits of this effort will be a streamlined system for long-term resolutions follow-up.

While these projects were going on, we also assisted in the compilation of the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* updates; the proposed amendments to the *Constitution & Bylaws*; the coordination of attendance at the WUCWO General Assembly; the consultations regarding proposed changes to the standing committee responsibilities; the production of one parish council mailing, two magazines, numerous communiqués, correspondence and website updates; the processing of over \$1.6 million in deposits and \$110,000 of orders; and, the processing of over 80,000 memberships.

The key to providing continuity is long term staff so I would like to thank Linda Peters, Janet Forbes, Diane Havens and Pat Unger for their dedication to serving the members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. Altogether, they have 30 collective years of service to the League and its members.

and plan for the coming year by seeking the energy of the Holy Spirit, the inspiration of Our Lady of Good Counsel and the consultation of their spiritual advisors. They have the responsibility to lead their CWL companions into those unforeseen sacred places, thus giving them the opportunity to enlarge and enrich their souls.

*Deus Caritas Est* (God is Love), the first encyclical letter of Pope Benedict XVI, sets out seven signposts for our journey in Christian love:

1. Dwell in the Word of God.
2. The church is God's family in the world.
3. Every person needs loving concern, not simply material help, but refreshment and care for their souls.
4. Faith is an encounter with the living God.
5. The direct duty to work for a just ordering of society is proper to the lay faithful.
6. A pure and generous love is the best witness to the God in whom we believe and by whom we are driven to love.
7. Mary shows us that the soul totally pervaded by God becomes a "fountain of living water in the midst of a thirsting world."

The vista for the national executive members' journey was provided at the WUCWO Study Days, where we were challenged to become women of peace. This gathering of Catholic sisters from around the world opened our eyes to the courage and faith required to face the realities of poverty, abuse and strife. We learned that we can be more than peacemakers. Because of our relationship with Jesus, we can be peace builders. We can make peace real by building right relationships that sustain love, shining the light of truth on politics and working to ensure justice for all people.

As women in the church, we follow a Marian tradition. Those in attendance at the Study Days participated in a prayer service entitled *We Walk in the Footsteps of Mary*. This service was included with my last communiqué and you are welcome to access it on the CWL website for use in your council.

Modern day Catholic women hunger for spirituality; it is our job to provide the tools they need to enlarge their souls. We know from *Spirituality: A Day of Discovery* that we each have different spiritual preferences. Councils are advised to address each of these preferences in the spiritual programs they offer throughout the year. Watch for a new resource available later this year from national office called *One in the Spirit*. This workshop can be used as the next step for members to explore their sacred energies on their continuing League journeys.

Thanks to Fr. Jean Picher who spoke about the 49<sup>th</sup> International Eucharistic Congress. He has provided a study kit that offers eight 15-minute programs. Each program includes a few questions, an overview and a prayer for members to use at a meeting. This study kit may be obtained by your spiritual development chairperson.

This past year, CMIC benefited more than ever from the

## SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT



**Betty Anne Brown**

The challenge for spiritual development chairpersons is to act as a spiritual tour guide for the members of their councils. Scouting ahead, they investigate

generosity of members, as \$29,588.68 was received for the national voluntary fund. Congratulations to members for their generosity.

At the heart of your journey through life is that precious, sacred space known only to you and God. This deep place of encounter needs to be protected and nourished through silence, prayer and service to your brothers and sisters. May your CWL council be the source of such infinite goodness in the world!

## ORGANIZATION



**Lorette Noble**

I would like to congratulate all members for the amazing work they have been doing to encourage, maintain and strengthen membership. Membership is crucial: without members, there is no League. At the end of June, we had 95,548 members. What can we do to reach the 100,000 mark?

When we look at the role of women in today's society, what image comes to mind? Women are increasingly working full time and some are married with children. The pursuit of efficiency and productivity at any cost in today's business world often means that if you want to hold on to and advance in your job, you are expected to work incredibly long hours, carrying your laptop wherever you go, even on holiday, which leaves very little time for family, community and social life. Our challenge in the years ahead is to look closely at what the League can offer such women and also at what demands we make on present members. We need to strike a balance between our hope and their expectations and how these may be reasonably and realistically met.

Are meetings held at times and on days that are convenient so that we are likely to attract the best attendance? If not, are we willing to try a change? Are meetings run efficiently, so that busy people do not feel overwhelmed or that they are wasting their time? Can we truly say at the end of every one of our meetings, "I learned something new today"? In other words, is what we have to offer likely to make a new member feel that belonging to the League is worthwhile? Is every one of us here convinced that joining is one of the best decisions we ever made?

We must give special care and attention to councils involved in situations where parishes are merging. We are so good at hospitality and this is where we will be called upon to help ease the transition should two councils decide to become one.

We know that our strength and one that distinguishes us from all other groups and organizations is the depth of our spirituality, which gives meaning to all our actions. In our world today, where there is so much questioning of and at the same time searching for values, our rootedness in gospel values, our shared faith, and our caring for one another are the strongest appeal we can make to Catholic women. I don't know any women of any age or circumstance who would not find this appealing.

So in our recruitment campaigns, our social justice activities, our social events and, above all, in our concern for each other, if we remember that as Catholic women we have a mission to help spread God's message of love to everyone we meet, and we know that the League offers just about the best way of doing this, we surely will be inspired to find ways of drawing other women to join us. If everyone here today goes home and invites one friend to "come and see," we will reach and even pass the 100,000 member mark.

Finally, most of you have heard that the national executive has begun looking at the standing committees and discerning whether they need to be realigned to give better direction to how the League will function in the future. An ad hoc committee was set up and, having received some feedback, a wider consultation will be conducted using focus groups, so that members have a real chance of studying the structure to see whether it still responds to our needs and reflects what is actually taking place at the different levels. This is very exciting and I encourage each and every member to participate in this exercise which will help the League to remain a dynamic and growing organization.

## CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE



**Cecile Miller**

Two important issues continue to dominate the focus for the Christian family life standing committee: same-sex marriage and euthanasia and assisted suicide.

A free vote in Parliament on a motion to re-open the marriage debate has been promised for this fall. Now is the time for us to make our voices heard by contacting our members of parliament (MPs). The Catholic Organization for Life and Family (COLF) has many resources available. One that is available on the COLF website or by ordering is