

go. I want my mother back as I knew her; to a time when we could do things that mothers and daughters do together, like going to a movie, shopping, making a favourite recipe, having lunch together in a restaurant or just spending time together at home. Daily things done so long ago, and taken for granted. Worth so much more today, but only a memory etched in time.

I thank Jesus for giving me compassion and the sense of understanding what must be done. I thank Him for allowing me to return my parents' unconditional love to them. My prayer is for inner strength, hope and wisdom. Help me to see the cycle of life and accept it.

In a telephone conversation with Mom a few days ago, I listened as she told me the events of her day, sometimes forgetting why she was telling me a certain detail, then laughing about it as she continued on. She talked about her dreaded bath, the appointment with her hairdresser, having no change to tip her hairdresser, blocked ears, and not being able to hear the television. Mom's biggest accomplishment that day was changing into her nightgown all by herself. She first had to undo all the buttons on her blouse and sweater, something she said she would never do again as it took too long. I cried as I listened to her. I could hear the pride in her

voice that she had persevered and won the battle this time. Her little hands are skinny, and her fingers full of arthritis, bent and deformed.

In a wheelchair, unable to walk, Mom makes the best of each day in her world. A world that has changed so much from the one she once knew. As I step into her new world, I mourn for what no longer exists, but I also rejoice for the privilege of being her companion, walking with her on her journey "home".

I am so thankful for honouring my mom and dad with love and the gift of time; for being present for them in their old age to care for and love them. I am blessed indeed!

I welcome Agnes Thiffault, my mother, into The Catholic Women's League of Canada. Sisters in the League, Agnes wants you to know that she prays for you daily! And I praise God for what He is doing in my life! †

POSTSCRIPTS

1. Verna's mother went home to the lord on June 20, 2007, two months before her 90th birthday.
2. The "wonderful man" Verna describes became her husband on August 4, 2006.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BURSARY RECIPIENTS!



In 1988, the League received two generous donations with no stipulation as to their use. In response to the call for lay formation in the Holy Father's apostolic exhortation *Christifideles Laici*, and in light of the expressed desire of the League to foster members' service "For God and Canada", the national executive agreed by motion that these donations be used to establish the National Bursary Fund. Subsequently, in 1990, the national bursary was established as an endowment fund with the principal amount invested and the interest earned annually to be distributed as bursary awards. The fund is used to provide financial assistance to League members meeting the established criteria, and who wish to pursue studies in adult faith formation and/or youth ministry.

The League is grateful for the many donations received specifically for this fund. Through careful administration, the League has been able to increase the number of awards annually. Bursary applications are available on request from national office or can be downloaded from www.cwl.ca and must be sent to national office with a postmark of no later than May 31st.

- Jasmine Bean, Calgary, Alberta
Shirley Bernier, Lachine, Quebec
Gloria Chopik, Pilot Butte, Saskatchewan
Louise Eberwein, Kirkland, Quebec
Kendal Freeman, Madoc, Ontario
Claire Hatcher, Neils Harbour, Nova Scotia
Naden Kathleen Hewko, Cactus Lake, Saskatchewan
Annette Hine, Esterhazy, Saskatchewan
Deb Hoyer, Vienna, Ontario
Adele Huculak, Kamloops, British Columbia
Lynn Lavictoire, Cumberland, Ontario
Barbara Malcolm, Port Hawkesbury, Nova Scotia
Ana-Maria Mattia, Edmonton, Alberta
Norah McKoy-Mulrooney, Chateaugay, Quebec
Ann Myers, Kentville, Nova Scotia
Stacey Rhodes-Nesset, Surrey, British Columbia
Susan Seidel, Kindersley, Saskatchewan
Rosalie Senft, Regina, Saskatchewan
Joan Speir, Calgary, Alberta
Elaine Marie Verbonac, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Bertilla, Watanabe, Vancouver, British Columbia †