

The campaign is to begin on October 1st, the International Day of Older Persons.

- Mental illness and the homeless: The government has recently allocated \$110 million for the development of five demonstration research projects relating to people living with mental illness who are homeless.

It is important that we acknowledge and commend the government on these positive initiatives.

One goal when I became national chairperson was to complete a PowerPoint presentation to review the breadth of activities under this standing committee in which members honour and value the dignity of people throughout the world. It was my intention to produce a DVD that could be used to serve as a vehicle to showcase members' good works. The presentation has been completed and each provincial president has received a copy. I hope you like it.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide us in our important work "For God and Canada". My thanks to all chairpersons of community life for your untiring efforts and I thank my sub-committee chairpersons. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as your national chairperson. Thank you for your friendship and prayers. †

on June 23rd to review 28 applications. Twenty-six applications were approved. We regret to report that two applications had to be declined as two letters of reference were not included with their application. The total value of the awarded bursaries came to \$10,780.

Canadian Physicians for Life are supporting a petition for the safe use of cosmetics. The petition is an initiative of Breast Cancer Action Montreal. The focus is to have the federal government enact legislation which would ensure that cosmetics meeting European standards are approved for Canadian use.

Two resolutions will be remanded to the national archives – 1998.11 Legalization and Decriminalization of Marijuana and 1976.10 Canadian Content in Schools. Five life members – Mary Heinzlmeir, Jean Falck, Patricia Crossman, Muriel Murphy and Colleen Shirley – are continuing to review the resolutions for education and health to see if the requests in the resolutions have been fulfilled or the material has become outdated.

The Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute, in collaboration with St. Elizabeth Health Care, is presenting a conference on November 6th entitled Practical Ethics in Home Based Care. The conference will be held on campus at the University of St. Michael's College, at the University of Toronto.

I extend a most sincere thank you to the life members for their assistance during my two years as national education and health chairperson.

Education and health is an exciting, challenging and rewarding committee to work on. With the grace of God, we can meet its challenges and continue this good work "For God and Canada". †

EDUCATION AND HEALTH



Judy Lewis
Summerside,
Prince Edward Island

MaterCare International Inc. was invited to a high level meeting organized by the Holy See in December 2007. In 2007, citizens of Australia joined Canadians in extending support to MaterCare. A concept note was accepted by the European Union (for Kenya and Sierra Leone) with a full proposal submitted in May 2008. MaterCare received funding for its equipment proposal for a Kenyan project from the Italian Episcopal Conference of Bishops in May 2008. Donations to MaterCare International Inc. from July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2008, totalled \$36,766.

In 2007 the Coady International Institute had 40 participants graduate with a diploma in development leadership and had a number of participants take certificate courses on-site at Coady and several overseas locations. Currently there are 59 participants from 22 countries for the 2008 diploma in development leadership. Donations to the Coady International Institute from July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2008, totalled \$28,318.

The National Bursary Committee met by conference call

COMMUNICATIONS



Velma Harasen
Regina, Saskatchewan

The Canadian League was first published in the fall of 1920 and, in February 1958, it was decided the magazine would be sent to each paid-up member. In the beginning, parish councils were encouraged to subscribe to several copies, paid for from their treasury, and then sold at 20 cents per copy! *The Canadian League* has served members well and just keeps getting better. I suggest that parish councils again purchase subscriptions to give and/or sell to non-members, an effective publicity and recruiting tool. The cost is a touch more than in 1920, but still a bargain at \$8.00 per year. Be sure a subscription is purchased for your spiritual

advisor. Records indicate that, in many instances, this is not happening. Please notify both national office and Canada Post if you have an address change; last year the national treasury paid over \$2,000 in return postage for undeliverable magazines.

Many provincial and diocesan councils publish regular newsletters and are establishing their own websites. To help members who are administering websites, the national executive has drafted website guidelines; these are available from national office.

The national executive is working with a social marketing firm to assist in the development of a short and long-term strategy, enhance the League's image, and assist with recruiting and retaining members. More details will be available after the fall national executive meeting.

Canada's privacy commissioners and ombudspersons issued a joint resolution in June expressing their commitment to work together to improve the state of online privacy for young people. Learning material will be available, including an interactive website aimed to encourage young people to build a secure online identity, so they are not putting themselves at risk. On social networking sites like facebook and MySpace, you can't control what information others are posting about you or who is looking at your information. Unlike any other generation, access to information is available at a speed and rate that is mind-boggling; parents be aware!

The Ribbon of Signatures Campaign, formerly known as White Ribbon Against Pornography, will not officially take place this October due to staffing difficulties. Kits will not be available, however, this should not deter parish councils from carrying on with the campaign in whatever way they can. The League's focus must be on the Internet and the exploitation of children. The Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) does not see it as its mandate to monitor Internet service providers. There are bills before Parliament regarding pornography on the Internet. This is the League's opportunity to put pressure on federal government representatives as well as the CRTC to protect youth from exploitation.

Members have expressed concern regarding pictures that are in poor taste appearing in the Sears *Fall Inspirations and Sale 2008* catalogue on pages 49 and 67. Members may express their concern by writing to Sears Canada.

The last two years have been a blessing. I've enjoyed having input into *The Canadian League* and working with great communications chairpersons across the country. In the words of Mother Teresa, "You can do what I can't do. I can do what you can't do. Together we can do something beautiful for God." ✚

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH COUNCIL, SHERWOOD PARK, ALBERTA



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Council members began a prayer shawl ministry in 2007. On May 6th, an ecumenical retreat was held for the seniors and homebound. Ministers from participating churches led the prayers. Volunteer musicians, choirs, dancers and other performers provided entertainment. A catered luncheon was also provided.

In preparation for this event, participating churches were asked to knit/crochet and donate prayer shawls for the seniors and homebound attending. The response was overwhelming – over 200 shawls were received for 124 attendees. The remaining shawls were presented to elders in five nursing homes in the community.

Members from Glory Lutheran Church, Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, Sherwood Park United Church, St. Thomas Anglican Church and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church have organized and coordinated this annual retreat for the past 17 years.

STAR OF THE SEA PARISH COUNCIL WHITEROCK, BRITISH COLUMBIA



Star of the Sea Parish Council ends its year in June with a brunch. On that occasion, parishioners are invited to bring in men's clothing, used or new, for the Sisters of the Atonement Men's Clothing Room in downtown Vancouver, on the east side. Pictured are Toni Van Koll, Helen Martin, Donna Cassidy, Erna Darby and Marie Geiger.

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