

The 2008 National Euthanasia Symposium will be held October 24-25 at the Victoria Inn Hotel and Convention Centre here in Winnipeg.

It is recommended by the national executive that the National Pro-life Voluntary Fund collections from July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2008, of \$10,771 be divided between COLF and EPC.

Two ad hoc committees were struck under this standing committee:

- The first was struck for the development of ethical guidelines for the League. These were approved at a national executive meeting and are now in the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*.
- The second was struck to streamline the basic guidelines for organizing a Catholic Girls' League (CGL) council, resulting in a much more user-friendly manual.

Thank you to the individual members of these ad hoc committees for a job well done. Concerns raised with respect to liability and the Catholic Girls' League were addressed to the national executive's satisfaction, through consultation with legal counsel this spring. Following discussions at the pre-convention meeting, a motion was carried that the groups remain under the rubric of the Christian family life standing committee. Additional cautionary remarks will be added to the present manual for the protection of the girls' groups and the League. A cover letter will be added to the manual explaining the parameters of structure and League copyright information. There are currently 17 CGL councils operating in Canada – five in Alberta, one in British Columbia, ten in Ontario and one in Quebec. There have been seven more inquiries from councils interested in forming a CGL group.

"No matter what a family's circumstances are, no matter how it suffers or what challenges it faces, when it opens itself to another family, it is a reflection of God – tender, faithful and merciful. It becomes a messenger of the compassionate Love of Christ for us all" (COLF 2003, *Families: Messengers of the Compassionate Love of Christ*). ✠

and advocating for developing countries.

Child poverty continued to be a focus. Poverty is a reality affecting both rich and poor countries. Eli Khamarov said that, "Poverty is like punishment for a crime you didn't commit." As national chairperson, I suggested the "Adopt a child" project in an attempt to fight poverty – one child at a time. The idea came from a letter I had received from a member in British Columbia who stated, "There are too many children in this world that are dying each day of hunger. Praying for them is good. But God gave us the means to help. Why can't the CWL as a group adopt one child per council?" I put it out to members to consider adopting a child from a developing country or northern mission, and the results have been overwhelming. While many parish councils had already adopted children, many picked up the project and ran with it. Across Canada, councils hosted parish presentations in which upwards of 50 children were adopted (56 children were adopted in my own parish). Thanks to the dedication and commitment of members, hundreds of children have been adopted.

Human trafficking has been coined as "slavery of the 21st century". Councils have developed action strategies to deal with this difficult problem. It is critical to work on research and gathering information, education, prevention, support groups and lobbying governments. Also, it is important to promote the education of men and boys on the trafficking of women and its devastating effects. It is critical that members continue to write letters to government.

In the World Refugee Survey 2008, Canada earned the grade of "A" for the right to earn a livelihood and freedom of movement and the grade of "B" for both physical protection and detention/access to courts. Kairos: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives sent a warning. "Every year, violence, conflict and poverty force millions to leave their homes in search of refuge. While Canada prides itself on welcoming refugees and migrants, we are often far less welcoming than we want to believe. Recent federal initiatives threaten the basic human rights of refugee claimants, and everywhere refugees and migrants continue to face suspicion and discrimination." Indeed, another area where members need to be vigilant.

Contributions to the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace National Voluntary Fund for the period of July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2008, totalled \$77,161. Members again have been very generous.

At each meeting with the federal government, the League delegation has included in its presentation the League's position on eliminating elder abuse and the plight of the homeless. It is encouraging to note that there has been some really positive government initiatives recently announced in both of these areas:

- Elder abuse: The Hon. Marjory LeBreton, leader of the government in the Senate and secretary of state (seniors), announced that the 2008 federal budget would allocate \$13 million over the next three years aimed at curbing elder abuse.

COMMUNITY LIFE



Dr. Rayleen De Luca
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Congratulations to members for the amazing work that has been done in the area of community life. Members at all levels have served as role models in upholding the dignity and rights of persons, working for social and economic justice, helping refugees and immigrants, supporting the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace,



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