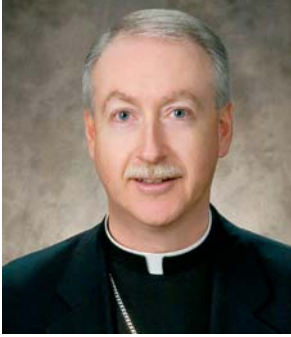


## SPIRITUAL ADVISOR



**Most Rev. Richard Smith**  
Archbishop of Edmonton

This report follows up on the luncheon that I just had with the spiritual advisors who were at the convention. After the luncheon, discussions were held about the role of the spiritual advisor and the League itself. My role in this particular report is to communicate to you the answers shared with me. There were 25 in attendance at the luncheon.

The first thing that would have to be communicated is an expression of deep, deep appreciation for the presence and work of the League around the country. Some of the things shared were that spiritual advisors are humbled by the witness that is given by members of their love for the Lord, the gospel and the church. Spiritual advisors acknowledge the work often done tirelessly on behalf of the church at the various levels of the League and are grateful for the support received from members. They are encouraged by members' energy, particularly in those areas of the church which may be suffering from diminishment of population and human resources where the spiritual advisor in a particular capacity may be tempted to discouragement. There is a wonderful sense of being encouraged and edified by the work of the League, including its resolutions.

It was stated that growth of the League is vital. This is an organization that must grow. And there was an expression that for work such as recruiting new members, the League ought to be conscious of communicating to new members the League's work in the church and of its presence in society. Particular reference was made to the DVD that was produced by Salt and Light Catholic Media Foundation; spiritual advisors thought that it should be as widespread as possible. The importance of faith development was spoken of in general terms. The League is a community of faith and, therefore, it must continue to grow.

Spiritual advisors are aware of the challenges facing members, of tensions that can exist in councils when there is a generational variety among the members, and especially when some members are used to doing things the way they have always been done. Those are some of the reasons women aren't joining.

That which exercised most dialogue was the sad fact that very often councils at various levels feel a lack of support from their spiritual advisors for which there could be a variety of reasons. In some cases the priest is busy with a multitude of tasks and cannot always be present; there can be a temptation

to misinterpret that as a lack of support. At the same time, it is realized that there are other dynamics and sometimes true conflict with the advisor that can arise from a number of different sources. Perhaps the advisor, in the case of the priest, might be confusing the role of pastor and spiritual advisor; they may reside in the same person but they are distinct roles. Another reason might be an increasingly relevant fact that many priests are from other countries and cultures. They may not have any idea what the League is about. There are a number of things that can be done; I'm sure there is a role for the diocesan spiritual advisor and the need for proper education. Sometimes the pastor can have an inappropriate and inadequate understanding of where the League stands. One suggestion which I thought was particularly helpful was the need for an educational tool that is directed to the spiritual advisor.

The final point I want to bring to your attention was the importance of the process for liturgical preparation. Advisors want liturgies to be celebrated well and properly. It's very important in that process before making any final decisions, and certainly prior to the publication of any booklets, that the proposed liturgical celebration be run by the advisor to make sure it is correct in terms of liturgical and diocesan guidelines. That should be kept in mind.

Those were some points that spiritual advisors felt should be raised, but the most important thing I would want to leave you is the deep and unwavering support of the spiritual advisors. I recognize that you appreciate their work and presence and all that they do in the multiplicity of other tasks that are asked of them. †

## SECRETARY TREASURER



**Peggy Roche**  
Torbay, Newfoundland  
and Labrador

At its pre-convention meeting, the national executive reviewed the 2007 audited financial statements that were prepared by Chambers, Fraser & Co. Chartered Accountants. For a third year in a row, the per capita fees were not sufficient to cover expenses. The main reason is that the League continues to experience a declining membership; there were 494 less members than in 2006. Investment income was relied upon to make up for this operating loss.

I wish to say a special thank you. I don't know if members realize just how much time and work goes into the preparation of the reports for the auditors, the budget and

mid year financial statements, not to mention monitoring investments, dealing with brokers, and overseeing the day to day operations of the national office. I personally like to give credit where credit is due and, from working closely with the executive director, I deeply appreciate the fact that we have Kim Scammell and the staff at national office. Officers are elected for a time only and, as good stewards, they have worked together as a team for the betterment of the League, while employees are steady at the helm keeping things afloat at all times, regardless.

I will now give an explanation of the 2007 financial statements. Current assets totalled \$707,775 and are comprised of cash, accounts receivable, inventory, prepaid expenses, and the current portion of investments. Capital assets totalled \$110,831 and investments totalled \$1,635,893. Investments are carried at market value for 2007 and subsequent years to comply with the Financial Standards section 3855 of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants handbook.

As at December 31, 2007, current liabilities totalled \$116,270 and are comprised of accounts payable and accruals, deferred revenue and national voluntary funds. Net assets totalled \$2,338,229 and are comprised of an internally restricted bursary fund, investments in capital assets and unrestricted net assets, representing the accumulated surpluses from every year since the League was organized.

The League has committed to office and equipment leases which expire in 2011 and 2015.

Revenue of \$863,673 is comprised of per capita fees (98,418 membership fees for 2007 and 98,934 for 2006 a drop of 516 from the previous year), gross margin on sales, convention registration fees (654 members and guests registered in Montreal), magazine subscriptions (857 subscriptions were sold for \$8.00 each to non-members), life memberships (10 members were approved in 2007), bursary donations (nine donations were received from parish councils and one individual) and miscellaneous (mostly comprised of the overpayments from councils of less than \$15.00 which are not refunded).

Expenditures of \$904,304 are comprised of annual convention costs, international relations, League development, magazine costs, national executive expenses, office building expenses, office equipment costs, operating costs and staffing. The excess of expenditures over revenue from operations was \$40,631.

The net investment income is \$26,330. The investment portfolio earned \$103,035, which was reinvested. However, the market value of investments dropped offsetting some earnings. The net income of \$26,300 was less than anticipated and remarkably less than last year because of the requirement to switch from cost accounting to market value accounting last year. There was also a slight increase in investment counsel fees as an additional asset manager was hired to manage a portion of the portfolio.

The net deficiency of revenue for 2007 was \$14,301. Even

though this is a deficit, it is less than anticipated. The national executive continues to be a good steward and strives to find ways and means to increase revenues without decreasing programs or increasing fees.

I will now review the Six Month Statement of Revenue and Expenditures as at June 30, 2008. Revenue of \$689,432 is comprised of bursary donations, gross margin on sales (including a \$17,000 write off of the 2003 version of the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*), life memberships (14 recipients), magazine subscriptions (704 subscriptions for non-members) and per capita fees (81,679 memberships processed by June 30<sup>th</sup>; productivity in membership has decreased because of the number of errors in the remittances). The decline in revenue is due almost exclusively to the extra care being taken when processing the memberships.

Expenditures totalled \$507,842 and are comprised of international relations expenses, League development, magazine costs (two of the three issues have been produced; an additional \$2,110 has been spent in return postage for undeliverable magazines), national executive expenses, office building costs, office equipment expenses, operating costs, and staff.

This gives net revenue over expenditures from operations of \$181,590, down from this time last year, but this trend will be offset as the rest of the per capita fees are processed. Investment income is \$44,756. Add the two together and the bottom line becomes \$226,346.

As stated in my annual report, members continue to show great kindness by helping others through their service, generosity and financial support. This is reflected in the magnificent donations and acts of charity to the special groups and organizations that are supported by members in the global community. Members are to be commended for their generosity. For national voluntary funds, please send your donation to national office. Members' contributions to each fund will be reported by the national standing committee chairpersons in their oral report. Thank you and God bless! †

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Kim Scammell**  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

It is a pleasure to report on behalf of national office to the delegates in attendance at the 88<sup>th</sup> annual national convention. My report will focus on events at national office in 2008, and on the staff, as it is a once-in-a-decade event when the entire staff of national office can be present and introduced to you.