

mission work, and faith development. Many members belong to one or more of these organizations such as the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada, the Canadian Catholic Aboriginal Council, and various pro-life organizations and others.

Your donations to Catholic Missions In Canada totalled \$29,417. This was a small drop from 2009, but still an awesome amount considering the country's economic situation of the past year. Thank you for your donations and your hard work. The Web address detailing League involvement is <http://www.cmic.info/catholic-womens-league>.

I encourage you to use the newly published resource book, *Prayers and Workshops for Women of Peace and Hope*, which you received in your convention kits. It has prayers and workshops for many occasions and special needs, but don't forget the wealth of resources on the League Web site such as "One in the Spirit".

I would also encourage you to look into a bible study course for personal faith enrichment. The Catholic Biblical Association of Canada carries various types of bible studies, programs and resources you may wish to check out.

A first for the League was a televised mass in April on Vision TV, to honour the CWL Day of [Peace](#) and [Hope](#). [Hopefully](#) this will become an annual event. Thank you to members in the area who attended.

We may become saints just by doing our work with love. You have achieved holiness through your love for those you help. I commend you on your hard work.

The past two years have not only been a learning experience at this level of the League, but have brought me to new understanding of my faith and also many new friends. I am slowly becoming a woman of [peace](#) and [hope](#) and I [hope](#) you are as well. May God bless you always. †

service pin. They are treasured by those who receive them. One proud recipient of a service pin is Steva McPhee from the Calgary diocese for 60 years membership. She is here with her four daughters, all from Alberta Mackenzie.

The Provincial Council Grant of \$5,000 was granted to the Military Ordinariate Provincial Council. Twenty councils received assistance from the National Development Fund in 2009 for a total of \$22,373. A total of 17 councils have been approved to date for 2010. Diocesan and provincial councils are encouraged to use the funds for workshops in League development and leadership training. It is important that the objectives and work of the League are made known. Initiating training for future leaders is crucial.

We applaud councils throughout the country who continue to find innovative ways to recruit and retain members, and commend diocesan and provincial chairpersons of organization who were there to assist, encourage and perhaps nudge a bit! The national membership roll indicated 95,469 active members in 1,294 councils as at December 31, 2009. As of July 31, 2010, 2009 membership figures have grown by another 747 members. In this time when many organizations are experiencing declining membership, this is very encouraging! In order to assist in getting your membership and per capita fees processed faster, I have a suggestion. Please send your membership fees in before the February deadline, before the office is deluged. Submit them as soon as possible be it October, November, December or January. It is kind of like an income tax return. If we know we are getting back money, we submit it early. It is also important for parish councils to keep addresses and information current. It was noted by one council that of approximately 100 members, 22 of the 100 addresses were incorrect.

In 2010, memberships processed to date were up by 8%. We are at a figure of 92,089. We feel that the new resources introduced to assist in membership recruitment, as well as the 2010 membership incentive, had an impact on these numbers. Congratulations to all councils that have increased their membership. We all benefit and come out winners!

We have some awards for the councils with the highest increases. I am happy to announce that St. Francis of Assisi Parish Council, Petawawa, Ontario recorded the highest percentage increase in membership for the calendar year 2009, with a 55% increase in members. Star of the Sea Parish Council in White Rock, British Columbia recorded the highest absolute increase in membership for the calendar year 2009, an increase of 74 members. The award features the League crest and the Madonna emblem and is inscribed with the council's name.

The 2010 membership incentive winners are Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Council, Coquitlam, British Columbia with the highest percentage increase, from seven members to 14 members, an increase of 100%. Highest absolute increase in membership goes to Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Council, Toronto, Ontario from 90 to 170 members. These lucky

ORGANIZATION



Velma Harasen
Regina, Saskatchewan

A new life member pin and certificate were introduced and the first recipients will be the 14 new life members joining the ranks this year. I want to thank Shirley Bernier, the

national life member liaison, for her excellent job of keeping all life members connected with her e-mails of information.

The Bellelle Guerin award was presented to 20 members in 2009. It is important that you take time to celebrate your accomplishments and the dedication of all members with certificates of merit, years-of-service pins and the maple leaf

councils will pay absolutely no membership fees for 2011! Congratulations! What a tremendous achievement for your councils and for the League!

Never lose faith, have fun and relish the fulfillment that is yours in the League! Continue to be the beautiful women you are – *Women of Peace and Hope!* †

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE



Pearl Bridgwater
Candiac, Quebec

The past year was both challenging and rewarding. Fortunately I had an amazing team of provincial counterparts with me every step of the way.

Their work was a big help in bringing about the desired results to the two bills of special interest to this committee.

The human trafficking bill, Bill C-268, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (minimum sentence for offences involving trafficking of persons under the age of eighteen years)* has now become law. The new law will provide a minimum sentence of five years imprisonment for anyone convicted of trafficking a minor in Canada. A minimum of six years imprisonment can be added for cases involving aggravated assault. Previous to this new law, the prison term in Canada for victimizing women and children had been non-existent!

Bill C-384, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (right to die with dignity)* was defeated by an overwhelming number of “no” votes (228 to 59). “The CWL has been of central importance to the success of our strategy to defeat Bill C-384. Thank you for your impressive caring and committed work”. This is a direct quote from a letter sent by the director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition in appreciation for your help. I couldn’t have said it better.

Members from all across Canada were part of the large turnout for the annual March for Life. Because of the defeat of Bill C-384 the League will now focus on providing good palliative care and insisting that government does too. The National Pro-Life Fund was \$12,135 and the national executive recommends the money be donated to a Canadian national palliative care group. Doctor Nuala Kenny has been asked to help us choose one that is most deserving.

It is evident that young people are taking up the challenge to help bring about the changes that they believe will make life better in their world. They are not only marching for pro-life but they seem to be pro-religion as well. They attended the March for Life in large numbers.

This year’s Youth Summit, having the theme *Sent*, was well attended and the idea seems to be catching on. Youth summits

began the years preceding the 49th International Eucharistic Congress held in Quebec City in 2008. For the first time this year’s summit was held outside of Quebec. Participants marched over the bridge across the Ottawa River to Parliament Hill in Ottawa carrying the Ark of the New Covenant. The Ark of the New Covenant was passed on after this year’s ceremonies to Montreal where the next summit will be held.

Youth will soon be asked to prepare for World Youth Day 2011 in Madrid, Spain. Please respond generously to their requests for prayerful support. The theme will be *Rooted and Built Up in Jesus Christ, Firm in the Faith*. For all information regarding WYD 2011 get in touch with the local representative in your parish.

Catholic Girls’ League members are involved in projects that foster *faith, fun, friendship and fulfillment*. Growth in membership has slowed a bit but members remain committed. This year we have had two new councils and big plans ahead for Edmonton.

In the *Year for Priests* members embraced every opportunity to host special events for bishops, priests, deacons and seminarians. They were invited to members’ homes and to special gatherings. Their anniversaries were celebrated, prayers and spiritual bouquets were offered, and some councils even adopted a few seminarians. We will continue to show our love and appreciation even though the year officially came to an end on June 19th. †

COMMUNITY LIFE



Mary Nordick
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

As I leave this challenging, wonderful standing committee of community life, I would like to focus on three areas, all intertwined and at the core of all that we do; believe me our members do a great deal in community life.

For the past few years we have been concerned with the global yet local problem of human trafficking. While the 2010 Olympics have come and gone, trafficking remains. Sub-committee Chairperson Pat Battensby reports that British Columbia is turning from a focus on trafficking to one on prostitution and pornography, both integral to human trafficking. Women and children suffer most from human trafficking and men are in the forefront of the demand for and as the suppliers of human “commodities”. Victor Malarek, in his latest book, *The Johns: Sex for Sale and the Men Who Buy It*, argues that it is time to target the johns because without the demand for trafficked bodies there would be no trafficking.