

The other thing we discussed is that we need to learn to respect the gifts of women. Many members have tremendous talents they can share with their parish, the province and the church. When priests go to meetings it is not just enough to say mass before a meeting or stop in and say a prayer. Give it importance. Don't say you're too busy, because only when you attend the meetings do you get a sense of the council's vitality. You see all the issues that are dealt with and the power that is in the room and as you move up to national you will see the potential much more. Spiritual advisors, please give it importance. Give the CWL a positive image. Give it respect.

And also members, make presentations and encourage the priest to speak positively about the League and what it does. Educate people about the League.

We need that mutual love and support and we need to walk together. As Doctor Kenny explained, we need to walk together, support each other in this troubled time in our church, and recognize the power for good and the power for change that this group has.

It was also mentioned that the appointment of the spiritual advisor doesn't mean he will be a good spiritual advisor. You don't send a chaplain to a school or anywhere if he doesn't have the skills. There are certain skills, understanding and a desire that have to go with it. How do you get to be appointed – because you're the only one available? You happen to be in the parish?

How do you train somebody to be a spiritual advisor? That's why a workshop on the history of the League, what it represents and its power and potential are important.

Also in some parishes there are other groups, often women themselves, who are negative to the League. They need to see the bigger picture, the potential for good – the powerful voice that the League has with prime ministers, premiers, government officials and society as a whole. Women should want to be a part of this "something that is much bigger than your parish."

Think positively and work positively with your pastor when you go home to build that positive image and see the potential that the League has. †

continued to experience a decline in membership; there were 878 fewer members than in 2008. We relied on our investment income to make up for this operating loss.

We are always proud that members continue to find it in their hearts to come forward and help others. From the annual reports, an amount of \$4,064,007 was donated to various groups and individuals at home as well as to the global community, some of whom may not be able to sustain themselves without this continued support. What a positive impact League contributions have on so many lives! It is very heart-warming to see so much **peace** and **hope** given to so many through members' contributions.

We continue to be financially sound because we are good stewards striving to find ways and means to increase our revenues without decreasing programs. Over the past four years we were able to do just that, without a fee increase, because we were able to draw down on our investment income to offset our operating expenses.

Unfortunately this cannot go on forever. The cost of doing business in today's world has increased greatly while we are experiencing a decline in membership each year, which is our main source of revenue. In order for us to preserve the League for generations to come, maintain our programs and promote the League in **hopes** of attracting new members, we are going to have to generate revenue sooner than anticipated.

We have to come together now to set the wheels in motion to keep the League we all love financially sound. To do this we need our membership's understanding, goodwill and support. The national executive has struggled long and hard trying to find solutions.

Some organizations have increased either their convention registration or their annual fees. We could cut programs or become an elitist group. The League cherishes its members and takes every opportunity to give back to them.

Now some may say that this is going to be a burden on members. I am on a fixed income and I know I don't find it a hardship to purchase tickets on chance or whatever is needed to support various groups or organizations. We pay per capita fees once a year and we don't think that the increase will make this a hardship. With your support and understanding on this issue we will be able to keep the League solvent for many years to come.

This is not a decision made by the national executive. It will be your decision to make when the instructed vote is distributed to parish councils for vote at their annual meetings in January or February 2011. That instructed vote will be brought back to the convention floor for the vote and if approved will be implemented in 2012.

The reality of what the League is facing is that our resources will run out in 2015. A fee increase of \$1.00 will not be enough to meet expenses; a fee increase of \$3.00 will allow us to be viable for ten years but a \$5.00 increase will allow us to be viable for 20 years. †

## SECRETARY TREASURER



**Peggy Roche**  
Torbay, Newfoundland  
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At its pre-convention meeting, the national executive reviewed the 2009 audited financial statements prepared by Chambers, Fraser & Co.

Chartered Accountants. Once again the per capita fees were not sufficient to cover expenses. The main reason was that the League