

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Kim Scammell
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Today I will focus on the various talents of the employees at national office.

When the director of development's contract ended in January the remaining staff was tasked with carrying on the

work he had begun. The membership incentive contest, the Web site, the e-newsletter and the advertising campaigns all needed attention. These were delegated to Barbara Fawcett, the current executive assistant, now soon to be the communications assistant. This is a new position that has been established at this last executive meeting. I am sure you will agree that the e-newsletter has made great strides this past year in her capable hands. Barbara will be responsible for the magazine, media relations and promotions using her gift for language to promote, encourage and inspire. A new executive assistant will be hired to fill the gap in the office skills complement.

Diane Kelln, our casual office assistant and part-time data entry clerk continued to prove that she's not just another pretty face. She continues to fill in the absences of the executive director, executive assistant, office assistant and membership coordinator. She makes a quick study of the tasks at hand and has the rare ability to think on her toes. Patience and gentleness are the hallmarks of her trade.

Janice Jones our office assistant is our "watchwoman" extraordinaire. She is charged with making sure the right people receive the right information. This is not always an easy task, as it does require some special discernment ability. She explains to members who are seeking direction what the office has the authority to do and what it does not, offering alternatives or solutions that might be explored.

Valroy or "Father" Anderson as some might call him, although he is not a priest, discerns members' orders for supplies and responds promptly and courteously. You might not be aware that, since Val was hired, shipments have been received by councils in a quarter of the time it used to take – now that's customer service! Val is assisted by Larry Peters who is always the first to arrive and has his work half done before the rest of us arrive. He has the coffee ready and sometimes muffins as well. Between the two of them I would say that staff and members alike are being truly spoiled!

Diane Havens, our compassionate and conscientious membership coordinator, is so very careful with the membership. She strives for perfection in the database and

does so by going the extra mile with each and every council list that she receives. She is a true child of God seeing the face of God in each and every member she speaks with, even when they're working through difficulties, trying to process what's been received. I can't tell you how much extra work she's done trying to make the burden easier for membership chairpersons across Canada. This year Diane began working with the on-line membership system as are 240 of you. I thank each of you for having the courage to step forward and for understanding that we are all moving forward together.

As for me, I fill in the gaps where gaps exist. I deal with the daily decisions that the national executive make. I am also the one who stands proudly in front of you today to report how well we work together as a team at the office and how much we appreciate and respect each other and each other's diversity. It's truly an amazing team and I'm honoured to be part of it. ✚

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT



Terri Scott
Winnipeg, Manitoba

"Hail Mary, full of grace," the angel said to Mary; and I say to you, "Hail women, full of [peace](#) and [hope](#)." In reading your annual reports, you have shown yourselves to be nurturers who care deeply about your families and your sisters in the League.

You have extended your [peace](#) and [hope](#) to our priests who need encouragement and support at this time. Although the *Year for Priests* has concluded, please keep our priests in your prayers and in your hearts. Pray that faithfulness to their sacred calling will always be strong and fervent.

One concern I have is that not too many councils mentioned in their annual reports how they had celebrated or honoured their priests, but [hopefully](#) that was because there was not enough time to make plans by the time reports were due and that this will be reported next year.

In December, I was proud to represent the League at the 11th Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops Forum With Movements and Associations on the theme *The Word of God: Identity and Mission* in Ottawa. Thirty Catholic associations across Canada sent one delegate to bring greetings and concerns to the forum. I was rewarded with smiles from the bishops and priests when I reported that our councils were being encouraged to provide support to our priests. It was heart-warming to see that across Canada, various Catholic organizations were working hard in areas of evangelization,

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