

## 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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,