

a reality for our brothers and sisters in less advantaged parts of our world community!

I would like to close with a short prayer from Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie's *Northern Nuggets and Southern Sage*:

Lord, we believe in You,  
help us to believe in one another.  
Strengthen not only our faith in You,  
but also our faith in each other.  
Help us to realize that we come to You best  
through one another.  
Grant that we might put flesh  
to Your inner spirit of love,  
By our trust in others and  
our acceptance of others as they are.  
Grant us new life through faith and fellowship.  
Amen. †

## EDUCATION AND HEALTH



**Cecile Miller**  
N.E. Margaree,  
Nova Scotia

“Through service to the people of God” – so ends our mission statement. The education and health standing committee provides members

with many opportunities to serve others. One way in which the national executive meets the second object of the League “to promote the teachings of the Catholic church” is through the National Bursary Fund.

In 1990, the League established an endowment fund with money received in 1988 from two generous donations. Since 1991, the interest earned on that money has been used for bursaries for members needing financial assistance to pursue studies in adult faith formation and/or youth ministry. In the past 19 years, 549 members received bursaries, and the total amount paid for 18 of those years was \$181,733.20.

This year, 29 members applied, and 24 bursaries ranging from \$195.00 to \$500.00 were awarded. Five applicants did not meet the criteria: three did not have the required number of years of service; one planned to enroll in a U.S. college course; and one failed to meet the criterion of an adult faith formation course/program. The total value of bursaries awarded this year was \$11,128.45. The national executive is pleased to offer this support to members so they can learn more about their faith, and then, pass on what they have learned to others.

The national voluntary fund for the Coady International Institute provides bursaries, usually three but sometimes four, to support women taking the diploma in community-based development at the institute. Today, these women, and other

graduates along with partners, are working with millions of people to build a fair, prosperous and secure world, one community at a time.

In 1961, the League made its first donation of \$1,000 to support women who came to study at the institute. Since that time, the money donated has increased, and the total this year is \$30,479.66, an increase of eight percent from 2008.

Donations to the MaterCare International national voluntary fund were up as well. The total is \$38,444.39, an increase of five percent. Thank you for your donations to these two funds.

Have you used the *CWL Day of Peace & Hope Activities Kit* in your council? One of the activities under education and health is a workshop on palliative care. I *hope* some of you have used it. If you have not, I encourage you to do so.

Have you completed the palliative care survey in your council? If you have not, get a copy from your president or from the Web site under Education and Health. You will find it in my second communiqué. Some provincial councils have sent in the results of the survey, but unfortunately, some have not. It is important that all provincial councils respond so the overall picture of palliative care in Canada will be more complete. I thank councils that have sent in the results already.

I encourage you to become involved in palliative care in your communities. You might not feel that you can be a palliative care volunteer, but there are other ways you can offer your help and support. We can help nurture a culture of life through our work in promoting and supporting palliative care. What a service that is!

In light of the threat of the H1N1 virus, I urge you to take good care of yourselves. Wash your hands often and well. Eat healthy foods, exercise and get plenty of rest.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel pray for us as we strive to answer the call to holiness “through service to the people of God.” †

## COMMUNICATIONS



**Betty Anne Brown**  
Wellington, Ontario

As *Women of Peace and Hope*, the lyrics of Diana Ross, “Reach out and touch somebody’s hand, make this world a better place, if you can...” could be our mantra.

The image of a colony of bees springs to mind. The colony is actively and harmoniously clustered close together around its queen. In our case, we are clustered enthusiastically around the

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mass, nurtured by the Word and the Eucharist from which we get our strength. The love of God and each other warms us up and sends us out into the world.

This “reaching out” is the task of the communications standing committee. By using newsletters, church bulletins, local newspapers and vibrant posters in public places, we “reach out” and tell the good news! We touch the hearts of our communities with the excitement of our faith and our plans for the future, and invite others to join us. The media wants our connection; we are sought out and we cooperate effectively and efficiently with media personnel.

We are the League’s goodwill ambassadors. We whisper, “Come along with us,” as we reach out in service to our brothers and sisters. When other people see and hear our joy, they scratch their heads and say, “What makes them so different?” In today’s world, this is our call to evangelization... to invite back to the hive of our faith, to share our spiritual encounter stories, and to give value to the other person’s experience.

The CWL Day of **Peace** and **Hope** gave us an opportunity to reach out and touch the wider community in an effort to pray for and work toward **peace** and welcome. The League is promoted in our communities when it is seen as a positive presence for change and **hope** for those who are struggling in our midst. The stories we will hear at this convention should set us on fire with creative ideas for next year’s CWL Day of **Peace** and **Hope** on April 26<sup>th</sup>!

Evaluation and promotion of good content are integral to making this world a better place. Have you heard that members in Hamilton diocese have embraced this action in a powerful Pornography Hurts campaign? They place Pornography Hurts slogans in buses for the month of October. This project has been going on for 10 years. I was at the Hamilton Diocesan Council annual convention this year and I was astounded to see members so excitedly presenting cheques for this project. The cheques amounted to over \$27,000! Not only will posters be in buses but also on roadside and flashing billboards all over the diocese. That’s just one instance of the creativity of members.

We have heeded the recommendations of Manifest Communications. In this last year, advertisements were placed in 11 Catholic newspapers across the country twice, before Christmas to announce the new theme and before the CWL Day of **Peace** and **Hope**. Manifest recommended that a common project for all members be developed; the executive met together for three days of sessions to decide upon that day of action so all members could participate.

Another recommendation of Manifest was that the national executive updates its way of communicating with members and the larger community. We’re thrilled about our new e-newsletter which will come out on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, except in the summer. This is a member-driven communication tool where parish councils can celebrate their successes. You may subscribe to it by sending a request to [development@cwlc.ca](mailto:development@cwlc.ca) or visit the Web site on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month; there are now four issues posted. As it is still a work in progress, I will be developing a

protocol to show what submissions would be suitable for the e-newsletter as compared to the magazine.

*The Canadian League* magazine has blossomed under the *Women of Peace and Hope* theme. As soon as it is received, members report reading it from cover to cover. There are three issues per year and the average cost is \$1.02 per issue per member. This magazine serves many purposes as we must consider the width, breadth and depth of our membership, especially those members without access to computers. The magazine brings the voice of our national president and spiritual advisor, reports of our annual convention, and education on the topics that arise out of our resolutions to all of us. It gives every single member the plan of action on how to act on resolutions. Many members would like more issues of the magazine, but it is a very time-consuming matter to produce even the three that we have. It is felt by many that to discontinue it or produce only two issues per year is not enough connection between national and our members.

I’d like to thank Guest Journalist Joan Bona for being with us through this convention. Joan is the Nova Scotia Provincial Chairperson of Communications and she, together with convention Public Relations and Publicity Chairperson Patricia Furey, have been very diligent at lending their expertise. Daily news releases have been sent that have been reported on the radio.

To conclude, The Beatles sang (*Money*) *Can’t Buy Me Love* and we have found from personal experience that love grows magically between people when **peace** and **hope** animate the touch, when service is gently offered. As women rooted in gospel values we cannot help but want to spread the good news, “to make this world a better place, if we can...” and I think we can, through the communications standing committee. †

## RESOLUTIONS



**Barbara Dowding**  
Port Moody, British Columbia

“They have no more wine!” How well we know this story. Can you picture Mary at the wedding feast and imagine the scene, Mary, not only the Mother, but also Mary the advocate? Think of her for a minute: a tender woman, full of motherly care and courage, a woman who recognizes the needs of others and, wanting to help, places those needs before the Lord.

We are blessed to be part of an organization that listens to its grassroots members, works with parish and diocesan councils to make their voices heard, and is respected across the country for its Christian values. As Catholic women, we are very well