

direction from the executive director. The executive director takes direction from the national administrative committee and the national executive. Both of these groups ultimately take their direction from national council, which represents the members from across Canada.

In terms of tasks, national office is assigned work by the national executive. Most often these tasks are the daily minutiae of running a business – answering telephones, shipping supplies at councils' request, recording deposits, paying bills, tracking membership, and the like. These are tasks that would be difficult for an executive member to do from her home, unless it became her full-time job, and probably wouldn't be the best use of her time and talents.

Some tasks are larger projects and will be seen by members and the public at large – such as compiling annual reports, prayer services or handbooks, or designing a Web site or magazine. When these tasks are assigned, they are done so with very explicit directions and the work is overseen by a national officer. She gives her blessing before it becomes public. The magazine is a good example of this practice. While the material may come to national office, it is forwarded to the national chairperson of communications for her decision as to what does or does not get put in the magazine. She makes the choices about content and design. National office goes to work putting the magazine together and then submits a draft to her for review, not once, but three times, before it is finally printed.

With this accountability in mind, I report on the projects that national office has been working on for you. The first and largest project is the development of the on-line membership system. The concept was discussed and approved in principle by the national executive. Next came the design of the site (one month), then the programming (two months), then acquiring a secure Web site and installing appropriate hardware (two months), then beta testing by me and the programmer (two months). In July it was made available to 15 parish councils that are in the initial stages of testing to make sure it will meet parish council needs. Once they have given their blessing, it will be made available to any parish council that may wish to administer its records rather than have national office do so.

The second project was the development of the *CWL Day of Peace & Hope Activities Kit*. The concept was developed by the national executive, and national officers supplied the materials. Staff pulled the materials together and worked with a graphic designer to create the final product. The national president was the officer who provided guidance on this project and gave her blessing before it was mailed to all parish councils in Canada.

Thirdly, an e-newsletter was introduced as a means of communicating more frequently with the membership. This concept was approved by the national administrative committee prior to its development. Content is approved by the national chairperson of communications. It is compiled and designed by the director of development and then submitted for approval by the national chairperson of communications before each issue is distributed.

Fourthly, the national executive has provided ideas for an updated Web site design that will incorporate more graphics, reduce the complexity of the site, and introduce some of the newer technologies in Web site design to make navigating the site easier. Look forward to seeing this once the national executive is satisfied with the final design.

On behalf of national office staff, I want you to know that it is our joy and pleasure to serve you, the members, by carrying out the important work assigned to us by the national executive. †

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT



Terri Scott
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Did we fall in love with Jesus last year? We say we love Him, but did we fall in love with Him, with bells and whistles and sweet whispers of “I love you, Jesus”? That was what the 49th

International Eucharistic Congress reminded us to do.

The year of St. Paul just concluded at the end of June. If there was anything of note to remember about our studies of St. Paul, it is that on the road to Damascus, he suddenly fell in love with Jesus. Has any one of us encountered Jesus in the same way this past year? Pope Benedict XVI says, “We are Christians, only if we encounter Christ.” He added that this was not a “conversion” but a “transformation, death and resurrection” for St. Paul. This is when he realized, for the first time, that it was love, not the law, which saves us.

I would like to commend the Ontario Provincial Council for its intense study of St. Paul. A thick binder of its research was provided to me. I also commend other councils that took the time to reconnect with St. Paul, who taught Christians so much about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Pope Benedict has gifted us this year with the *Year for Priests*. Let us look at our priests with new eyes, at their struggles and their graces. Let us be mindful of them and help them achieve holiness through their tasks, for by helping them reach holiness, we also are on the path to holiness.

There is no doubt that members are already involved in the church in all areas. When I read the provincial reports with which to prepare my annual report, it was apparent that councils have found their niche with regard to the prayer alternatives that work best for them. With the shortage of priests, mass is not always an option before a meeting.

Regarding the League's work in the missions, Catholic Missions In Canada (CMIC) has developed a page on its Web site dedicated to the League. Simply go to the CMIC Web site, scroll down “Get Involved” to “Mission Partners”, then choose “CWL”.

Congratulations to members who contributed \$30,822.76; that's \$4,224.36 more than last year. Thank you very much.

The Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada Web site includes prayers, services and ideas to work within an ecumenical community. Topics include domestic violence, trafficking, World Day of Prayer and Fellowship of the Least Coin. See what our sisters of other faiths are doing to promote [peace](#) and [hope](#) in this world.

One of the goals mentioned in the *CWL Day of Peace & Hope Activities Kit* was to visit those in palliative care units. One thing to remember when visiting in hospitals and palliative care units: be respectful! What you see there, stays there.

Only a couple of councils mentioned the *One in the Spirit* program. This program will help members to understand the working habits of their sisters in the League and will prevent many misunderstandings and hurt feelings. It is also a fun program and will teach members many things about themselves.

It has been a joy and a privilege to be your national chairperson of spiritual development. I thank the annual national convention liturgy committee for assembling the beautiful booklets, choosing the hymns, and for all its hard work over the past few months. I thank the choir, especially co-convenors Regina Shapter and Mary Power, and choir coordinator Carol Gibbons.

I thank the national president for her trust and patience and for taking a chance on appointing me to this role. It certainly has been a learning year, and I have developed skills in writing prayers that I never knew I had! I have seen Jesus in a new light and feel closer to Him than ever. Yes, I am in love with Him, and Jesus is my sweet tower of [peace](#) and [hope](#). God bless! †

All we ask is for parish councils with a membership of 25 or less to recruit one new member. If membership is between 26 and 60, recruit two new members; between 61 and 100, recruit three new members and councils with over 100 members, recruit four new members. There is not a minimum; more is just fine! When submitting the names of those new members, please note that they are part of the membership challenge blitz. Membership recruitment continues year round; every opportunity that comes our way is a time to invite women to journey with us.

We have spiritual members who are no longer with us and [hopefully](#) are praying for us in their eternal home. These are members we can no longer count. Unfortunately as well, we had many members who did not renew in 2008. Perhaps they weren't asked, perhaps they were away during the membership drive, perhaps they didn't feel welcomed or valued, or perhaps the meetings didn't offer opportunities to develop and use their God-given talents. A New Brunswick parish council paid the membership fees for those members who did not renew, and then advised them of the action and the desire that they would continue to belong! When you return home from this convention, ask one of those members whom we've lost to renew and then move on to recruit one more new one.

After working with Manifest Communications last year and having them identify unique opportunities for the League, establish a framework and recommend new ideas, we have added a staff component with marketing expertise. The contract with Manifest is over. We have benefitted from its expertise and many of the initiatives are a result of the recommendations made. One initiative is the designation of April 26th, the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel, as a CWL Day of [Peace](#) and [Hope](#), accompanied with the resource kit.

The membership invitation postcards have been well-received and are available on the Web site. They will be updated, adding one to reflect older members, "I'm Too Old". You're never too old to join the League; we have a minimum age but not a maximum one! All promotional resources are being reviewed to keep them current. We look forward to sharing the new material when it becomes available.

The permanent membership cards are new this year. They provide an identification number for each member and will assist greatly in tracking members who transfer or who drop their membership for a period of time. The printing of the cards has slowed down the process of completing and mailing membership data and tabulating accurate membership statistics. While this initial year of implementation has been slower than we had [hoped](#), in the future permanent membership cards will be required for new members only.

We welcome nine members awarded with life membership this year. Life members are an inspiration and continue to be a tremendous resource for all levels. Let's call upon them to share their wisdom and expertise. I would like to thank National Life Member Liaison Shirley Bernier. She kept us well informed with happenings of life members across the country.

ORGANIZATION



Velma Harasen
Regina, Saskatchewan

It is with excitement and joy that I report one Ontario parish council has 30 new members, one Saskatchewan parish council with every woman in the parish as a member, a British Columbia diocese boasting two new parish councils, and some parish councils already having met or surpassed the ten percent membership increase, the challenge from the national president. These are just a few of our success stories.

The membership challenge blitz is well underway. It is one giant step in getting that ten percent increase. The goal is 100,000 members by October 31st. Can we do it? Yes we can!