

## SPIRITUAL ADVISOR



**Most Rev. Martin Currie**  
Archbishop of St. John's and  
Bishop of Grand Falls

Spiritual advisors from all across Canada had a good luncheon meeting. We had a lovely meal and discussed the

League, an organization of Catholic women, not run by priests but by the women themselves. The spiritual advisors were unanimous that they found the members very supportive of priests and the parish. Their involvement has been at all levels of parish life, from liturgy, to washing, to ideas, to whatever... you name it. There is no level of parish life where you cannot find the League.

As we continued our discussion, we focussed on the importance of the spiritual advisor. Sometimes, it is difficult to get priests to be spiritual advisors, for a couple of reasons. First of all, they are not quite sure what the League is. Secondly, some come from different cultures and are not quite sure what their role is; do they tell the members what to do or do they listen and support members? We are suggesting there should be some type of formation for those who are going to be spiritual advisors. Some have suggested members make presentations to deaneries on the importance of the spiritual advisor and his role, so perhaps there should be some sort of schooling or exposure.

It was also mentioned that many spiritual advisors have had limited exposure to the League and only at the parish level. Sometimes that can be very frustrating; meetings can be long and tedious, for example. But it was emphasized that spiritual advisors should be exposed to the greater reality of the League. They should be encouraged to go to diocesan, provincial, and national conventions; it should be made a priority. Only as you begin to see the bigger picture, do you really understand the full impact that the League has on society: the presentations to government, the issues that are debated, members' witness to joy and [peace](#) in the world, and their witness to joy and [peace](#) in their own families and parishes. It is so important and greatly appreciated; I can assure you of that.

Every effort should be made to recruit members. Even if they can't come to every meeting, they should join! Perhaps they will only be able to do one small thing because they are young and raising a family, but they should join to get that exposure and to increase the influence of the League. The number of members speaks loudly to people, especially in government, and that's why it is so important.

And it's so important that presidents and spiritual development chairpersons become very involved. Their roles are very, very important ones.

While the relationship between priests and the League needs

to be clarified somewhat, on the whole, I must say it is a very, very positive relationship. Sometimes there are difficulties with priests, and sometimes priests need to be educated about their role or in relating to women. This is happening not only in the League, but also in parishes. The country is changing, especially in the larger cities, and there is a new church emerging. And we all, including the League, need to adapt to that change in the reality we are facing.

What is greatly appreciated is that spirit of joy ... that commitment to God and country. You have done so much and the priests will continue to support you in any way they can. When you need a job done, who do you turn to? You turn to those who already have too much to do. You turn to the members of the League. So, thank you and may God continue to bless you all. ✚

## SECRETARY TREASURER



**Peggy Roche**  
Torbay, Newfoundland  
and Labrador

At its pre-convention meeting, the national executive reviewed the 2008 audited financial statements prepared by Chambers, Fraser & Co.

Chartered Accountants. I wish to thank Executive Director Kim Scammell, her team at national office, as well as the national administrative committee for their creativity and vigilance for finding ways and means to help attain our goals.

The 2008 audited financial statements can be found in the *89<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention Program & 2008 Annual Report*. Current assets include cash, accounts receivable (member and miscellaneous receivables and accrued interest), inventory (inventory is regularly replenished), prepaid expenses (postage advance, prepaid rent, equipment rentals, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations [WUCWO] 2009 dues and prepaid League development grants) and the current portion of investments (investments due to mature within a one-year period).

Other assets include capital assets (computers, electronics, furniture, fixtures and leasehold expenses, net of amortization) and investments (carried at market value).

Liabilities include accounts payable and accruals (payables for pins, stoles and scarf supplies), deferred revenue (2009 membership payments received in advance of the year due) and national voluntary funds.

From the reports received, an amount of \$3,974,688 was donated by members to charities at home and in the global community. This was a great accomplishment, especially with the economy in a downward spiral. It was heartwarming to see that members generously continued to financially support and sustain