

# ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS



**Cecile Miller**

National Chairperson of Education and Health

When Jesus appeared to the disciples following His resurrection, He often greeted them with, “Peace be with you.” The peace He has given to us is meant to be shared. St. Teresa of Avila said it this way, “Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks with compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which He walks. Yours are the hands with which He blesses all the earth. Yours are the hands. Yours are the feet. Yours are the eyes. You are His body.”

Not only can members be instruments of peace, but also they can and must bring hope to a broken world. In the letter to the Hebrews, we are reminded, “Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful” (Hebrews 10:23). And again, St. Paul tells us, “Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer” (Romans 12:12).

How can members as *Women of Peace and Hope*, work this out under the education and health standing committee?

Do you welcome/invite new members? (Welcome, friend!) If you see a need, do you help organize a support group? Who has a special need for healing and support at this time? How can you provide information and/or education?

Do you volunteer to canvass for a health-related cause? If not, there is no time like the present! Usually, the area to be covered by each volunteer is not great, and you get a chance to visit your neighbours.

Is there someone in your council who needs help with literacy skills? Maybe someone is too shy or ashamed to ask for help. Is she able to enjoy *The Canadian League* on her own? Why not share

it over a cup of tea? Think of the hope that is given to someone who acquires literacy skills.

I know that many members are religious education teachers and/or help with RCIA teams. If you are not yet one of these, would you volunteer? You might not want to be an active catechist, but you could be a support in other ways, especially through prayer.

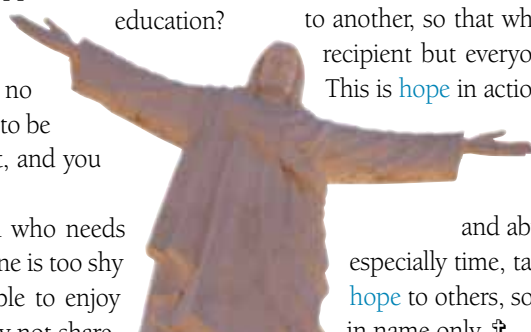
I have spoken of sharing time and talents as *Women of Peace and Hope*. How can treasure be shared? There are many ways, but I will highlight two.

We have two national voluntary funds under this standing committee. One is MaterCare International Inc. Can you imagine the hope that is given to a woman who is successfully treated for obstetric fistula? Each member can make a difference in the lives of the women in developing countries through contributions to this fund.

Then, there is the Coady International Institute. Think of the difference that is made in the lives of the women who receive bursaries so they can come to study in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. They receive hope that they can do something to better the lives of their fellow citizens, especially the women and children. As ripples in a stream, what they take back is passed on from one to another, so that what is learned affects not only the bursary recipient but everyone with whom she works and interacts.

This is hope in action along with the promise of peace.

Let us consciously strive to learn what we ask in the League prayer, “Teach us to share with others at home and abroad the good things you have given us”, especially time, talent and treasure. Let us bring peace and hope to others, so that we are not *Women of Peace and Hope* in name only. †



## MINISTRY FAIR

**St. Ambrose Parish Council, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia**

St. Ambrose Parish Council was one of 39 groups that participated in the parish ministry fair. Featured in the photograph are Eddie d’Entremont and Leslie Cranley Blades.