

MONEY ESSENTIAL TO GROWTH: PART VIII



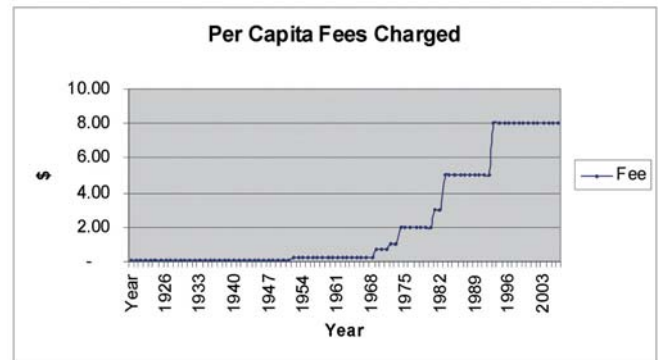
Peggy Roche
National Secretary-Treasurer

As a follow up to my predecessor Shirley Bernier's article "How Is My Per Capita Fee Spent?", winter 2006 edition, and "Money Essential to Growth", reprinted from the November 1921 edition, I wish to bring to your attention the fact that per capita fees have not been increased since 1993. In fact, per capita fees have been raised only seven times previously.

If we could take a trip back in time and do a little comparative shopping, we would find that we used to be able to purchase more with our money. A basket of goods and services that cost \$8.00 in 1993 would cost \$10.15 in 2006. Furthermore, a basket of goods and services that cost \$0.60 in 1921 (the fee for per capita and magazine subscription) would cost \$10.66 in 2006.

The national level has endeavoured to provide the same services to members, all the while experiencing a decrease in revenue and a decline in the value of a dollar.

Please remember that the League is a membership driven organization and, as such, national, provincial and diocesan levels depend on per capita fees for their operating budgets. Stress on the operating budgets has been experienced from an aging membership and a decline in enrolment over the years as outlined in the graph.



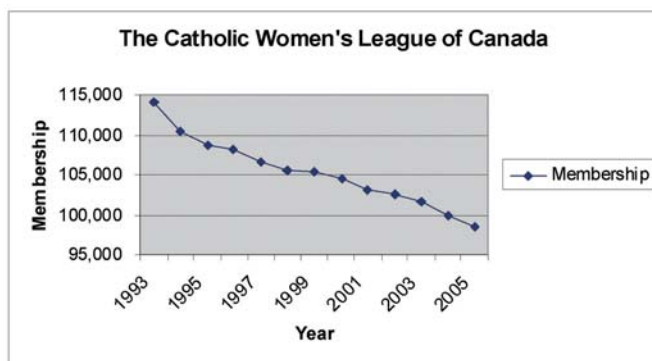
and, from time to time, it has been used for capital expenditures only. As the deficit budgets continue to grow, however, these investments will need to be drawn on increasingly to cover operations.

The national executive wishes to continue to offer the same service to all members and to do this it will need your help. Together, members can work toward a positive solution that will enable the League to rebound. The national executive would like members to consider two options that can alleviate these deficit budgets – recruiting 24,750 new members or increasing the per capita fees by \$2.00 per member. Either option would solve the dilemma currently facing the national executive. Both options are entirely dependent on the membership for success to occur.

We can do this! While working with the theme for 2007, members can continue to *Love One Another* by reaching out to all their friends, neighbours and parishioners and inviting them to join. While this approach may not make it possible to realize the membership quota in one year, in a perfect world it would be the preferable solution.

Alternatively, the national executive recognizes that per capita fees may have to be increased by \$2.00. Comparatively speaking, a \$2.00 increase is a relatively low percentage increase compared with previous requests. It breaks down to approximately 16½ cents per month per member, well less than a cup of coffee or a muffin.

The national executive has endeavoured to ensure that members receive the best value for their dollar. It is time for all members to consider which alternative is best for the future. ✚



Due to inflation and the decline in membership, the national treasury is faced with a decrease in revenues and an increase in expenditures, resulting in a forecasted deficit budget for 2007. As good stewards, the national executive is very prudent in how per capita fees are managed. It acknowledges that the League has an investment portfolio