

evident that the League is considered an important part of the church.

On your behalf, I brought greetings to the 2008 Anglican Church Women's (ACW) National Conference in Kingston, Ontario. The sisterhood of the ACW is very much like that of the League, women gathered together serving God through their work in the church. There were opportunities for spiritual growth throughout the conference; I particularly enjoyed the candlelight service and the outdoor journey where participants were led on a journey of Mary Magdalene.

One of the members wrote a song for the conference entitled "We Are Alive in the Spirit." The words, "living, doing, sharing, touching with His love: Anglican Church Women guided from above;" could be changed to characterize League members. The conference was filled with opportunities for *faith, fun and fulfillment*. The Spirit was indeed alive as the women celebrated.

**April 26: CWL Day of Peace and Hope.** Very soon, councils will receive a tool kit that contains ideas created by national chairpersons of standing committees. This kit contains ideas that may be used on April 26, the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel, which has been named the CWL Day of **Peace and Hope**. The ideas may also be used throughout the year.

Over 1,300 parish councils across the country are challenged to take action to spread **PEACE**, with a particular focus on palliative care, and **HOPE**, with a particular focus on outreach under the heading "Welcome, friend!"

I am confident that whatever members choose to focus on, the action will make a difference to someone in the community.

Take the opportunity to invite other women to join you in your projects as *Women of Peace and Hope*. I look forward to hearing your stories. †

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## PEACE AND HOPE

**Most Rev. Martin Currie, D.D.**

Archbishop of St. John's and Bishop of Grand Falls

**A**s a priest and bishop, I have sat quietly at the side of hospital beds with parishioners who were terminally ill, often near death, praying a simple prayer that we all know from childhood. The prayer is, "May the almighty Lord give us a restful night and a peaceful death." The prayer offers both **peace** and **hope** to those who are terminally ill.

During the next two years the League's theme is *Women of Peace and Hope*. A decision was made at the fall national executive meeting to translate those words into action by focusing on two main areas: palliative care and reaching out to women of other cultures and backgrounds.

**Palliative Care.** In this country, members have been advocates for a standardized approach to hospice palliative care (HPC) that creates equal access to consistent, high quality end-of-life care. With an aging Canadian population there will be growing demands on HPC programs. Only a fraction of the people who die each year from terminal illness have access to palliative care support or services.

HPC is designed to relieve suffering and pain while also meeting the emotional and spiritual needs of patients and their loved ones.

**Reaching out to Women of Other Cultures.** The United Nations has consistently ranked Canada among the top five countries on its Human Development Index. Canada's



standard of living, health care system, educational attainment, housing, cultural and recreational facilities, and level of public safety are all of exceptionally high quality. Every year thousands of residents of other countries make application to become citizens of Canada. Citizens of other countries look to Canada as a place of **peace** and **hope**.

Among the many new Canadians that arrive in this country are women looking to find a place of **peace** and **hope** for their families. The League, with the support of over 1,300 parish councils across the country, is positioned to be the first among Canadians to welcome these women and their families. It can be their source of **peace** and **hope**.

**Two Years of Peace and Hope.** During the course of the next two years, I look forward to working with the national executive and members on these two initiatives and, in particular, on initiatives planned by the national executive for April 26<sup>th</sup>, a CWL Day of **Peace and Hope**. I look forward to working with National President Danielle McNeil-Hessian and her team to encourage members to celebrate with concrete activities and actions as *Women of Peace and Hope*.

I take this opportunity to extend an invitation to members to join us in St. John's, the oldest city in Canada, for the annual national convention. Come and experience Newfoundland and Labrador hospitality. †

# CWL DAY OF PEACE AND HOPE

**A**pril 26<sup>th</sup> is a special day in the life of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. It is the feast day of the League's patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel. In addition, it has been declared a CWL Day of **Peace** and **Hope**.

On April 26<sup>th</sup>, you are invited to make a special effort to join your sisters across the country praying for **peace**. To translate the theme, *Women of Peace and Hope*, from word to action, members are encouraged to pray for **peace**, asking Our Lady of Good Counsel to be with them as they pray. The activity of the day can be private prayer or it can be a council or parish event advertised in the church bulletin, inviting

members and non-members to participate. A social gathering could follow. An ecumenical prayer service is another idea. A kit providing activities will be sent to parish councils in late February.

The main purpose of dedicating this special day is, of course, concern for **peace** and **hope** in the world. It also provides an opportunity to showcase the League in action, demonstrating in parishes and communities what the League is all about. Let your parish and community know what members are doing across the country; invite all women in the parish to be part of this special event! This is yet another opportunity for *faith, fun and fulfillment!*



O Lord our God,  
You are the source of **peace**.  
Inspire the women of the League to  
live in **peace** by acting justly,  
loving tenderly and walking humbly  
with You, our God.

We pray that You  
enlighten the eyes of our mind,  
so that we may see  
what **hope** Your call  
holds for us.

May we be firm  
in the **hope** we profess  
and always be ready to give the  
reason for the **hope** we have.