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# DEAR FRIENDS

It's hard to believe that our convention in Indianapolis was three months ago. It takes all year to prepare for it and the week just flies by. I think it was a great convention with a very successful opening dinner. It was a grand experience to have so many dignitaries in one place and for all our members to enjoy their remarks. We had an excellent venue at the Embassy Suites and it was wonderful to renew friendships and to meet new members. For the CLA board, we had the chance to invite new members at our booth in the Convention Center. We can now send information to librarians we may never have had a chance to contact. All in all, a great convention and I know we are all looking forward to the next one in Disneyland, I mean, Anaheim, Calif.

Although the convention is over, the work never stops. We are still finalizing the strategic plan for the Catholic Library Association. We have made several important steps forward especially in relation to the changes at the convention, the changes to the *Catholic Library World*, and evaluating our dues structure. A new membership brochure is underway as well as a new member's packet. The recipe book was sold at the convention and can be purchased through the CLA website but another book is in the beginning stages, one to assist librarians with formulating a selection policy.

There is one important element needing the help of several CLA members: If you are a chair of a section or president of a chapter, we really need you to write the year-end report of your section or chapter activities. These reports are our history and will encourage new members and old to realize the importance of our organization. These reports can be sent via e-mail to [cla@cathla.org](mailto:cla@cathla.org).

Lastly, I think the "hope" is working. Be sure to visit [www.cathla.org](http://www.cathla.org) on a daily basis to see just how "hope" is effective. All the activity of the convention, the future plans, and the excellent reception to all the new ideas are keeping me very hopeful for our organization. These are exciting times for CLA and I am grateful that you are a part of them.



President, CLA