

BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC WOMENS' LEAGUE

SECTION: Spiritual Rituals

ORIGINATED: 2025 May13

TITLE: **Funeral Honour Guard**

REVISED:

NUMBER: 6.2

PAGES: 1

PURPOSE

To provide guidance for the formation of an honour guard at the funeral of a member of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Women's League (CWL) council.

POLICY

Blessed Sacrament CWL members will form an honour guard at the funeral of a deceased CWL member as requested by the deceased member's family.

PROCEDURE

1. The President is notified by the parish when an honour guard has been requested by the family of a deceased CWL member.
2. The President initiates communication with CWL members, informing them of the details of the funeral and requesting their attendance for an honour guard. It is recommended that members wear CWL scarves and pins, if able.
3. The President (or Alternate) dialogues with the priest prior to the funeral to synchronize activities.
4. CWL members arrive at the church at least 20 minutes prior to the funeral.
5. CWL members gather at the back of the church for instructions.
6. The President (or Alternate) instructs members in the honour guard procedure (*see Annex of Procedures*).
7. The President (or Alternate) assigns members into two rows, on either side of the aisle, and designates a leader for each row.
8. The President (or Alternate) provides candles for the honour guard.
9. The President (or Alternate) will instruct leaders when it is time to process down the aisle and take their places, prior to the entrance procession. Members in the leader's row will process after the leader.
10. Once the entrance procession and family have moved to the front of the church, the honour guard members return to the back of the church, extinguish their candles, and return to their seats.
11. If desired, a closing honour guard may be formed following the last blessing (*see Annex of Procedures*).