



MINUTES

CWL General Meeting

November 12, 2019 at 7:00 PM

Blessed Sacrament Parish, Amherstview, Ontario

The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.

Attendance: Donna Guiney, Shirley McDonald, Danna Dobson, Mary Lou Hills, Kelly Neville, Wendy Maclsaac, Cathy Splinter, Margaret Wilson, Mary Garrah, Betty Hutcheson, Pat Hoobin, Anne Nicholls, Theresa Shanks, Margaret Barker, Susan Aubin, Leslie Callaghan, Father Tim Shea.

Executive Reports

1. Welcome and call meeting to order (Donna Guiney)

Donna called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

2. Opening Prayer (Kelly Neville)

Kelly led in the Prayer of St. Francis.

3. Presentation (Chris Eggink)

Chris presented "Recycling Made Easy". A short film was shown, which led into discussion about recycling.

4. Approval of Agenda (Donna Guiney)

MOVED by Danna Dobson to approve the agenda of the general meeting of November 12, 2019 as distributed.

Seconded by Wendy Maclsaac. **Carried.**

5. Approval of Minutes (Shirley McDonald)

MOVED by Margaret Wilson to approve the minutes of the general meeting of October 8, 2019 as distributed.

Seconded by Mary Lou Hills. **Carried.**

6. Spiritual Advisor Report (Fr. Tim Shea)

Fr. Shea thanked everyone for their work at two recent funerals. He also spoke about the successful evening celebrating St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, recent Bible Studies and other recent events. The Christmas schedule was announced. November 26 is Life After Loss Mass for those who have lost someone.

7. Treasurer Report (Danna Dobson)

The current balance is \$6,107.52.

There is approximately \$200.00 left in the budget for this year. Members were asked how they would like these funds to be allocated and suggestions were forwarded to Danna, who will review and determine which are most popular.

Danna suggested that we abandon the idea of having permanent charitable donations, but rather decide each year which charities we want, and are able, to support in the coming year.

MOVED by Danna Dobson to rescind all perpetual donations and revise the policy that mandates us to donate nationally. **Seconded** by Mary Lou Hills. **Carried.**

8. Membership Report (Margaret Barker)

Collection of 2020 membership dues will begin at the December potluck dinner. Once again there will be an earlybird draw for those who pay their fees by the end of January.

Mary Lou raised the idea of payment of membership fees for those who are in nursing homes and for the RHSJ Sisters. It was suggested that our membership policy include these criteria.

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9. Past President Report (Mary Lou Hills)

Mary Lou spoke about discernment in advance of the January elections. Each person was encouraged to celebrate her gifts and appreciate the gifts of others.

10. President's Report (Donna Guiney)

Upcoming events were highlighted.

Donna has instituted a volunteer register for those who help with parish events. Please sign the book, which will be kept in the kitchen.

Standing Committee Reports

11. Spiritual Development & Reflection (Kelly Neville)

Refer to *Appendix* for the Spiritual Development report.

12. Organization (Kelly Neville)

Nothing to report.

13. Community Life (Carol Daigle - absent)

No report.

14. Communications (Margaret Wilson)

Margaret reported on Pope Francis' message for World Day of Social Communications. He emphasized that "listening is much more than simply hearing. Hearing is about receiving information, while listening is about communication and calls for closeness".

The national website now has a link to the Implementation of the Strategic Plan: <https://cwl.ca/implementation-of-the-strategic-plan/>.

A new Communications Directive was received from the Diocesan Communications Chairperson, Margie Norwood, who shared that "listening leads to good communication, as good communication is a two-way street".

Members were encouraged to visit the national, provincial and local CWL website and check the Canadian League Magazine for a wealth of information.

15. Education (Jayme Joyce - absent)

No report.

16. Health (Bev Lyman - absent)

No report.

17. Other Reports

No other reports.

Archdiocesan Events

18. 2019 Development Day – October 19th (Donna Guiney)

Donna reported on the recent Development Day, which focused on changes to the Diocesan Policy & Procedure Manual.

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19. National Liability Insurance Fee (Mary Lou Hills)

The 2020 national liability insurance fee will be increased, and they are asking each council to pay 50 cents per person towards this fee. For our council this would be \$33.00. In addition, the Diocesan Council is experiencing a shortfall and are asking each local council to provide an extra \$1.50 per member in 2021. Our council was polled about paying this amount and declined.

MOVED by Danna Dobson that for 2020 the general fund cover the liability fee of 50 cents per member and that this be added to the annual budget. **Seconded** by Margaret Wilson. **Carried.**

Information about a Diocesan fundraising initiative, "Fundraising with Cocoa Bistro", was shared. Quality artisan chocolate and gift ideas may be found on their website at: <http://www.cocoabistro.ca>. Funds will be used to offset some of the Diocesan funding shortfall.

Old Business

20. Snow Dates for January, February, March 2020 (Donna Guiney)

Mark your calendar for the winter months! In the event of bad weather on meeting dates, the following alternate dates will be used: January 16, February 13 and March 12.

21. Snowflake Bazaar – November 16th (Mary Lou Hills)

Planning for the Bazaar is well underway. Additional volunteers are welcome. The price of the tearoom will increase by \$1.00.

New Business

22. Correspondence (Margaret Wilson)

Margaret shared correspondence received from Al Tierney, Susan Aubin and the d'Eon family.

23. Potluck Dinner – December 10 (Donna Guiney)

The Christmas potluck dinner will be held on December 10th after 5:45 pm Mass. Setup will be December 9th at 2:30 pm.

24. Coat Drive – November 9-24 (Donna Guiney)

The coat drive is underway. Coats will go to the Kingston Street Mission.

Other

25. Other

Terry Shea is asking for chairs to be put up after meetings to assist with cleaning.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 p.m. Kelly led in the Council Prayer Partner's prayer.

Meetings 2019: December 10 (potluck)

Meetings 2020: January 14 (*snow date January 16*), February 11 (*snow date February 13*), March 10 (*snow date March 12*), April 14, May 12, June 9 (potluck)

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APPENDIX

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Dear Sisters, Good Day!

In the last Catechesis we have focused on the event of the Resurrection of Jesus, in which women have played a special role. Today I would like to reflect on its meaning for salvation. What does the Resurrection mean for our lives? And why, without it, is our faith in vain? Our faith is based on the death and resurrection of Christ, just like a house built on foundations: if they give in, the whole house collapses.

On the Cross, Jesus offered himself taking sins upon himself and going down into the abyss of death, and in the Resurrection, he defeats them, he removes them and opens up to us the path to be reborn to a new life. St. Peter expresses it briefly at the beginning of his First Letter, as we have heard: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you"(1:3-4).

The Apostle tells us that the Resurrection of Jesus is something new: we are freed from the slavery of sin and become children of God, that we are born to a new life. When does this happen to us? In the Sacrament of Baptism. In ancient times, it was normally received through immersion. Those to be baptized immersed themselves in the large pool within the Baptistery, leaving their clothes, and the bishop or the priest would pour water over their head three times, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Then the baptized would emerge from the pool and put on a new vestment, a white one: they were born to a new life, immersing themselves in the death and resurrection of Christ. They had become children of God. I

In the Letter to the Romans Saint Paul writes: " For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, "Abba, Father! ""(Rom. 8:15). It is the Holy Spirit that we received in baptism that teaches us, leads us to say to God, "Father." Or rather, Abba Father. This is our God, He is a Father to us.

The Holy Spirit produces in us this new status as children of God, and this is the greatest gift we receive from the Paschal Mystery of Jesus. And God treats us as His children, He understands us, forgives us, embraces us, loves us even when we make mistakes. In the Old Testament, the prophet Isaiah said that even though a mother may forget her child, God never, ever forgets us (cf. 49:15). And this is a beautiful thing, beautiful!

However, this filial relationship with God is not like a treasure to be kept in a corner of our lives. It must grow, it must be nourished every day by hearing the Word of God, prayer, participation in the sacraments, especially the Sacraments of Penance and the Eucharist and charity. We can live as children! We can live as children! And this is our dignity. So let us behave as true children! This means that each day we must let Christ transform us and make us like Him; it means trying to live as Christians, trying to follow him, even if we see our limitations and our weaknesses.

The temptation to put God to one side, to put ourselves at the center is ever-present and the experience of sin wounds our Christian life, our being children of God. This is why we must have the courage of faith, we must resist being led to the mentality that tells us: "There is no need for God, He is not that important for you". It is the exact opposite: only by behaving as children of God, without being discouraged by our falls, can we feel loved by Him, our life will be new, inspired by serenity and joy. God is our strength! God is our hope!

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Dear brothers and sisters, we must first must firmly have this hope and we must be visible, clear, brilliant signs of hope in world. The Risen Lord is the hope that never fails, that does not disappoint (cf. Rom 5:5). God's hope never disappoints! How many times in our life do our hopes vanish, how many times do the expectations that we carry in our heart not come true! The hope of Christians is strong, safe and sound in this land, where God has called us to walk, and is open to eternity, because it is founded on God, who is always faithful?

We should never forget this; God is always faithful! God is always faithful! Be risen with Christ through Baptism, with the gift of faith, to an imperishable inheritance, leads us to increasingly search for the things of God, to think of Him more, to pray more. Christianity is not simply a matter of following commandments; it is about living a new life, being in Christ, thinking and acting like Christ, and being transformed by the love of Christ, it is allowing Him take possession of our lives and change them, transform them, to free them from the darkness of evil and sin.

Dear brothers and sisters, to those who ask us our reasons for the hope that is in us (cf. 1 Pt 3:15), let us point to the Risen Christ. Let us point to Him with the proclamation of the Word, but especially with our resurrected life. Let us show the joy of being children of God, the freedom he gives us to live in Christ, who is true freedom, freedom from the slavery of evil, sin and death! In looking to our heavenly home, we will also have a new light and strength in our commitment and in our daily efforts. It is a precious service that we give to our world, which is often no longer able to lift its gaze upwards, it no longer seems able to lift its gaze towards God.