MINUTES
CWL General Meeting
May 12th, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.
Blessed Sacrament Parish, Amherstview, Ontario in the Church Hall

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.

In Attendance: Shirley McDonald, Andrea Glover, Donna Guiney, Danna Dobson, Bernadette Veitch, Gisele Van Putten, Gail Raymond, Margaret Wilson, Anne Nicholls, Fr. Charles Ogbuagu

By Zoom: Sue Aubin, Mary Myers

A Quorum (at least 7 members) WAS achieved at this meeting.

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1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

a) Welcome (Shirley McDonald)

Shirley opened the meeting at 6:31 pm and welcomed everyone.

b) Opening Prayer (Andrea Glover)

Andrea said a prayer to Mary for the month of May.

c) Approval of the Agenda of the May 12th, 2026 General Meeting (Shirley McDonald)

MOTION to approve the Agenda for the General Meeting of May 12th, 2026 as distributed was made by Andrea Glover and seconded by Danna Dobson. **CARRIED**

d) Approval of the Minutes of the April 14th, 2026 General Meeting (Shirley McDonald)

MOTION to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2026 General Meeting as distributed was made by Danna Dobson and seconded by Margaret Wilson. **CARRIED**

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2. OFFICER REPORTS

a) Spiritual Advisor's Report (Fr. Charles)

The parish has been quiet since Easter. Priests of the Archdiocese will be on retreat during the week of May 18 – 22. Our own parish retreat will be June 4th and June 5th, followed by a pilgrimage on June 6th and Corpus Christi on June 7th. The mass at St. Linus will be cancelled on June 7th so that parishioners from both churches can come together. Confirmation will be June 26th.

b) President's Report (Shirley McDonald)

Congratulations to Bernadette Veitch, the new Diocesan President, and Mary Lou Hills, Standing Committee Chair, recently elected at the Convention!

c) Treasurer's Report (Danna Dobson)

April balance was $6,229.43. Danna shared an updated financial report.

d) Past President's Report (Donna Guiney)

No report.

e) Membership Convenor's Report (Andrea Glover)

We currently have 66 paid members.

3. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Faith Standing Committee (Donna Guiney)

Donna circulated Spiritual Bouquets for Father Grainger's 60th Anniversary of Ordination and Bernadette Burgess, Life Member and previous member of our council, who recently suffered a heart attack.

Donna presented a video on Padré Pio and the power of the Rosary. The video may be viewed here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uTMek1v3CiE

b) Service Standing Committee (Danna Dobson)

Redemptorist stamps are still being collected and mailed to Ottawa. The costs associated with this have not been included in the budget. There was discussion about continuing to do this as a CWL event, or pass it on to the Parish Council on behalf of the parish. It was agreed that we would continue to fund and maintain responsibility for this program and include it in our budget.

c) Social Justice Standing Committee (Gail Raymond)

Zoom presentation on May 19th, "*Caught Between a Rock and a Hard Place*," will be reviewed by Gail and Mary Myers. If worthwhile, will bring presentation to a general meeting.

4. STANDING ITEMS

a) Correspondence (Mary Lou Hills)

Margaret Wilson thanked everyone for her birthday card.

b) Policy Manual (Donna Guiney)

There are a few policies to be amended/added. A new policy committee is being convened, meetings are by Zoom. Donna passed around a volunteer sheet. If anyone would like to participate in this review, contact Donna.

c) Fundraising

i. Crafts on the Corner – April 18 (Shirley McDonald)

Crafts on the Corner was held on April 18th. We had 20 vendors. The craft show was well attended, although traffic was not as heavy as it could have been. Beverages, hot dogs and chips were available for sale. Vendors provided valuable feedback, including ending the show at 2 pm rather than 3 pm and providing signage on the street advertising the show. Most vendors indicated that they would come again. As it was a positive and financially viable event, we are planning to hold another one next spring.

ii. FundScrip – May 18 – June 8 (Danna Dobson)

Campaign starts next Monday. Forms will go on the website and be available at the back of the church. Cards will be back before Father's Day.

iii. Bake Sale – May 9 (Shirley McDonald)

The bake sale was held in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus Garage Sale on May 9th, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. This was again a no-price bake sale. We made a profit of a little over $700.00. Thanks to all who donated their goodies and volunteer time. Two payments were made by E-transfer as a trial to our new banking enhancement.

iv. Snowflake Bazaar – November 14 (Shirley McDonald)

The Snowflake Bazaar & Craft Show will be held on Saturday, November 14th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. We already have one vendor signed up and paid! We will be looking for a coordinator (or co-coordinators) at our June meeting, as well as leads for each of the areas. There will be no children's activities this year (except Where's Elfo). There will again be a CWL craft table. Also looking to confirm a date for pie making.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

a) CWL Convention (Shirley McDonald)

There were a couple of notable speakers at the convention. Alice Noble, the National Secretary Treasurer, spoke about the National CWL Board and how it relates to the provincial, diocesan and parish councils.

The keynote speaker was Debbie Tessier, who spoke on the theme "*Blessed be the Poor*" and based her talk on the life of St. Francis of Assissi as well as scriptures dealing with the poor and the poor in spirit. Her talk allowed us to reflect on our own dealings with the poor and the marginalized.

The Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Pouliot, did a survey of parish CWL Spiritual Advisors about the role of the CWL in their parish and the role of the Spiritual Advisor. There were some good suggestions from Spiritual Advisors on activities that we can do in our parish, such as holding workshops for women that address women's health; mentoring young women in the parish; welcoming immigrants to the parish; and support for young mothers who are busy and distracted.

Prayer Room (Donna Guiney)

Donna thanked those who volunteered their time and items to put together the prayer room. The prayer room was very well received by those attending the convention. Donna presented photos of the prayer room.

b) Blessed Sacrament Hall Stage

One of the Craft Show Committee's recommendations was to remove the stage from the hall. Benefits of this would be:

- Safety issue: Difficult for children and the elderly to manage. A child fell off the stage at a recent funeral luncheon.
- Space issue: The stage takes up a great deal of space in the hall, including wall space, which reduces the number of tables that can be used in events such as garage sale, bazaar, craft shows, funeral luncheons, etc. The stage area has not been used for an event in many years.
- Potential hall rental issue: If the parish is looking at renting the hall for revenue, removal of the stage would be a benefit for all of the reasons above, as well as allowing increased revenue due to increased usage of the hall.
- Audio-visual (A/V) issue: More and more events are utilizing the A/V equipment to show videos and other material on the mounted screen. This entails lifting the A/V cart onto the stage in order to use the equipment (a 2-person job). Without the stage, use of the A/V equipment would be much simpler.

On the advice of Fr. Charles, we would like to bring this request from the CWL to the Property Committee for approval. The work could be done over the summer when the hall is not in use. In order to ensure that this request is representative of our council, a motion was proposed to invite discussion.

Moved by Shirley McDonald, **seconded** by Susan Aubin that a request be made to the Property Committee that the stage in the hall be removed. **CARRIED**

c) Corpus Christi – June 7, 2026

Planning for the Corpus Christi event is underway. Light refreshments will be provided outside and we will be serving hot dogs and chips (there were lots left after the craft show). Members of the parish will be asked to provide muffins, etc. The Knights will look after the hot dogs, but we need a few ladies to help with the beverage service and cleanup. If you can help with this event, contact Shirley McDonald (613-389-9810).

d) Crowning of the Statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary

There was discussion about this event as it is not well attended by CWL members on Sunday. It was suggested that CWL members be encouraged to attend mass on Sunday on the weekend when this is planned. It was also suggested that this not be held on Mother's Day, or that the day be changed to Saturday, which is attended by more CWL members.

6. UPCOMING EVENTS

a) Silent Auction

The silent auction will be held on the weekend of September 19-20, 2026. Collection of new, unused items will begin in July and carry on through the summer.

7. ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER

The meeting closed at 7:56 pm. Andrea Glover led us in prayer.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 9th at 6:30 pm.