

**CWL MINUTES
MEETING VIA ZOOM
Tuesday, April 13, 2021
7:00 pm**

Attendees:

Ms Sharon Forgeron, President, recording
Father Mathew Pendantsu, Spiritual Advisor
Ms Linda Warkentin, Past President
Ms Pat Smith
Ms Kathleen Clohessy
Ms Toni TenDen
Ms Elsa Doucette
Ms Anne Roscoe
Ms Angela Kachur
Ms Lucille Forgeron
Ms Mary Ann Tierney

Regrets: Andrea de Ga, Georgette Taylor, Christine Darnederlanden, Gloria O'Halloran

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7.06 p.m. by the President.

2. OPENING PRAYER

Father Mathew led the group in prayer, calling our attention to the women at the tomb who were the first to learn of Jesus' resurrection. They then spread the word as we in the CWL are called to continue to do today.

3. REVIEW OF LAST MEETING MINUTES:

Due to technical difficulties during this meeting, the minutes from the last one were not reviewed.

Follow-up: Sharon asked Lisa Fillingham about Linda's question at the March meeting regarding distribution of Standing Committee Reports. Lisa responded to say that she gave all reports to Diocesan Committee Reps and asked them to send to presidents and chairs. She added that this was a lot of work so I am not sure if she is in favour of continuing. I have not received any of these reports. There has been no mention of another Diocesan meeting coming up.

ACTION: Please send any questions regarding our March 10 minutes to Sharon and we will address them at the May meeting.

4. EXECUTIVE AND STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT: See closing prayer for Toni's contribution.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Toni reported a balance of \$694.41 as of the last bank statement. This represents a large gain from last month's report. It was not clear how much of this is actually our money, since most of the membership dues must be sent to National office.

MOTION: That Toni and Elsa collaborate to clarify the number of new memberships, what is due to National and how much money we will retain so that an accurate report can be ready for the May meeting.

Moved/seconded: Sharon/Elsa

Fundraising:

Ideas raised – an online raffle (Kathleen), “no-bake bake sale” (Angela).

Angela reported that she had been part of a “No-Bake Bake Sale” at St. Denis church where they made a significant amount of money.

MOTION: That St. Mary's CWL will conduct a “No Bake” sale this spring in order to raise money for projects described later in these minutes (St. Anthony's Grade 8 Scholarships, a new light for our grotto).

Moved/Seconded: Angela/Sharon

ACTION: Angela will provide Sharon with a poem related to the bake sale.
Sharon will work with Deanne and Kathleen to advertise the sale.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Elsa reported that some more memberships have been paid. Approximately 10 former members have not yet paid.

ACTION: Elsa will collect memberships from the parish office and share list update information with Sharon.

Sharon will then send out an e-mail to the memberships regarding fundraising needs and plans and say also that memberships would help to reach our goal.

COMMUNICATIONS: No chair for this committee.

Companionship Program

We have 4 ladies, Georgette Taylor, Eileen Taraba, Toni TenDen and Anne Roscoe who have volunteered to act as CWL Companions for 11 members who do not have access to computers to share meeting minutes and news from online opportunities. This will involve phone calls primarily but some may want to deliver hard copies to their homes. (See description of pilot goals and strategies attached).

Linda suggested that there might be other people in the parish who would be wanting some telephone contact. Father Mathew raised the issue of confidentiality. Sharon suggested that the

option to connect with a St. Mary's CWL Companion could be offered in the bulletin. In that way, a request would be initiated by the parishioner through Deanne.

Mary Ann offered to add her name to the list of Companions.

Father Mathew shared his concerns about dwindling mass attendance and thus, offerings. The church must still pay its' bills even with only a handful of people attending. He wonders if people will return to mass after the pandemic is over. He also highlighted the loneliness and even depression, of the approximately 60 priests in the diocese.

Linda suggested sending cards to our priests. Sharon brought up the beautiful online Pray for Our Priests event that the diocese organized in February. We could request that it be repeated. She added that St. Mary's CWL would be ready to work with Father Mathew to develop the strong connections and laity needed to build back our parish after this pandemic.

Fall League magazine will be online only. They suggested printing a copy and giving it to members without internet access. We, as individuals could sponsor a member by donating the printing and mailing cost to those who wish to receive it.

Thank you Anne for offering to deliver hard copies of CWL information to those who would benefit.

MOTION: That the Companionship Program be offered to the parish body.

Moved/seconded: Linda/MaryAnn

ACTION: In consideration of the space restrictions in the bulletin, Sharon will curate bulletin announcements for the next few weeks so that all of the information from this meeting, including expansion of the Companionship Program, is shared at an optimal time.

Sharon will contact the person at the Diocese who organized the original online prayer event and request that it be repeated.

Elsa will send greetings to the priests in our St. Catharines Deanery. Mary Ann offered to help with preparing these cards. These two ladies will connect.

Parish Website

Deanne and Sharon conducted a review of what some of the other parish councils are doing with regard to minutes on their website. Some are not posting minutes at all. Some are posting the most recent. Deanne would prefer to post only the most recent, no more than a couple. There was discussion about how to store minutes long-term digitally. She suggested we might want to have our own site.

The idea of putting out a current newsletter or update was discussed. Father Mathew said there are very few people coming to mass. He prints 30 bulletins and has leftover copies after the three weekend masses. He is considering stopping the printing as it seems to be a waste of resources. He said that the parish system has no way of tracking how many people read the online bulletin. He offered to make announcements for us at mass as needed.

Kathleen had been formatting and printing our newsletters previously and graciously offered to continue.

MOTION: That we continue to use only our CWL page on St. Mary's website to share the most recent minutes and newsletter.

Moved/seconded: Kathleen/Linda

ACTION: Sharon will collaborate with Kathleen to compile a newsletter.
Sharon will send these minutes to Deanne and ask for them to be posted on the website. Not sure how quickly this will happen as the office is closed due to COVID lockdown.

FAITH:

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE:

Pat Smith shared the following:

Pope Francis has proclaimed March 19/21 to June 26/22 as the Year "Amoris Laetitia Family. The "joy of love" comes from a life born and lovingly cared for by all family members from toddlers to seniors. The vocation of family is unique and irreplaceable both for the Church and for society as a whole. In addition, St. Joseph's quiet and incomparable role in the Holy Family is being honoured by the Pope's declaration of the Year of St. Joseph from December 8/20 to December 8/21.

An apology from Sharon: Request for letters re: Bill C-7 went into the bulletin late because the message went to "spam" at the parish office. Members who sent individual letters had not received a response.

ACTION: From now on, Sharon or our Communications Chair (which we do not have yet) will call Deanne to make sure she gets bulletin messages.

SERVICE

COMMUNITY LIFE:

(Also see list of resolutions below)

First Holy Communion and Confirmation gifts from CWL

Linda has managed to secure medallions and packaging for all of the bracelets.

Members were able to see the lovely bracelets and boxes on screen. She will have them ready for First Holy Communion on May 1 and for Confirmation on June 8.

ACTION: For safety reasons, Linda will deliver the packages to Deanne who will give them to the respective teachers to distribute at mass.

Mary Ann will make more cards for the gifts and deliver to Linda. Thank you Mary Ann.

A big THANK YOU to Linda for donating her time, talents and the cost of the materials to this important CWL endeavor.

St. Anthony Grade 8 Scholarships

MOTION: That, given our very limited funds, the CWL donate two scholarships of \$50 each to a deserving boy and girl in Grade 8 at St. Anthony's.

Moved/Seconded: Linda/Toni

HEALTH AND EDUCATION: No Chairperson at this time.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

RESOLUTIONS & LEGISLATION

Just FYI and that of those who may look at our minutes on the website, the following is an impressive and important list of resolutions being proposed and updated by our National CWL: See <https://cwl.ca/communique-21-community-life/> for more details

Exit Strategies for Prostituted Persons:
Developing Countries and Water
Affordable Housing for Low-Income Canadians
Water Quality in Canada
Sweatshops
Bulk Fresh Water Resources
Childhood Abuse in Institutions
Elder Abuse/Assault Awareness
Restorative Justice Programs for Young Offenders
Spousal Abuse

See <https://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/20210308-Gorman-to-Trudeau-Rt.-Hon.-Justin-re.-Bill-C7.pdf> for letter from National CWL re: Bill C-7

NEW BUSINESS:

Planting a tree to honour the CWL's 100th anniversary

Father Mathew has suggested that the CWL purchase instead, a new light for the grotto. There is a light, but it has corroded over time and does not work.

MOTION: That our council raise money for this cause.

Moved/seconded: Angela/Pat

ACTION: Father Mathew will investigate cost of a new light with the church's electrician and report to Sharon.

May month at the grotto

Normally, Gloria O'Halloran and the Legion of Mary would be praying the rosary daily during the month of May at our Grotto. COVID restricts gatherings for the foreseeable future.

MOTION: Sharon proposed that CWL members volunteer to have someone at the grotto everyday with Mary during the month of May. Members could go at anytime as this would alleviate gathering at the usual 7 pm.

Moved/seconded: Sharon/Toni

ACTION: Sharon will post the bulletin and send via e-mail to members. As the calendar fills, Sharon will share first names with members so they know how well we are doing and where spots may need filling.

DIOCESAN NEWS

April 26: Our Lady of Good council Mass at Loretto Abby. View on Salt and Light TV

May 1: Consecration to St. Joseph; (Feast of St. Joseph the Worker). You can register at <https://stjosephnow.org>

NEXT MEETING: May 11, 2021 at 7 pm. Will most likely be by video.

CLOSING PRAYER: Toni closed with some thoughts regarding the role of the disciples in witnessing Jesus' resurrection and then being brave enough to share the story widely. She encouraged us to do the same, even in small ways such as noting in our conversations, how Jesus is working in our lives. It is important as well to share our doubts and that these can "coexist with faith".

ADJOURNMENT at 8:24 pm