

## STAR OF THE SEA C.W.L. GENERAL MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

### FAITH

### SERVICE

### SOCIAL JUSTICE

**Meeting Started: 7:02 pm**

**Attendance:** Connie Tracey, Angela Van Kralingen, Erin Clarke, Linda Dirks, Lisa Fillingham, Karen Shakespeare-Eckstein, Jayne Evans, Joan Sim, Angie Mannella, Guida Feliz, Colleen Drake, Maria Aranda, Carmela DeLuca, Lorraine Urquhart, Marg Ford, Caroline Crete, Elsie Pavelko, Liz Cesar, Isabella Sicurella, Eileen McAuliffe, Anne Adam, Mary Jane Stacey, Susanne Honsberger, Karen Lee, Lori Jambrovic, Fr Richard Kowalchuk

**Pope Francis 2024 prayer intention for September: ‘FOR THE CRY OF THE EARTH’** – included in the agenda and read by Connie Tracey

**OPENING PRAYER from “Laudato Si”** - included in the agenda and prayed by all.

#### MAPLE LEAF PIN AWARD PRESENTATION

- Connie presented **Eileen McAuliffe** with this award in recognition of her hard work and dedication to our Parish CWL. Normally this would have been presented at the June 2024 dinner but Eileen was unable to attend at that time.

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT** - read by Connie

#### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 4, 2024 MEETING

**Moved by:** Susanne Honsberger

**Seconded by:** Elsie Pavelko

#### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**Moved by:** Karen Shakespeare-Eckstein

**Seconded by:** Guida Feliz

#### SPIRITUAL REFLECTION – Linda Dirks

- Linda wished us a “Happy New Year” as many would consider September as the beginning of the year after a couple of summer months of rest.
- She reminded us of last Sunday’s Gospel when Jesus, in healing a deaf man said, “Ephphatha” meaning, “Be opened”. She encouraged us to be open to taking on something new and to be open to God’s call.
- Linda also reminded us that last Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, was the Feast of the birth of Mary.

#### Message from Eileen McAuliffe (as part of the spiritual reflection):

- Eileen thanked us for all of our support in these past months.
- She also informed us that there is a Healing Mass at the Cathedral on Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

#### CORRESPONDENCE – Angela VanKralingen

- Impact Report and Thank You Note from Gillian’s Place for our donation.
- Thank You Card from The Clarity Team in Welland for our donations of diapers and children’s clothing from the May Tea.

- Thank You Card from Heather Hendrick, to the Turban Ministry for their donation of head wraps to the cancer ward at the St Catharines Hospital.
- Chalice Update (photo and progress report) regarding our sponsored child, Irynka.
- Thank You Card from Fr Phil Smith for inviting him to our June dinner.
- Thank You Card from Rosalia Oresta, Saint Francis graduate, for being chosen as the recipient of the Star of the Sea CWL Stewardship Award.
- Thank You Card from Lisa Fillingham for our gift of a hydrangea for all of her years of service to the Diocesan CWL.
- Thank You Card from Angie Mannella for being chosen as the recipient of the Maple Leaf Service Award Pin which she received at the June dinner.
- From Catholic Missions In Canada: newsletters, donation requests, invitation to a fundraiser.
- From Euthanasia Prevention Coalition: newsletters, donation requests.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT** – Connie for Karla Gilmore

Balances as of September 10, 2024:

- Chequing-0 Account: \$2455.87
- Savings: \$1493.63
- Chequing-2 Account (Prayer Shawl & Turban Ministry): \$2322.24
- Petty Cash: \$70

#### **MEMBERSHIP/ORGANIZATION** – Jayne Evans

- Nothing to report regarding change in members.
- 2025 Membership drive will start next month. **Membership fees have increased to \$40.**
- Jayne has sent the names of our sisters in the league that have passed away this past year to National CWL. These will be remembered at the Mass for the Deceased on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2pm, St Joseph's Church in Grimsby.  
\*Lisa Fillingham reminded us of the importance of remembering and praying for the deceased and encouraged us to attend this Mass.  
Eileen also shared with us that she came to a better understanding, when she saw us at her husband's funeral, of how impactful it is seeing our CWL come together as a family in support of our sisters.

#### **SPIRITUAL ADVISOR** – Father Richard Kowalchuk

- Fr Richard encouraged us to attend the Healing Mass on Friday.
- In addition, he gifted us with a "Miraculous Medal". The story of this medal and explanation can be found at

<https://miraculousmedal.org/welcome/the-miracle-of-the-miraculous-medal/>

Father prayed the following prayer of blessing and investiture which can be found at

<https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/blessing-and-investiture-with-miraculous-medal-11858>

### **Blessing and Investiture with Miraculous Medal From Roman Ritual**

Priest vests in surplice and white stole

+ Our help is in the name of the Lord

R. Who made heaven and earth

+ The Lord be with you

R. And also with you

Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, Who by the many appearances on earth of the Immaculate Virgin Mary were pleased to work miracles again and again for the salvation of souls; kindly pour out Your blessing + on this medal, so that all who devoutly wear it and reverence it may experience the patronage of Mary Immaculate and obtain mercy from You; through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Priest sprinkles Miraculous Medal(s) with Holy Water, then presents it to person(s) saying:

Take this holy medal; wear it with faith, and handle it with due devotion, so that the holy and Immaculate Queen of Heaven may protect and defend you. And as she is ever ready to renew her wondrous acts of kindness, may she obtain for you in her mercy whatever you humbly ask of God, so that both in life and in death you may rest happily in her motherly embrace. AMEN.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Our Father...

+ And lead us not into temptation

R. But deliver us from evil

+ Queen conceived without Original Sin

R. Pray for us who have recourse to thee

+ O, Lord, hear my prayer

R. And let my cry come unto thee

+ The Lord be with you

R. And also with you

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, Who willed that Your Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary conceived without sin, should become illustrious through countless miracles; grant that we who ever seek her patronage may finally possess everlasting joys. We ask this of You, Who lives and reigns forever and ever, AMEN.

## OLD BUSINESS:

### 1. Mini Reports and Gratitude:

#### a. Strawberry Social – Angie Mannella-Pisani

Angie was very pleased with how it turned out and she has made notes on how to make minor improvements.

All commented on how great the musical group, the Star Lites, was which was led by Liz Cesar.

#### b. Graduations and Awards

Connie thanked all of the presenters.

**c. Vacation Bible School** – Karen Shakespeare Eckstein

Karen remarked that it was breathtaking! Besides participants from our region, some children came from as far away as Oakville and Orillia.

Here is Karen's report:

"After much hesitation about choosing this year's theme regarding Pro-life, (mainly because of the age groups and the sensitivity of delivery), I am SO pleased that I did! The children, ages 4–13, had a magnificent week celebrating the gift of life. This year we had 45 campers, 7 amazing counselors, Sr. Marie Therese and Sr. Mary Isidore from the SOLI Sisters, Mary Marano and Nadia LaSelva (from St. Julia's) as our incredible chefs, and me, the fearless leader! Each day we explored God's Gift of Life- every morning the campers met the saint of the day, then rotated through 4 periods of Faith, Crafts, Games and Music, and feasted at break time on delicious meals based on the Saint of the day. Each afternoon we explored different areas of life:

Monday- they wrote and performed skits about how God is present in their daily lives.

Tuesday- Bowling for Babies at PlaMor where they accumulated enough points to purchase 20 "onesies" for Choose Life, who came in that afternoon to do a meaningful and loving presentation about how precious each life is!

Wednesday- we travelled by bus to Safari Niagara for a picnic lunch, exploring God's beautiful creatures, and ending with climbing the high ropes course and cooling off in the massive splash pad (it was a hot day, and the pool was a blessing!)

Thursday- we travelled, again by bus, to Anchor Pointe Retirement Home to do crafts with the Seniors for our Intergenerational Appreciation Day. The campers also performed 2 action songs for them!

Friday- we had a huge birthday party where we thanked God for the gift of life in each of us. Here they played games, enjoyed a bouncy castle, and ate birthday cake and numerous other treats! The Lord was so present at camp, and the bonds that were made between the children, counselors and leaders were life- changing. We all attended Mass with Father Richard on Friday morning, and stayed for Adoration of our Lord. I am so grateful for every blessed moment of our VBS!"

Karen is looking forward to next year.

**2. a) TRIVIA NIGHT** – Angie Mannella-Pisani

The Trivia committee is meeting every 2 weeks. Deacon Maurice and his wife, Fran, are masters at preparing trivia nights and have created all of the questions.

Angie passed around sign-up sheets for the various duties for this fundraiser and asked for volunteers to approach businesses to make a donation of some sort.

**b) PLAY – MY FAIR LADY**

For those who will be attending this play on Sun Oct 27, your ticket will be available from Angie in one of the following ways:

1. **PLAN A - Angie will give out the tickets at our next meeting Tues. Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>.@ 6:45**
2. **PLAN B - pick up in the RECTORY Friday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> @ 1 - 2 p.m. - Angie will be folding bulletins.**
3. **PLAN C - personal arrangement by contacting Angie**

## NEW BUSINESS:

**ELECTIONS** – Lisa Fillingham

Elections will take place at the November meeting with the new council starting in January 2025. Lisa will chair the election committee.

Lisa stressed that someone must step up to be president. Connie is stepping down as she has served for 6 years. If no one puts their name forward, our Star of the Sea CWL will fold. She pointed out that we do not need to be a carbon copy of previous presidents, we can make the position our own.

Also, the other executive positions will need to be filled.

At the October meeting, each member of the current executive will give a brief summary of their duties.

#### **HEAVENLY HOSTS MARKET** – Karen Shakespeare-Eckstein

Date: Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup>

Here is Karen's report:

"Although it is still early in September, we need to start planning for our annual Christmas bazaar! Previous years successes are based solely on the generosity of your many incredible talents and time. Please consider what crafts you are able to make, what baking you can contribute to the cookie concourse and our bake tables, extra jars of jams and preserves, and items that are in excellent quality to sell, or for the silent auction. Also, please consider over the next month if you are willing to be a convener for one of the tables, which involves set up, pricing and selling. Thank you in advance, dear Heavenly Hosts!"

Karen will pass around sign-up sheets at the October meeting.

#### **CHEZ MARIE** – Linda Dirks

Linda informed us that Marie Londondo has acquired a new refugee centre and has called it "Hope House". We are all invited to an open house on Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm. Hope House is located at 172 ½ Niagara Street, St Catharines.

At our October meeting, Linda will have more information and will let us know how we can provide Christmas baskets for both Chez Marie and Hope House.

#### **2024/25 DIOCESAN FOCUS** – HOUSING INSECURITY AND MENTAL HEALTH – Lorraine Urquhart and Karen Shakespeare-Eckstein

For this meeting, Lorraine provided the report and here it is:

##### **"Housing Insecurity And Mental Health"**

Homelessness, mental health and addiction issues have reached crisis levels on the streets of Ontario's cities. The "Ontario Big City Mayors" have come together to create a plan to tackle this problem by joining together to ask the current Provincial Government for help.

In this plan, they are asking the Provincial Government to create a specific ministry and Minister to address the full spectrum of housing needs as well as mental health, addictions and other supports. They hope that this Minister would create a task force with a specific "Made in Ontario Action plan." It would provide local municipalities with funding and tools and resources to transition those in encampments to more appropriate supports, when deemed necessary.

Ontario Big City Mayors group has created a webpage [www.solvesthecrisis.ca](http://www.solvesthecrisis.ca) and invite all citizens to show their support for this initiative by signing up and by contacting your local MPP to demonstrate you support for this initiative."

Diocesan CWL has requested all councils to track which mental health, housing insecurity, etc., initiatives we have been involved with (donations, volunteering, etc.).

#### **SAINT FRANCIS NEWS** – Erin Clarke

Pilgrimage plans are underway with meetings starting this week. Date of the Pilgrimage has not yet been announced.

In addition, some sports have started such as golf and football.

**Special Presentation to Erin:** Connie gifted Erin with a CWL scarf.

**PRAYER SHAWL REPORT** – Karen Lee

Knitters/Crocheters are needed to make hats and scarves for Out of the Cold. Lapghans and prayer shawls are not needed as there are plenty of those at this time. More yarn will need to be purchased.

It suggested that since a medal and prayer are always attached to the prayer shawls, that the Miraculous Medal be attached. Fr Richard gifted this ministry with the remaining medals that were blessed earlier in the meeting.

**TURBAN STITCHERS REPORT** – Connie on behalf of Marg Martin who sends her regrets

Here is Marg's report:

"Since the last report of June 4th, 2024, our group has made and delivered 134 hats to the oncology department of the St Catharines General hospital. These were made over 4 meetings and our next meeting will be September 24<sup>th</sup>.

This month we have had more material donated from Warehouse of Hope. We thank Glenda Jarvis for her contribution and I would like to put forward the idea that we give a \$100.00 donation to them for their generosity and thoughtfulness.

Many thanks to all who contribute their time, and to the CWL for their contribution to this ministry."

**Motion:** Anne Adam put forth a motion that \$100 be donated to Warehouse of Hope as a thank you for their generous donation of fabric. **Seconded** by Lisa Fillingham. **Carried.**

**FALL CALENDAR** – Connie

Highlights:

September 6 Diocesan Meet and Greet Dinner

- great night!

September 30 National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

- Linda is looking into have us attend Mass at St Vincent de Paul Church in NOTL at 8:30am and then proceeding to Butler's Barracks National Historic Site. She will email us the details.

October 5 General Meeting

- Ann Monster will be our guest speaker.

October 26 League Development Day at Star of the Sea (or St Alexander)

- Lisa will be the leader at our church and Deedee Alexandre will lead at St Alexander's.
- Both churches will offer the same program.
- More details will be available soon.

December 14 Star of the Sea Council Advent Retreat

- Will be led by Linda.
- Time to be determined.
- As we will be celebrating the 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent Candle, Joy, we are encouraged to wear pink.

**OTHER**

- Diocesan CWL Advent Retreat will take place on Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> or Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at Mount Carmel. The cost for members is \$25 (the true cost is \$50 but our council pays for half of the fee). Deadline for registration is November 15<sup>th</sup>. There is a poster with more information on the CWL bulletin board.
- The Christmas Dinner in December at St John's Ukrainian Church has not been finalized. Stay tuned for date and time.
- Angela brought a large box of wooden hangers that anyone is welcome to take free of charge. The store where Angela works is replacing all of the apparel hangers to black ones and thus are giving

these away. They are still in good condition. This box has been placed in the coat rack nook on the floor.

**CLOSING PRAYER: HERE I AM LORD, SEND ME** – included in the agenda and prayed by all.

**Meeting Ended: 8:55 pm**

**50/50 draw** Won by: Jayne Evans Amount: \$22.00

**Next General Meeting: 7:00 pm on Tuesday, Oct. 1**

**Next CWL Mass: 11:00 am on Sunday, Oct. 6, remembering Keith Kirkham, Bill Urquhart**

**MANY THANKS TO JAYNE EVANS, ELSIE PAVELKO AND MARG FORD FOR THE DELICIOUS REFRESHMENTS!**