

# STAR OF THE SEA CWL GENERAL MEETING

## MINUTES April 7, 2026

### FAITH

### SERVICE

### SOCIAL JUSTICE

**ATTENDANCE:** Debra Miller, Susanne Honsberger, Viz Werner, Carmela DeLuca, Karla Gilmore, Pam Wellard, Angie Wellard, Angela VanKralingen, Linda Dirks, Stephanie D’Aloisio, Marg Ford, Elsie Pavelko, Connie Tracey, Kelli Steele, Karen Shakespeare-Eckstein, Marion Battersby, Anne Adam, Lorraine Urquhart, Lyn Bourret, Bernadette Bourret, Marg Martin, Rose Dzugan, Idella Serafini, Lidia Molinaro, Jayne Evans, Mary Marano, Father Richard Kowalchuk

**OPENING PRAYER:** Jayne led us in the following prayer, after which she thanked Father for the very meaningful liturgies of Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

**Lord Jesus, as we celebrate your resurrection, we pray for a renewal of faith, hope, and love. May this Easter be a time of spiritual growth and a fresh beginning in our journey with you. Amen.**

Jayne introduced us to new members, Stephanie D’Aloisio and Kelli Steele. **WELCOME** She also welcomed a visitor from Thunder Bay, Lyn Bourret’s sister-in-law, Bernadette.

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT** – Jayne Evans

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA of:** April 7, 2026 **MOVED** to be approved by Anne Adam, and **SECONDED** by Karen Shakespeare-Eckstein. **CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF:** March 3, 2026 **MOVED** to be approved – with the change from the title ‘Agenda’ to ‘Minutes’ – by Elsie Pavelko, and **SECONDED** by Marg Ford. **CARRIED**

**SPIRITUAL REFLECTION – LINDA DIRKS** Linda spoke about the ‘**Smells of the Catholic Church**’. She talked about the Oil of Chrism Mass, held every year during Holy Week, at the Cathedral. We were told about the 3 oils – Oil of Anointing, Oil of Catechumens, and Oil of Holy Chrism – how they are prepared and blessed or consecrated, how they are different, and for what purposes they are used. Linda also informed us as to how the oils of 2025 are disposed, and how the new oils are stored. She then passed around sin saturated Water from the Jordan River, Pure Holy Water from Fatima, and anointing oils from the Holy Land, so that we could see, smell and touch them.

Following Linda’s presentation, **FATHER RICHARD** continued with the Spiritual Reflection by telling us more about the Mass of Chrism, from his perspective, and when the different oils are used, especially the oil of Chrism, which is used for Baptism, Confirmation, and Ordination.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT:** Jayne Evans

**CORRESPONDANCE** – Connie Tracey It was reported that a tax receipt from Chalice has been received, and newsletters from Catholic Missions in Canada (focusing on estate planning) and from Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. There was also a thank you card to the Prayer Shawl Ministry, (as well as a very kind donation of \$60) for the baby blanket that was given to Angela VanKralingen’s new granddaughter, Lana. The card was circulated as it has a very sweet photo of Lana with her new blanket.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Lidia Molinaro. Lidia reported that our 2025 books have been submitted to Tracy Findlay, for annual audit.

As per the month end statements, our chequing balance is \$8055.69, Business Advantage is \$1537.96, our term certificate is \$2120.08 and petty cash is \$100.00. The balance for the Prayer Shawl/Turban account is \$1045.92.

Idella Serafini and her husband donated back to us the \$120.00 ticket cost for the Choose Life Dinner.

### **Business arising from March 3, 2026 –**

1. The results from our Council's votes on the 10 amendments as proposed by the National Council have been submitted to our Diocesan Council. They will be addressed at the upcoming Annual Members' Meeting.  
Jayne Evans, Connie Tracey, Karla Gilmore and Wilma Vanderzwaag will be the voting delegates from our council.
2. The two proposed Resolutions will also be discussed at our Annual Members' Meeting. Once approved by the delegates, the resolution proposing that *The Provincial Government of Ontario increase Ontario Works payments*, will move forward to the Provincial Council and the resolution proposing that *The Federal Government of Canada to implement a Nation-building Guaranteed Basic Income demonstration project in Prince Edward Island, to gather the data needed to eradicate deep poverty in Canada* will be presented at the National Convention for consideration.
3. **Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, April 3, 2026. at 7:00 p.m.** Thank you to all who participated in this event. A special thank you to Linda Dirks, for once again leading us on this very poignant liturgical journey, looking at the crucifixion of Our Lord from the perspective of His sorrowful Mother.
4. **Parish Photo Directory.** The response has been very positive. We have 10 days of photo shoots and will need a total of 20 volunteers to cover the 2 shifts per day. To date we have 85 families and there are only a few available spots left.
5. **Parish Lending Library** – Connie Tracey and a team of helpers successfully organized the library. This collection of books is open to all parishioners. Special thanks to the Gerry Chaput for determining the state of some of the bookshelves, to Father Richard for purchasing some new ones to replace those that could not be repaired (and extra shelves as well), to Erika's son, Mathew, for spending part of his March break assembling the new shelves, and to Fran Prindiville, Sheri Duns and Marg Martin for re-sorting, purging and shelving the books. There is a great assortment except for books for children and youth.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Choose Life Diaper Drive – April 6 – May 6, 2026.** This will be an opportunity for all parishioners to donate diapers (all sizes) and other baby needs by placing them on the hall pews. Also – our council will purchase \$200 worth of diapers and supplies, as well as directing the \$120 donation made by Idella and Diego DeLuigi (see Treasurer's report) to purchase baby supplies – for a total of \$320.00.



## REPORTS:

1. **FAITH – Linda Dirks.** Linda reminded us that checking our national website (CWL.ca) as well as Provincial and Diocesan sites on a regular basis is a great way to keep up to date. Also – it was just announced that there is to be a 2 week ceasefire in the middle east, so prayers have been answered.
2. **SERVICE – Karen Shakespeare-Eckstein.** National is encouraging us to celebrate our patroness, Our Lady of Good Council, on her feast day, April 26. (which we are doing with 2 CWL Masses and refreshments for our parishioners). Provincial is asking that we remain concerned and actively supportive of our poor and hungry in our community. There was nothing new from Diocesan.
3. **SOCIAL JUSTICE – Jayne Evans**  
**Special presentation by Idella Serafini –DeLuigi** Idella and her husband attended the Choose Life Dinner in March. The guest speaker was Lauren Eden, who miraculously survived a second trimester abortion. Idella told us Lauren’s amazing story; how so many odd circumstances foiled her teenaged mother’s abortion attempts, how her young father turned to prayer, and how - even though she was born at 26 weeks gestation, weighing just 2 lb. 6 oz., and spent 53 days in the NICU, - has led a happy and healthy life. Her parents eventually married, happily, and Lauren felt that God called her to be a voice for the unborn, so she began the ‘Abortion Survivor’s Network’.
4. **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY –Karen Lee** No report
5. **TURBAN MINISTRY- Marg Martin.** At one of the March meetings, the group was joined by a Communication Specialist from the Marotta Hospital, who interviewed the ladies, and took some photos. There will be an article about our Turban Ministry in the hospital newsletter. Our Turban Ministry is the only group that sews turbans and donates them to the Cancer Centre.
6. **ORGANIZATION – Mary Marano** There are 131 paid members at present, and 11 unpaid.

## OTHER BUSINESS:

**ANNE ADAMS** – brought to our attention, an article that was in the Standard and in Niagara This Week about a group based from Central Niagara Church called ‘Community Crew’, which makes and donates nutritious lunches to schools across Niagara (both school boards) as well as encouraging notes and smiles, for children who face food insecurity. They serve over 1700 children, and served over 5000 lunches each week. After some discussion and quick on-line research, the following motion was made.

**MOTION – THAT OUR COUNCIL DONATE \$525.00 TO COMMUNITY CREW, FOR THEIR LUNCH PROGRAMME. MOVED BY:** Anne Adam. **SECONDED BY:** Marion Battersby. **CARRIED**

It was suggested that our donation be accompanied by a letter, requesting that, if possible, the lunches be provided to one of the Catholic schools that Community Crew supports.

**REMINDERS:**

**Sunday, April 26, 2026, CWL Masses followed by coffee and goodies for the parishioners – 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.** (please note there will be no CWL Mass in May)

**Tuesday, April 21, 2026 – Annual Members' Meeting at St. John Ukrainian Catholic Church. Registration is now closed.**

**Next Meeting Dates: Executive Meeting- Tuesday, April 28, 2026 – 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jayne Evans**

**General Meeting – Tuesday, May 5, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.**

**50/50 Draw – \$46.50 won by Liz Cesar**

**Closing Prayer: Theme for 2026**

**Prayer for Passion on the Mission**

Jesus, our Lord, we come to You with open hearts seeking passion for Your mission.

Your deepest desire was to draw all peoples into the embrace of the Heavenly Father's Kingdom.

Send Your Holy Spirit to ignite our hearts with the fire of Your passionate love, to empower us with enthusiasm for Your mission.

May we be instruments of Your love to our sisters in the League, our families, parishes, and communities.

As we journey together, may the flame in our hearts illuminate others to know Your eternal love.

May we hold Your people in our hearts as we place all our trust in You.

Sweet Jesus, each day as we lift up our hearts to You, we offer You our prayers, works, joys, and sufferings.

We humbly ask that our offerings increase our faith, hope, and charity.

O Most Sacred and Passionate Heart of Jesus, may our hearts and Yours beat together as one.

We make this prayer to You, Jesus, in the power of the Father and in the union of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen. Betty Colaneri, CWL National President



*Ignite Your Passion*  
**Empower His Mission**