

**BLESSED SACRAMENT
CATHOLIC WOMENS' LEAGUE**

**2016 ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**





**BLESSED SACRAMENT AMHERSTVIEW
CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE
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Agenda for 2016 Annual General Meeting

1. Welcome and call to order..... President
2. Opening prayer..... Bernadette Burgess
3. Approval of minutes of 2015 AGM..... Secretary
4. 2016 Annual Reports..... President
5. 2016: The Year in Review.....Historian
6. 2016 Membership Growth Chart.....Membership Convenor
7. 2016 Financial Summary Treasurer
8. Close of Annual General Meeting..... President



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Minutes of 2015 Annual General Meeting

1. The Annual General Meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm.
2. Bernadette Burgess led us in the League Prayer.
3. Keynote Speaker – due to low attendance, it was agreed to postpone this talk until our March general meeting.
4. Minutes of AGM February 10, 2015 – As minutes of this meeting were not taken, they were not available for review.
5. 2015 Annual Reports – Bernadette Veitch thanked everyone for submitting their annual reports in a timely fashion. She highlighted our busy year and events as noted in this AGM report (following). Our standing committees, in particular, were very busy this year.
6. 2015 Year in Review – Bernadette reviewed the highlights of our year and walked us through some of the main events.
7. Membership – our council membership remains healthy in comparison to other councils. Membership numbers appear to be stable.
8. 2015 Financial Summary – Kelly Neville explained that the final list of charities, as stated in this report, were those that were actually funded, not those than were anticipated to be funded in January.
9. Closing – Bernadette thanked everyone for their hard work over the course of the year, and closed the AGM.



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2016 Annual Reports

PRESIDENT (Bernadette Veitch)

It has been my privilege to be the President, for the second time of the Blessed Sacrament Parish Catholic Women's League Council. It has warmed my heart to see activities that were instituted many years ago, such as sending birthday mass cards and the Crowning of Mary, are still being undertaken.

During the last two years, we had guest speakers on Autism Spectrum, Feathers of Hope, a Health Fair, our Annual Bazaar and a Strawberry Social in memory of Shirley O'Connor. We sponsored the Annual World Day of Prayer on March 4th, spearheaded by Carole Daigle, who did a wonderful job and involved the school and community.

We also celebrated our 20th Anniversary of inception with a year long celebration consisting of Socials, Pot Lucks, Pilgrimage to Midland and the Knights of Columbus honoured us with a celebratory Breakfast. A wonderful video was developed by Past President, Shirley McDonald.

The Council was grateful for Father Stan Alanen's gentle prayerful support, and were saddened when it was announced that he would be retiring and leaving the parish for a peaceful rest after his many years of service.

I would like to thank all the members of the Blessed Sacrament Council for their support, especially my Executive. We are all together on our faith journey, helping and inspiring each other along the way in times of sorrow and times of joy.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide us For God and Canada.

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE (Jane Burke)

Blessed Sacrament CWL have contributed to Christian Family Life in many ways. One of our newest projects is: "Adopt A Family". We collect money at each meeting anonymously and give it to the family we have selected that year that could use a little extra money "to tie them over". This money brings hope to our adopted family that is struggling to make ends meet. It may be enough to buy a warm coat or the milk needed for the month.

COMMUNICATIONS (Margaret Wilson)

Our League magazine continues to bring us important articles and events. The spring edition had cards informing us of the name of our Companion in prayer for 2016.

The work of Chairpersons of Communications at all levels was made easier by the Privacy Commissioner of Canada. They announced that the League does not require signed permission to use photos in any publication due to the non-commercial nature of the Leagues activities.

The *Pornography Hurts* Campaign replaced the *White Ribbon* Campaign. Post cards were made available to send to the Federal Government. It is important to continue to send the post cards every year to parliament so they are aware of our concerns for Pornography.



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We were encouraged to write to our Minister of Health and Long Term Care, concerning the accessibility to palliative cares for all Ontarians. Also, post cards were available from the Catholic Organization for Life and Family. These were to be sent to Government officials opposing euthanasia and assisted suicide.

May 8, 2016 was declared World Communications Day by Pope Francis. The theme was Communication and Mercy, reminding us that communicating is a profoundly human achievement.

Blessed Sacrament's Parish Catholic Women's League continues to announce our meeting dates in the parish bulletin. Our monthly meeting minutes are published on our web site. Get Well cards, Sympathy cards, Birthday cards and Mass intentions are sent out to all our members.

COMMUNITY LIFE (Carol Daigle)

Our original Foster Family no longer needed our support, so we are now fostering a single person.

We supported a young woman in our Parish who went to Ireland for Missionary work with youth in University and College.

Winter coats were collected and donated to those in need.

We had a successful Birthday party this past August for the residents of Helen Henderson Care Centre.

Money was donated to the Red Cross for the residents impacted by the fires in Fort Mc Murray.

Items and money were donated to Project Homeland. The money was used to add extra items to be included in the boxes sent to our local Military serving out of country.

EDUCATION AND HEALTH (Donna Guiney, Mary Lou Hills)

On Tuesday, November 29th we had a Mass for those who have lost a loved one. Mourning the loss of a loved one can be a time of intense pain. One of the greatest gifts we receive from our faith in God is hope.

In this Mass, we entered in darkness (candlelight) and together we found light. Pictures of our loved ones were brought in procession and placed on the altar. Our prayers to our loved ones were placed in a box. Together, we pray, through readings and song and Holy Mass.

At the end of Mass, we pick up the picture of our loved one and a candle. In the procession, out, we take a candle to burn when we need to remember God is with us. Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

A CPR refresher class has been organized for 2017.

HISTORIAN (Shirley McDonald)

November 2015 marked our 20th anniversary as a council of the Catholic Women's League. We agreed that this milestone should be celebrated over the course of the next 12 months with events that marked the business, social and spiritual facets of our council:



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- a. BUSINESS: At our November 10th, 2015 meeting, we enjoyed cake before our regular meeting, to share memories of our 20 years as a council. An outline of the forthcoming year's historical events was outlined at the meeting.
- b. SOCIAL: On May 10th, 2016, our council continued its year-long celebration of 20 years with an anniversary pot-luck dinner. The event was well attended with lots of food, fun and sharing of our council's history. New members were welcomed; our founding members and spiritual advisors were honoured; and milestone awards were presented. The evening ended with the viewing of an anniversary movie prepared for the event. Pictures may be viewed on our website.
- c. SPIRITUAL: In September, 2016 our council organized a successful Year of Mercy Pilgrimage to Martyr's Shrine in Midland that was well attended and much appreciated by those who attended.

LEGISLATION (Danna Dobson)

Our Executive Handbook states that, "Legislation is social justice in action." It is the carrying out of League Resolutions to influence government policy.

Our Council spent considerable time monitoring two pieces of legislation that needed timely advocacy from our League. Namely, they were the *Physician Assisted Dying Law* that needed to be passed in the summer of 2016 and the other was Bill 95 *Improving Mental Health and Addictions Services in Ontario Act, 2015*. Members were provided with several sources to read and review the details of the legislation, reports prepared by the Catholic Church, Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario, Federal Provincial and Territorial Committee Report, vulnerable communities and the Office of the Ethics Officer (federal government).

We then prepared an advocacy strategy to influence the outcomes; connecting them to Resolutions, position papers and other activities in place for mental health, and palliative care. Part of the strategy included meeting with our Priest to confirm our parish wide communications and engagement strategy.

Our Committee Chair also attended the Wisdom Table session held in September to network on ideas and opportunities to continue to advocate for these 2 significant topics and plan for the next year.

ORGANIZATION – MEMBERSHIP (Carol Daigle)

Our Annual Membership drive was held over the month of January starting with the Convenor sending out an information letter in November 2015 to each current member, giving them several different ways to renew their membership.

Then on the second weekend of January, a talk was given by the Convenor before the Final Blessing, after the two weekend Masses, to let the women of the parish know about the advantages of being a CWL member. We gained two new members and one returning member after the talks. This brought the membership total to 83.

We celebrated our 20th Anniversary this year and were fortunate to have many former presidents return to share in the celebration.



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RESOLUTIONS (Danna Dobson)

Resolutions are a powerful tool that The Catholic Women's League has for making a difference in the lives of others.

Our Council spent considerable time and effort advocating for change to two pieces of legislation that needed timely advocacy from our League. Namely, they were the Physician Assisted Dying Law that needed to be passed in the summer of 2016 and the other was Bill 95 Improving Mental Health and Addictions Services in Ontario Act, 2015.

Members of the League and parish were invited to:

- a. Complete any or all several online petitions shared
- b. Mail in postcards to show support for Palliative Care and constraints on assisted dying
- c. Participate in a prayer vigil on the Day of Prayer for Hospice and Palliative Care, held in the church
- d. Promote two items on Salt and Life website:
 - a series that is taking place on a Live Webcast on Salt & Light TV entitled '*Every Life Matters*' facilitated by Archbishop Smith of Edmonton. The series will be accessible through our diocesan webpage.
 - Also a topic to follow entitled: '*Deacon-structing End of Life Issues*' a 5-part series; a blog by Deacon Pedro, a regular Salt and Life TV

Our Committee Chair also attended the Wisdom Table session held in September to network on ideas and opportunities to continue to advocate for these 2 significant topics and plan for the next year.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT (Bernadette Burgess)

Members participated and hosted an hour of prayer and reflection for the parish on Palliative Care on May 4th.

A successful Year of Mercy Pilgrimage to Martyr's Shrine in Midland was organized to celebrate our 20th anniversary as a council. The pilgrimage took place on September 17th.

On November 27th, members hosted an Advent Wreath Making Event for the parish.



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2016: The Year in Review

JANUARY: There was no meeting in January, 2016 due to bad weather. Our annual membership drive was held through January.

FEBRUARY: Once again, our council provided an Early Bird prize for those who renewed their membership before the end of January. This year's winner of a free registration was Maureen Birdsell.



MARCH: A very successful World Day of Prayer was hosted on March 4, 2016 by Blessed Sacrament CWL, coordinated by Carol Daigle. The day was a huge success with approximately 175 participants. Following the prayer service, a "Taste of Cuba" was held in the church hall. The reception was well attended.

APRIL: On April 3rd, members of our council served cake for Confirmation. At our April 12th meeting, Rachel Taylor spoke about her upcoming travel to Ireland with the Catholic Christian Outbreak program. On April 23rd, we held our annual bake sale in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus garage sale. On April 26th, we honoured the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel with information and a Litany handout for mass. Also in April, our council participated in the *Pornography Hurts* campaign by mailing postcards to MPs.

MAY: On May 4th, our council organized an hour of prayer and reflection as part of the "12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care" campaign. On May 10th, we continued our year-long celebration of our 20th anniversary as a council with a Mass and pot luck dinner. Founding members were recognized at Mass and former Spiritual Advisors gave testimonials. Sisters in the League were presented with their 20-year pins. As well, new members received their pins. During the meal, a basket was passed around to collect for the Fort McMurray Relief Fund. A beautiful commemorative CD outlining our council's history was available for purchase. On May 8th, our council participated in the Crowning of Mary.



JUNE: Our parish priest and Spiritual Advisor, Father Stan Alanen, announced his retirement in June. On Sunday, June 26th our council held its first Strawberry Social, to raise funds in support of the Catholic Women's League Foundation. The event was held after mass and was attended by about 60 people. Strawberry treats and desserts were provided by the ladies of our council. The event was a successful fundraiser and will be held again next year.

AUGUST: On August 25th, our ladies held a birthday party for residents at Helen Henderson Care Centre, in Amherstview.



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SEPTEMBER: Several members of our council attended the Diocesan Development Day on September 10th. A very successful pilgrimage to the Martyr's Shrine in Midland was organized by our council and took place on September 17th.

OCTOBER: The annual Coat Drive was held in October, as was our pie making bee, where the ladies prepared pies to be frozen and sold at our annual Bazaar. Items were also collected for Operation Homeland.

NOVEMBER: Our elections for Officers took place at our November 8th meeting, as well as our Annual General Meeting. Our annual Snowflake Bazaar was held on November 12th.

DECEMBER: Our Christmas Pot Luck dinner was held on December 13th.

AWARDS AND PINS

Our Council presented the following awards and pins in 2016:

Maple Leaf Service Pin:

Shirley McDonald

10-year Pin:

Sr. Evelyn Emery
Mary Ferguson
Sr. Mary Fitzpatrick
Betty Hutcheson
Sue MacDonald

Shirley MacDougall
Shirley McDonald
Jane McGrath
Carol Mullin

20-year Pin:

Susan Aubin
Margaret Beneteau
Rita Campbell
Jackie DiRocco
Cecile Downey
Terri Godfrey
Myrna Greenwood

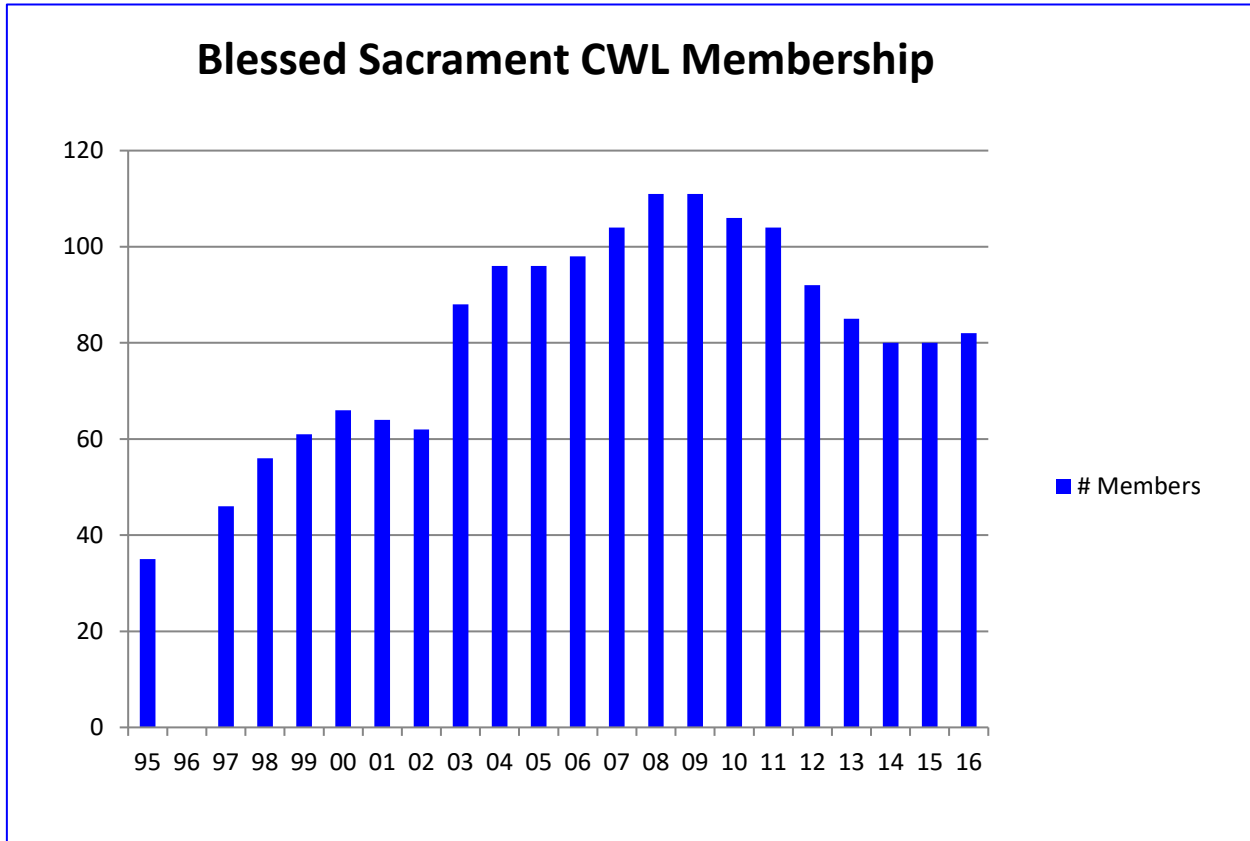
Donna Guiney
Pat Hoobin
Valerie Jasvins
Rose Keates
Jane McKenna
Anne Nicholl
Rose Reid

Mary Seifred
Lorraine Thibadeau
Doreen Thirnbeck
Ann Tobin
Lorraine VanZuylan
Margaret Wilson



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2016 Membership Growth Chart





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2016 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Blessed Sacrament CWL Budget 2016 (to November 1)

Income	2015 Actuals	2016 Budget	2016 Actuals	Details
Paid Membership x69	1,775.00	1700.00	1,825.00	paid membership x 73
Bazaar Income	4,051.04	4100.00		
Bake Sale	858.90	900.00	800.45	
Funeral Lunches	670.00	700.00	1,150.00	
Conventions	648.00	600.00	1,025.25	
Religious Articles	208.59	150.00		
Strawberry Social		80.00	120.00	
Donations	25.00	50.00		
Other		1.00	1,300.00	CWL Pilgrimage
Interest		0.14		
Total Income	\$ 8,236.53	\$ 8,281.14	\$ 6,220.70	
Expenses	2015 Actuals	2016 Budget	2016 Actuals	Details
Office	312.80	300.00	185.63	
Kitchen	0.00	150.00	106.17	food for World Day of Prayer
Bazaar	335.79	350.00	172.57	pie making expenses
Funerals	544.56	600.00	913.77	
Conventions	1,128.00	1,200.00	1,286.00	
Guest Speakers	50.00	100.00	50.00	
Religious Articles	84.77	0.00		
Pins/Awards/Gifts	179.00	200.00	391.02	
Clergy Gifts	150.00	150.00	373.83	priest's R.F/guestbook+\$50 gift cardX2
Clergy Christmas Gifts		20.00		
Masses	400.00	400.00	360.00	
Charitable Donations	1,875.00	2,200.00	2,017.66	
Donation - Church (from Bazaar)	2,000.00	1,400.00		
Donation - Church	0.00			
CWL Memberships x 80	1,600.00	1,540.00	1,640.00	X82 memberships including comps
Bank Charges	80.75	30.00	25.00	service fees
Other	45.20	230.00	1,530.00	help for CWL member/CWL Pilgrimage
Total Expenses	\$ 8,785.87	\$ 8,870.00	\$ 9,051.65	
Balance (Income - Expenses)	-\$ 549.34	-\$ 588.86	-\$ 2,830.95	
ADD: Balance on hand January 1	\$ 4,190.23	\$ 3,640.89	\$ 3,640.89	
Balance on hand December 31	\$ 3,640.89	\$ 3,052.03	\$ 809.94	



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2016 CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Billings Life
Birthright
Catholic Christian Outreach
Catholic Women's League Foundation
Confirmation/First Communion gifts
Food Bank
Foster Family
Grade 8 Graduation gifts
Hope Fund
Life After Loss
Lions' Club
Parish Assistance
Pennies for Pesos
World Day of Prayer