

Our Catholic Voice

November, 2021

We are the Voice of Catholic Women everywhere: from the Women in the Pews of the local parishes to the Deanery Councils, Diocesan Council, the Province of Saint Paul/Minneapolis, the National Council (nccw.org) and WUCWO (World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations wucwo.org) our International parent organization. This is one of the ways we share information up and down the lines of communication.

MISSION STATEMENT

The St. Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women acts through its affiliate organizations to support empower and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. DCCW programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world.

Contact us: stclouddiocesancw@gmail.com

Website: stclouddccw.org



Saint Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I was installed as president on September 18th 2021 at our Fall Conference, by Bishop Donald Kettler. The Conference was held in Foley at Saint John's Church. Our guest speaker was Sister Elise Saggau from the Franciscan Convent in Little Falls. Sister Elise spoke on St. Joseph since this was the year of St. Joseph.

The next weekend Sept 24-25 I went to the Winona/Rochester Fall Conference. The speakers were Kristin Molitor and Chris Heiderscheidt. Their talks complimented each other's. Both of their talks mentioned the importance of humility. I find both women to be such wonderful speakers.

On October 4th I went to St. Paul for the Province Board meeting.

We had our Board meeting Oct 13th in Butler, MN. We will be updating the board at our deanery realignment meetings. We also will be starting the planning process for our Spring Retreat to be held March 12th in Belle Prairie at Holy Family Parish. The guest speaker will be Fr Brady Keller; the topic is 'Teach me to pray'.

We continue to work on the deanery realignment. We are starting with the Northwestern Deanery. We have met with the Dean, Fr. David Maciej, he invited us to join his dean's meeting. We attended and talked to the Priests and Deacons to get ideas and support. Our next meeting was on Nov 6th. For this meeting we will invite all leaders of all women's groups for all parishes in the NW Deanery.

I would also like to take this time to thank all the women who have agreed to take on the commissions:

- Church - Jean Zwilling,
 - Legislative – Mary Griffith,
 - Organization – Lois Wesbur,
 - Community – Polly Rabideau,
 - Family – Mary Jane Hey
 - International – Joyce Simones,
 - Rural – Toni Borgerding.
- Thank you so much. You join the board along with
- Spiritual Advisor - Fr Lourn Virnig,
 - Vice President – Lois Wesbur,
 - Past President – Linda Scepurek,
 - Secretary – Sheri Streasick,
 - Treasurer - Lora Knafla,
 - Parliamentarian and Scholarship Chair – Eva Koep,
 - Historian – Cheryl Weller,
 - Public Relations – Pat Kasella and
 - Information Tech – Arleen Roelike and me.

Until we have some new Deanery Presidents. I will continue to say that

- St. Cloud Deanery President - Mary Alice Tomporowski,
- Little Falls Deanery President – Darlene Nix, and
- Melrose/Sauk Centre Deanery President - Missy Sakry are board members who are greatly appreciated. We also welcome all past presidents.



I also want to thank all the commissioners who have completed their terms - Faye Hendricks, Mary Peeters, Geri Klimek and Evelyn Budde, you are all much appreciated for everything you did.

Linda Borgerding, President

CHURCH COMMISSION

Peace be with you!

Hi, I'm Jean Zwilling, on September 18, the installation ceremony was held at St. John's Catholic Church in Foley during mass at the Fall Conference where I was installed as Church Commission Chair for the DCCW of Saint Cloud by Bishop Kettler. I am very honored to take this position and hope to grow with all of you in understanding, knowledge, and love of our faith!

I have been Church Commission Chair for the Melrose/Sauk Centre Deanery, since, I think, 2015. A little about myself: I am married to my husband, Virgil, for 46 years. We have five children, and nine grandchildren. We now reside on Sauk Lake by Sauk Centre. Previously we farmed near Bowlus and North Prairie, belonged to our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Opolo, where I was Christian Women president for 6 years. Then we moved to Sauk Centre.

As Deanery Church Commission I hosted a few pilgrimages. The latest reflecting on Saint Joseph in the "Year of Saint Joseph". Over 65 pilgrims traveled to the parishes of Christ the King (Browerville - formerly the church of Saint Joseph), Saint Joseph Church in Clarissa, and Saint Joseph Church in Bertha. A big thank you to Fr. Mitchell Bechtold for having Mass and providing lots of info on Saint Joseph. It was a beautiful day to learn, not only about Saint Joseph but also parishes in our diocese. I thank these parish members for sharing their churches and knowledge telling the stories of these parishes.

October is one of my favorite months, the natural beauty that appears in October is truly a gift, could you imagine skipping from September to November? It's the month of my first Grandchild's Birthday, the one who first called me Grandma! This year she will be 17 years old! Where does time go! This month is also full of grace (Respect life Sunday, Oct.3), the month of the Holy Rosary (The feast of our Lady of the Rosary is the 7th), and the month of mission (World mission Sunday falls on the 24th). It is jam-packed with so many Saint feast's/solemnities. There are so many that are special to me. I hope for you also. If you aren't familiar with them, please take time to get to know the Saints, they are an inspiration, and also a great friend to have when you need someone to talk to and pray with you.

There are a couple of requests to participate in prayer this month. I sent out via email to Deanery and Diocesan board members and Parish CW presidents of the two events we are invited to participate in.

First of all, for the month of October, Relevant Radio, EWTN, and Napa Institute have joined together to promote the daily rosary for an end to legal abortion in America. I know this is not anything new for us to pray the rosary in October, but with the Supreme Court of the United States taking up the Dobbs case in December, that could lead to overturning Roe vs. Wade. The justices will need the grace of wisdom and courage to confront the issues honestly, so please pray a rosary every day for this

intention. If you want you can join Father Rocky from Relevant radio at 7 PM on 1180 AM or 103.5 FM as he prays the Family Rosary across America. Go to relevantradio.com for more information.

The second exciting event comes from Archbishop Cordileone, California. He calls it Roses and Rosaries for Nancy Pelosi. She is in his diocese and he is asking everyone to pray a rosary once a week for her and to fast on Fridays for her, he is worried about her soul. He wants to send 1000 roses to her and 1000 rosaries to be prayed for her. To read more about it or sign up you can go to benedictineinstitute.org. You can also go to relevantradio.com, Drew Mariani 's podcast for September 29 and listen to the first hour, it should indicate what was talked about during those hours and you should be able to touch on that topic and listen to the conversation. To sign up at the Benedict Institute you do not have to donate, unless you want to. Ignore the "Send a rose" button and just scroll down and enter your name to sign up; they will send her a rose.

I want to leave you with two thoughts. Even when it seems that darkness looms, we cannot lose hope.

We have to remember as the Psalmist did in Psalm 43 vs.5: "Hope in God; I will praise him, my Savior and my God." *Psalm 125:*

They that sow in tears, will reap in Joy.

S: Submit

O: Obey

W: Worship

God Bless,

Jean Zwilling, Chair

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

2021 is a totally different community than the 50's and 60's when I grew up. At that time the community was family, church, & school. As I grew older my community expanded to school groups, social groups and then, work groups. Marriage expanded my community in different ways as a Wife, Mother, worker and then a move away from the state we grew up in to a whole new perspective. Church was put on the back burner in our twenties as we had 2 children and an unfamiliar church community. Our Sundays were spent as a family and returning to our home state as much as we could. When our children were reaching school age, we knew that church needed to be included and our duty as parents to teach them about God. Sundays were back on our schedule and family prayer was important. My own desire to enrich my faith began as I wanted to know more to teach our children that God is real. Being involved in Catechism, Bible Study & prayer groups helped my spiritual life and knowledge that God was with me each step of the way.

We ended up in Avon MN in 1984 and I knew instantly when I walked into the home that this is where we were to be. Thank you, Lord for directing us here. One of my conditions on purchasing a new home in a new location was to attend the church on Sunday to see if we were comfortable. I knew after that Mass this was our new home.

We experienced community right from the start as the birth of our 5th child came with problems. Many days were spent traveling to the U of M hospital where he stayed for his first month. We received support from our neighbors and friends over the years and again thankful for the community we lived in. I taught religion, all of the children received the sacraments of Baptism, Communion, Confirmation, Marriage & sadly the Anointing of the Sick as my husband passed away last year.

Community 2021 has changed greatly, especially with the Pandemic. Sunday Mass is now attended online, prayer groups have turned to the Internet, schools over the computer, etc. Returning to Sunday Mass has taught me that God can be found anywhere, not just in a church. Coming together on Sunday to express our belief in God is much more appreciated now. The prayers are the same as if I was in my living room praying but the sense of community in the church is much more fulfilling. It is so great to come together each week to praise and thank God. I still have faith that God has a plan and our community will evolve as he directs us to meet him in a different way. I will expand my community by attending Sunday Mass, delivering Meals-On-Wheels, and working at Funeral Luncheons and now joining the Diocesan Community of Catholic Women to see what God has planned for me.

Polly Rabideau, Chair

FAMILY COMMISSION

The role of caregiver, can you describe it? How many days throughout your life have you been a 'caregiver'?

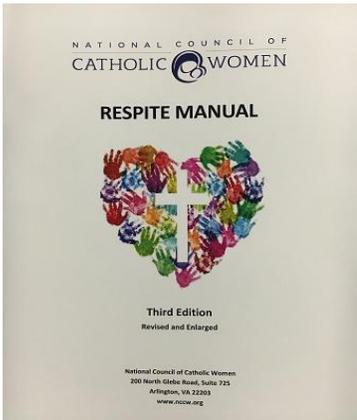
Was it when your mother and dad challenged you to care for your younger siblings because they were working? Was it when your hall monitor asked you to walk a younger student to the proper office, because that student was new to your school? Was it when you noticed a young married family attending Mass with three young children and you invited them to join you at the after-Mass gathering?

Or, was it when?

I am now in the role of caregiver, again. My days had been peppered with stretches of my own independent activity. What was I doing all that time? Of course, there was that calling to be a caregiver amongst those independent stretches. Now it is truly in force: continuous movements to create a safe environment; to create meals and a hundred other tasks. There is the aid of outside professionals coming into our home...we are not alone in this endeavor. And we want to believe the situation will improve.

In this Year of St Joseph, who is the protector of the Holy Family, many prayers are offered for all who are caregivers.

Mary Jane Hay, Chair



NCCW has long had a Respite program. Many of our members could benefit from it. Let's look into it! All information is available at; NCCW.org

RESPITE Volunteers • Serve as companions to the elderly • Come to the home on a regular basis • Are sympathetic listeners who understand the aging process • Never administer medication • Should not be asked to cook a meal, although they can help feed the person with permission of the client's family

INTERNATIONAL

On Sunday, October 24, Catholics worldwide participated in the annual celebration of World Mission Sunday. In prayer at Mass and through the contributions to this special collection, the faithful support the Missions and missionaries who build up the Church in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, Latin America, and parts of Europe.

Downloadable bilingual resources for prayer, homily preparation, scripture meditation, and a message from Pope Francis, are available on the Website of United States Council of Catholic Bishops. For more information about World Mission Sunday and the Pope's ongoing missionary activities around the world, please visit the World Mission Month 2021 website or contact the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States. Pope Francis' message includes this paragraph.

On World Mission Day, which we celebrate each year on the penultimate Sunday of October, we recall with gratitude all those men and women who by their testimony of life help us to renew our baptismal commitment to be generous and joyful apostles of the Gospel. Let us remember especially all those who resolutely set out, leaving home and family behind, to bring the Gospel to all those places and people athirst for its saving message.

COVID continues to ravage population across the world. Vaccinations are being distributed to those in need, yet there are still those who fall between the political ramifications of countries that oppose one another instead of collaborating to reach the most vulnerable. The shipping industry has been hard hit with COVID restrictions and now food and essential needs of daily living are being held up in ports across the world.

Parishes and church groups across the United States are being asked to donate items for Afghan Refugees. Catholic Charities in our area have asked for the following: hygiene kits, home supply kits (kitchen supplies, cleaning and laundry supplies, towels), school supply backpacks, new winter coats,

clothes, and boots for adults and children. Some refugees left the country with just the clothes they were wearing. Many families are still separated and are working with the government to be reunited. (*Informal information – about 350 Afghan Refugees will be relocated to Minnesota.*) For more information contact the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Some information taken from Catholic Relief Services (crs.org), United States Council of Catholic Bishops (uscbb.org), and Catholic Charities Websites (catholiccharitiesusa.org).

Joyce Simones, Chair

RURAL LIFE

The following article was written by JoAnn Braegelman, Rural Life Coordinator, Social Concerns/Catholic Charities:

Fall harvest season is upon us, so drivers in rural areas should expect to share the roadways with large farm implements. Keep in mind these safety tips as you are driving during harvest season.

Tips for Rural Drivers

- Always be on the lookout for farm machinery. Remember it can turn unexpectedly onto public roads from a field or driveway.
- Be prepared to meet oncoming oversized equipment.
- Maintain a safe following distance from farm equipment. Just because you see the equipment does not mean the operator sees you.
- Do not attempt to pass unless it is both safe and legal to do so.
- Look for turn signals before you pass. Also, be road aware for potential turn-off roads/fields as not all farm equipment has turn signals.
- Farm machinery typically travels at 25 mph or less, so be prepared to slow down in order to avoid rear-end collision.
- Allow adequate time and distance for farm equipment to make wide turns.
- Avoid distractions while driving: texting, talking on a hand-held phone, etc.
- BE PATIENT! Chances are you won't have to follow for long distances and everyone stays safe!

Tips for passing farm machinery

- Be sure machinery is not turning left. Look for left turn signals or hand signals. If machinery slows down and pulls toward the right side of the road, the operator may be preparing to make a wide left turn. Likewise, sometimes to make a wide right turn, the operator must pull toward the left.
- Determine if the road is wide enough for both your vehicle and the farm equipment.
- Check the roadside for obstacles such as mailboxes, bridges or road signs that may cause the machinery to move to the center of the road.

- Be sure there is adequate distance for you to safely pass and be on the lookout for oncoming traffic.

Remember harvest season only lasts for a few months so let's all be patient and courteous and have a safe harvest season!

In our area, yields are variable because of the lack of rain during the growing season, but God has blessed us with beautiful fall weather to get an early start on harvesting our crops. Harvest is well under way.

Toni Borgerding, Chair

EASTERN DEANERY

I, Nita Hayes, would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new President of the Eastern Deanery. I live on a hobby farm with my husband, Doug and have a daughter who lives in Portland, Oregon. I grew up with seven sisters, and attended parochial elementary school. My husband Doug, our daughter, Melissa, and I lived in Maple Grove for thirty years before I retired and we moved back to my hometown of Pierz. Throughout my career, I worked for REM Minnesota, first in direct care and then for thirty years, as State Director/ Administrator. My secondary education includes degrees in Child Development, Rehabilitation, Nursing Home Administration and National Certification as a Life Coach.

I currently am Secretary for the Pierz, St. Joseph's Christian Mothers/Women's confraternity, serve on our parish Cemetery Board and volunteer at Fr. Pierz School of Religion. For the past two years, I have served as the Vice President of the Little Falls Deanery. Currently, I am working with members of the DCCW Board on restructure planning for the new Deaneries. As we reconvene as the new Eastern Deanery, I look forward to hearing from you and getting to know you, as well.

Nita Hayes, President

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord, we thank you
for the goodness of our people
and for the spirit of justice
that fills this nation.
We thank you for the beauty and fullness of the
land and the challenge of the cities.
We thank you for our work and our rest,
for one another, and for our homes.
We thank you, Lord:
accept our thanksgiving on this day.
We pray and give thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen. (USCCB)



LITTLE FALLS DEANERY

Fall has arrived with farmers harvesting their crops, neighbors gathering up the last of the produce from their gardens, and leaves piled on the ground ready to be raked up.

On Wednesday, August 4th, my husband and I spent the day with St. Joseph. Jean Zwilling, who was our leader, and around 45 people participated in a pilgrimage to visit a few of the St. Joseph churches. We met in Browerville at Christ the King church for Mass and continued on to St. Joseph church in Clarissa. Had lunch at Clarissa at Farm House Cafe with Trivia. From there we continued to St. Joseph Church in Bertha. Prayers were said at each church.

A history about each church was also presented. A very enjoyable day for all.

On Saturday, September 18th, I attended the 67th DCCW Fall Conference at St. John's Parish in Foley. There were elections for the new officers for the new year. The speaker for the day was Sister Elise Saggau, a Franciscan Sister of Little Falls who spoke on the life of St. Joseph. The new officers were installed at Mass celebrated by Bishop Kettler.

On Saturday, October 2nd at Holy Cross in North Prairie, there is going to be an information/brainstorming session. With many of the individual parish Women's groups struggling, now is the time to unite and work on how we can become one.

I attended a few of the church festivals this summer.

Father Greg Sauer, pastor of Holy Cross of North Prairie, had his sermon on jealousy. There is a physical jealousy such as wanting a bigger house or fancier car than someone else. There also is a spiritual jealousy. Sometimes instead of being happy for someone who has good fortune, you are unhappy because they had good fortune. Change that, "Be Happy for them."

Take time to listen to God each day.

Darlene Nix, President

MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

I want to thank all the parishes who have already sent in their dues since I mailed the dues notice out in early August. If your parish or women's group hasn't sent in your dues, I hope you will do it soon. If you did not receive the letter, please let me know by either calling me 320-393-2701 or e-mail lorakna1@hotmail.com.

Just a little reminder on how the DCCW came about. In 1953 Bishop Peter W. Bartholomew established our St. Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, and in doing so decreed that all women registered in a St. Cloud Diocesan Parish who are 19 years of age and older are members of this organization. All women's groups are members of DCCW. Wow, that was sixty-eight years ago, the year after I was born.

I've been attending and involved with DCCW since I was a young mother, and I can say I think it is a great organization which made me aware of things I didn't know were going on out there in the world and also ways I can improve my life and the lives of others. I hope to meet many of you at a future DCCW event.

God bless you for all you do in your parish and the world.

Lora Knafla, Treasurer

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Greetings. My name is Pat Kasella and I will be your Public Relations chair for the next two years. I have been active with DCCW for many years (decades) and have served on the parish, deanery and diocesan level in various capacities. Although my husband, Kevin, and I were both raised on dairy farms, we were crop farmers. We have four grown children and nine grandchildren. Our son and his wife recently took over our farm. My husband still helps at the farm and I work full-time as a legal assistant. We are members of the Holy Trinity Parish in Royalton.

Pat Kasella, Chair

INFORMATION TECHNICIAN

As information technician for the council, it is my duty to gather information on all members of Catholic Women's groups and their activities. This includes groups such as D of I, Catholic Daughters of America, Peter Claver, Christian Mothers, Altar and mission groups, just to name a few.

As a Council established by the USCCB in 1920, it is our effort to unite all Catholic women. It is not to expect that anyone would give up their present affiliation, but to feel free to use the resources provided by the Council of Catholic Women (CCW).

We start with God in our center to provide information to parish groups and move to Deaneries, Diocese (stcloudccw.org), Province (<https://provinceofstpaul-minneapolis.weebly.com>) National (NCCW.org) and world (wucwo.org).

Information travels up and down the levels, our local presence can be found nationally as well as national events and resources being used locally.

So, with that in mind, please share what your parishes are doing: Boxes of Joy, Seven Sisters Apostolate, Water for Life, Women Mentoring Women, craft sales, bazaars, events with Seminarians and clergy, retreats, or others?

Did I mention something you haven't heard of? I hope so and I hope you will try one of the above websites to get the information.

If your women's group or Parish is planning an event, please let us know and we will include it here and on the website. If the event is in the past, please send a photo.

Contact us: aroelike8@gmail.com or stclouddiocesancw@gmail.com

Arleen Roelike, Info Tech

RESOLUTIONS 2021

Approved at the Fall Conference and NCCW Convention to be used during this year.

RACISM

Purpose, to reduce racism in our personal lives, councils and communities

Whereas, Racism is a sinful, learned, negative behavior of prejudice, discrimination or antagonism against others of particular race or ethnicity. Racism disrespects human life and dignity and brings injustice and illness to our national and individual souls and

Whereas, Racism can cause great emotional, mental and spiritual harm to both the person expressing their belief and those experiencing the effects of this belief.

Resolved, that all members will pray and promote the NCCW "Prayer to Love Healing Racism" (nccw.org, click on: explore NCCW, then click Prayer) to assist eradicating racism and empowering council members through the Holy Spirit to become missionary disciples

Resolved, that members educate themselves and other by studying Open Wide Our Hearts, The Enduring Call to Love, a Pastoral letter found on the website (nccw.org/NCCW News page 6) The letter and accompanying study guide and other resources can be found (uscwb.org/resources/study-guide/open-hearts)

Resolved, that we encourage all members to invite women of all races and ethnicities to join, become involved in our councils and share equally in the benefits and responsibilities for the direction and development of our councils and communities.

SPIRITUAL ADVISORS

Purpose: To acknowledge and show appreciation for Spiritual Advisors

WHEREAS: The Spiritual Advisors for the Council of Catholic Women and all its affiliates have played an important role for Council and all women,

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Council of Catholic Women, its affiliates and individuals acknowledge and recognize their Spiritual Advisors as we continue to pray for their faithfulness and guidance.

DATES TO REMEMBER

2021

November 28, Advent begins

December 8, Immaculate Conception, Year of Saint Joseph ends

December 25, Christmas

2022

February 26, Catholic Men's Conference

March 2, Ash Wednesday

March 12, DCCW Women's Lenten Retreat: Holy Family Parish, Belle Prairie

April 17, Easter

June 16, DCCW Food, Fun and Fund Day: Saint Mary's Parish, Melrose

September 17, DCCW 68th Fall Conference: Southwest Deanery, St. Mary's Parish Alexandria

November 1-5, NCCW National Convention Saint Paul, MN

The use of the [ADVENT WREATH](#) is a traditional practice which has found its place in the Church as well as in the home. The blessing of an Advent Wreath takes place on the First Sunday of Advent or on the evening before the First Sunday of Advent. When the blessing of the Advent Wreath is celebrated in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another member of the family.

- All: make the Sign of the Cross.
- Leader: "Our help is in the name of the Lord."
- Response: "Who made heaven and earth."
- Read: Scripture, [Isaiah 9](#): (lines 1-2 and 5-6) or [Isaiah 63](#) (lines 16-17 & 19) or [Isaiah 64](#) (lines 2-7)
- Leader: The Word of the Lord.
- Response: Thanks be to God.
- Leader: With hands joined, "Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of every nation. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord."
- Response: Amen.
- All: Conclude with a verse from the song "*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*":
O come, desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind;
bid ev'ry sad division cease
and be thyself our Prince of peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.



Prayer to Our Lady of Good Council

God of heavenly wisdom, you have given us Mary, Mother of Jesus, to be our guide and counselor. Grant that we may always seek her motherly help in this life and so enjoy her blessed presence in the life to come.

O Mother of Good Counsel, Patroness of the National Council of Catholic Women, intercede for us that we may be wise, courageous and loving, leaders of the Church, help us, dear mother to know the mind of Jesus, your son. May Holy Spirit fill us with reverence for God's creation, and compassion for all God's children. May our labors of love on earth enhance the reign of God and may God's gifts of faith and living hope prepare us for the fullness of the world to come.

Amen



Save the Date!

March 12, 2022

Women's Lenten Retreat

Holy Family Parish, Belle Prairie, MN

**Sponsored by Saint Cloud Diocesan
Council of Catholic Women**