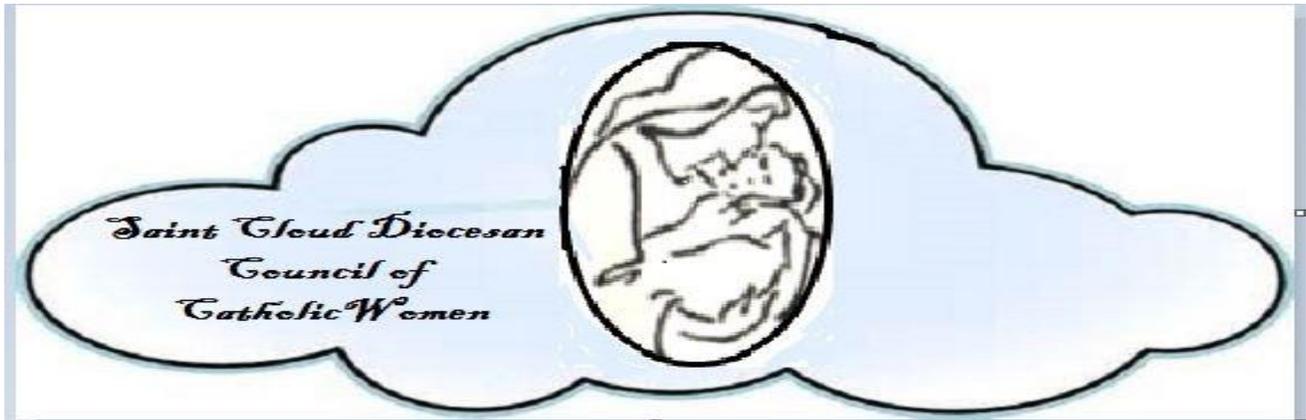


Our Catholic Voice



Our Catholic Voice

November, 2018

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: stclouddiocesanccw@gmail.com

Website: stclouddccw.org



Saint Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are told to set our clocks to “fall back” at this time of the calendar year. However, for the Council of Catholic Women we are looking ahead. There are new officers on our board, new deanery presidents, and new friendships to form. First, I would like to welcome Lora Knafla our new treasurer and Toni Borgerding rural life commission chair. Next, I would like to welcome Linda Borgerding Melrose- Sauk Centre Deanery President and Darlene Nix as Little Falls Deanery President. Perhaps you are the next woman to say ‘yes’ and step up to a leadership role in a Catholic women’s organization.

A warm- heartfelt thank you to the women of the Fergus Falls –Wadena Deanery for planning and hosting our 65th Annual Fall Conference. Both morning and afternoon speakers were rated highly by those attending. Terri Forliti from ‘Breaking Free’ (<http://www.breakingfree.net>) in St. Paul gave us first-hand information about human trafficking. It’s always wonderful to have Bishop Kettler join us to celebrate Mass! Deacon Stich lightened the mood and spoke on our theme ‘Reflecting God’s Joy’.

I also attended the fall convention for the Winona – Rochester Diocese. It was interesting to learn about their service project of donating items to foreign countries and local agencies. Their keynote speaker was Debra McManiman who spoke on St. Paul street evangelization.

Thank you for inviting me to your deanery meetings, as I get to meet women from so many parishes in the St. Cloud Diocese and learn about your events. Let us continue to be active in parish activities and grow spiritually as Catholic women. Let us continue to pray for family and friends, strangers and immigrants, with the Blessed Virgin Mary as our model. And, finally, let us pray for our priests as our Catholic faith is challenged.



To quote Cardinal DiNardo, President of the U.S. Council of Catholic Bishops: The failure of men cannot diminish the Light of the Gospel and the love of Christ. “

Cheryl Weller

Photo is Cardinal DiNardo with the NCCW executive board

Our Catholic Voice

Province Director's Report

As I begin my 2nd year as province director, I am so thankful for this opportunity to serve in this position. The ladies from around the province have been such a blessing and I have learned so much from them. I truly appreciate all you do for the church. I would say the council, but we are not doing this to get ladies to come to a meeting, we are doing the work because we care about others and want to bring them closer to our Lord. I know we get frustrated at times that we can't get the "millennials" to take more ownership, but all we can do is keep asking and invite them with a smile (and maybe some wine.)

On the National level, the resolutions call for us to focus on At-Risk Youth, Treatment of those Affected by Mental Disorders, Building our Future and the Environment-reduction of plastic use. I am on the spirituality committee and when we meet in January, we will start working on programs for those with mental disorders. I have also been placed on the resolutions committee (yikes-not my best interest!). Keep these resolutions in mind when planning your speakers for the year ahead.

I would like to focus on Building Our Future; not only for CCW but for the church as well. I think we need to brag about our past to let others know what we have done these last almost 100 years. I think we especially need to educate our bishops and pastors. Let them know we are not just about funeral lunch and rosaries. If you haven't done so, read the history of NCCW. There will also be a 100-year anniversary book coming out.

The mission statement of the National Council of Catholic Women says we are to "support, empower, and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service". I think as women we have the service part down really well, but how much time do we spend for our own spiritual needs. I know for me personally, I need my church friends. They are my sounding board and my shoulders to cry on when life gets tough. So, take advantage of upcoming retreats and speakers.

As we look ahead in our diocese, as part of my responsibility as Province Director, I (we) will be hosting the next Province Conference. This event is held every two years in the diocese of the outgoing Province Director. I am so excited to be able to coordinate this event as it will be the 100-year anniversary of the National Council of Catholic Women. I have tentatively set the place and dates but have to wait for approval from the Bishop yet. I will keep you informed.

After this last year of church scandals, we need to, more than ever, let people know what is good and true about the Catholic Church. We aren't going anywhere. We've withstood scandals throughout history. A past priest-Fr. Robert Voigt said that God would not have let our church stand if it were not His true church. We will always be here.



Province Directors at the NCCW Convention.

God's Peace
Irene Schmidt



Notes From a Rural Pastor

Bringing Parishioners Together Through Dance

By Fr. Gregory Mastey

Around 14 years ago, we began putting on barn dances in my brother's barn. The people, young and old alike, our families, our friends, our neighbors and even the local Catholic priests come and enjoy. This has become an annual family tradition, and a tradition I have kept well into my priesthood and rural ministry.

Years ago, the Catholic Church was the center of all social and spiritual activities and events. How can we gain some claim of that back, at least in small, rural towns? I grew up in a traditional rural family that challenged me to grow, to share and to have fun. We now live in a different place. A fast-paced, technological world. Most people are desperately grasping in this culture to find meaningful events that still touch the soul and help us to slow down. Traditions touch on this desire.

I love traditions and strive to keep them alive. I want to teach the traditional songs and dance steps before we lose our connection to the past. I want to pass on this joyous experience to the next generation, just like I do with the Catholic faith and its rich traditions.

The barn dances bring parishioners together in unique ways. They give us an opportunity to be creative together in designing dances that relate to the times

and seasons of our lives: dances after the 8 pm Saturday night Mass, dances to celebrate the changing of seasons like Mardi Gras before Lent begins, dances to bring in the new year on New Year's Eve, dances to christen a new shed or barn on a family farm. These are all important events in the life of a rural Catholic. All of these help me find a way to bring people of all ages, from different backgrounds and different towns that I pastor to meet, dance and socialize together in one place.

The activity also teaches us many more things:

It helps communication.

When I teach couple dances, like the Cotton Eye Joe or a two step waltz, you actually have to touch the other person, look at the other person, talk to the other person—not with some technological device, but in person.

It gives us a reason to gather.

My people know that although the Eucharistic celebration is the source and summit of our Catholic life, there are many other celebrations that also enhance our community life.

It is relevant to our youth.

I have asked numerous times at wedding dances, to young people,

"Why do you just jump around for those dances?" The young people always respond the same, "That is all we know how to do. Father can you teach us?"

It builds confidence in youth.

Teenage years are awkward years for socializing and learning how to navigate the social scene. I help them. I teach them skills so that they can learn social skills that will make relationships fun.

It opens minds to the human side of priesthood.

We do regular fun things as priests. Jesus is the center of my life. Church is what I do, but a priest can wear other hats and have other hobbies. In that openness, many men have considered that God may be calling them also to serve as priests.

It allows the parishioners to think outside the box.

How can we bridge the generation gaps in the faith? Music and dancing does this well.

It gives me a relaxed place to preach the Good News!

It has brought joy to me and many as we get to dance together. That joy in the priesthood is good for my parishioners to witness!

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Fall and October are here with many opportunities to show our Catholic faith. October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This comes in many forms. **Men, women and children are not only abused physically but verbally, mentally,** emotionally, sexually, isolation or financial dependence. Clothing may cover bruises but some are felt in the heart. Many times, teachers will notice that children are being abused and will report to authorities. In work places colleagues may notice when a woman is being abused and will reach out to her and try to help her get help. If we aren't in one of these positions, prayer is very helpful.

Other ways Council of Catholic Women can help and be of service to others:

Donate to the poor, visit the sick, find homes for the homeless, instruct our children about human trafficking so they stay safe, do what we can to get the abortion law, "Roe vs. Wade" changed so unborn babies will no longer suffer pain, give funds to *40 Days for Life* to help defund "Planned Parenthood" clinics, join the prayer lines in front of "Planned Parenthood" clinics doing abortions and pray.

I went to hear Shawn Carney, director of *40 Days for Life*, speak when he was in St. Cloud. He spoke about abortion. Some information he gave us was this: 40 million lives are being lost every year worldwide, about 15,000 lives were saved since 40 Days for Life started, 170 abortion workers converted, including Abby Johnson, former director of Planned Parenthood, and 96 abortion centers closed. Keep praying so "Roe vs. Wade" gets changed. After Shawn's talk, we went on a walk led by the Knights of Columbus from St. Augustine's Church to the "Planned Parenthood" clinic where the group said the rosary.

I went to Minneapolis to hear Matthew Kelly speak. Excellent evening as he talked on "Passion and Purpose" Our purpose is to work on becoming the best version of ourselves so we will be promised eternal life in heaven. One of the antics during his talk was a video of his children. His little girl knelt down to say her night prayers which consisted of this "I'm tired Jesus I'll talk to you in the morning". It is hard for me to follow and remember everything he said but his talks are filled with information, wit and seriousness. To follow Matthew Kelly and all he does, go to the web site: (<https://dynamiccatholic.com>)

Margaret Schluender, Chair

FAMILY COMMISSION

Sending Your Child Off to College

Okay – your child has graduated from high school (praise the Lord!!). And he/she has been accepted at a college (another Thank You, Lord). You’ve had the graduation party, done all the research and prep for getting your child off to college. And now it’s time to “let go, and let God...” You’ve taken care of all the financials, all the housing, all the registrations... and you are sitting in church wondering if your son/daughter will continue to build upon their Catholic faith once they are away from home. Will all your hard work and prayers pay off?

According to a 2008 study, only 68 percent of Catholic students will remain Catholic as an adult. This bridge between being a child in your home and coming into adulthood during college is critical. Will your child have the tools to help them grow in their faith? Will you have the resources to help them as young adults away from home? Are you talking to them about this transition?

If you do your research online (and I’m sure your young adult knows how to do this), there are Catholic Campus Ministry resources all around our state. Make sure your young adult knows how to reach these ministries and feels comfortable contacting them. The Newman Center has campus ministries at Duluth, Minneapolis, and Moorhead. There are Catholic Campus Ministry locations all over in other states. Make sure your young person is equipped with information about their local ministry as well as where the local Catholic churches are.

As a parent, I know you always have watched who your child was hanging out with. Make sure they know that it is still important for them to surround themselves with people who will call on them to be the best (Catholic Christian) they can be. They should be aware that the “company they keep” will either lift them up or bring them down.

Below are several practices that can help your son/daughter as they become acclimated to their college life (without losing their Catholicism).

- **Pray Daily.** It doesn’t have to be a long litany – just wake up and give your first 10-15 minutes to the Lord. Talk to Him – let him know what your needs are, what your worries are, what you are thankful for. Talk to Jesus as if you were venting/talking to a friend. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in your decisions of the day. At night, at the very least, say the Our Father – or “Not my will, but your will be done.”
- **Keep Holy the Sabbath.** Many students find that college life is BUSY... it’s hard to find the time to attend mass regularly. Well, the problem here is that it doesn’t get less busy as you get older and are no longer in college – but a working adult, or a parent. This is the first stumbling block that the devil puts in our way. It’s so easy to rationalize away the need to be at mass every week. But if you keep up the habit of attending mass every week, the path to Jesus becomes less difficult. The next step is to study and become familiar with “Heaven on Earth” – the mass with Christ present.
- **Be a Good Samaritan.** Yes, a student’s life is demanding. But try to find some volunteer work that fits into your schedule but also helps your fellow students or college community. You don’t need to have money – you just need to donate your time and talent. And it often results in meeting new people who need your compassion – or just need a friend. Summer is a perfect time to volunteer your time. Find a

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way to contribute to your local church, at the college, or a community organization. Keep your eyes open for people in need – elderly who may need lawns cut, groceries delivered, light maintenance, etc. Or young people who need a volunteer coach, Big Sister/Big Brother, etc.

- **Keep Fit – Spiritually, Physically, Mentally.** Join walking clubs, find physical activities that engage you and help you keep physically fit. Go kayaking or biking or fishing or hunting or just hiking in the local state park. Find something that gets you out and about and engages you mentally and physically. Read for pleasure – beyond the books you need to read for college. God gave you a soul, body, and mind. All need to be exercised.
- **Be Compassionate.** Keep in touch with people who are important in your life. (As a grandma – don't forget us elders – just saying...) Mend broken relationships where and when you can. Jesus asked us to forgive 77 times (Mt 18:21) – sometimes broken relationships can be harder on you than on the other person. Negative feelings can eat you up. Forgive those who have harmed you. Let your negative feelings go – move on with your life in a charitable way. So here is another important issue – go to confession and take joy in the grace that it gives you. Be compassionate to yourself – without confession, it is sometimes hard to forgive yourself.

A good book for your college bound student is a book titled “Catholic and College Bound – 5 Challenges and 5 Opportunities” by George R. Szews. This book can help prepare your child for a smooth transition into adulthood and help keep their transition firmly rooted in the Catholic faith.

God Bless You and Your Family,
Sheri Streasick, Chair

Resources:

- “Nine Ways to Kickstart Your Faith at College,” Our Sunday Visitor, August 19-25, 2018.
“10 Tips for Keeping Catholic in College”,
<http://thecatholicspirit.com/featured/10-tips-for-keeping-catholic-in-college/>
- “College Connection Program unites college-bound students with Catholic presence on campus”,
<https://www.catholic.org/prwire/headline.php?ID=6544>
-
- “What Parents Can Do”
<https://waterloocatholics.org/college-bound-catholics>
-
- “*Coals near the Flame: College Students’ Faith Burns Brighter in Community*,” by Mariah Godde.
The Word Among Us, September 2018, pg.61. (An excellent article to share with your college student.)
- “Youth and Young Adult Outreach, High School and Collegiate Membership”, The National Council of Catholic Women website, <https://www.nccw.org/youth-and-young-adult-outreach/>

INTERNATIONAL REPORT

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery that subjects children, women, and men to force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of exploitation. This horrific practice can include prostitution, pornography, and sex tourism as well as domestic servitude, factory work, migrant farming and mining. Human trafficking is not the same as smuggling; it does not require movement across borders.

Yes – Human trafficking is happening in Minnesota where there is a corridor from the rural to the heavily populated areas. Small cities and country areas are not immune. **Report suspicious activity.**

In the U.S., more citizens are victims of sex trafficking than labor trafficking. Pimp-controlled prostitution is one of the most common forms of sex trafficking. It also occurs at truck stops, massage parlors, residential brothels, and through escort agencies and online solicitation. The Internet is also becoming a “marketplace” for sex trafficking where pimps can easily avoid the authorities, facilitate transactions, and lie about the age of their victims. In the U.S., victims of sex trafficking often share risk factors, including child sex abuse, parental neglect, parental drug use, emotional and/or physical abuse and poverty.

LEARN HOW TO SPOT THE SIGNS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING. COMMON WORK AND LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE INDIVIDUAL(S) IN QUESTION

- Not free to leave or come and go as he/she wishes
- Under 18 and is providing commercial sex acts
- Is in the commercial sex industry and has a pimp/manager
- Is unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips
- Works excessively long and/or unusual hours
- Is not allowed breaks or suffers under unusual restrictions at work
- Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off
- Was recruited through false promises concerning the nature and conditions of his/her work
- High security measures exist in the work and/or living locations (e.g. opaque windows, boarded up windows, bars on windows, barbed wire, security cameras, etc.)

POOR MENTAL HEALTH OR ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR

- Is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid
- Exhibits unusually fearful or anxious behavior after bringing up law enforcement
- Avoids eye contact

POOR PHYSICAL HEALTH

- Lacks health care
- Appears malnourished
- Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture

LACK OF CONTROL

- Has few or no personal possessions
- Is not in control of his/her own money, no financial records, or bank account
- Is not in control of his/her own identification documents (ID or passport)
- Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating)

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OTHER

- Claims of just visiting and inability to clarify where he/she is staying/address
- Lack of knowledge of whereabouts and/or does not know what city he/she is in
- Loss of sense of time
- Has numerous inconsistencies in his/her story

We need to be aware and make others aware. That is the key: knowledge. We need to report suspicious activity to the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

"Together we can make a difference." Prayer is powerful.

PRAYER FOR ELIMINATING THE TRAFFICKING OF HUMAN BEINGS

O God, our words cannot express what our minds can barely comprehend and our hearts feel when we hear of human beings deceived and transported to unknown places for purposes of sexual exploitation and abuse because of human greed and profit at this time in our world. Our hearts are saddened and our spirits angry that their dignity and rights are being transgressed through threats, deception and force.

We cry out against the degrading practice of trafficking and pray for it to end. Strengthen the fragile-spirited and broken-hearted. Make real your promises to fill these, our sisters and brothers with a love that is tender and good and send the exploiters away empty-handed. Give us the wisdom and courage to stand in solidarity with them that together we will find ways to the freedom that is your gift to all of us.

Amen

Joyce Simones, Chair

<https://www.nccw.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Prayer-to-End-HT>

LEGISLATIVE CONCERNS

Wow, hasn't this been a wild couple of months, leading up to the Mid-Term Election. As I'm writing this, Justice Brett Kavanaugh has just been sworn in as a Supreme Court justice after months of attempts to derail his confirmation and installation. I for one am pleased that he was confirmed, although the opposition is still in an angry mode and vow to stop at nothing to undo his serving by impeaching him, for which reason I'm not certain. Hopefully now the legislators can get back to normal legislating and not wasting their time and our money.

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In just a few weeks the Mid-Term Election will be held; but by the time this report is published it will all be over except for the shouting. I hope and pray that all good Christians have done their due diligence and studied the issues and where the candidates stand on those issues, and then hopefully voted like all pro-life electors should.

For some of the offices there are stark differences, but one cannot justify voting for a pro-abortion candidate even if they have other qualifications which might seem attractive.

I just received the latest issue of the MCCL News. It is a very good source of information on how your state senators and representatives might perform by checking their responses to a "Congressional Candidates Survey".

Some of the questions refer to pro-life laws, lifesaving medical care, assisted suicide, free speech, etc. There are also sections about surveys of the candidates for U.S. Senate, Minnesota Governor and Attorney General. If you want to, you can read it on-line at "MCCL". If you want to be on their mailing list you can phone 612-825-6831; or I'm sure if you donate to them you will automatically be on their list if you provide your address.

Here's a "Prayer for Religious Freedom" which I included in the fall of 2016 report; it is still relevant now.

PRAYER FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Almighty God,

We give You thanks for the great blessings You have bestowed upon the people living in the United States of America. As Americans we are "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." We have survived many challenges by those who would deny our God-given dignity and rights as human beings and continue to stand as a beacon of hope for the oppressed.

The first amendment to our Constitution ensures that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." We ask You to help us continue to defend our religious freedoms so that all people of faith can continue to worship according to their convictions without fear.

We pray that our flag will continue to wave as the symbol of freedom for all. May You open hearts and minds to Your will and give courage to those who take action to defend our religious freedom. Amen (NCCW)

Jean Hopper, Chair

RURAL CONCERNS

Fall, a great time of the year. Cooler weather, the leaves are changing colors, no mosquitoes, and for farmers, it is time to harvest their crops. (Small grains are harvested in August, and hay seems to go all summer, but the rush to get the corn and beans out of the field and into the bins, is now). This is one of the main concerns for farmers at this time. Will they get the crops harvested before it rains again or the snow falls?

Rural includes small towns and country living, not just farms, but because I live on a farm, I am a farmer, that is what I will talk about.

All the rain we had the last few weeks was scary, but God blessed us with sunshine this week! We are so thankful we did not get as much rain as other parts of the state. Harvest time can be stressful because of working long hours, the concern of keeping everyone safe, and the race with the weather. But it is also exciting! (I happened to be by the grain bin when our son, Danny drove in with the grain truck the other day. He got out and happily said, "Here's our first load!" He was excited.) During harvest, there are feelings of satisfaction & gratitude. It is a time to reap the fruits of your labor. Farmers need to rely on **Psalm 85:12, "The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield it's harvest."**

Another concern for farmers, that I will just touch on lightly, is the possible trade war between the United States & China. President Trump put a tariff, or tax, on goods that are imported into the U.S. China did not like this so they put a higher tariff on agricultural products that the U.S. exports to China. They did this to get the farmers mad at P. Trump. We lost sales to China and grain prices went down. My husband, Joe, feels that this is hard for farmers short term, but long term it should help them. President Trump is trying to do what is right. China has not been following the Rules of Trade for a long time. The U.S. should be able to sell grain to other countries.

The last topic I want to mention is the concern that farmers have on how to pass on their farm to the next generation. I am happy to say this challenge is one our family is faced with. Two of our sons want to dairy farm with us. It is a struggle to figure out the best way to transition our farm to include Danny & Tommy as partners. There are tax issues to consider, and we know there is enough work for everyone, but will it be profitable for everyone involved? So many of our friend's, and neighbor's dairy barns sit empty because their children do not want to farm. At least not dairy farm. We feel very fortunate our farm will continue to be a dairy farm in the future. It will be hard for Joe to move off the farm he has lived on for his whole life, the only home he has known. But he is so excited to pass on his knowledge of farming to his sons.



In closing: **I am thankful for the Harvest, I am thankful for the Fall,
I am thankful for so many things, but Family most of all!**

Toni Borgerding Chair

OUR NEW ST CLOUD DCCW TREASURER

Lora Knafla, Annunciation Church, Mayhew Lake, has been married to her wonderful husband Bruce for 45 years and has lived near Rice for all of that time. They have two adult sons.

Lora just retired from the St. Cloud Mission Office after five and a half years serving as its Office Manager which entailed receptionist and all the accounting duties of the office. Prior to that she worked full time at Central Minnesota Builders Association as an Executive Assistant (another term for secretary/accountant, jack of all trades in the office).

She is an active member of Annunciation Church, serving as an usher, lector, and Eucharistic minister. For twenty-six years Lora has devoted many hours each year as the Rice Area Bloodmobile volunteer general coordinator. She has had family members and friends who have needed blood so has a strong drive to have two successful blood drives a year but cannot do it without the help of four other church coordinators and all the volunteers.

She likes to go for walks, bike, read, do some fancywork, work in her many vegetable and flower gardens and spend time with her husband, but she especially has a passion for her ministry at the Good Shepherd Nursing Home in Sauk Rapids visiting residents, people she never knew before, but who have become good friends of hers.

In the past, Lora took care of the mailing list and Directory for the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women for 16 years and had also typed the newsletter and Annual Fall Conference material for the DCCW for about 12 of those 16 years.

Having been the treasurer of the Foley Deanery many, many years ago and presently is the treasurer of the Little Falls Deanery and being involved on the diocesan board for many years, Lora knows the ins and outs of the CCW. Lora is a 1972 graduate of the St. Cloud Vo-Tech accounting class, and loves accounting/booking and feels she can keep the treasurer's books of the St. Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women in order.

Just to remind you, all future dues payments, donations etc. should be sent to Lora Knafla, 11719 16th Avenue NW, Rice, MN 56357.



Lora being installed 9-15-2018, Our Lady of the Lake, Battle Lake, MN.

Pictured are: Father Leroy Schick, Father Lurn Virnig, Lora, Cheryl Weller, Deacon Craig Stich and Bishop Kettler

LITTLE FALLS DEANERY

Gone are all the church bazaars and I did not make too many due to family functions.

The ladies are now getting ready for quilt bingos. As I talk to the ladies of different churches, it is very interesting when they do their quilts. Some work all year round, one day a week from 9-4. Another does it 4-5 days a week for a number of weeks. Some work half days starting in September and go until the end of April. October is the start of quilt bingo, ends when turkey bingo starts in the middle of November, but then starts again before Valentine's Day and goes to the end of March.

St James in Randall had a supper to raise money for the people in India where Father Jimmy Joseph is from. I heard it was a success and the food were great, most of the dishes served were from India.

Our Deanery meeting was Saturday, October 20th, at Sts. Peter and Paul in Gilman. The sheriff of Benton County was our speaker. He spoke about the phone scams happening especially those happening to the elderly. He also touched on the subject of sex trafficking. He spent some time with questions etc.,

We voted on and installed Darlene Nix as our new president. She gave a short biography to introduce herself.

Linda Scepurek, President

PROJECT: BOXES of JOY

The Little Falls Deanery is hard at work at this project again this year.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE: <http://www.crosscatholic.org/boxofjoy>

MELROSE/SAUK CENTRE DEANERY

Hello everyone, my name is Linda Borgerding, I am the new President for the Melrose / Sauk Centre Deanery. My husband's name is Clifford, we have 3 sons: Adam, Ben and Duke. We are also blessed with 7 grandchildren that range in age from 24 years to 3 months. Between my 3 sons we also 4 dogs and 2 cats. Sometimes life is darn busy. We just spent 4 amazing days with the 4 youngest grandchildren. I am totally exhausted, but feel very blessed.

I can Imagine that the next 2 years with the CCW as Deanery president will be just as busy. I went to my 1st Province Conference meeting this summer and had a wonderful time, met lots of new ladies. Had some good training opportunities there also. Last week attended my first DCCW board meeting in Buckman; what a fun group. My term is starting out fast and furious. I also hosted a dinner at my home where we started the planning process for the DCCW Spring Retreat on March 16, 2019.

The Melrose/Sauk Centre Deanery is still looking for a Vice President and a Secretary. I am hoping that there is someone that will step forward to fill these positions. I look forward to working with you. We can learn the process together.

I would also like to thank all the women in CCW who work hard and put so much effort into helping and doing projects in their local parishes. God bless you all. Enjoy the nice fall weather.

In Faith

Linda Borgerding, President



Save the Date

Women's Lenten Retreat "DIGNITY OF WOMEN"

Seven Dolors Church
Albany, MN
Saturday, March 16, 2019
More information to follow soon.

SAINT CLOUD DEANERY

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES:

CMCW, St Anthony Of Padua, St Cloud, Mn

We began our new year in September with our annual banquet and guest speaker, Fr. Derek Wiechmann. Our topic and focus were on how we can nurture our faith in our adult children and grandchildren. Learning about the character and example of Mary, exploring ways to recruit young



mothers, seeking partnerships with various youth groups and faith formation to encourage Mass attendance and other prayer activities, improving our charitable contribution fund, and learning ways to evangelize our own adult children and grandchildren has become a focus of our meetings.

The annual routine commitments of our group are largely handled outside our meetings by special meetings or phone calls to prior year volunteers. Our semi-annual newsletter keeps every member connected.

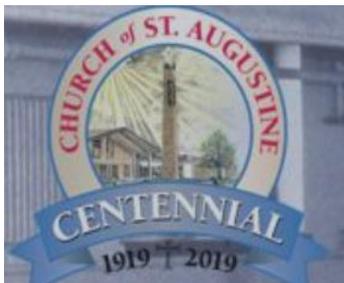
Our new policy of volunteer once, has added to our volunteer base, excited our parish to see new or seldom seen faces, and eased the volunteer work of those few who are always willing to help. We have automated our database, simplified our bylaws, changed our meeting time to 3PM, created meeting agendas for the year that are outlined in one of our newsletters, and developed our semi-annual newsletter. As a result, our meeting attendance and volunteerism has improved.

*Helena Halverson, President
St Anthony of Padua CMCW*

St. Augustine Christian Women

The St. Augustine Christian Women have been very busy this October. We started out with our homemade donuts and jewelry sales for Harvest Sunday.

The next week was our October meeting with induction of new members along with a catered dinner. Last week we held our annual rummage sale.



One would think that our members could rest awhile, but some are now involved in the planning of our parish Centennial celebration which will start in November with special events each month through November 2019.

*Jan Christen, President
St Augustine Christian Women*

DCCW ANNUAL CONFERENCE

“Reflecting God’s Joy” was the theme of the St. Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women’s 65th Annual Fall Conference held Saturday, September 15, 2018 at Our Lady of the Lake, Battle Lake. The Fergus Falls/Wadena Deanery hosted this event. Cheryl Weller, Diocesan CCW President, conducted a business meeting in the morning. Lora Knafla, Rice, was elected treasurer. Four resolutions from the National Council of Catholic Women were adopted. They were (1) Mentoring at risk youth, (2) Treatment of the mentally ill, (3) The environment and (4) Building our future.

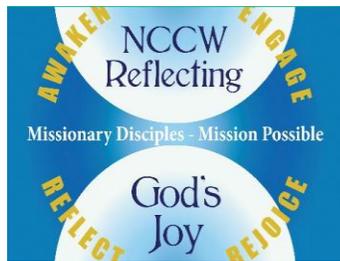
“Human Trafficking” was the topic of the keynote address given by Terri Forliti, Executive Director of a St. Paul based support group “Breaking Free”.

Bishop Donald Kettler celebrated Mass followed by installation of officers and lunch. The afternoon speaker was Deacon Craig Stich who spoke on “Our Lady of Sorrows”. Arleen Roelike, Past President DCCW and Cheryl Weller gave reports on the recent NCCW Convention held in Pittsburgh.

Julie Moorhead-Miller
Public Relations Chair



NCCW CONVENTION 2018



What a trip! It was inspiring. With a theme of “Reflecting God’s Joy” “Missionary Disciples-Mission Possible” we learned so much.

We arrived Tuesday, the day before the convention and toured some of the churches there. The Saint Anthony Chapel contains thousands of relics of the saints. The Cathedral of St. Paul is massive and has elements that were built in Germany. Some of the stained-glass windows are the same as my home parish.

Immaculate Heart of Mary has lights everywhere, a pulpit in the middle and the front pews can be reversed so people can see the speaker. St. Stanislaus Kostka has beautiful murals, white marble, awesome stained-glass windows and a chandelier that resembles a crown of thorns.

On Wednesday, August 29, 2018, we started with Liturgy celebrated by Rev. Richard Dawson, NCCW Spiritual Advisor. At 12:30 we attended the Welcome Luncheon with Holly Joy McIlwain, “A Mission of Joy” in which she shared her story. We attended the board meeting, met the officers and Province Directors. We heard reports from the officers. NCCW is in good shape now. Kathy Bonner spoke about LTD and Women Healing the Wounds. We watched the movie *Indivisible* and went on a riverboat tour which cruised the Allegany and Monongahela Rivers. Their confluence with the Ohio River was right below our hotel.



Thursday morning was the general opening session-with the presenting of the flag and greeting from our partners and affiliates. To name a few, USCCB, WUCWO, the representative to the UN, Catholic Daughters, Catholic Women’s League of Canada, Young Ladies Grand Institute and others. Featured was the keynote speaker, Father Frank Caggiano, “Disciples Called to be Joyful Signs of Contradiction in the World”; his presentation was just what we need in this time of turmoil. The Liturgy was celebrated by Most Rev. David A Zubik. After lunch, presentations were given by the Spirituality and Leadership Commissions. Spirituality gave us 3 Retreats to use in our own areas and Leadership spoke about trafficking in the U.S., it’s bigger than you think. Remember the Trafficking Hotline number 888-373-7888. Province dinners and get-togethers were done this evening. (Your St. Cloud Ladies+ won first place in Jeopardy this year.)

Friday morning, we had a breakfast meeting. Gina Loehr was the speaker who presented “Blessed is She Who Believed”: Embracing the Impossible Mission. A dairy farmer from Wisconsin, she shared a great message. She said, “Think about how you touch the world-have courage to say yes.” The 10 a.m. Liturgy was celebrated by Most Rev. Gregory L. Parkes, Episcopal Liaison to the NCCW from the USCCB. After lunch, the Service Commission gave helpful ideas about the Respite program and encouraged us to use resources from NCCW.org to

Our Catholic Voice

help us with all the programs. One of the programs started this past year was to partner schools in the U.S. with schools in the Holy Land. LTD (Leadership Training and Development) was discussed and we are encouraged to have the team come out to help all ladies. At the General business meeting, reports were given from many of the officers and committees. The Treasurer was congratulated on her election; bylaws were visited and resolutions were voted on and finalized. We had a free evening to connect with friends, old and new.

Saturday morning Bob Rice gave a musical presentation “Owed to Joy” - Sharing the gift of Joy with thoughts for us to carry with us. “Happiness is fleeting, Joy is forever.” The opposite of joy is fear. Mary did not show fear, her heart filled with joy and she composed the Magnificat. Say it often. The education committee presented “Joy of the Gospel”, a booklet that divides *Evangelii Gaudium* into 5 sections with readings and questions to further understand it. We said an International Rosary with each decade said in another language. At the president’s closing, New Province Directors were introduced; and an invitation was extended by Atlanta to attend the next convention there, August 21-24, 2019. Liturgy was celebrated by His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo with installation of new officers and PDs. The closing banquet was held in the evening with entertainment by a family known as Echo Valley.

Throughout the time of the convention, there were many other committee and smaller group meetings, such as Nominating Committee, Associates of NCCW, Friends of NCCW for WUCWU to name a few. Most of our meals were on our own, with the exception of the Welcome Luncheon and the Breakfast Meeting. Luckily there was a college nearby, so there was Market Place within walking distance with many eating places to choose from.

After some more small group meetings, we flew home on Sunday afternoon.

*Arleen Roelike, Info Technician
NCCW Nominating Committee*



The National Council of Catholic Women has a tradition of fasting and praying within our parish or at home for an end to world hunger on the Thursday before Thanksgiving. This year, the date will be **November 15, 2018**. An informational form can be found on our NCCW website. It is suggested that the money we save from fasting be sent payable to the National Council of Catholic Women (for Catholic Relief Services) or to your local food pantry to help the hungry. To donate to CRS, please send a check payable to NCCW with Catholic Relief Services in the memo line, to National Council of Catholic Women, 200 N. Glebe Road, Suite 725, Arlington, VA 22203. Thank you and may God bless you and your family this Thanksgiving!

CONVENTION RECAP

Bev McCarvel – NCCW Leadership Chair

The NCCW Convention this year in Pittsburgh, PA was another exceptional, spirit-filled event I was very glad I was a part of, Aug 29th – Sept 1st. Over 500 women & 42 priests gathered to celebrate the theme, *NCCW Reflecting God's Joy: Missionary Disciples, Mission Possible!*

The liturgies are always amazing and the speakers were inspired by God. I was amazed at how the word “YES” was spoken by all of the convention speakers and even in the homilies. Carmel Communications, a Silver Sponsor of our convention provided a free pre-release screening of a major movie, *Indivisible*. Wonderful moving and it will be in theaters the end of October. I would encourage you to see it.

Twelve members of my Leadership Commission as well as myself gave the Leadership presentation on our work against human trafficking. It was well received and handouts were in the packets for everyone and they are available on our website, nccw.org.

Pencils – that say:

Help the National Council of Catholic Women

Erase Human Trafficking

National HT Hotline: **888-373-7888**

Are available to buy in the store on our website nccw.org for 4 for \$1.00 or 100 for \$25.00. they are navy blue with white lettering. Try to get ahold of the video we showed at the convention.

Many bought it, so check with your president to get it for your meeting.

The Spirituality Commission has 3 mini-retreats* (4 hours each) that is also available on the website. Service Commission provided information on their monthly spotlight on member good works, (many have begun human trafficking meetings) and on the program uniting our Catholic school students with their counterparts in the Holy Land.

We prayed two rosaries: One for healing and peace in our Church and for all affected by the clergy abuse scandal and another was an International Rosary offered in English, German, Spanish, Italian, and Latin. Your own Province Director, Irene Schmidt prayed the German decade like she speaks it every day.

At our Annual Business meeting we adopted four resolutions:

- Mentoring At-Risk Youth,
- Treatment of Those Affected by Mental Disorders,
- Building Our Future,
- The Environment -Reduction in Plastic Use.

You will be hearing more about these in the future & do plan to use these in your planning for the coming year.

WE have two new provinces – the Province of Hartford and the Province of Los Angeles. We also have a Province Director for the Archdiocese of Military Services. We are growing!

There are 18 living past national presidents and 9 of them were at this convention.

Our convention next year will be in Atlanta, Georgia August 22-24, 2019. Plan now to attend.

*(Editor's note: St Cloud DCCW will be using one of the Retreats listed on March 16, 2019 “Dignity of Women:”).

Most Reverend Frank Caggiano:

NCCW 2018 Keynote Speaker

Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to attend the National Council of Catholic Women Convention in Pittsburgh. The theme was 'Reflecting God's Joy: Missionary Disciples- Mission Possible'. Our keynote speaker was the Most Reverend Frank Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport. CT. The timing of our convention seemed difficult due to recent news of church scandals there in Pennsylvania. Bishop Caggiano addressed and tied it to our theme of mission possible.

He began his keynote speech by saying "How can we be God's messenger to make the mission possible? This can be done one person at a time, one day at a time." The title 'father' means to protect life, to defend it in our family. For priests to be 'father' means to counsel, to be a good shepherd, not a wolf among the sheep. His quote of Bishop Fulton Sheen: "To be a joyful messenger of God's message is to not be silent." Leaders must be held accountable.

Now, can we move forward, move past the hurt, reach deep, and find hope in our hearts? St. Paul used the word 'hope' numerous times in the Bible. St. Paul said that if others let us down, we believe, whatever it takes, no matter the cost, that we have hope and follow Jesus. We need to unlock the power of hope. This is the first step.

Our response may be split into anger and courage. Anger moves us forth and moves us to change. Courage moves us to change into what we are meant to be in Jesus Christ. The prayer to St. Michael asks for our protection from evil in the world. Bishop Caggiano then told us a story about a classmate in seminary who had failing health. The student was ordained in the hospital before he died of cancer. He had hope.

Where do we find hope? It is the triumph over sin and death. Early Christians were persecuted for following Jesus. He was their hope. Bishop Caggiano joked that he gets up every morning and prays that the mirror will lie to him, but it doesn't! The mirror to our soul is Jesus who knows the hardness of our hearts and yet forgives us and helps us forgive others. This is the second step: forgiveness. Forgiveness is to not condemn the wrong done. Healing occurs with young people who forgive themselves. They have to believe they are loveable and worthy of love.

Bishop Caggiano said he was named after the great St. Francis of Assisi who heard the voice telling him to 'rebuild my church'. He said that his mother told him to also, help rebuild the church.

The third step in the process is joy. Joy is not the same as happiness. Happiness depends on physical actions to satisfy our needs. This could be eating Mom's food or taking a nap. Jesus promised us joy in heaven. To seek joy, the eternal joy, is our assurance that all will work out with God in heaven. We are to build communities of hope, of true joy, and follow God with our witness of faith.

Cheryl Weller

(Editor's note: to hear and read the notes of Bishop Caggiano's presentation, see NCCW.org and click on NCCW Convention. Included is Cardinal DiNardo's homily)

GINA LOEHR: Speaker NCCW Convention 2018

" BLESSED IS SHE WHO BELIEVED: EMBRACING THE IMPOSSIBLE MISSION".

Say yes, we are here because we said Yes to God.

Gina Loehr is a popular author of books like: *The Church is our Mother: 7 Ways She Inspires Us to Love*, *Choosing Beauty: A 30 Day Spiritual Make-Over for Women*, *Real Saints Friends for Your Spiritual Journey*, along with being an inspirational speaker and a mother of 6.

When Angel Gabriel asked Mary to be the Mother of Jesus-MISSION IMPOSSIBLE, Mary thought that impossible because she said, "I have not known man." But by faith she said yes.

Mary was given an impossible mission to bear and raise God's son. But she said yes because God asked her. Mission impossible.

God has given us all an impossible mission to carry out, but God asks of us; "Who are you going to serve?" As in Gospel John, 6:60-69 - Many of Jesus' followers left him and went back to their former way of life, they could not accept Jesus as the Living Bread of Life. So, Jesus asked the twelve apostles "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered Him "Master to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal Life." They said yes to Jesus.

The mission of women is to reflect God's image to the world. To be a female is a gift; after all God entrusted the human race to a women (Mary). We are to nurture all life. Our mission is to listen, to hear our mission, accept it, pray about it and ask Mary for help. So, we need to recognize our mission, believe in it and respond with a YES to the calling.

Linda Scepurek

The opposite of joy is fear. Instead of showing fear, Mary showed joy in her prayer:

The MAGNIFICAT

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
My spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
For He has looked with favor on His lowly
servant.

From this day all generations will call me
blessed:

The Almighty has done great things for me,
And holy is His Name.

He has mercy on those who fear Him,

In every generation.

He has shown the strength of His arm.

He has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their
thrones,

And has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,

And the rich He has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of His servant
Israel,

For He has remembered His promise of
mercy.

The promise He made to our fathers,

To Abraham and his children forever.

Please pray it often!

VOCATIONS PURSE CLUB

Would you like to help someone in following their vocation? We can help you find a way! The National Council of Catholic Women has partnered with the National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations (NFCRV)

Inspired by the church's calls to holiness, many young people have found themselves drawn to religious life. Yet, with the average inquirer to religious life owing \$33,000 in student loans and hampered by the costs of insurance and housing among other major expenses, many religious communities have found it necessary to turn promising candidates away until they are debt-free—a process that can take years. To address this problem the National Council of Catholic Women established the VOCATION PURSE CLUB in 2016. Through the generosity of our local councils across the country, this past year we raised \$21,000 to assist young women entering religious life.

In partnership with the National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations (NFCRV), NCCW was able to support eight young women as they begin their journey to become Catholic sisters. We hope to fill our VOCATION PURSE once again this year so that more vocations can be saved by removing the financial obstacles, such as educational debt and other unavoidable expenses, preventing entry into religious life. We welcome the efforts each local council takes to help support the VOCATION PURSE CLUB, which has already had a significant impact not only on the lives of young women entering religious life and the communities they serve, but on all of us—as part of the universal church—who benefit from the mission and ministries of religious women. Each dollar you give in support of a vocation is returned a hundredfold in love and service.

For more information about the VOCATION PURSE CLUB and other NCCW initiatives, go to NCCW.org. Click on; Get involved, then Spirituality commission and finally on Vocations Purse Club. Or send your donations to NCCW, 200 North Glebe Road, Suite 725 Arlington, VA 22203

PRAYER TO MARY FOR VOCATIONS (taken from USCCB.org)

Hail Mary, full of grace;
all generations call you blessed.
Hail Mother of God; when asked by the angel
to bear the Son of the Most High,
filled with faith, you responded:
"Let it be done unto me."
Holy Mother of Jesus, at the wedding feast at
Cana, you prompted your Son to perform his
first sign. Be with us as we discern our life's
work and guide us in the way we are called to
follow in the footsteps of your Son.
Holy Mother of the Savior, at the foot of the
cross you mourned the death of your only Son.

Bless and embrace the loving parents of all
priests, deacons, brothers and sisters.
Holy Mother of the Good Shepherd,
turn your motherly care to this nation.
Intercede for us to the Lord of the harvest
to send more laborers to the harvest
in this land dedicated to your honor.
**Queen of Peace, Mirror of Justice, Health of
the Sick**, inspire vocations in our time.
Let the word of your Son be made flesh anew
in the lives of persons anxious to proclaim
the good news of everlasting life.
Amen

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 8, 2018	Women's Advent Retreat ACCW	Holy Name, Medina, MN
December 24-25, 2018	Christmas	
January 1, 2019	Solemnity of Mary	
January 22, 2019	March for Life	St Anthony, St Cloud, MN
February 19, 2019	Catholics at the Capitol	Saint Paul, MN
February 23, 2019	Catholic Men's Conference	Sacred Heart, Sauk Rapids
March 16, 2019	Women's Lenten Retreat	Seven Dolors Church Albany, MN
April 26, 2019	Duluth CCW Conference	St Christopher, Nisswa
April 27, 2019	New Ulm CCW Conference	St Anastasia, Hutchinson
May 3-4, 2019	ACCW Spring Conference	St John Newman, Eagan
June, 2019	Fun, Food Fund Day	Foley/Princeton Deanery
August 20-24, 2019	NCCW Convention	Atlanta, GA
September 21, 2019	Annual Fall Convention	Cold Spring Deanery
June, 2020	Province Conference	Saint Cloud Diocese
August 26-29, 2020	NCCW Convention	Arlington, VA