



Our Catholic Voice

July 2023

Contact us: stcloudccw@gmail.com

Website: stcloudccw.org



Saint Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

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.

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR MESSAGE

The Eucharist is God's greatest gift to us. God enters us and fills us with a spirit of love. When we do good for others, we always have love in our hearts. It is easy to fall and not show love to others. Keep trying to do what is pleasing to God. We must be the "good seed planted in fertile soil." Bring joy to others... show your love to them. Carry our cross joyfully. Jesus is always there to help us and to carry us when needed. Be thankful for where God leads us. We kick Jesus out of our hearts through our sins. Say "yes" to God's will.

Fr Laurn Virnig

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

2023

August 20, Diocesan Rural Life Celebration, Belle River

September 1, Theology Day, Saint John's University, Collegeville

September 9, Eucharistic Congress, Lake George, Saint Cloud

September 16, St Ann's in Wadena 69th Annual Fall Conference

October 11, St. Peter & Paul, Elrosa Board Meeting

October 7, at Queen of Angels Church, Austin Winona-Rochester

2024

March 9, Annual Lenten Retreat, Saint Martin Parish, Saint Martin, MN

June 10, Diocesan Eucharistic Revival Congress, Civic Center, Mankato

Want to get the dates for the Liturgical Year? See this webpage from the Council of Catholic Bishops.

<https://www.usccb.org/prayer-worship/liturgical-year>



August 24th-26th

Hyatt Regency

Salt Lake City

170 South West Temple

Salt Lake City, UT 84101

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At the beginning of 2023 the St Cloud Diocese was assigned a new Bishop. On February 14th Patrick Neary C.S.C. was ordained as Bishop. I am so excited that we will have the opportunity to meet Bishop Patrick. He will be attending our potluck at Speltz house in Sauk Rapids. Speltz house is where the retired diocesan priests live. He will meet with us briefly, as time permits. I look forward to meeting him.



Fun Food and Fund Day "Hopeful Hearts" was held on June 15th in Elk River at St Andrew's Catholic Church. Speaker was Kent Yoder on "The Eucharist: Our Source, Our Summit and Our Hope". There was also a Silent Auction.

On August 3rd we had our Summer Pilgrimage, a day of Adoration. We started In Sauk Centre at 7:15 AM and making 5 additional stops then returned to Sauk Centre by 7 PM. It should be an awesome day.

Annual Fall Conference will be held in Wadena at St Anne's Catholic Church. It will be held on September 16th.

June 1st Lois and I attended a luncheon sponsored by the Daughters of Isabella in Alexandria. We met and talked to the regent and it sounds like they are also having issues with retaining and growing their membership.

As I struggle writing this report, I realize this is my last report as president. When I started this position 2 years ago, I was also struggling. I was trying to get board members and commission chairs that I thought would do a good job and have fun. I wanted women who would enjoy meeting new women and want to work as a team. I chose well and could not be happier with the women who represent our board. Thank you all so much for all you have given to this board. I hope you feel that you have grown with this experience.

Linda Borgerding, SCDCCW President



Polly and Linda on Source and Summit tour.

CHURCH COMMISSION

Hello!

Spring has Sprung into Summer with a blink of an eye and now we are seeing back to school ads!

I was on vacation just shy of a month, I left June 6th and returned July 3rd. Before I left, I scrambled to get the vegetable garden, flower beds and potted plants planted, the plants were tiny and some seeds had popped before I left. Wow when I came back, I was amazed how big everything was! The vegetable garden was a miniature forest, potted flowers way over the pots, and the dahlias, cannas and calla lilies not only came out of the ground but were at least 1-2 feet tall! God's creations respond to all His promptings so well, they grow with all He-provides, rain, warmth, and good soil. Which made me think, how well do we respond for our growth? Not physical, but spiritually, He gives us all we need, His Word, His Body and Blood, His Mercy, His forgiveness, His Love, His Friendship. Would we or could we visibly see as much growth in our soul as I saw in the plants over a period of a month? Or could God see the growth in our soul? Most likely it would be hard for us to see, as we don't/can't measure our faith growth by inches. We are given many opportunities to help us grow in our faith, receiving the Sacraments, retreats, multiple ways of hearing talks given by Holy Priests and Lay people via media outlets, our own parish priests, books, radio, pilgrimages.

Using all the opportunities we have available is great, but we must develop our own prayer time, be dedicated to it so we can listen to hear God speaking to us. It's summer and a lot going on with more family around to distract you, vacations, all sorts of activities to distract you from keeping prayer time. I know it's a struggle some days, but the day is not the same when prayer time is missed. Try to take the time to pray so you can respond to God's promptings for your growth.

Remember Prayer is the
Key to Open the Day and the
Lock at Night!

Enjoy the summer being aware
of the growth of all God's creations!
God Blessings,

Jean Zwilling, Chair



COMMUNITY COMMISSION

Summer is in full swing throughout our parishes and communities. I guess you don't need a calendar of what is happening in your area; the festivals have been a tradition for years.

Bishop Patrick Neary C S C reflected in the July issue of The Central Minnesota Catholic on the opportunity to be bridge-builders in a world where alienation and loneliness is increasing due to the effects of social media in our homes. Our fun-filled parish festivals are one way to meet neighbors and welcome new people to our parishes.

Many of us have worked endlessly at our parish festivals. Remember to take time to relax and actually enjoy the festival. It is easy to get carried away with all of the work to be done.

Let me tell you a story of how unglued we can easily get. Our parish had been famous for making chicken noodle soup during the hottest time of the year on the second Sunday in July. About 30 years ago I was a newbie in the kitchen for the 3-day process of making the soup. I had never been involved in a parish festival before as we had moved every year for my husband's job and never became involved in parish life.

I was thrilled to meet the ladies of the parish and learn how to make delicious soup. Being an at home Mother of 6 at the time, I enjoyed getting out of the house. I learned the whole process starting with the cutting of a whole chicken which was completely new to me. The ladies showed me which way to cut when all of a sudden there was a fracas in the kitchen. The head soup maker



was holding a butcher knife and was engaged in a loud conversation with a lady who was cutting chicken. She had a knife too! Can you picture these 2 very nice Christian women arguing over which way to cut the chicken?!!! The lady cutting wrong said "What difference does it make? All of it is going to be cooked and then cut up for the soup!" Knives were upraised with tempers flared. I was astounded and shortly after the issue was resolved.

The next year the chicken arrived cut up already so there wasn't a problem. It turns out that you need to cut the chicken correctly so there aren't any bone chips in the soup. Now that makes sense but it was never discussed. One just cut the chicken a certain way because that is the way for 50 years it was done.

Well, the point of the story is that there is a lot of hard work going into the festival and it is easy to let tempers flare. I hope all of you have a fun-filled festival and be good Christian Catholics the whole day.

Looking forward to the Eucharistic Pilgrimage on August 3 starting and ending in Sauk Centre.

Feeling blessed to work with all of you,

Polly Rabideau, Chair

FAMILY COMMISSION

A Summer to grow in your faith!¹

An article with suggestions (10 of them!) of how to grow your faith this summer was made available by the TrentonMONITOR.com, a publication of the Dioceseoftrenton.com.

Fr. Connor Danstrom, OSV outlines the ways we can remember we are not on 'vacation' over the Summer. He reminds us that the seasons of the church liturgy can be quite busy: Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. And then the move to 'Ordinary Time'. He writes that Catholics are to grow in this time – even the color of the time is green! Our families can be as trees: growing!

His 10 Simple Ways:

- Make time for silent prayer every day.
- Go to Mass.
- Actually, participate in Mass.
- Go to Confession once a month.
- Celebrate a saint's feast day.
- Read one of the four Gospels.
- Read a book with a group of friends.
- Pray the Rosary.
- Make a 'desert' day (retreat, quiet time).
- Make a Pilgrimage.

Great!! Did you read that? – WE have an opportunity to do a PILGRIMAGE on August 3, 2023. Wow! Little did we know his thoughts on 'making our Summer' would be a time when we can wait in "joyful hope" for the liturgical seasons to come.

¹Fr. Danstrom illustrates all these points with writings for our education in his May 23, 2023, online article.

Another bit of news for the Family:

VATICAN CITY CNS – Catholics who celebrate the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly July 23 can receive a plenary indulgence, which is a remission of the temporal punishment due for one's sins, the Vatican said.

Pope Francis celebrated the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly in 2021 and decreed that it be observed each year on the Sunday closest to the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne,

Jesus' grandparents. The theme for this year's world day is "His mercy is from age to age," from St. Luke's Gospel.

Blessings,

Mary Jane Hay, Chair

Source and Summit Tour



INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION

The War continues in Ukraine with innocent people's lives being disrupted every day. Bombing of Ukraine's infrastructure has interrupted water, heat, electricity, and essential daily needs. Resources are being sent from the US and other supportive countries – which could have been used to assist the constant need in poor countries like Africa. Children are being denied of schooling. Family life is fractured – families are not able to worship freely in their churches and communities. Pray for an end to this war. Support financially to Catholic Relief Services if able.

It is time to consider donating to Box of Joy (crosscatholic.org). This organization provides Christmas gifts through schools, parishes, organizations and families with an inspiring opportunity to send gifts to Haiti, Guatemala and other developing countries. A Box of Joy is a Christmas gift box that is packed with donated toys, clothing, school supplies and other items. Each child who receives a Box of Joy also receives a rosary and a booklet in their own language that tells The Story of Jesus. Box of Joy provides hope to children in need. Each gift represents Christ's love, and it may be the only Christmas gift they receive.



By getting involved with Box of Joy, you can help bless tens of thousands of children this Christmas season! Last year, 118,990 children received a Box of Joy. And since this outreach's beginning, 512,885 Box of Joy gifts have blessed vulnerable children living around the world!

There are many drop off sites for Box of Joy within our diocese.

- **Disciples of the Mission ACC Leaders:** (Brandon, Millerville, Parkers Prairie, Urbank, Henning, Battle Lake & Maine) Bonnie Jennen, 218-205-6730 (and Sheri Streasick)
- **Haven of Mercy ACC Leader:** (Belle Prairie, Flensburg, Little Falls, Randall, Sobieski)
- · Linda Scepurek, 320-630-2961
- **Red River Valley ACC:** (Breckenridge, Tintah, Kent) Nancy Grotluschen, 218-643-5173
- **Five Star Catholic ACC:** (Browerville, Clarissa, Grey Eagle, Long Prairie, Swanville)
- · Evelyn Budde, 320-248-5902
- **Northern Cross ACC:** (Butler, Dent, Perham, Rush Lake) Carol Peeters, 218-371-1817
- **Mary Mother of the Church ACC:** (Bertha, Blue Grass, Bluffton, Menahga, Motley, Staples, Verndale, Wadena) Barb Piecek, 218-639-6977
- **Pelican Valley Catholic ACC:** (Elizabeth, Fergus Falls, Pelican Rapids) Deb Jennen, 218-205-8903
- **Eastern Deanery** – St. Joseph’s parish office, Pierz, Sara Stumpf 320-493-7062
sr6catcher@hotmail.com
- **SOME INTERNATIONAL NEWS**
 - The Archbishop of Concepcion reported that during the first 4 months of this year, 10,000 people have died waiting for medical care in Chile – exposing the injustice of a health care system that doesn’t serve the poor.
 - As an attack against the Catholic Church in Nicaragua, the president has frozen the Church’s retirement fund for priests. The fund has been functioning for more than 20 years without complications.
 - Pope Francis in his Popecast responded to young people ahead of World Youth Day – a message of hope for those who are struggling with family and cultural concerns.
 - Pope Francis celebrated World Day for Grandparents and Elderly on July 23.

Joyce Simones, Chair

RURAL LIFE COMMISSION

The method of milking cows has changed dramatically over the years. Farmers started milking their cows by hand, and hauling their cream cans to the creamery. Milking machines replaced milking by hand, and cream cans were replaced with bulk tanks. Then pipelines were added to stanchion or tie stall barns. This was a huge improvement, but the cows still need to be milked at least twice a day, 7 days a week. Milking cows is very labor intensive.

Milking parlors and free-stall barns were another change on how to milk and house dairy cows. Parlors make it easier to milk cows because the farmer can stand while milking. This is easier on their back and knees. Also, there is less chance of getting kicked by the cow. More cows

can be milked in the same amount of time, but someone still has to be there to get the job done.

When the farmer's current milking facility is in need of repair, or they are short on labor, or both, farmers need to make decisions regarding their dairy operation. Should they quit milking, or upgrade their facilities? Many farmers are deciding to go with the newest way to milk cows, robotic milkers.

Robotic milking systems have a high initial cost. It is a big investment to convert the farm to milk with robots. There can be some challenges while the cows learn how to enter the robotic milkers.

Most farmers feel the advantages of robotic milking outweighs the disadvantages. One advantage is consistency in the milking procedure. Robots milk the cows the same way every time. Most farmers notice an increase in milk production, which will help pay for the new system. Robots also collect data on the cows, such as how much milk she produced, and the quality of her milk.

Probably the biggest advantage is the change, or improvement, in the farmer's lifestyle since installing robotic milkers. Their schedule is much more flexible. The robots are there to milk around the clock, so the farmer doesn't have the scheduled hands-on milking chores. This gives the farmer time to do other work on the farm, or spend more time on family activities.

Thirteen years ago, robotic milking systems were a new thing. Some people even thought milking cows with a robot was a crazy idea. But although it is not the answer for all dairy farms, milking cows with robots is getting more and more common.

A few fun facts about dairy:

*To get the same amount of calcium provided by one 8-ounce glass of milk, you would have to eat 4.5 servings of broccoli, 16 servings of spinach or 5.8 servings of whole wheat bread.

*Milk arrives at your local grocery store within 48 hours of leaving the farm.

*Did you eat something spicy? Milk is better for cooling your mouth than water because of the protein casein, it cleanses your taste buds. *Source: American Dairy Association*

He covers the sky with clouds, he supplies the earth with rain, and makes the grass grow on the hill.

Psalm 147:8

Come to me, all who labor and are burdened, and I will refresh you, says the Lord.

Matthew 11:28

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Toni Borgerding, Chair

RURAL LIFE CELEBRATION

"Fruit of the Earth and Work of Human Hands"

The annual Rural Life Celebration is Sunday August 20, at St. Nicholas Parish in Belle River, MN.

The event, sponsored by Catholic Charities and the Diocese of St. Cloud, celebrates and honors God's creation and the rural nature of our diocese, and includes an outdoor Mass, meal, family-friendly entertainment and fellowship. All are welcome to attend.

August 20, 2023 10:30 am

- Outdoor Mass with Bishop Patrick Neary C S C.
- Presentation of the Catholic Century Farm award.
- Presentation of the Catholic Rural Business awards.
- Catered meal, music and family-friendly entertainment following the Mass.
- Please bring your own chairs for seating if you are able.

LOCATION: St. Nicholas Parish
9473 County Rd 3 NE, Carlos, MN

Question? Call Kateri Mancini at 320-229-6020 or email KateriMancini@ccstcloud.org

Hosted by St. Nicholas Parish, Belle River
Sponsored by: *Come to the Water ACC*, Catholic Charities,
Diocese of St. Cloud and Catholic Foundation



HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

- ✓ **Minnesota Farm & Rural Helpline:** www.farmstress.com, 833-600-2670
Text: farmstress to 898211 Free Confidential, 24/7. Feeling stress anxiety or depression? Just need to talk to someone? Calls are answered by trained counselors. If you're having business, financial or legal problems, we can connect you to that kind of help too.
- ✓ **Minnesota Agricultural Mental Health Specialists**
Ted Mathews: 320-266-2390
Monica McConkey: 218-280-7785
Ted and Monica are trained therapists who work with farmers and farm families throughout Minnesota. No cost. No paperwork.
- ✓ **Minnesota Farm Advocates** www.mda.mn.us/farmadvocates 833-600-2670
1:1 help for farmers facing financial problems or recovering from natural disasters. We're trained and experienced in agricultural lending practices, mediation, Ener negotiation, farm and disaster programs etc. Services are free and confidential.

- ✓ **Minnesota Dairy Initiative** www.mn-dairy-initiative.org 651-764-0309
A customized team of dairy advisors can help your operation set goals, solve problems, make improvements, and plan for the future.

ORGANIZATION COMMISSION

Who says Yes?

We all have been asked to join, to serve or to participate.

What is it that makes some say yes while others find it difficult to commit. I find that most often it is best to "Take it to the Lord in Prayer." I see organizations failing because the members are all aging and there are no younger people willing to step up and take over the leadership. I find myself often saying yes, or OK before I have really thought it through.

Leadership starts very early in life. Teaching a child to hold the door for their elders. Invite a child to help clean or serve at church or school. Invite a neighbor or new friend to join at a meeting.

I have recently decided to end serving on a board of a community organization. I felt guilty that some things were not going to happen any longer. New people coming often have ideas for change which is important.

Take a few minutes to help someone become involved. Invite them in, recognize their talents or gifts and compliment children when they are trying to serve at church, school, or home.

Lois Wesbur, Chair

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Time waits for no one, so that means many hours spent on the computer putting together eye-catching flyers and ads for our many DCCW events to meet required deadlines. Since our last meeting, I have finalized the Fun, Food & Fund Day flyer, worked with Jean Zwilling to put together the Eucharistic Summit Tour flyer, and met with the Fall Conference committee to set the schedule and design that ad and flyer.

As with anything, sometimes the Holy Spirit is there guiding me and things just fall into place; other times it's a struggle.

Again, I ask you to help spread the word by making extra copies of the flyers and posting them in area businesses, as well as making sure the info is in your parish bulletin and events board.

Pat Kasella, Chair

EASTERN DEANERY

Summer Blossoms: Our April meeting, with forty women in attendance, was held at St. Elizabeth's parish in Brennyville, MN. The presenter, Rae Harris entertained us with beautiful music and a personal testimony of her faith. In addition to our April event, we gathered also, to plan the Fun Food Fund Day and our collective efforts were rewarded with a beautiful event on June 15th, honoring the Sacred Heart and Immaculate Heart, with their feast days following on the next two days.



The Hopefuls, a youth band from St. Andrews in Elk River joined us and the presenter, Kent Yoder gave testimony to his conversion and third year of studies to become a Deacon. "The Eucharist: Our Source, Our Summit & Our Hope" was his keynote topic. I never tire of good testimonials! Our 2023 Fall Deanery meeting is planned for Saturday, October 7th. Bulletin updates will be forthcoming.

At the FFF Day event, I discovered a free book, Pick Up Your Cross and Follow Me, Volume I of the New Evangelization Ministries (NEM), Disciple Training Series, by Deacon Ralph Poyo. It reminded me of how I came to be more active in my faith community. It was after his mission event five years ago, at our Area Catholic Community that I began to say "Yes" to God and Church.

Last night, as I read his 25-page book it rekindled that passion! In those few pages, I felt it happen again. I hope to revisit his training series materials more regularly, as the messaging is so powerful. Quoting him, "At the inception of the Church, The Holy Spirit revealed to the apostles the four spiritual disciplines needed for growth: the apostles' teaching (Scripture Study), the sacramental life (breaking of the Bread), community (life in Christ), and prayer (personal and communal prayer life)(Acts 2:42). All disciples must be firmly rooted in each of these disciplines for them to grow and flourish in their lives and service for the Lord." I give Deacon Poyo the credits for this piece completely, and thank him in his wisdom and inspiration.

In conclusion, I encourage you to daily invite the Holy Spirit's presence, guidance and grace in everything you do. Especially, ask Him to help you grow in faith and for a plan to grow in your disciplines. Seek a plan that is doable. "You will grow closer to Christ by getting to know the one He sent you, the Holy Spirit. Learn to listen to Him. Be patient, persistent, and available. He speaks often to those who desire first and foremost to do His will "When the person is ready, the Holy Spirit's revelation of Christ's presence in the heart of the believer is expressed by a manifestation of the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23)."

Nita Hayes, President

NORTHWESTERN DEANERY

Greetings from the Sunny northwestern deanery,

I cannot tell you how excited I am to tell you about our great volunteers that helped at Coborn's Grocery Store in Little Falls on July 7 and 8th. A huge thank you to Linda Scephurek for doing all the work of setting this up and getting amazing volunteers it was a huge success again this year. Our tip jar plus Coborn's brought in \$600 because of all the beautiful smiles and genuine conversation done. One gentleman stated "You don't know what it means to me that you would take time to come and talk and thank me for my donation." He continued, and "Now my day is full and I feel blessed. You know there are not many people that would do that because I have MS and I don't talk so well." Please help me pray that more people are kind to those in need of friends because they may be different. Every one of us needs to receive a human touch every once in a while, so help me to touch someone else's life today and every day.

Our Deanery has a draft of Bylaws done thanks to our committee.

We also have been busy trying to set in motion everything needed for the Fall Conference that is set to take place at St. Ann's Parish in Wadena 'Saturday, September 16th'. We hope to be blessed with a wonderful turn out of all the women in the St. Cloud Diocese. This is a time for all of us to engage in our own spiritual revival to become closer to our God. Our theme is "Fruits of the Holy Spirit". Please consider joining us in Wadena for a great get together of friends in Christ, and celebrate the One who Loves us all, Jesus.

Love and God's Peace,



Bonnie Jennen, President

SOUTHWEST DEANERY

The Southwest Deanery continues in the process of reorganizing. Our spring meeting was held on May 8, 2023, at St. Olaf's Catholic Church in Elbow Lake. There were 16 women present representing 5 parishes. Roll call was 'Share a spring-cleaning tip' with some answers serious to other being hilarious.

Secretary's report was read by Cheryl Weller and treasurer's report by Cindy Riedner. New business was discussion and adoption of bylaws. General deanery meetings will be held spring and fall, moving to different churches around the deanery. Future events at the diocesan level were announced.

Women were encouraged to attend the Fun, Food, and Fund Day in Elk River in June, the Eucharistic pilgrimage August 3, and the 69th Fall Conference September 16, 2023, in Wadena. Those not yet on the list were able to sign up for the quarterly newsletter with information from the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

Openings of officer positions are for president and vice president of the deanery. Please prayerfully consider serving in one of these offices for a two-year term. The handbook as guide and support from previous officers will be provided.

Delicious desserts were served by the women of the parish and candy filled May baskets or fresh flowers were given as door prizes.

Thank you to diocesan officers President Linda Borgerding and Vice President Lois Wesbur for joining us at our spring meeting and answering questions about our new South West Deanery.

Cheryl Weller, Secretary



Volunteers are greatly needed at all levels of CCW. The diocesan board is looking for a Vice-president. Almost all deaneries are looking for officers; as are parishes. This is a need for the organization to continue sharing education, service and leadership. Please consider sharing your knowledge and talent. May your spirit be willing. The Fruits of the Holy Spirit are the basics of the gifts you share.

WEST CENTRAL DEANERY

The West Central Deanery is having a difficult time getting rolling. I was asked to be interim president at a board meeting in December 2022. At the time our Treasurer had agreed to stay on, for which we are extremely thankful. And Kathy Thell has agreed to be interim Secretary, for which we are also very thankful. Arleen Roelike will serve as Information Technician. She has been on the deanery reorganizing committee for the St. Cloud Diocese pulling all of the deaneries together. We are in need of a president and vice president to carry on the workings of the deanery.

At the Spring Deanery meeting, held on April 26th at St. Rose of Lima Church in St. Rosa a nominating committee was formed, consisting of Jean Hopfer, who agreed to be chair, and Marilyn Bergmann and Caroline Jacobs as helpers. We obtained a list of past presidents and past vice presidents from Arleen, the Diocesan Information Tech, from which we selected possible candidates, and used names suggested by members at the Spring General Meeting.

We divided the names and then started our quest for two women who would be able to say “Yes” when asked to serve their deanery as officers. Unfortunately, none were agreeable to answer the call – most citing they are too busy with their family, performing other services for the church, already being on their parish board, and some felt they were too old. Many were very sympathetic to situation, but never-the-less still said “No”. We are sorry to have lost the churches to the west, as they provided many officers and other committee members. But we have gained lots of churches to the east, and many of our calls were to members of those churches, hoping to involve them and get to work with them and get to know them. So, at this point we are uncertain as to how to move forward. Our deanery is scheduled to host the Spring Retreat, so we will be working on that at our fall meeting.

I attended the Fun, Food and Fund Day at St. Andrew’s Church in Elk River and felt it was quite well done. I did note that there were quite a few of our West Central Deanery members present, which I felt was encouraging to see them involved for that.

Our fall board and general meetings will need to be scheduled soon.

Praying and trusting in the Lord that He will guide us in finding the right women to come forward or accept the positions if asked.

*Jean
Hopfer, President*



Annual Lenten Retreat has been scheduled for March 9, 2024 at Saint Martin parish, Saint Martin, MN. The theme is “A Journey of a Woman’s Life: Using the Sacraments to Grow in Our Faith.” Sponsored by Saint Cloud DCCW, hosted by Harvest of Hope ACC.

WHEN YOU VISIT A PRIEST, PLEASE REMEMBER...



That a priest isn't married, nor will he have a family of his own. No wife, no children. His family is his parishioners. He is a spiritual father in faith to the community he serves. His future is in celebrating the Eucharist at mass every day, listening to confessions, anointing the sick, serving those who come to him for help. A priest may serve a parish only for a minimum of five to seven years. After that he may be transferred to another parish or assigned a different role in the Church. He relies on his team of volunteers, staff and the lay faithful. Don't expect him to be there all the time for you.

When you give money to the Church, you may be surprised to know that the money isn't for him because no priest earns a fixed salary. They receive a stipend to meet their basic expenses of food, clothing and travel. They save every penny to go for a vacation and much of the money is gifted by friends, relatives and well-wishers as they don't get paid leave like the rest of us who work.

While we work for a fixed number of hours with two days off a week, priests are expected to be on stand-by 24/7. So don't be angry if they don't respond to you when you need them. They are humans as well with the same frailty as us.

If you hear anyone speaking badly about a particular priest, please correct that person and don't engage in idle gossip without knowing the facts. Remember that they are alone and at times would need company. Pay attention to their emotional, physical and mental needs. Accompany them if needed or offer a helping hand or even a lift. It's not easy to go out alone at 2 or 3 in the morning especially in dangerous neighborhoods for counseling or even anointing someone on their death bed. If someone comes to them at such an hour for help, they have to get up from their deep sleep and still be expected to celebrate Mass in the morning. Who is there for them when they are ill or have emergencies in the middle of the night? Yet they are required to perform their duties because if not them, who?

Remember their birthdays, ordination anniversaries and important events in their lives. Celebrate with them, cry with them. Offer a shoulder to lean on. If they fall, don't judge or criticize. Lift them up and help them on their journey in life. Don't be offended if they don't live up to your expectations. No priest is perfect.

So, take care of your priests, remember the ones who baptized, confirmed, married and anointed you. The ones who offer masses for your intentions and pray for you.

"May God bless our priests in Jesus' name, our eternal High Priest. Amen."

Shared from; *Carolyn Morrison, PD, Province of Detroit*

(Editor's note: Please recite this short prayer every day as the Saint Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women {FB} and Serra Club highlight clergy every day for prayer.)

Inspiring

Lap quilt/wall-hanging

It's yours to
WIN



- 37" wide by 55" long
- Comes with rod and rod pocket
- Chances are given for a free will offering.
- Quilt will be awarded the 69th Fall Conference, September 16, 2023 at saint Ann's in Wadena.
- Need not be present to win
- For chances: call your local Parish or Deanery president or Sheri Streasick 320-805-0010

Please feel free to download and copy the next two pages to help advertise the Conference and share with others.

“FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT”

St. Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women 69th Annual Fall Conference

SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

St Ann's Parish

514 1st Street SE, Wadena, MN, 56482

Registration Form

NAME	EMAIL	PHONE

\$20 by September 6th

ENCLOSED: # of attendees _____ X \$20 = \$ _____

NONREFUNDABLE

Make Checks Payable to St. Cloud DCCW

Mail To:

Lora Knafla

11719 16th Avenue NW

Rice, MN 56367

320-393-2701

Questions: Contact Lora @ (320) 393-2701

Fruits of the Holy Spirit

**St. Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women
Annual Fall Conference
Saturday, September 16, 2023**



**St. Ann's Catholic Church
514 1st Street SE
Wadena, MN**

9:00 a.m. Registration & Refreshments
9:30 a.m. Welcome & Business meeting
10:10 a.m. DCCW Commission Panel
10:30 a.m. Rosary - Fruits of the Rosary
11:00 a.m. Mass with Bishop Neary
 Installation of Officers
12:00 noon Lunch
1:00 p.m. Speaker - Kathy Janku
 "Fruits of the Holy Spirit"
2:30 p.m. Closing Prayer, Lap Quilt
 Drawing & Door Prizes

Registration : \$20 due by 9/6
Payable to: St. Cloud DCCW

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 Rice, MN 56367
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Handicapped accessible

Website: stcloudccw.org
Hosted by: Northwestern Deanery