

## *Our Catholic Voice*

November 2020

*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:

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[Website: stclouddccw.org](http://stclouddccw.org)



Saint Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

*This newsletter is a bit different than we are used to seeing. So many events did not happen. So, the first part is our fall information, but starting with page 5, the following is the core of information that would have been shared with you at the Annual Fall Conference.*

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**FALL 2020**

These days there is a lot to be afraid of with the pandemic. You can't pick up a newspaper or listen to radio or TV without hearing about the numbers. I'm sure everyone knows someone that has or had it. We are all wondering when it will end. We are afraid that we will pass it on to someone vulnerable.

It seems that each Priest handles the situation in different ways. Here in Little Falls, we are having our Christian Women's meeting, Adoration, Quilting and several meetings on the needs of our church.

In September, I attended a parish stewardship retreat titled "BE NOT AFRAID." It consisted of 4 sessions, each one starting with a talk by Fr. David Zimmer, then a silent reflection time, followed by a small group discussion.

The topics were:

- 1) "God is Love - For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life." (JN3:16).
- 2) Discipleship - "He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. "(Col 1:13-14).
- 3) To Be a Christian Steward - Jesus invites each of us to be His disciples who, after bringing their boats to shore, left everything, and followed Jesus.
- 4) Stewards of the Church - As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. The retreat emphasis was not to give money, but to give of one's self.

Each one of us must do what we feel is right for us. What one might do, another will be doing the opposite. But most of all, we need to take care of ourselves while we move forward.

We are making plans for our events and if we must cancel, we will do that.

*Linda Scepurek, President*

## **RURAL LIFE COMMISSION**

Every year in October, a big concern for farmers is harvesting their crops. In our area, the harvest has been going quite well. The weather has been great. The dry spring that we had allowed us to get our crops planted early, which caused our crops to mature on time. We also received very welcomed rain in July and August. Last year our harvest started about a month later than this year. The early frost that we had on Sept 10th might have hurt the yield somewhat, but not too bad. Farmers are very appreciative that we are having a "nice" fall.

Besides the harvest, farmers, like most Americans, are concerned about the upcoming presidential election. In less than a month, we will be voting for the president of the United States. This is a big deal, especially for Catholics!

The article, "Trump's Strong Base" in the September 2020 issue of Farm Journal, reported that 82% of farmers would vote for Trump if the election were held today. The poll was conducted on August 14, 2020. Over 1500 people responded. According to this article, there is continuing strong support for the president in farm country.

In the October issue of Farm Journal, Paul Neiffer said, "For farmers, Trump would be favorable over Biden in terms of tax policy". He goes on to say, "On the Biden front, nothing he's proposed makes me excited for farmers – only nervous."

Farmers are self-employed businessmen/women. Global events, markets, and trade policies affect their livelihood. Most farmers agree with President Trump's policy of not having excessive taxes and regulations.

You may not agree with everything President Trump does, but on what, I believe, is the most important issue is that President Donald Trump is pro-life. Hopefully Catholics and all Christians agree. During the vice-presidential debate, Kamala Harris said, "I will always fight for a woman's right to make a decision over her own body." Vice-president Pence said, "I am pro-life. I don't apologize for it." President Trump even participated in the "March for Life" rally in Washington DC last January. He was the first U.S. president to speak in person at the event. On Sept 26<sup>th</sup>, Pres. Trump nominated Judge Amy Coney Barrett, a conservative Catholic, as his nominee to the Supreme Court.

Like it says on the National Right to Life post-card, "Vote like life depends on it...because it does. God bless our country with pro-life leaders in November.

*Toni Borgerding, Chair*

## **LITTLE FALLS DEANERY**

Fall has arrived with beautiful, colorful leaves on the trees for all of us to admire. Farmers are busy harvesting their crops before a frost sets in. Fall weddings are full in swing with receptions being held outside due to the COVID-19. I have been attending Mass at Bowlus these past few weeks where it has been held outside with people playing beautiful guitar, accordion, and flute music. There also have been quite a few baptisms. What a precious gift from God!

I have been trying to stay safe by shopping in the early mornings and keeping to one store if possible.

My husband and I have been dog sitting our daughter's dog for the past 3 weeks. All God's creatures bring love and laughter to someone daily.

With the sun setting earlier these days, I have had more time to read and study the bible and watch a few movies.

One Sunday afternoon my husband and I took a drive to find the site of the old Arban church.

Fr. Greg Mastey has Mass every Sunday morning there. We also found the cemetery and walked thru it. It was a nice way to spend part of a Sunday afternoon.

There are numerous people that live alone that need a little company. A single phone call can brighten their day.

Let's all stay safe and have a great fall.

*Darlene Nix, President*

## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

Is your CCW sinking?

Some signs of a failing affiliation, deanery, or parish CCW are:

- No one wants to take a leadership position
- The same few women do the same jobs year after year
- The same events are held and they are done exactly the same way
- There are no younger women involved
- Your programs are boring
- New members just sit and listen and then suddenly disappear

"CCW HELPLINE" is a new initiative to help all levels of Council from the affiliation to the province. If you need help because of failing membership, lack of leadership or just ideas to advertise and promote your Council, we are here to help you, regardless how small your need or how small your size.

The first step is easy, just email Rosi Schuhmacher at [ccwrose@gmail.com](mailto:ccwrose@gmail.com) and she will connect you with a seasoned leader to help you. No one person knows everything or can fix everything but working together we can make a difference.

*This message came earlier, and it is too late for this season. We are stuck at home looking to keep ourselves busy. Some of these things can be done now for next year!*

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### My Dearest Box of Joy Friends and CCW Sisters

I pray this finds you and your loved ones with health, hope, faith, and much joy. Yes, in the midst of this, we must remember that we are Easter people, and we live in faith! We are also celebrating 100 years of our beloved NCCW, and nothing should stop us from doing just that.

As we all cope with the new challenges of the Corona Virus, I thought it might bring a little Joy to our hearts (pun intended) to know and celebrate how we, together, were able to help children in the Developing world this past Christmas season. You were a big part of not only achieving the goal we had set ourselves of blessing 70,000 children but exceeding that target! Thank you, thank you, thank you for ALL you did to make this a reality. Here are the official reported numbers.

Many of you have already reached out and have signed up for this upcoming season. Others are seeking new ways to engage your families, friends and children with craft and sewing ideas of items to place in the boxes. This gives us hope, joy and yes, something to work on now. Below are links to homemade projects, including the one for the pillowcase dresses.

- Christmas Ornaments <https://www.redbookmag.com/home/decors/g3022/diy-christmas-ornaments/>
- Rosary craft for children <https://www.reallifeathome.com/rosary-craft-for-kids/>
- Boo-boo Bunny <https://www.instructables.com/BOO-BOO-BUNNIES/>
- Jump Ropes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h0ExVd9WIMY>
- Tic Tac Toe Game <https://www.suburbia-unwrapped.com/diy-tic-tac-toe-game-board/>
- Pom Pom Pens <https://www.heartsandshirts.com/handmade-gifts/>
- Pillowcase Dresses <https://bumblebeelinens.com/pillowcaseDress.php>

I am inviting you to please, sign up-YES, we are ready. Sign up at <https://crosscatholic.org/box-of-joy/> watch the video to lift your spirits, and lastly, get ready to share the joy.

I will continue praying you will stay safe in these most troubling times, putting confidence in God who is our strong defender and source. WE live with hope and joy, and our trust in Him keeps us strong.

As we are mostly working from home for the time being, please, feel free to reach out to me at my cell number if you have any questions, or new suggestions.

May God bless you abundantly and always,  
Tessie O'Dea

Relationship Development Manager • 561-392-9212 ext. 158 cell 954-448-9409

**Cross Catholic Outreach**

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[www.CrossCatholic.org](http://www.CrossCatholic.org) • [Twitter](#) • [Facebook](#)

*Delivering Food, Shelter and Hope in the Name of Jesus.*

## SAINT CLOUD DCCW BOARD 2019-2021

Spiritual Advisor: Bishop Donald J Kettler 320-251-2340

Spiritual Advisor: Father Lurn Virnig 320-281-3775

President: Linda Scepurek 320-632-4805

Vice President: Linda Borgerding 320-293-1839

Past President/Historian: Cheryl Weller 320-346-2710

Secretary: Sheri Streasick 320-805-0010

Treasurer: Lora Knafla 320-393-2701

Parliamentarian: Eva Koep 763-218-2057

Province Director: Connie Andrews 218-327-2177

Past Province Director: Irene Schmidt 320-393-2472

Alexandria/Morris Deanery:

Cold Spring Deanery: Lois Wesbur 320-254-3181  
Fergus Falls/Wadena Deanery:  
Foley Princeton Deanery: Mary Jo Fitzpatrick  
Little Falls Deanery: Darlene Nix 320-584-5991  
Melrose/Sauk Centre Deanery: Missy Sakry  
Saint Cloud Deanery: Mary Alice Tomporowski 320-252-0043  
Community and Family Commission: Evelyn Budde 320-248-5902  
International Commission: Joyce Simones 320-250-4106  
Rural Life Commission: Toni Borgerding 320-254-8430  
Church Commission: Faye Hendrickx 218-385-3850  
Church Commission: Mary Peeters 218-385-2609  
Legislative Commission: Geri Klimek 320-632-8215  
Organization Commission: Linda Borgerding 320-293-1839  
Scholarship: Eva Koep 763-218-2057  
Public Relations:  
Information Technician/Webmaster: Arleen Roelike 320-282-9941

**Please feel free to contact any one of us if you have questions.**

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## **PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT**

What a year we had from the closing of no essential places like gyms, bars, restaurants even churches; children were home schooled or by zoom with their teacher; buses delivered lunches and lessons each morning; churches closing and Masses going on line with the Bishop excusing us from attending weekly Mass if we were in the high-risk category. Then came the riots. Now we can't go anywhere without a mask on.

We had a board meeting in October 2019 at Annunciation Church in Mayhew Lake. Then in January, we met at the Speltz House in Sauk Rapids, where we hosted a pot-luck meal for the retired priests who live there.

On Friday, March 14, (the day before our Spring Lenten Retreat) all churches were closed by the Bishop and the Retreat was postponed until next March. We canceled our April meeting but did our July board meeting by Zoom. This has been a very good learning adventure.

Along with our Spring Lenten Retreat being postponed, so was our Fun, Food and Fund Day, Province Conference, National Council of Catholic Women Convention, and our Annual Fall Conference. Most of these events will be held next year in the same location as were planned for this year.

This Saturday is the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Which is a Holy Day of Obligation; the day our Blessed Mother was taken into Heaven. In our bulletin, there is no mention of it being a Day of Obligation. I'm very glad that we can watch or attend Mass each day here in Little Falls. We have adoration from 8AM to 8PM alternating churches 6 days a week.

Hopefully for our board meeting in October, we can get together as a group again. Looking forward to seeing all of you. The Catholic Digest in the June/July/August issue had a story about the National Council of Catholic Women: a highlight of our history.

*Linda Scepurek, St. Cloud DCCW President*

### **PRAYER FOR A NEW BISHOP**

Bishop Donald Kettler turned 75 last November, and according to tradition, submitted his request for retirement. A replacement bishop will be appointed by Pope Francis and may take some time. We pray for Bishop Kettler, for his replacement, and for all involved in the selection process.



Heavenly Father, You sent Jesus to shepherd Your people and the Holy Spirit to make Your people one. Look with favor upon those who will select our new bishop. Give them Your vision and let their judgment be clear. Speak Your will to them. We thank You for our past shepherds and the blessings they have been for the people of this diocese. Lord, send Your Holy Spirit to anoint our new bishop that he may continue the work of renewal in the Church, and unite our parishes, priests, and people in love, truth, and wisdom. Give him a true shepherd's heart like that of Jesus, that he may give strength to the weak, heal the broken hearted, console the lonely, bring back the wandering, and be a power against the evil of our day. In the powerful name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

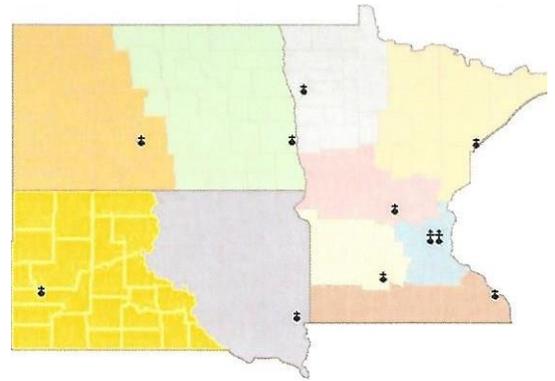
### **GOOD NEWS!**



We have a new church in our Diocese. In March 2016 a fire destroyed much of the Saint Mary's Church in Melrose, MN. On November 21, 2020 the new church celebrated the Dedication Mass. If you are unable to attend there, please find their website [www.oneinfaith.org/stmarys](http://www.oneinfaith.org/stmarys). There you can view pictures and watch the video of the dedication.

# Province of St. Paul/Minneapolis Council of Catholic Women

Connie Andrews, Province Director  
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Grand Rapids, Mn. 55744  
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C-218-259-8615  
conorberg@yahoo.com



My Sisters and Brothers in CCW,

Write something encouraging, she said! (Heavy sigh) After all that we have experienced since March; Hmmm, I can do that! Look on the bright side. Look for the silver lining. Keep your sunny side up. Life is like a bowl of cherries. WOW, I sure know a lot of cliches! Those one-liners don't help much, though. I try to remember all of them, and that helps to make me look like I'm doing OK, but sometimes I'm barely hanging in there. So, I went for walk in the neighborhood to clear up my attitude.

I was blown away at the beauty I saw. Our fall colors are spectacular; everywhere you look there is a different hue. And the smell is amazing. I love the smell of fall! There's a special sound that you only hear when you walk through fall leaves in the grass. It hasn't changed since I was a kid...lots of years ago! All the neighbors who have little gardens are in various stages of cleaning up, covering up, and harvesting. It's wonderful to see what God gives us. Each day is different, why do we squander them by grumping around feeling sorry for ourselves? We deserve NONE of it, but He still gives and gives.

Jesus proclaimed the Good News.... He said give up everything you have and follow me. – (not exactly what we hear from the world around us). St. Paul wrote to the Philippians 4:6-9...Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. – (really? The 'news' channels might want to adopt that sentiment, since all they promote *IS* anxiety). I think my October resolution is going to be "Change your habits and you will change your attitude." Less 'news'; more Good News!

In Paul's letter to the Philippians he says "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you."

I am praying that when this all ends, we can again gather, pray, hug, and praise God as a Board, as sisters, and daughters of the King.

In His Love,  
*Connie Andrews*  
NCCW Province Director

*"Peace is my farewell to you; my peace is my gift to you." John 14*

**ST CLOUD DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN**  
**ANNUAL TREASURER REPORT**  
**JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020**

<b>Checkbook Balance 7/01/2019</b>			<b>\$11,404.82</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>EXPENSES</b>	
SILENT AUCTION	\$0.00		
DCCW PARISH DUES	\$4,165.00		
SPRING RETREAT	\$1,730.00		
FUN FOOD FUND DAY	\$3,126.00		
ANNUAL CONFERENCE	\$1,336.20		
MASS COLLECTIONS	\$422.00		
INTERNATIONAL FUNDS	\$383.00		
NCCW CONVENTION	\$465.00		
TRANSFERRED FROM SCHOLARSHIP SAVINGS	\$200.00		
<b>TOTAL ANNUAL INCOME</b>			<b>\$11,827.20</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>			
EXEC BOARD & COMMISSIONERS SUPPLIES, POSTAGE & SUBSCRIPTION		\$348.82	
EXEC BOARD LUNCHES		\$90.00	
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTERS & POSTAGE		\$1,152.93	
BI-ANNUAL DIRECTORY		\$291.60	
ANNUAL CONFERENCE PRINTING		\$293.50	
ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPEAKERS		\$400.00	
ANNUAL CONFERENCE ADVERTISING		\$260.00	
ANNUAL CONFERENCE ST. MICHAEL CHAPLET SUPPLIES		\$142.90	
SPRING RETREAT ADVERTISING		\$130.00	
SPRING RETREAT REIMBURSEMENTS - cancelled COVID-19		\$1,589.00	
SPRING RETREAT - FOOD, POSTAGE, BANK CHARGES		\$336.01	
FUN, FOOD & FUND DAY - cancelled COVID-19		\$0.00	
NCCW 2020 CONVENTION REGISTRATION - cancelled COVID-19		\$0.00	
NCCW 2020 CONVENTION REGISTRATION REIMBURSEMENT		\$465.00	
NCCW 2019 CONVENTION HOTEL		\$2,009.60	
NCCW 2019 CONVENTION TRANSPORTATION		\$1,406.40	
NCCW ADVERTISING		\$175.00	
PROVINCE BOARD MEETINGS HOTEL		\$451.02	
PROVINCE BOARD MEETINGS TRANSPORTATION		\$275.60	
DIOCESAN MINISTRY DAY/OCTOBERFEST ADVERTISING		\$200.00	
ANNUAL NCCW DUES		\$275.00	
ANNUAL PROVINCE DUES		\$500.00	
GIFTS-NCCW SILENT AUCTION, PAST PROVINCE PRESIDENT		\$70.00	
GIFTS-NEW PRIESTS AND PAST DCCW PRESIDENT		\$730.58	
INTERNATIONAL FUNDS		\$383.00	
MASS COLLECTIONS		\$422.00	
SCHOLARSHIP		\$200.00	
Fr. John Kaiser Social Justice Fund donation		\$100.00	
Catholic Relief Services-memorial Bishop Kinney		\$100.00	
<b>TOTAL ANNUAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>			<b>-\$12,797.96</b>
<b>CHECKBOOK BALANCE 6/30/2020</b>			<b>\$10,434.06</b>
<b>SAVINGS</b>	<b>Matures</b>	<b>Rate of Interest</b>	
BREMER - DCCW General Fund - CD #193	6/30/20	0.65	\$3,118.90
CATHOLIC FOUNDATION - General Fund			\$9,908.88
BREMER SAVINGS Acct - SCHOLARSHIP FUND			\$1,957.52
CATHOLIC FOUNDATION - SCHOLARSHIP FUND			\$6,149.01
SAVINGS ACCT HELD for Alexandria Deanery			\$1,280.72
<b>TOTAL IN SAVINGS</b>			<b>\$22,415.03</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS 6/30/2020</b>			<b>\$32,849.09</b>
AUDITED ON- 8/4/2020			
BY: <i>Diserque</i>	<i>A. Bergendorn</i>		
SUBMITTED BY: Lora Knaffa, Treasurer			Due to the pandemic only two did the audit

**MINUTES OF THE 66<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
ST. CLOUD DCCW CONFERENCE  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2019  
ST. BONIFACE PARISH, COLD SPRING**

The 66<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the St. Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women was called to order by President Cheryl Weller at 9:06 a.m. The Prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mission Statement, and The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America were recited.

President Weller introduced current board members, past presidents and honored guests. Special thanks was extended to the Cold Spring Deanery for hosting the conference. Welcome was given by Deanery President, Lois Wesbur.

A quorum was declared by Secretary Pat Kasella. It was moved and seconded to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the 2018 annual conference as they were published in the conference handbook. Motion carried. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as published. Motion carried.

Treasurer Lora Knalla presented highlights of the treasurer's report, which showed total annual income of \$14,977.97, total annual expenses of \$10,268.72, and a checkbook balance of \$11,404.82. Adding in the total savings accounts of \$22,356.67, the balance as of June 30, 2019 is \$33,761.49. The annual treasurer's report had been audited and approval will be voted on at the next board meeting.

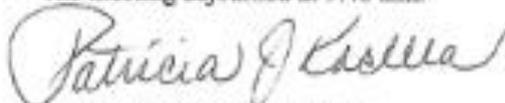
Past Province Director, Irene Schmidt, introduced Connie Andrews of the Duluth Diocese, who was installed as our new Province Director at the NCCW Convention. All were encouraged to attend the Province Conference to be held June 19 & 20, 2020 at Mary Help of Christian Parish in St. Augusta. Also, NCCW will be celebrating 100 years 2020 and the convention will be held in Arlington, VA. The 2021 NCCW convention will be held in Minneapolis. Individual memberships were also promoted.

Linda Borgerding presented resolutions regarding Mental Health/Suicide Awareness, Opioid Crisis Affecting Our Nation, Reuse Products & Reduce Consumption, and Protection of Life at All Stages, all of which were adopted.

Eva Koep, Nominations Chair, then presented the following candidates for election: Sheri Streasick – Secretary; Linda Borgerding - V. President; and Linda Scepurek - President. Having received no other nominations for the positions, voice votes were held and each was unanimously elected to their respective position and installed at Mass by Bishop Kettler.

It was stated the collection at Mass will be divided between Youth in Theology & Ministry Program (YTM) and Anna Marie's Alliance.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.



Patricia J. Kasella, Secretary

## INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT SEPTEMBER 2020

Reports this year:

- Fall 2019 – World Mission Sunday Resources
- Winter 2020 – Central America violence and the work that Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is providing
- Spring 2020 – COVID 19 and the effect worldwide
- Summer 2020 – update on COVID 19 and the violence unrest after the death of George Floyd

Current Updates

- COVID -19 has currently 31.7 million cases worldwide, with 972,000 deaths and has affected every continent except Antarctica.
- September 1, 2020 – CRS new Global Chief People and Diversity Officer is Candace Osunsade who headquarters in Baltimore and oversees 7,000 staff globally.
- September 14, 2020 – US Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) urges the Senate to pass legislation to protect Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for over 200,000 people in the US after the court's ruling to end this protection.
- September 22, 2020 – House passage of Global Child Thrive Act – HR 4846 – will mandate early childhood development into foreign aid programs.
- This is Hispanic Heritage Month – send well wishes to all your Hispanic friends
- Catholic Charities USA is sending assistance to those suffering from the Western US wildfires.

*Joyce Simones, Chair*

## INTERNATIONAL FUNDS COLLECTED AND SENT

St. Augustine Christian, St. Cloud Christian Mothers Women	Water for Life	\$100.00
St. Joseph, Grey Eagle, Confraternity of Christian Mothers	Madonna Plan	\$160.00
Little Falls Deanery CCW, Christian Mothers Altar Rosary Society, Royalton	Madonna Plan	\$23.00
Sacred Heart Christian Mothers, Dent	Madonna Plan	\$100.00

"Anyone wishing to donate to one of these projects, please make the check out to St. Cloud Diocesan CCW, in the memo area write which project the funds are for and mail to Lora Knafka, 11719 16th AVE NW, Rice, MN 56367".

Submitted by *Lora Knafka, Treasurer*

## ORGANIZATION COMMISSION REPORT

This year I was trying to focus on increasing membership. But with the way things have gone in 2020 we have not been able to have meetings. Therefore, it is hard to try and increase membership. Maybe my focus should have been on feeding our current members.

I do believe there are many women who just need a friend. They need someone to listen, someone to care. We need to find a way to help the women we have. Not only should we be helping our members, but all women in our communities.

I know we cannot help everyone, but if we just tried to reach out and talk to a couple of new women. Why don't we each try to call someone new, send a card. Do whatever you can. Just do something.

In Faith,

*Linda Borgerding, Chair*

## MESSAGE FROM MATTHEW KELLY



### **Taken for Granted**

Nobody likes feeling taken for granted. And yet, we all take people, and things, and opportunities, and even God for granted from time to time. This month, I would like to issue a gratitude challenge. Every day for the next 30 days, I challenge you to do two things:

1. Take two minutes to reflect on all you have to be grateful for and thank God.
2. Express your gratitude to someone in your life.

Do these two things each day for the next month, and you will be amazed how these simple exercises can have such a powerful impact on your life and relationships.

## RURAL LIFE COMMISSION

Farmers are very aware of the seasons. During spring planting, they practice Faith, summer – Hope, fall harvest – Trust, and winter – renew for next year.

***“The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.” Psalm 85:12***

The year 2020 started out pretty normal. Things can change in a hurry.

In January, livestock farmers were concerned about alternative meat products, or “fake meat.” The Impossible Burger or Beyond Meat, which are sold in fast food restaurants or some grocery stores, are examples of “fake meat”. “Where’s the Beef”? There isn’t any. You will find 21 or 22 highly processed ingredients in these burgers. This new combination of ingredients has not been tested to determine if it is safe to eat. Although they are plant-based, it is not like eating fresh vegetables. Cell-based “meat” is even more disturbing. Lab-grown meat products are grown from the blood of cattle fetuses which are bathed in hormones and antibiotics. This is just not natural.

***“He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, and vegetation for the labor of man, so that he may bring forth food from the earth.” Psalm 104:14***

During the latter part of February, we had the opportunity to go to Australia and New Zealand with another couple who are dairy farmers. So, what do farmers do on vacation? Talk to farmers, of course, and tour their farms. There are some differences, but also similarities in farming, even in countries halfway across the world. Just like us, they are concerned about the weather. Also, like farmers in MN, farmers in Australia and New Zealand are concerned about taking good care of their cattle, and land, the best way they know how. While visiting, the farmers shared ideas how to do things better. Dairy farmers were learning from each other. Farming is a universal language.

We arrived home on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of March, just a few days before the “Stay at Home” order was put into place because of the coronavirus. We were so glad to be home. We couldn’t believe how things had changed in the three weeks we were gone. The year was no longer normal.

Everyone has been affected, one way or another, by Covid-19, including farmers. One of their first problems was trying to get their chores done while social distancing. The problems got bigger than that. There was a major disruption in the food system. The closing of restaurants and schools caused a decline in the demand for meat, eggs, and milk. Prices in stores went up, while the price the farmers received went down. Food processing facilities could not change how they package food to sell to grocery stores instead of food service markets.

In an article in the Central MN Catholic, Joe Borgerding said, “It’s an honor to care for a small corner of God’s creation. It’s humbling, after all these years of farming, to know that while I may plant straight, or timely, I cannot make the seeds grow by myself without help from above. That is the same help we need to call on to get through this “trial”. Jim Anderson said, “No matter what happens, God is looking over you.” Although it can be a struggle at times, these two farmers are grateful to live on a farm in rural Minnesota, in God’s country. I agree!

*Toni Borgerding, Chair*

## **COLD SPRING DEANERY**

The members of the Cold Spring Deanery have not met the past year. Our treasurer has not had to pay bills or record income.

Individual parishes have had to dispense with some of their meetings as well.

Some have become creative as to how they will handle their meeting times. Belgrade Officers have met for coffee and paid dues. Others have gone to group e-mails. Elrosa has installed A new president. Although the COVID restrictions have limited meetings, there have been many of our Catholic Women busy doing things in their parishes; volunteering to send cards to those quarantined in nursing homes and Senior living Centers.

Many are volunteering to sanitize pews in the churches. Regular prayer groups have called each other to pray for an end to all the COVID cases and the fear that goes with it. In some of the nursing homes, members have been able to play BINGO with resident of nursing homes by changing the model to very small groups that can practice social distancing.

Weddings and funerals have taken on a new look. Restrictions on the numbers able to attend has been hard for some of our members and their families. At a recent wedding pictures were taken of the wedding party to mark the "New look" with face masks on.

As we continue and go into the new year, I send prayers and hope that we will not have to worry about the what if but Thank God for what is.

*Lois Wesbur, President*

## **INFORMATION TECHNICIAN**

In this year of uncertainty, we need to get creative. There are many ways to find information about Council. For the Saint Cloud Diocesan Council website, find us at [stclouddccw.org](http://stclouddccw.org). The St Paul/Minneapolis Province website is [provinceofstpaul-minneapolis.weebly.com](http://provinceofstpaul-minneapolis.weebly.com). The National CCW website is [nccw.org](http://nccw.org). The World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO) [wucwo.org](http://wucwo.org). For guidance in all things, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, [usccb.org](http://usccb.org)

## **PRAYER FOR DISCERNMENT IN USE OF TECHNOLOGY**

Heavenly Father, You have given us the skills and ability to create technology. We have used it often to spread the Good News of salvation and God's plan for those who believe. Please help us continue to evangelize in this way, using the gifts you have given us for good, not for evil. Some have fallen prey to the temptations that are available on technology and have squandered the precious gift of time on mindless entertainment and valueless escapism. We can easily become slaves to technology, forgetting the incredible gift of being present to you and to one another.

Through technology, we have an easily accessible way to communicate with one another. Let us continue to witness, not only with our words, but the work we do in your name. May we always embrace our responsibility in this life - to serve you and those we come into contact with each day - as we seek a balance in our use of technology.

May we use technology and our time wisely as a means to communicate your message of love to the world. Amen.

*Arleen Roelike, Information Technician*

## MELROSE SAUK CENTRE DEANERY

The year 2020 has been a very strange year. We have not been able to have any of our normal meetings. We have not been able to many of our normal activities. Our neighbors yearly fish fry cancelled. My card club afternoons at PJ's cancelled. I have not been able to volunteer at the nursing home or go to church as normal. The new normal of zoom meetings and streaming of masses seemed like a sad substitute at first, but at least I was able to participate. It made me feel like there is still some connections to my friends and community.

So, what is next? I think we need to go out and find ways to bring some of this new normal to some of friends and acquaintances that do not even have this much. Maybe there are some women sitting at home with no contacts. Maybe we could send a card or give them a call, so they can also feel some new normal. I can only imagine how many people have been sitting at home with no contacts. How sad that must be. I feel we need to reach out to others at this time because we really do not know who is alone and my lonely. Let us go out and share our spirit, share our faith. Look around is there someone you used to see around the neighborhood or church, and you have not seen them lately? Reach out to them.

But as far as the deanery goes, we have had 2 zoom calls which went very well. We will be having our Fall General meeting Oct 15<sup>th</sup>. We will be installing our new President Missy Sakry from Opole.

*Linda Bergerding, President*

## MELROSE/SAUK CENTRE DEANERY TREASURERS REPORT

February 1st, 2020-July 31st, 2020

Checking	Beginning Balance	2401.94
Income	None	
Expense	None	
Ending Checkbook balance		2401.94
	Shares	35.08
	001 12 Month CD	1133.37
	006 12 Month CD	1069.76
	Savings	767.68
Total Assets		5407.83

*Sue Burg, Treasurer*

LITTLE FALLS TREASURER'S REPORT.....LORA KNAFLA

August 1, 2019 to July 31, 2020

Balance on Hand August 1, 2019		\$3,213.61
Receipts:		
Lunch Donation-Fall Gathering	\$37.00	
Madonna Plan: Royalton	<u>23.00</u>	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		<u>\$60.00</u>
Disbursements:		
DCCW-Madonna Plan from parish	\$23.00	
MCCL-speaker for Fall Gathering	<u>50.00</u>	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		<u>73.00</u>
Decrease in Cash		<u>-13.00</u>
Balance on Hand July 31, 2020		\$3,200.61

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**DIOCESAN TREASURER'S MESSAGE**

Thank you to all the parishes who have paid their St. Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women dues for 2020-2021. I realize with the restrictions on gatherings, some women's groups may not be meeting to get approval for payment of bills. If you need me to send you a copy of the dues letter which was mailed the end of July, please contact me 320-393-2701 or e-mail [lorakna1@hotmail.com](mailto:lorakna1@hotmail.com) as I may not have had the current treasurer's information. If I didn't have current contact information, I sent it to the parish address, as the dues could be paid by the parish being ALL women 19 and older belong to the DCCW even though they may not be a member of Christian Mothers/Women or Rosary Solidarity, etc.

Also, if you are making donation(s) for Madonna Plan, Water for Life, Refugee Women, and/or Help a Child, please make check payable to **St. Cloud Diocesan CCW** and indicate in the memo area which fund. Mail donations to Lora Knafka, St. Cloud Diocesan CCW, 11719 16th AVE NW, Rice, MN 56367.

Thank you for all you do for the world.

*Lora Knafka, St. Cloud DCCW Treasurer*

**SAVE THE DATE**

# WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT

**“SAINTS WITHIN US”**



**Sacred Heart**  
**2875 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE**  
**Sauk Rapids, MN 56379**  
**March 13, 2021**

REGISTRATIONS:  
 MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: DCCW  
 MAIL TO:  
**Marilyn Plante**  
**2293 Pinecone Road**  
**Sorrell, Mn 56377**

- For Information: [stcloudccw.org](http://stcloudccw.org)
- Contact us: [stcloudccwretreat@gmail.com](mailto:stcloudccwretreat@gmail.com)
- Phone: 320-282-9941

SPONSOR: Saint Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women  
 HOST: St. Cloud Deanery CCW

Save a date March 13, 2021 for the Annual Lenten Retreat. We will try to replicate the program we had planned for 2020. Because of the pandemic, we may have to present a virtual Retreat or a hybrid version. Please keep this in mind and check the website for updated information. [stcloudccw.org](http://stcloudccw.org)

The Province Conference has set a date. Refer to their website: [provinceofsaintpaulminneapolis.weebly.com](http://provinceofsaintpaulminneapolis.weebly.com) for details and updated information

**Province of St Paul and Minneapolis**  
**Council of Catholic Women**  
 21st Biennial Conference  
 Strengthening and Celebrating 100 Years of NCCW

*Honoring Our Past with God's Mercy  
 Living Our Present with God's Love  
 Hopeful for Our Future with His Providence*

**June 11 & 12, 2021**

Saint Mary Help of Christians Church  
 24588 County Road 7, St. Augusta, MN

