

Our Catholic Voice

February 2022

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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Contact us: stclouddiocesancw@gmail.com

Website: stclouddccw.org



Saint Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

President's Report Linda Borgerding

Well, I hope the New Year finds everyone in good health and good spirits. The new year is starting out fast and furious. It seems like there is always one more meeting to go to, one more report to write. I sit and wonder does all this make a difference? Does anyone care? I just finished reading * reports from Polly, Mary Jane, and Nita. I am reminded how important it is to look at things with a positive attitude. It makes such a difference and changes everything. For example, the St Benedicts Christian Women went Christmas caroling at Mother of Mercy Nursing Home. It is amazing how something so small that takes only 30 minutes can make so many so happy. I am not just talking about the residents. I could tell by looking at the women who came with us to sing, that they were happy also. That bringing joy to others brought joy and peace to them also.

Since our last meeting the deanery realignment board has been very busy. The Northwest Deanery now has a board. The Southwest Deanery is in process of holding meetings to help form a board. The Eastern Deanery is proceeding with their meetings with help of their new President, Nita Hayes. The Metro Deanery will have an interim president, Mary Alice Tomporowski. They will need to start having meetings with the Dean and leadership of the parishes women's groups. West Central Deanery will also need to start working meetings. We also held a leadership training and development session for our officers and commission chairs. It was held in Avon at St Benedict's and presented by NCCW via zoom.

So, whenever you are feeling overwhelmed by all there is to do, and you wonder if you can continue, remember this: when you look at each of our women's groups in our parishes and all the projects they run, and all the things they do for the church, not just the building but the people who are the church - you will see all the positive things they do to make our world a better place. If there is anything we can do to help, we need to do it. If we continue to trust in the lord, and trust in our faith we can accomplish so much good.

My youngest granddaughter Gracie sees me and comes running to me, yelling Grandma Linda, Grandma Linda and throws herself into my arms - what a feeling of total love and trust. That is how we need to meet our faith and to meet each other. Let's share that part of us, the warmth, joy and faith.



In Faith, Linda

DCCW PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

The Women's Lenten Retreat is coming up on Saturday, March 12, at Holy Family Parish in Belle Prairie. Watch for information in your parish bulletin and local newspapers. Feel free to help us spread the word and make additional copies (See poster and registration pages 11 & 12) to place in your local church, library, grocery store, post office, etc. We hope to see you there. Bring a friend!!

Pat Kasella Chair



Save the Date!

March 12, 2022

Women's Lenten Retreat

Holy Family Parish, Belle Prairie, MN

Sponsored by Saint Cloud Diocesan
Council of Catholic Women



Address: 18777 Riverwood Dr, Little Falls, MN 56345

DATES TO REMEMBER

2022

March 2, Ash Wednesday

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

April 17, Easter

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

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

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

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

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

CHURCH COMMISSION

Hello, I hope all of you had a blessed Christmas. Here we are in the new year of 2022, the whole year ahead of us, what will it bring? You as well as I know and realize all the uncertainties of life we are dealing with, and yes, it's scary and we have to be informed to act upon them when and if needed. Even though we would like to be a hermit and avoid what's happening in our world, we have to remember all the blessings we do have, ponder them in your heart and thank God for them. It's not easy and something we need to practice. We're not perfect, our families and so much in this world is not perfect, but out of that imperfection there's always something to be thankful for. The more we thank God, (that's a form of prayer) the more we will trust him, the easier it is to see his hand at work in our lives. Maybe this is a good New Year's resolution! (Take note to practice this, Jean!)

A couple of things I'd like to make you aware of. June 22 through 26, 2022 will be the 10th World Meeting of Families in Rome. Back on March 19, 2021 the church celebrated five years since the publication of the apostolic exhortation "Amoris Laetitia" on the beauty and joy and love in the family by Pope Francis was released. On that day he launched the year of "Amoris Laetitia Family" which will conclude on June 26, 2022 when the X World Meeting of Families occur in Rome with the Holy Father. (A couple of side notes, Amoris (uh-maw-ruhs) Laetitia (Li-ti-tia) means "The Joy of Love", so "Amoris Laetitia Family" means the Joy of Love in the Family. This world meeting was to take place in June of 2021, but because of the pandemic it was postponed until this year.)

Typically, the World Meeting of Families is every 3 years. Pope Francis wrote this exhortation in 2016. It is quite lengthy, 264 pages total, very good and in-depth and I only read the first dozen or so pages. Since then, a group, (heads of offices for family pastoral ministry from bishops' conferences, international movements and family associations) has been organizing the information into videos and talks calling it: "Walking with Families", 12 ways to walk with families following Amoris Laetitia. It is followed by the celebration with the Pope where he will explain the chapters of the apostolic exhortation, along with families who will give witness by sharing some aspects of their daily lives. Each month a new video will be released to enkindle pastoral interest in the family within dioceses and parishes around the world.

I called EWTN to see if they will be broadcasting this, they said it would be May before they know if they will be airing it. I'm including a prayer from the USCCB website for the X World Meeting of Families. My information of the World Meeting of Families is taken from the USCCB website and www.vaticannews.va.

Also, just a reminder to continue to pray for our Supreme Court Justices as they are reviewing the "Roe vs Wade" decision to be finalized in June.

Keep an eye out for info for next summer's pilgrimage, it's in prayer mode, asking guidance from the Holy Spirit what he wants us to do!

“When a flashlight grows dim or quits working, do you just throw it away? Of course not. You change the batteries. When a person messes up or finds themselves in a dark place, do you cast them aside? Of course not. You help them change their batteries. Some need:

- AA - attention and affection;
- AAA - attention, affection and acceptance
- C - Compassion;
- D - Direction.

And if they still don't seem to shine, simply sit with them quietly and share your light.”
(Taken from Grace and Mercy's Facebook page)



Prayer for the X Meeting of Families Family Love: Vocation and Path to Holiness

Heavenly Father,
We come before You to praise
You and to thank You for the great gift of family.
We pray to You for all families consecrated by the Sacrament of Matrimony.
May they rediscover each day the graces they have received,
and as small domestic churches,

may they know how to witness to Your presence and to the love with which Christ loves the Church.
We pray to You for all families faced with difficulty and suffering
caused by illness or circumstances of which only You know.
Sustain them and make them aware
of the path to holiness upon which You call them,
so that they might experience Your infinite mercy
and find new ways to grow in love.
We pray to You for children and young people.
May they encounter You and respond joyfully to the vocation You have in mind for them.
We pray for their parents and grandparents.
May they be aware that they are signs of the fatherhood and motherhood of God
in caring for the children who, in body and spirit,
You entrust to them, as well as in the experience of fraternity
that the family can give to the world.
Lord, grant that each family
might live their specific vocation to holiness in the Church
as a call to become missionary disciples,
in the service of life and peace,
in communion with our priests, religious, and all vocations in the Church.
Bless the World Meeting of Families in Rome. Amen

God Bless You!

Jean Zwillling, Chair

LEGISLATION CONCERNS COMMISSION

They began the second year of the 2021-2022 biennium on January 31, 2022. There are a number of legislative initiatives that are being carried over from the 2021 sessions. I have outlined some of them in the tables below. We will continue to keep an eye on these bills, as well as others that will surely be introduced during the next session.

MCCL CURRENT INITIATIVES:

Advocacy Area	Support/Oppose	Senate Bill	House Bill	Summary
Abortion	Support	SF1636	HF2180	Licensure for abortion facilities requirement and appropriation
Abortion	Support	SF1045	HF1099	State-sponsored health programs for funding abortions use limitation

MN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE INITIATIVES: MN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE INITIATIVES:

Advocacy Area	Support/Oppose	Senate Bill	House Bill	Summary
Education	Support	SF1153	HF153	K-12 education expense tax subtraction and credit modifications
Education	Support	SF260	HF308	K-12 scholarship donation tax credit provided.
Education	Support	SF1525	HF1528	Education savings account created as student learning option,
Education	Support	SF627		Safe-schools revenue program modification and appropriation
Health Care	Support	SF29	HF7	Earned sick and safe time authorization and appropriation
Immigration	Support		HF1163	Noncompliant driver's license or ID card requirements modified;
Immigration	Support	SF812		Nonresident alien and alien term replacement by revisor with undocumented immigrant authorization
Labor & Economics	Support	SF841	HF39	Rehire and retention protections provided for laid-off workers during a declared emergency
Life & Bioethics	Support	SF212		Choose Life special motor vehicle license plate establishment
Poor & Vulnerable	Support		HF42	OVID-19; emergency services, isolation spaces, and housing support funding provided; and money appropriated.
Poor & Vulnerable	Support		HF102	Consumer short-term and small loan interest rates regulated.
Poor & Vulnerable	Support	SF432	HF336	Drivers' license suspension authority of commissioner of public safety modified

Poor & Vulnerable	Support		HF601	Housing support modified.
Poor & Vulnerable	Support	SF1010	HF876	Right to vote restored to individual convicted of a felony upon completion of any term of incarceration imposed and executed by a court for the offense.
Education	Oppose	SF632	HF358	Education commissioner required to develop a model program for sexual health education, and report required.
Health Care	Oppose	SF2554	HF2634	Immunization exemption removed.
Life & Bioethics	Oppose	SF731	HF259	Reproductive health rights established.
Life & Bioethics	Oppose	SF342	HF406/HF726	Gender equality provided under law, and constitutional amendment proposed.
Life & Bioethics	Oppose	SF1352	HF1358	Terminally ill adult end-of-life option established.
Poor & Vulnerable	Oppose		HF600	Omnibus cannabis bill.

CHILD PROTECTION LEAGUE INITIATIVES:

Support/Oppose	Senate Bill	House Bill	Summary
Support	SF1609	HF232	removes the K-12 school exemption to the MN obscenity statute.
Support	SF1016	HF467	requires K-12 school online research database services to BLOCK access to porn and other obscene materials as defined in MN statute.
Support	SF1220/SF1826	HF229/HF226	Sexually explicit materials involving children penalties increase for creation, distribution, and possession
Support		HF1657	Male student participation in female athletics restricted, male access to female changing facilities restricted,
Oppose	SF632	HF358	Education commissioner required to develop a model program for sexual health education, and report required.
Oppose		HF874	Fundamental right to quality public education for all children provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.
Oppose	SF342	HF726/HF727	Equal rights amendment - unlimited number of gender identities; erasing the meaning of male and female

Mary Griffith, Chair

COMMUNITY

Community at this time of year is so evident to all. Our small community has done wonderful things. Meals on Wheels, Food Shelf, Funeral Groups, the Giving Tree, Christmas Caroling, all are signs of belief that God is with us when we share with others.

There are social media reports of even young children doing good for others. One young girl gathered gifts to bring to the hospital for the children who had to be there over Christmas. This girl was hospitalized the previous year and knew how sad it is to be away from friends at Christmas. A young boy and his mother shoveled sidewalks in the cities for \$5 a house. They just wanted to help people.

Sharing with others can just be a smile or being kind. On Christmas Day I left to pick up my handicapped son to bring to Mass when I noticed the low air tire light in my car. I pulled along the road, put my flashers on and got out of the car to check them before I got on the interstate. A truck had passed me but stopped, backed up to see if all was ok. A young couple who I knew asked if there was a problem. I thanked them & explained the light and they agreed with me that the cold weather had probably set it off. Merry Christmas, thanks for stopping and off I went. Just that little bit of kindness made me experience the goodness of people and isn't that what Christmas is?

Now that January is upon us how do we keep that joy and sharing going? The pandemic hasn't been kind and people are still suffering. Reading the newspaper can reveal that drug abuse, theft, spousal abuse, are still happening.

My prayer to you is, "Jesus show us the way. Let us find the goodness in people".

Polly Rabideau, Chair



RURAL LIFE COMMISSION

All farms are not alike. Some farms specialize in livestock, some in crops. There are farms that have livestock and crops. It is good to specialize in one area, but also to remember the saying, “Don't put all your eggs in one basket.”

There are different ways to diversify in farming. Most farmers grow different types of crops, or have more than one kind of livestock. There are farmers who do custom work, such as hay baling, chopping corn silage, or manure hauling. Not only does this help the custom operator by generating more income, it benefits the customer because then not everyone has to buy a full line of expensive machinery.

Jer-Lindy Farm, near Padua, MN established Redhead Creamery on the family dairy farm in 2013. Since then, they have been making “ridiculously” good, artisan cheese. They welcome visitors to their on-farm cheese shop, and offer farm tours of their dairy farm and cheese making facilities. Here visitors will learn where their food comes from.

Bruders Butcher in Melrose, MN is a family-owned meat market. Their family farm, which is also located near Padua, MN, supplies the beef that is sold at their market. Their beef is raised on pasture during the warmer months of the year. The family takes pride in growing high quality beef for their consumers. They also built a USDA inspected facility to slaughter the cattle right on the farm.

In the Oct, 2021 issue of Country Acres there is an article about the Panther Distillery in Osakis. The distillery buys corn and small grain from local farmers to make whiskey. Two of those farmers work at the distillery. One is the master distiller and general manager. The other farmer works in commodities, maintenance, and as a distiller's assistant. They feed the by-products, distillers' grain, to their beef cattle.

There are all sorts of information to be found on the internet. Eric Weaver started his You Tube channel, the “10th Generation Dairyman” to promote the dairy industry. Eric farms with his family near New Holland, Pennsylvania.

A young girl, Laura Wilson started her You Tube channel, “Laura Farms.” She is a 5th generation farmer in south central Nebraska. She is proud to be helping her family farm 2000 acres and manage a cow/calf operation.

Closer to home, Zach Johnson, also known as the “Millennial farmer,” farms near Lowry, MN. He started his You Tube channel after he started seeing misinformation about the agriculture business on social media. He wants to show people the truth about what goes on at a family farm. His side income will help the next generation to farm. He now makes more money through You Tube than he does farming.

The Peterson Farm Brothers, from Kansas, entertain and educate viewers about farming with their videos. The three brother's latest video is, “Farmin Like” (Fancy Like Parody). At the end of the video they wrote, “Big farms, small farms, old stuff, new stuff...We need all types of farms”!

Toni Borgerding, Chair

“Strive to improve every day, but remember
to be thankful and content”!

1 Timothy 6:6-8

Eastern Deanery

Hello! I accepted the role of President for the Eastern Deanery to support the St. Cloud diocese restructure efforts. At our first meeting January 15th, 2022, we ask for input. Whether you attend this meeting or miss the opportunity, it is not too late to grow in faith with us. Contact me if you would like to receive email updates at nitahayes@live.com. All Catholic women of age nineteen and above are members of the Council of Catholic Women (CCW) automatically by being a member of your parish. We invite you to participate in our women's gatherings/ events.

As women of faith, we join together to let God's light shine within us and through us to others. You are exactly the person Jesus is calling! Jesus is present whenever two or more are gathered together to pray. God's great commandment is to love Him above all and to love others, as you love yourself. That implores us to reach out and love your neighbor through your actions. He asks us to see the face of Jesus in others and serve one another, to pray together, work with one another, and have fun together as we gather in faith. The key word is *together*. There is *power* in acting together and praying together. Our zoom participants are welcome also, if you cannot attend in person.

Last year, my infant grandchild died unexpectedly. It was the prayers of many Catholic women that sustained us in our grief. I felt the *power* of their prayers, the renewed grace, and have such gratitude for their prayers and friendship through this loss. From this personal experience, I realize even more, the importance of our faith community and reach out to encourage you to not take the journey of faith alone. Join us, expand your circle of friends and expand your walk of faith. I hope to see you at future gatherings. In Jesus' name,

Nita Hayes, President

NORTHWESTERN DEANERY

Hi, my name is Bonnie Jennen and I will be the interim President for the North Western Deanery. I grew up in Menahga on a farm and now I live by a beautiful Lake called Heilberger. My Husband Dave and I have been married for 46 years; we have one daughter Michelle. We attend the St. James Parish in Maine Township which is by the picturesque Pickerel Lake. My career of 41 years was in Dentistry as a Certificated and Licensed Dental Assistant, and have done mission work with the Minnesota Mission of Mercy and the Christian Dental Society. I was the Faith Formation Coordinator for ten years at St. James. Currently I continue my love of being a Faith Formation teacher for the third and fourth graders at St. James, where I work with Liturgy, CCW treasurer, Circle 3 President, and help lead the Ecumenical Bible Study every Friday morning.

In this New Year of 2022, we are having the birth of a New Deanery. In the interim stages in the rebirth within the North Western Deanery of 36 parishes coming together in Christ to celebrate our faith and community with one another. We pray that God will bless us by sending His Holy Spirit to guide us in our journey of Faith. God alone is our Hope for he gives us our steadfast faith as we put our trust in Him. He gives us all his mercy new every morning as we praise and thank Him for our day. It will be a joy and blessing to work with and meet the people within this deanery. Something to place on your calendar is:

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

God's Peace, Bonnie Jennen, President

ORGANIZATION

I have not had a lot of time to find a subject to write a report about. I have been experiencing a lot of life's lessons. We have had a death in the family. It was a long time coming, after a bout with chemo and the help of a prayer line.

One begins to believe that prayer will continue to get us through anything. The COVID threw all for another loop: the extended hospital stays and more than a few hours on the prayer line.

Our faith in the power of prayer is fully intact. We have been brought to our knees with a new awareness that praying to God to heal does not always mean that the answer will be in a way we were expecting. God's healing came in the way of a peaceful death, with the gift of being able to say good-bye to each child and a loving wife. God's answer to our prayers came with a calm and happy death and a home in heaven.

Until now I had not spent much time pondering the different ways in which our prayers were answered, always expecting that illnesses went away and injuries were healed.

Lois Wesbur, Chair

INFORMATION TECHNICIAN

"The times they are a changing." We are trying to keep up. This newsletter comes to you in a paper copy. Want less Paper? Want to keep this information? Contact us and we can send it to you by email: aroelike8@gmail.com or stclouddiocesancw@gmail.com. Look at the website, some of the older newsletters can be found there.

One of the good things to happen during the pandemic was /is the livestreaming that is happening. (We can watch the grandkids play sports!) We are working to present Retreats and Conferences online. If you're interested, when you register, please include your email address so we can send you the link. If you'd like to help us with the filming, please contact us.

The deaneries have changed and we're working to make that transition easier for all of you, please see the article on page 11.

We are working on the new directory of parishes and officers. With all the changes, it has been a little daunting. We're getting there. Please send a message if you are still an officer in your parish women's group. If not, who is your replacement? Please send her name and contact information: aroelike8@gmail.com or stclouddiocesancw@gmail.com

Please remember that all Catholic women are included in CCW (Council of Catholic Women) whether you are CCW, Christian Mothers, Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Daughters of Isabella, Peter Claver, Altar group, Mission group or any other. This was promulgated by Bishop Peter W Bartholome in 1957 here in the St Cloud Diocese. CCW was founded in 1920 by the USCCB to bring our organizations together. We are duplicating each other in many programs and projects, but NCCW can provide many resources for all of us to share. We can work together and accomplish so much.

Aileen Roelike, Technician/Webmaster

“Lord Teach Us to Pray”

Women’s Lenten Retreat
Registration form
Holy Family Parish
18777 Riverwood Drive, Little Falls MN 56345
March 12, 2022

Please include phone number and/or email in case of cancellation.
Email addresses are needed for us to send you the link for livestreaming.

Name of attendees for ID badges

1. Name _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

2. Name _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

3. Name _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

4. Name _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

5. Name _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

Parish _____ City _____

Prepaid registration: \$15.00 before March 1, 2022

\$20.00 Late or at the door

(includes Mass, speakers, handouts and luncheon)

\$5.00 Livestream *(Send email for link)*

NONREFUNDABLE

ENCLOSED: NUMBER of attendees ___ x\$5 or ___ x\$15 or ___ \$20 = \$ _____

Write checks to Saint Cloud DCCW

Send registrations to:

St Cloud DCCW c/o Lora Knafla, 11719 16th Avenue NW Rice, MN 56367

Hosted by: Northwest Deanery CCW

Sponsored by: Saint Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT

HOLY FAMILY PARISH, BELLE PRAIRIE

March 12, 2022

18777 Riverwood Drive, Little Falls MN 56345

8:30 AM Registration
Refreshments

**9:00 AM Father Brady
Keller**

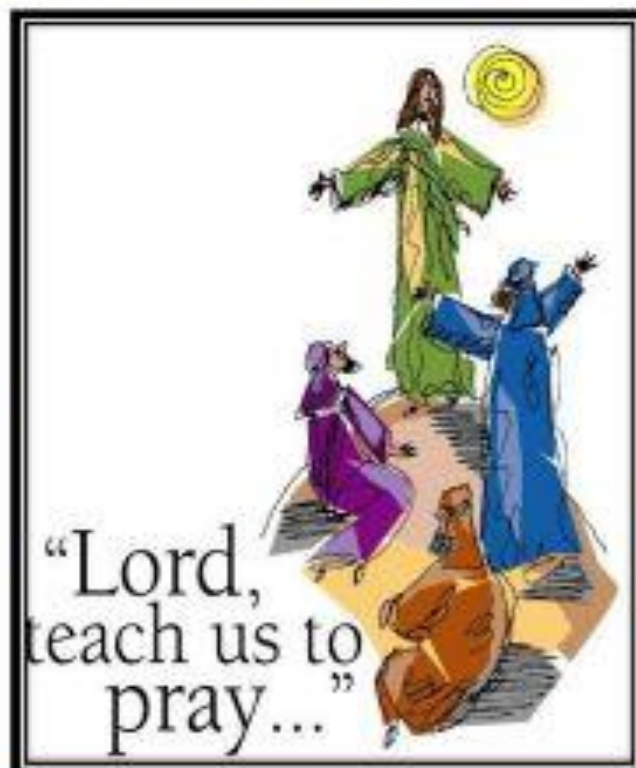
11 AM Mass

Noon Lunch

**1:00 PM Leah Brix/Abby
Thomas**

Handicapped accessible
Masking may be required
Special Diet? Call ahead

Information: Linda Scepurek
320-632-4805



\$15 before March 1, 2022
\$20 after March 1 or walk-in
\$5.00 Livestream, send email for the link
Checks payable to St Cloud DCCW
Send registrations to:
St Cloud DCCW c/o Lora Knafka
11719 16th Avenue NW Rice, MN 56367



Sponsored by Saint Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Website: stcloudccw.org email stclouddiocesanccw@gmail.com

Hosted by Northwest Deanery