

Our Catholic Voice

May 2019

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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Contact us: stclouddiocesanccw@gmail.com

Website: stclouddccw.org



Saint Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Cheryl Weller

320-346-2710 cwanne@Yahoo.com

Thank you to the parishes in the Melrose/ Sauk Centre Deanery for organizing our Spring Lenten Retreat. Using the theme of “The Dignity of Women” with song, scripture, and silent reflection, over 200 women of our St. Cloud Diocese took part in the retreat. The Seven Dolors Catholic Church of Albany was spacious and all the women who helped with registration and meals were gracious! My personal challenge was to learn prayers in Latin to take part in the International Rosary. Thanks, also, to Deb Rudolph as our retreat leader who encouraged us to be women of dignity, living and proclaiming Jesus and his love for all people.

As we finish the Easter season, may we continue to keep hope in our hearts. As a guest at the Duluth Diocese Spring Convention, I heard Fr. Paul Fruth, Spiritual Advisor for over 20 years, speak on hope. Yes, “Faith” is important, and according to Corinthians “Love” is the greatest of all. But “Hope” is surely needed in our country of the United States today. For those farmers whose land has been flooded, hope will carry them through the growing season. For those families whose homes were damaged by tornadoes, hope will encourage them to move past the destruction and rebuild. For those immigrants escaping life-threatening situations in their homelands, hope will propel them to seek safety. And the list goes on... Fr. Fruth also reminded us to not give up on prayer even though we feel our prayers are not being answered. We don’t know God’s plan for us, but we continue to pray and to do his will here on earth.



Please mark on your calendar our wonderful ‘Fun, Food, and Fund Day’ coming June 25, 2019 at St. Augustine Catholic Church in St. Cloud. Our numbers keep increasing and new friendships are made. Come for Mass, for the silent auction items, and for the food and entertainment. I hope to see you there!

Cheryl Weller, President

PROVINCE DIRECTOR REPORT

I would like to share some final thoughts with you as my time as Province Director is coming to a close.

Personal - My husband and I have had a challenging few weeks. Our youngest daughter, Lindsey, fell and broke both ankles. She has 2 screws in the right leg and a plate and many screws in left leg. She is non-weight bearing so is in a rehab center and will be for at least a month. This is the daughter who, at age 21, had a brain tumor and had 18 surgeries before removal of the tumor. She has memory issues so I am her main source of support. With my husband’s Parkinson’s disease, I sometimes feel pulled in many directions. I thank God for my faith, family and friends.

Local - Our parish, like so many others, is going through reorganizing again. We will be clustered with a new group again, so that is challenging.

Diocese - Our Spring Retreat was held in March and we had over 200 women attend. We began the day with an International Rosary - praying in English, Spanish, German, Polish and Latin. For the retreat we used the material from *"Dignity of Women"* that was written by the NCCW Spirituality Commission, of which I am a member. It was well received, so I want to encourage you to use the materials that are put out by the NCCW commissions.



Province - I am still waiting to confirm the dates for our 2020 Province Conference, but it is tentatively set for June 19 & 20, 2020 to be held at St. Mary Help of Christians, St. Augusta, Minnesota. It will be a celebration of our 100 years as the National Council of Catholic Women.

National - I will be traveling to Washington DC from May 31-June 3 for my last Province Board meeting. The time has really gone fast and it has been a wonderful learning and spiritual experience for me. I have met so many beautiful ladies from all parts of the country and they have helped me to grow in my faith and love for the church. We will be working on our presentation for the NCCW Convention to be held in Atlanta, Georgia from August 20-24.

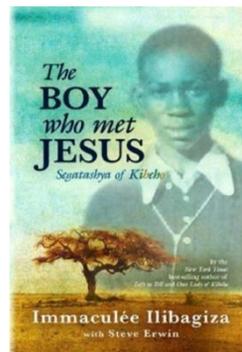
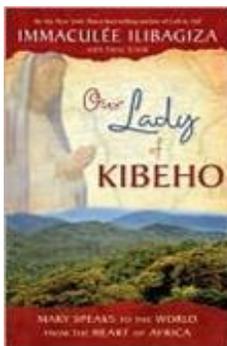
Thank you all for your love and support these past two years.

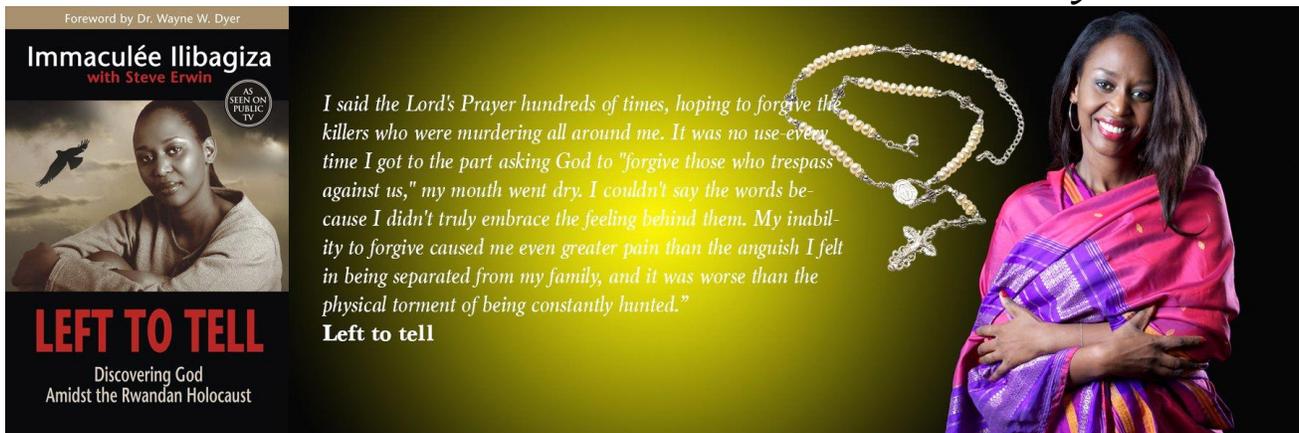
God's Peace

Irene Schmidt, Province Director

IMMACULÉE ILIBAGIZA

Have you read these books yet????





Immaculée Ilibagiza was born and raised in a small village in Rwanda, Africa. She enjoyed a peaceful childhood with her loving parents and three brothers. Education was very important in her household, so it was no surprise that she did well in school and went on to the National University of Rwanda to study electrical and mechanical engineering. It was while she was home from school on Easter break in 1994 that Immaculée's life was transformed forever.

On April 6 of that year, the Rwandan President's plane was shot down over the capital city of Kigali. This assassination of the Hutu president sparked months of massacres of Tutsi tribe members throughout the country. Not even small, rural communities like Immaculée's were spared from the house-by-house slaughtering of men, women and children.

To protect his only daughter from rape and murder, Immaculée's father told her to run to a local pastor's house for protection. The pastor quickly sheltered Immaculée and seven other women in a hidden 3 x 4-foot bathroom. For the next 91 days, Immaculée and the other women huddled silently in this small room, while the genocide raged outside the home and throughout the country.

While in hiding, anger and resentment were destroying Immaculée's mind, body and spirit. It was then that Immaculée turned to prayer. Prior to going to the pastor's home, Immaculée's father, a devout Catholic, gave her a set of rosary beads. She began to pray the rosary as a way of drowning out the anger inside her, and the evil outside the house. It was that turning point towards God and away from hate that saved Immaculée.

In addition to finding faith, peace, and hope during those three months of hiding, Immaculée also taught herself English. Immaculée was always a good student and already fluent in Kinyarwanda and French. Using only a Bible and a dictionary, she spent countless hours in that cramped bathroom learning her third language.

After 91 days, Immaculée was finally liberated from her hiding place only to face a horrific reality. Immaculée emerged from that small bathroom weighing just 65 pounds, and finding her entire family brutally murdered, with the exception of one brother who was studying abroad. She also found nearly one million of her extended family, friends, neighbors and fellow Rwandans massacred.

After the genocide, Immaculée came face-to-face with the man who killed her mother and one of her brothers. After enduring months of physical, mental and spiritual suffering, Immaculée was still able to offer the unthinkable, telling the man, "I forgive you."

In 1998, Immaculée emigrated from Rwanda to the United States where she continued her work for peace through the United Nations. During that time, she shared her story with co-workers and friends who were so impacted by her testimony they insisted she write it down. Three days after finishing her manuscript, she met best-selling author Dr. Wayne W. Dyer, who, within minutes of meeting her, offered to publish her book. Dyer is quoted as saying, "There is something much more than charisma at work here - Immaculée not only writes and speaks about unconditional love and forgiveness, but she radiates it wherever she goes."

Immaculée's first book, *Left to Tell; Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust* (Hay House) was released in March of 2006. *Left to Tell* quickly became a *New York Times* Best Seller. To date, it has been translated into seventeen languages and has sold over two million copies. Immaculée's story has also been made into a documentary entitled *The Diary of Immaculée*. She has appeared on 60 Minutes, The CBS Early Show, CNN, EWTN, CBS Evening News, The Aljazeera Network as well as in *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Newsday*, and many other domestic and international publications. She was recently featured in Michael Collopy's *Architects of Peace* project, which has honored legendary people like Mother Teresa, Jimmy Carter, Nelson Mandela and the Dalai Lama.

Immaculée has received honorary doctoral degrees from the University of Notre Dame, Saint John's University, Seton Hall University, Siena College, Walsh University and the Catholic University of America. She has been recognized and honored with numerous humanitarian awards including The Mahatma Gandhi International Award for Reconciliation and Peace, the American Legacy's Women of Strength & Courage Award and the 2015 National Speaker's Association's Master of Influence Award.

Left to Tell has received a Christopher Award "affirming the highest values of human spirit," and was chosen as *Outreach Magazine's* selection for "Best Outreach Testimony/Biography Resource of 2007." *Left to Tell* has been adopted into the curriculum of dozens of high schools and universities, including Villanova University, which selected it for their "One Book Program," making *Left to Tell* mandatory reading for its 6,000 students

Immaculée has written six additional books in recent years - *Led by Faith: Rising from the Ashes of the Rwandan Genocide*, *Our Lady of Kibeho*, *If Only We Had Listened*, *Visit from Heaven*, *The Boy Who Met Jesus*, and *The Rosary*.

Today, Immaculée is regarded as one of world's leading speakers on faith, hope and forgiveness. She has shared this universal message with world leaders, school children, multinational corporations, churches, and at events and conferences around the world, including a recent presentation to over 200,000 people in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

A major motion picture about her story was an international release in theaters in 2018.

Immaculée will be presenting her story at Saint Paul's Church in Sauk Centre this fall;
October 18-19, 2019.

JoAnn Lahr, Church Commission Chair

COMMUNITY COMMISSION

Our Lenten season has ended and we are in the Easter season. Lent is a time to pray more and work on strengthening our virtues. Let's not quit all of these, because our country badly needs prayers to end abortion and keep God in our country, schools, and buildings. The leftist group is

working on getting rid of God everywhere. Our country was founded with God as our leader. Do a daily family rosary for our 2020 election so the majority vote for all elected officials will be for pro-life candidates, who stand for life in all stages of life.

There are various ways to do service in our communities. I've said before I can only give suggestions because each community is different so you need to pick and choose what works for you. Some ideas would be: to have a monthly CCW breakfast at your parish, rummage sales (a good way to downsize or clean out closets, drawers etc.), donate blood or help work at blood drives, or offer to say the rosary before mass. With spring starting, see if your elderly neighbor needs house cleaning, yard cleanup or windows washed. Get a group of ladies willing to do something like that.

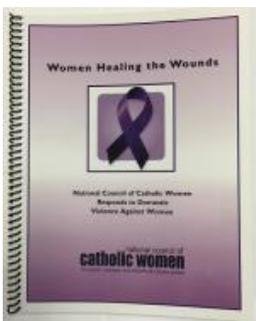
Some parishes have Mass on the first Saturdays with confessions and Benediction, the Rosary and Litany of the Blessed Mother.

The first Saturday of the month is also a day to pray for the end of Domestic Violence. The month of October is Domestic Violence Month so this gives you time to get educational material to hand out at deanery and parish meetings. You can get this information from nccw.org. We need to educate our future generations. There is still a great need for this.

Read the following - - -

- Domestic Violence is the third leading cause of **homelessness in families**
- Every year women lose **8,000,000** days of paid **work due to abuse**
- Number of American **troops killed** in Afghanistan & Iraq 2001-2012: **6488**
- Number of American **women murdered** by current or ex-partners during the same time **11,766**
- **Power and abuse issues** are rampant in today's middle schools
- Children who run away from homes of abuse are **targets for human trafficking**
- Abusers force the **abortion of babies**

Go to nccw.org, the front page, click the box to obtain the resource and print. Everything you need is included to present an educational event in your parish.



The mission is to **Heal the Wounds Forever!**
(This is one of the resources from the NCCW.org website.)

Prayer to End Domestic Violence

“O God, our world at times is divided and hostile. Some people consider themselves dominant over others based on gender, race, color, class or status. Through your Son’s cross our world can be reconciled; the walls of hostility can be broken. We pray for all women who experience the pain and suffering of violence, that they may feel your healing touch and be at peace in your living embrace. We pray for those who victimize and abuse others, that they may see the errors of their sins and seek repentance. Through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel, may we understand and support those who may come to us for help. We ask these things through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen”

Human trafficking is high in Minnesota so be sure all junior high and high school students are aware of how they can be coerced into going with a person working for a human trafficker. It is a modern form of slavery and very harmful to our young children.

Catholic reading material is available such as the Bible, anything written by our Popes, Matthew Kelly and Allen Hunt, The Catholic Digest. Go to any Catholic book store to find Catholic books or go online to DynamicCatholic.com, or The CatholicCompany.com.

Praying you had a Blessed Easter season and have a joyful summer.

Margaret Schluender, Chair

FAMILY COMMISSION

Lent and Children

I know – by this time Lent is over and you are wondering why I am writing about Lent. But I’m writing this during early April and thinking about the three pillars of Lent we should be doing as Resurrection People – Fasting, Prayer, and Almsgiving. I’d like to spend a little time on each of these as they relate to teaching young children. (And we don’t need to wait for Lent 2020 to practice these!)

Fasting

Children usually associate this with giving up some food they love – like candy. But fasting isn’t only about food. How about giving up some gaming time? Maybe limiting to 1-2 hours a day? Better yet, spend the time biking with a buddy, or playing outside with friends, or playing board games with your siblings, etc. What about limiting phone time – maybe eliminating social media and only taking live voice calls (person to person instead of texting, Twitter, Facebook, etc.). Or perhaps giving up a favorite TV show that they watch every day or week? Kids need to understand (as we adults also should understand) that just because they give up one thing, doesn’t mean they can over-indulge on another

thing. For example, not using Facebook doesn't mean you can switch to using Twitter instead. Focus should be on connecting with others in a real-time, preferably face-to-face conversation.

The important thing to teach children about fasting is that it is important for us to learn to discipline ourselves so we can say "NO" to temptations. Discipline is an important skill for all of us (children included) to learn. Discipline gives us control over our body and lives. Lack of discipline can lead us to many problematic situations – overeating, dependence on chemicals/alcohol, isolation from family members and friends, disrespectful language, inappropriate sexual conduct, etc. Fasting is a learning tool to teach us about living life joyfully.

Prayer

Prayer and the different levels of prayer are things I struggle with – I always tend to make prayer more difficult than it is. I know a young child of 9 who has no adult to guide him to Jesus. I've prayed diligently on what to do in this situation – I don't feel qualified to intervene. He doesn't live close to me, so it's not like I see him often. My first challenge is how to connect with him. I don't know where to begin. Today our parish priest, at the end of his homily, referred to the frequently mentioned Bible phrase: "Be Not Afraid." Suddenly I knew that I should forge ahead. And then today in listening to Relevant Radio, one of the guests said something like: "God doesn't call only the qualified; he qualifies those who are called." I know that God is hearing me and will help me through this.

I don't want to intimidate this young man – I just need to explain that Jesus is his friend and will always love him, regardless of how good or bad he has been. I will try to explain that all he needs to do to "pray" is to tell Jesus about the things that have happened to him each day. And to ask Jesus to be with him always. Jesus will always love him – he doesn't need to earn that love. Learning to pray as a child is easy – can we all pray as a child prays?? How do we teach children to pray?

Almsgiving

For children, this might be the most difficult Lenten practice. So, we would think – but maybe not. Teaching children about money management should be something all parents/grandparents do. And part of that teaching should include the concept of supporting our Catholic community (the body of Christ). (The word Catholic has Greek roots meaning universal.) For almsgiving, we should teach children to donate God's gifts to his universal church. And money is a gift from God – it is not our money; it is God's money.



Teach your children to put aside a certain amount each week to be used for God's people – anyone in need of help. If they put their \$ in the Sunday collection, great. But they can also use it for charitable causes – a donation to a food shelf, a donation for the homeless, etc. Let them decide, and make sure it isn't YOUR money – it should be THEIR money. I recall my grandson who had a piggy bank – he brought it down one day and told his parents he wanted all his money to go to the homeless shelter. It was a whole \$42, but it was everything he had. It reminded me of the woman Jesus saw who donated two small copper coins (Mark 12:41-44).

God Bless and Help Us Evangelize Our Children.

Sheri Streasick, Chair

LEGISLATIVE CONCERNS

On Feb. 19, 2019 I attended the "Catholics at the Capitol" day program. Bus transportation was provided from the St. Cloud Pastoral Center, so there were many familiar faces on the bus. Our first stop was at the RiverCentre in St. Paul to register and receive our schedules and the information packets. We congregated at tables designated for our legislative districts.

The morning presentations included speakers Archbishop Charles Caput and Jim Caviezel (an actor who portrayed Jesus in a recent movie). Also, on the agenda for the morning were panel discussions by two state legislators, followed by another panel of three discussing how they got involved with advocacy for issues. Interspersed between speakers and discussions were a short video by Ms. Amy Klobuchar to Catholics and a couple of inspirational songs. The noon lunch consisted of a bag lunch, after which we were transported via bus to the State Capitol and office buildings.

The afternoon sessions consisted of meetings with our respective state senators and representatives. At the sessions our district leader engaged in conversations with the legislators and encouraged them to vote for 2 main issues that the bishops were advocating.

The first issue concerned regulating commercial surrogacy, asking them to pass the "Surrogacy Abuse Prevention Act: HF 1000/SF 1152" bill. I checked with MCC to get the status of the bill, but found no bill summaries to match those numbers. Apparently, there is an opposition bill being put forth, but I was not able to get that bill number. But we are encouraged to contact our legislators and ask them to oppose that bill, if and when it comes up for a vote.

The second issue is actually 4 bills concerning the "First 1,000 Days of Life" of a child. These bills are:

HF 909/SF 855 - Prenatal care service programs and funding governed and money appropriated;

HF 1167/SF _____ - Requiring a study on breastfeeding disparities;

HF 1226/SF _____ - Home visiting programs for families with young children;

HF 681/SF 340 - Pregnant and parent pupils transportation to qualified programs provided.

There were no summaries for these bills either, but they might be included in an Omnibus Bill. Many of these issues are brought forth at the beginning of the session, but might not be important enough to get action on them.

Both of the legislators in our group were in favor of passage of those bills. Also, on the agenda were opportunities to pray the rosary and take tours of the capitol. At the end of the day there was a closing ceremony in the beautifully renovated Capitol rotunda. Then we were dismissed and boarded our buses back to our destinations.

Another bill which was carried over from the previous year was the "Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit" bill.

That bill would provide opportunity scholarships to students from low-and-middle-income families to attend schools of their choice. They would be funded through private contributions made to non-profit scholarship granting organizations with 501© status. There are quite a few stipulations and regulations to determine eligibility. Contributions made will receive tax credits per an arranged schedule. Nearly 20 states are operating scholarship tax credit programs. The bill numbers are: HF1894 and SF1872

I found it interesting that the House list of summaries had more than 800 bills presented and the senate had more than 500, so is it any wonder that it seems they never get anything done. For more

Our Catholic Voice

May 2019

information regarding the bills proposed and advocated, please refer to the Minnesota State Legislature website - "MN STATE LEGISLATURE/BILLS/SUMMARIES" - click on the bill number and other options to access the information.

Jean Hopper, Chair



INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS REPORT JOURNEY TO SIERRA LEONE

A Life Story on what happens to your Rice Bowl Donations

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING FOCUS

Every person has basic rights that make life truly human. Corresponding to our rights, we all have duties and responsibilities to one another, us families and the larger society.

ENCOUNTER KUMBA

Waisa didn't spend a single day in school. When she was young, no one thought girls should receive an education. Plus, there was work to do. She helped her twelve siblings at her family's farm. She was responsible for helping her mom sell meat to their neighbors.

Now, things have changed in Sinkunia, a town in the north of Sierra Leone. Waisa knows the importance of education - especially for girls. "If there's education, Sierra Leone will develop," she says. "Our students will make sure of it." That's why Waisa insists that her 12-year-old granddaughter, Kumba, attends the nearby CRS-sponsored school, so she can learn how to make a difference in her community and her country. And, through the nutritious lunch that CRS gives to each student every day, Kumba and her classmates can focus on their studies and not on their hunger.

Kumba's favorite subject is math because she likes the challenge. And when she completes her education, she wants to be a nurse. A nurse, Kumba says, helps cure the sick, and if there were more nurses in Sinkunia, those who get sick wouldn't have to leave the town to get healthcare.

Waisa is proud of her granddaughter and continues to work hard to support her. With no shade from the hot sun, Waisa cares for the family's garden, watering eggplants, tomatoes, onions and more to be harvested and sold through the streets of Sinkunia. Kumba helps, too, visiting the garden every day after school. "I'm happy if I can support my daughters and granddaughters, even though university," Waisa says. With a smile, she adds, "I know

that educated girls help their parents and their communities."

SHARE THE JOURNEY

A good education doesn't just benefit the student. It benefits the family, the community, and the common good, allowing individuals to flourish without needing to leave home.

SIERRA LEONE -

FACTS TO CONSIDER

Population: 6,163,195

Size: 71,740 square miles; slightly smaller than South Carolina

■ ■ After a 10-year civil war in the 1990s, CRS projects in Sierra Leone are helping to rebuild the country with a focus on integrating peacebuilding.

■ ■ Rates of child and maternal mortality are high, levels of education are low, and, despite rich resource endowments and abundant land, more than 60 percent of Sierra Leoneans live on less than \$1.25 a day.

■ ■ The Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone in 2014 was the worst the world has seen, covering the entire country and causing thousands of deaths. CRS was one of the organizations on the front lines controlling the outbreak.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

For downloadable photos, visit crsricebowl.org/photos and watch a video about Kumba at crsricebowl.org/stories.

Joyce Simones, Chair

ORGANIZATION COMMISSION

Have you ever been to lunch with 60 ladies and no one talks? That was the Silent Retreat in Buffalo, MN The theme was "Be Patient in Affliction." The first message, we received was that the most important thing is to show up.

Attitude is everything: affliction tips:

- 1) Don't become self-absorbed. Your affliction is not your identity.
- 2) share it with a friend. Affliction shared is affliction diminished. Don't go it alone. Stay connected.
- 3) Don't waste a good crisis/cross. What am I learning? Affliction can be a good teacher.
- 4) Pray for acceptance and surrender (We are not in charge)
- 5) Comfort an afflicted person.
- 6) Focus on what you have left and not what you lost.
- 7) Affliction is temporary. God's light and love are eternal. The best is yet to come.
- 8) Take it to the Lord in prayer. Discover and rediscover love.

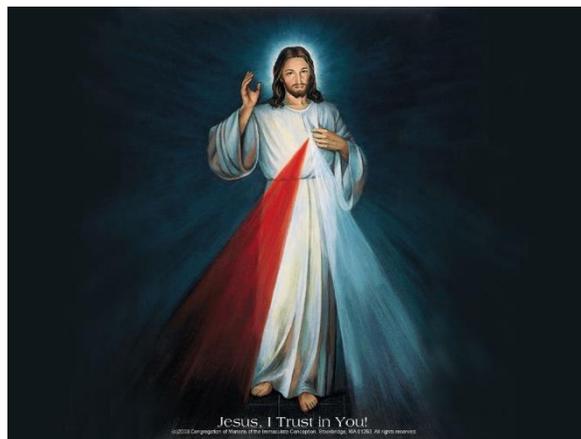
So, I showed up for **Catholics at the Capital**. We met with our representatives at the Capital. I met with Rep Ron Kresha and Sr Paul Gazelka We asked them to support 2 bills that the Catholics stand for

- The First 1000 Days of a Child's Life. It is to help to ensure children have the care and resources to reach their full developmental potential.
- The second one is "Not for Rent, Not for Sale." about surrogacy industry.

I showed up for our Lenten Mission held at Our Lady of Lourdes church on the life of Jesus. Then our tri parish did a study on "33 days of Morning Glory" and now is doing "33 days to Merciful Love" We ended on Divine Mercury Sunday.

Eighty percent of the time showing up is the most important thing- So show up to volunteer, for meeting, or just to see how your neighbor is doing.

Linda J. Saponek



VOLUNTEER (JOB) OPPORTUNITY

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE OF THE SAINT CLOUD DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN IS NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR THE OFFICES OF **VICE-PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY** FOR THE TERM OF 2019-2021 PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS IF YOU ARE INTERESTED OR IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO MAY BE INTERESTED.

CONTACT CHAIR:

EVA KOEP eakoep@arvig.net, 763-218-2057

OR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ARLEEN ROELIKE, aroelike8@gmail.com , 320-282-9941

LINDA BORGERDING, lborger77@gmail.com, 320-293-1839

RURAL COMMISSION

According to the calendar, it is spring. But because of the latest snowstorm, it doesn't seem to be. This is a concern for farmers. April is the time when farmers usually start spring fieldwork. It is time to seed small grains such as oats, barley, & wheat. Most farmers like to plant corn the last week of April. That might not happen this year.

Farmers in Nebraska, So Dakota, and Iowa have bigger concerns. During the month of March, over 1 million acres of U.S. farm land were flooded with water for over 7 days. Many people were affected by the flooding. In eastern NE, along the river, 20 towns were evacuated. More than 4400 people had to evacuate their homes. At least 3 people lost their lives. One was a farmer who died when he went out in his tractor to try to rescue someone who was stranded in the water. A bridge collapsed as he was driving over it.

Nebraska's governor called the flooding, "the most widespread destruction we've ever seen in our state's history." He said, "No group of Nebraskans have been hit harder by the floods than the state's farmers". Damage to farms and livestock deaths are estimated to be over 1 billion dollars. The headline on an article that I read was, "Midwest Flooding Devastates Farmers". One farmer lost over 700 head of hogs. He saved only 14. As many as a million calves were lost in Nebraska. This was the worst flooding that Nebraska has ever experienced. Farmers might not be able to plant their crops this spring. They also lost their crop that was stored in grain bins. The water seeped into the bins causing the corn or beans to swell so the bins burst open causing the grain to spill out, in the water.

There is some good news in the midst of this disaster. Nebraska farmers have received donations of hay from across the United States. An article in the Agri News newspaper talked about a 17-year-old girl, from Michigan, who spent her spring break from school helping her dad deliver hay to Nebraskan farmers. They have delivered hay from 7 states. Farm Rescue is the organization they were working with. Many strangers are helping those in need.

So here in Central MN, an April snow storm doesn't seem so bad. The sun will slowly melt the snow, and although it may be later than we hoped, the fields will dry up, and we will be able to plant our crops. Springtime is a time for new life. A time for Hope!

On the home front, Joe had his last check-up for his leg today. The x ray showed that his fractures are healing nicely. He is looking forward to getting in the tractor to work the land. He has been known to say, "I can till the ground, plant the seed, and cultivate it. But I cannot make it grow." He needs God to help with that. With springtime comes a feeling of anticipation, a time to rely on Faith.

If you need help: MN Farm & Rural Helpline: 833-600-2670 x 1 or Rural Mental Health Counselor: 320-266-2390 or National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-8255 or Crisis Text Line: Text MN to 741741

Toni Borgerding, Chair

Farmer's prayer: *Lord, bless the land You've given me,
And may I always know As I tend each crop and creature
You're the One who helps them grow.
Grant me strength and wisdom; Please protect me from all harm,
And thank You for Your gracious gift – the blessing of a farm.*
R Fogle

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Getting the word out about upcoming events sponsored by the Diocesan Council of Catholic Woman is my job. It's not always easy to do. I use emails as much as possible but sometimes I have the wrong address or their electronic mail box is full and messages are not delivered. For the Retreat which was held in March I needed to resort to snail mail (post cards) to deliver some of my news releases.

I was encouraged by the attendance at the Retreat and I noted that publicity is being seen in a number of places. Probably the best way to increase attendance is word of mouth and one on one. So, invite a friend to go with you to our Fun, Food and Fund Day to be held Tuesday, June 25, 2019 at St. Augustine, St. Cloud and Sept. 21, 2019 for the Annual Fall Conference to be held at St. Boniface, Cold Spring.

Many of you are members of AARP so most likely have read the latest issue of their Bulletin. April 2019. The entire magazine was devoted to how we can beat fraud. There are articles on how we can prevent scams and even catch the scammers.

One article I especially thought was helpful; was on tips to prevent scammers from stealing our money or information. There were 15 ideas listed. I choose a few which I thought were good reminders for me. One is to opt for electronic statements. If you use computers go paperless. Keep a shredder handy. Shred all bills and financial documents that you are throwing away. Never give out your social security number, if someone legitimately needs it, just give the last four numbers. Use mobile payments when paying bills when possible.

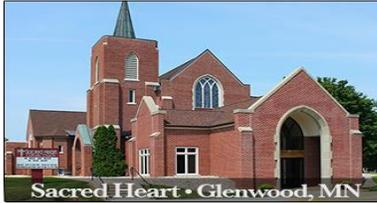
Cut down on scam calls. Add your name to the National Do Call Registry. Call 888 382-1222 from the phone you want to register, or go to donotcall.gov. Don't answer calls from numbers you don't recognize; be prepared to hang up. Do not respond to questions. Never say "yes", as it may be recorded and used for fraudulent reasons. Be wary of public Wi-Fi, do not use it to pay bills. Watch what you share. Don't reveal your location. Like posting on Facebook in real time. Wait until you get home to post those vacation pictures. I know I have been guilty of this all the time.

We are happy to be back to Minnesota after spending four months in South Texas and look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming diocesan functions.

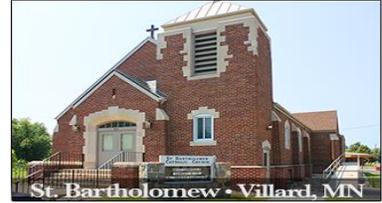
Together in Christ.

Julie Moorhead-Miller, Chair

ALEXANDRIA/MORRIS DEANERY



The
Catholic
Parishes of



SACRED HEART

105 N Franklin Street (location)
122 NW 1st St. (mailing address)
Glenwood, MN 56334
email: sheartchurch@gmail.com
Phone: (320) 634-3813

ST. BARTHOLOMEW

451 Lincoln Ave
Villard, MN 56385
email: sheartchurch@gmail.com
Phone: (320) 634-3813

Welcome!

Welcome to the parishes of Sacred Heart in Glenwood and St. Bartholomew in Villard. Together we serve about 600 families and offer a shared Faith Formation and Sacramental Program. We minister to several senior care residences, including Glenwood Retirement Community and Minnewaska Lutheran Home in Starbuck.

Please check out our site for information regarding Faith Formation, Sacraments, and Liturgy times.
Website: www.sacredheartglenwood.com

COLD SPRING DEANERY

We will be meeting soon to set up the September Conference. The location remains at St Boniface Catholic Church in Cold Spring. There will be some charges for the use of the facilities.

The future of the Cold Spring Deanery remains unknown at this time as parish clustering will impact our borders.

I was informed that the ladies from Paynesville no longer wish to be an active part of the DCCW but would like the information about DCCW events. They have been unable to get officers to do the meetings. A small group of ladies will meet quarterly just to stay connected.

I will be contacting those people who have agreed to do a part of the Fall conference to make sure things are going as planned and then have the entire committee meet in June.

Lois Wesbur, President

FOLEY PRINCETON DEANERY

We've sent out information letters to the parishes to secure workers/volunteers for the various jobs at the 2019 Fun Food Fund Day to be held Tuesday June 25, 2019 at Saint Augustine's parish in Saint Cloud'

We held a Lenten prayer service at the Heritage Center Chapel in Foley on Wednesday of Holy Week. A short version of the Stations of the Cross was followed by the Divine Mercy Chaplet using visual aids.

Our women's group organized the Divine Mercy Chaplet to be prayed each day at our church.

Mary Jo Fitzpatrick, President

LITTLES FALLS DEANERY

I attended the Women's Retreat entitled "Dignity of Women" in Albany on March 16th in which I had time to journal and reflect on myself as a Catholic woman.

I also have been attending a weekly bible study - studying women in the bible such as Eve, Mary, Hannah, etc. They all portray themselves as very strong women in their time. It has given me different insight to scripture, along with a video. I also have enjoyed the company of new people and their views.

I have attended a few quilt and ham bingos in the surrounding areas.

In April, my husband and I went to the spaghetti supper at the St. Francis Convent in Little Falls to support the Franciscan Music Center. As always, the food was delicious along with wonderful people to visit with.

My Lenten journey is almost ending. The one thing I have learned this season is - even if I have sinned and not listened and prayed daily to the Lord, He is always there to take me back.

Darlene Nix, President

MELROSE/SAUK CENTRE DEANERY

Here I am patiently awaiting some wonderful warm weather. I want to see the green grass growing and flowers in bloom, all a welcome sign of new life; enjoying time with new friends and family. To me everything seems better in spring and summer.

I would like to thank all the wonderful women of the deanery, for all the hard work they put into making the Spring Lenten Retreat a wonderful success. I also want to thank everyone who attended the retreat; without you there would have been no success. Deb Rudolph did an awesome job leading the retreat. Irene Schmidt and her troop did a wonderful job with the international rosary. Thank You.

I also would like to thank Geralyn Nathe-Evans for the great talk she gave at our Spring General meeting at Sacred Heart, Freeport; it was great. I know she touched many hearts. Also, thanks to

everyone participating in the general meeting, I enjoy listening to all the reports. I do wish we could get more women to step forward to take on one of the commissions.

I do think we are going to have a busy summer in all our parishes with our Church bazaars. In the coming months we will all be busy helping with First Communion, Confirmation, honoring our graduates and much more. Remember no matter how busy you are, make time for your friends and family and keep prayer in your lives.

In Faith,

Linda Borgerding, President

SAINT CLOUD DEANERY

Anna Marie's Alliance

This coming September 19, 2019 Anna Marie's Alliance will be celebrating 40 years of service to the St. Cloud community.

It all started with Maxine Barnett who independently knew of abused women needing help. She started with a house on the south side of St. Cloud and soon added the house next door with a walkway between the two. Maxine went to the city council for help but the councilmen didn't think there was a need for such a place in St. Cloud. It didn't take long before there was a need for more space. In the meantime, Maxine had been educating people about the need. Because of her effort the shelter was built.

During this time Paul Wellstone and his wife Sheila had heard about it and started giving a lot of support, as well as many other people who were now adding their support with money and other donations. The real Anna Marie had been helping monthly with the small amount of money she could afford for a long while - her heart went out to these women and their children. Eventually her son was able to give a substantial gift which allowed for that first building to be built.

Anna had been wanting to meet Maxine. When they did meet, they became fast friends. At this time, people were feeling the need to change the name of the place. While they pondered a new name, a staff member suggested "Anna Marie is such a beautiful name." There it was. The name of a real person is warmer, less institutional than a name like "Woman House."

Both Anna Marie and Maxine have passed on, but their names and what they strived for will live on. This all happened because of Maxine's tenacity and smarts and Anna's heart. Future plans are to build apartments for the women and their children so they can be together as a family with their own kitchen, bedrooms, and living area. Right now, they all eat together in a cafeteria.

Educators come and talk to the middle and high schoolers about appropriate relationships. Older children get help with their homework. There is a room for the little ones

and also a playground for them.

The women receive help on how to deal with their children. They also are encouraged to figure out what kind of job would be good for them and to set goals to achieve that job. An area has been set aside for pets so that these "important family members" may also come to the shelter.

Until recently, the location of Anna Marie's was kept a secret. One only heard of it by word of mouth. Now, with the new addition, it is an open peace center where families can learn to live in peace. "All of us are Peacekeepers" is the heading on their written updates. They are being advertised on "White Cloud". And, they are seriously grateful for donations. A place with at least 40 bathrooms can never have enough toilet paper! (hint, hint) Website: annamarie's.org

Mary Alice Tomporowski, President

INFORMATION TECH/WEBMASTER

Please keep us informed to any officer changes you may have in your parishes or deaneries. It will help us get the mailings to the right persons. Another thing, we can put the dates of your events (meetings, festivals, bingo, brat sales, etc.) onto our calendars. That would be in the newsletter and on the website. We've found that social media can help get the word out. Please send pictures and other information you might like to share. Good ideas always catch the eye! Send the information to any of us or to stclouddiocesancw@gmail.com. Thanks!

Arleen Roelike

**THE SAINT CLOUD DIOCESAN CCW
INVITES YOU TO FUN, FOOD, FUND DAY!
COME ONE – COME ALL**

**St Cloud Diocesan
Council of Catholic Women**

FUN, FOOD AND FUND DAY

Tuesday, June 25, 2019

9:00am – 2:15pm

***St. Augustine's Catholic Church
442 2nd St. SE St. Cloud, MN***

SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY:

9:00am - Registration & Continental breakfast

9:30am - Icebreaker -Sowing seeds in the Gardens of the Bible

11:00am - Mass

12:15pm – Luncheon and Entertainment

1:15pm - Silent Auction closes

***To Register Contact: Janis Fagin
14585 - 31st St. Clear Lake MN 55319
612-202-1591***

***Registrations: On or before June 17th \$15.00
Walk-ins or after June 17th \$20.00***

CHECKS PAYABLE TO: FOLEY/PRINCETON DEANERY

***Enjoy wonderful entertainment while you share
fellowship, delicious food and browse the many
beautiful baskets in our silent auction.***

***Hosted by Foley/Princeton Deanery CCW
Facilities provided by St. Cloud Deanery CCW***