

Our Catholic Voice

May, 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.

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Saint Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Linda Borgerding, 320-293-1899

Spring is arriving, soon we will start to see the beauty of spring. We will see the grass turning green and little flowers starting to pop up everywhere. Spring is always such a wonderful, awesome time of the year. I really feel the love of our Lord when I see the beauty. We are so very fortunate to be living where we do.

My thoughts go often to the Ukrainians and how very much their lives, their homes and their county has changed in the last weeks. To think of how much, they have endured and how much more is still to come, how greatly their lives have changed. Instead of seeing the beauty of spring they are seeing destruction.

I know that many of us have had changes also these past months. I hope and pray that your families have the strength that you need to move forward. Continue to say prayers for the women on our board and their families. Please also add the families of Ukraine to your prayers. As I sit and ponder, I think we should also be praying for the people of Russia.

So far, 2022 has been very busy. Linda S. and Lois went to the ACCW board meeting in St. Paul. Several women volunteered at the Men's conference in February; thank you so much. The Spring Retreat was held on March 12th and was very successful. Thank you to all who worked so hard for the success of the retreat. Lois and I will be attending the ACCW Convention April 29th in Albertville. I will be attending the New Ulm Convention April 30th in Marshall.

The planning has started for the Fun, Food, and Fund Day to be held at St. Mary's in Melrose on June 16th. I am sure it will be lots of fun, please put it on your calendars and tell your friends.

Pope Francis declared the year of 2022, The Year of the Family, which will be ending June 26th. Why don't each of us do something for a family member in need. Maybe a letter or card to someone who is all alone. An extra hug for someone who is lonely or sad, or someone going through a lot. Maybe just a smile. Do an act of kindness. Love your families.



*In Faith,
Linda Borgerding.*

Hi! Happy Spring,

Just couldn't help but share this with all of you, maybe I have Spring Fever, getting "antsy" to get our fingers into the dirt, planting flowers and plants. Did you know that a lot of flowers or plants were named by our forefathers because of their relationship to Mary our Blessed Mother? They were named after her and or immortalized in legends that tells us about her attributes and significant moments in her life and that of her child Jesus.

Such an example would be Our Lady's birthday flower Aster Amellus: (botanical name) because it blooms around the feast of the nativity of our lady, September 8. Christianity has many symbols to enhance our spiritual life, a lamb or fish representing Christ. Grapes and wheat symbolize the Eucharist. A dove for the holy spirit. A peacock symbolizes eternal life with its "hundred eyed" tail which suggests an all-seeing God. Just like those symbols, Mary was and is kept alive through flowers and plants. "Mary Gardens" came from "garden enclosed" of the Song of Solomon's vision of her in a garden, sometimes called the paradise garden, and dedicated gardens to her with flowers and herbs that reminded them of her.

Here are some examples:

- The rose of many sorts associated with Mary, "the mystical rose of heaven".
- Lemon balm is called sweet Mary,
- Thyme was the virgin's humility.
- Rue was the herb of grace based on the use of its branches for sprinkling holy water and the name Mary's sword of sorrow.
- Dandelion is known as Mary's Bitter sorrow.

When Christianity reached Germany,

- Frauen-Schuhli (sweet clover) became "Our lady's Shoes".
- Frauen Manteli (Lady's Mantle) became "Mary's mantle" or "Our Lady's mantle".

Many Flowers have more than one meaning, whether it was an attribute to Mary or represented an event in Mary's life.

For example: Lily of the valley:

Attribute: also called ladder to heaven, symbol of humility. Tiny bell-shaped white flowers humbly bend downward.

Mary's life: Lilly of the valley, tiny white nodding bell shaped flowers can be likened to a train of tears.

There is an association of flowers for each mystery of the rosary especially the Joyful mysteries:

The Annunciation:

Madonna Lily, the Lily's upright cup is open as a vessel to receive. Strong, fragrant, turning gently to the light. In the Song of Solomon, it was used as a symbol of Mary's undivided availability for God, she is ever virgin, mother overshadowed by the Holy Spirit open and ready for his overflowing grace.

The Visitation:

Columbine (our Lady's shoes) The tiny flowers are said to have sprung up where ever Mary's foot touched the earth when she was on her way to visit her cousin, Elizabeth.

The Nativity: (3 flowers)

- 1) *Carnation* (Mary's love of God and Divine Flower) Marvelous mystery of God. Word made flesh, Incarnation; German legend says the Carnation bloomed on the night of Jesus's birth.
- 2) *Christmas Rose*: A young shepherd girl named Madelon was crying at the manger because she didn't have anything to bring Jesus. Angel Gabriel took her by the hand and Gabriel touched the frozen earth and immediately creamy white flowers flushed with pink sprung up everywhere, Madelon filled her arms with flowers to decorate Jesus's bed and stable.
- 2) *Our Lady's bedstraw*: Joseph spread dried straw and grasses, preparing a place for Mary to lay.

The Presentation:

Snowdrop: It is said to have bloomed on February 2nd, when Mary took Jesus to the temple to present him to God. It is an emblem of Our Lady's purity.

Finding of the child Jesus in the temple:

The *Strawberry* is the symbol of the virgin birth because of its unusual botanical characteristics of being a flower and fruit at the same time. The English name came from the verb "to strew" referring to the leafy runners which cover the ground, looking for places to attach itself and form a new plant. The runners must be carefully transplanted to ensure new growth. It is the same with the divine gifts, Mary shows us how to cultivate them and share them. A German legend says Our lady would go berry hunting with the children on June 24, Saint John the Baptist day. On that day any mother who lost a child would not taste a strawberry, for if she did her little one would get none in paradise

Poem:

Lilies for her purity,
Blue bells and morning glories for the cloak she wore;
Baby's Breath for the Child she nurtured,
And for her willing feet the Lady Slipper;
Foxglove to warm her gentle hand,
Sweet Woodruff (bedstraw) for her rest.

-Author Unknown

Some of you probably know this or heard this but I think it is always nice to have a refresher. I just love how way back when, our ancestors had prayer linked to everything all their day long. This ties in nicely to teach us that everything we do can be a prayer! There are so many more flowers attributed to Mary, but this gives you something to think about when you are doing your spring planting!



Blessing of Seeds at Planting Time

Lord of the harvest,
you placed the gifts of creation in our hands
and called us to till the earth and make it fruitful.

We ask your blessing
As we prepare to place these seeds
in the earth.

May the care we show these seedlings
remind us of your Tender love for your people.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Sprinkle seeds or seedlings with Holy Water)

Happy planting!! Jean Zwillling, Chair

CHURCH REPORT

God is Good! Yes, indeed He is, even in these turbulent times we are living in. We have to recognize the goodness of the Lord around us in everything we see. We all know this but I know I have to be reminded every day and somedays frequently! Media is necessary but it can drag us down quickly and we are in the 'pit' of hopelessness before we know it. So how do we skirt the 'pit'? I believe we need to immerse ourselves in prayer from the moment we get up in the morning. We have to plan our day; prayer should be a part of that plan. As St. Josemaria` states "If you don't have a plan of life, you'll never have order. If we do this, we will be aware of the nearness of God all day long." Prayer is one thing we can plan, then the rest is up to the Lord. I like starting off my day with "Good Morning Lord! I'm excited to see what you have in store for me today!" The Morning Offering is an excellent prayer to start every day as all our activities for the day are dedicated to the Lord.

The Morning Offering:

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, for the salvation of souls, the reparation of sins, the reunion of all Christians, and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father this month. Amen.

So, plan your day, make room for prayer and give God the best part of your day. If you feel like your prayer life is dry or you're play acting, think: Now is the moment that I can perform a human play for the divine spectator, God is the spectator, along with Mary our Mother and all the Angels and Saints. You are never alone!

The DCCW Lenten Retreat was excellent! We had around 100 attendees. The theme was "**Lord, Teach Us to Pray**". Fr. Brady Keller spoke on different types of prayer. He had so many good points but here are a couple that stood out for me:

- 1) We don't pray to change God's mind.
- 2) Prayer helps us desire what God is already offering us.
- 3) Take time for silence, we need silence for prayer to be conducive. In the silence God speaks.

Fr. Brady also took apart the Our Father; sentence by sentence, and explained it. Wow it's a jam-packed prayer! We have a lot to live up to, but God's grace is always there to help us.

The next powerful prayer is the Mass! Why? It's Jesus' prayer for us, we unite our daily sacrifices with Jesus on the altar. We need to prepare ourselves for mass, saying the Rosary is a powerful way to meditate on Jesus's life and then it continues in the Mass. That brings us to Adoration: We have conversation with God through Admiration of Him, His goodness, His promises, so important. Just Love Him in that Holy Moment! These are just a few points of his talk.

Our afternoon speakers, very gifted and spiritual girls, Leah and Abby are sisters, took us into prayer as "Daughter, Spouse and Mother". We need the Holy Spirit, He is the "hidden spouse" like Mary in the Magnificat, (Luke 1:26). One statement about the Holy Spirit they mentioned: "Ask the Holy Spirit to envelop our deepest desire and let Him birth it through You. Inviting Him in promotes unity and wholeness," Wow that is powerful! They offered so much more; you'll have to check the website out.

Father Brady's talk and our afternoon speakers, Leah Brix and Abby Thomas will be on the DCCW website: [stcloudccw.org](http://stclouddccw.org). Check them out! (Find the links to YouTube, coming soon!)

So that brings me to the most exciting news! The National Eucharistic Revival 2022-2024! The kickoff for our Diocese is Saturday June 18th at 1 pm at St. Mary's Cathedral, St. Cloud. There will be speakers, witness talks, activity, fellowship, adoration, Confession, Mass with the Bishop and more. More info will be given out in the near future.

SAVE THE DATE!!! Thursday August 4, 2022 for a Pilgrimage to tour and pray at Adoration Chapels in some of our churches around the diocese! More info to come for the agenda of the day!!!

Do you know what the 7 great prayers are? Fr. Rocky from Relevant radio had this on his Lenten lesson.

- 1) Our Father
- 2) Hail Mary
- 3) Glory Be
- 4) Sign of the Cross
- 5) Memorare
- 6) Prayer to St. Michael
- 7) Nicene Creed/Apostle's Creed

A nice tidbit if anyone ever asks you what you believe, you can simply recite the Nicene Apostle's Creed!

God Bless You this Easter Season! Jean Zwilling

(Editor's note: Would you like a preview of the National Eucharistic Revival? Father Derek Wiechmann will give a presentation at Fun, Food and Fund Day June 16, 2022 at Saint Mary's Parish in Melrose, MN. See the poster and registration included with this Newsletter)

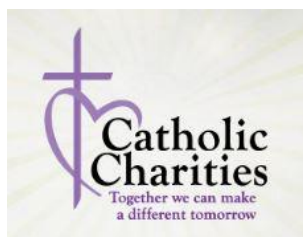
COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Spring is starting, the snow melting, temperatures warming, birds singing; it is a good time of year. We are in the middle of the Lenten season and by Easter life will be open to the newness of the earth and our hearts to Jesus.

Our community is stepping up to bring Jesus to others. We have the Food Shelf & Meals on Wheels that includes many volunteers and recipients. Our funeral group is working strongly after a 2-year absence because of the pandemic. Parishes throughout the diocese have Lenten Fish Fries where patrons feel the joy of community by getting together after the long winter. The proceeds go to many church activities. The Rice Bowl gathers money from parishioners that is sent to Catholic Relief Services throughout the world.

Catholic Charities & the Bishop's Appeal have their annual fundraising at this time. They cover a multitude of services for the homeless, disabled, children's homes, and social concerns. The TV Mass has become so important the past few years due to the pandemic.

Parishioners bring Communion to the ill, neighbors drive neighbors to the Dr., cards are sent to the housebound, assistance helps a full-time caregiver, and meals are cooked and brought to families experiencing a medical crisis. The religious education of our youth takes a lot of time, people, and energy. These are all examples of God's work being done right in our community.



“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” Matthew 25:40

Polly Rabideau, Chair

RURAL LIFE COMMISSION

Is there really going to be a global food shortage? It is very possible.

Ukraine is the breadbasket of the Black Sea. 70% of its land is fertile farmland. They have uniquely good land with a climate not unlike what we have in Minnesota. Besides feeding their own 40 million people, Ukraine exports barley, corn, and wheat. All of this is at risk of disruption due to the invasion by Russia. The Ukrainian farmers should be planting their crops at this time, but instead they are trying to protect their country by being soldiers, fighting in the war.

War is destruction. It destroys lives, destroys homes, hospitals, and more. War stops the ability to farm the land, and interrupts trade. It causes widespread hunger. War is total disruption. Ukraine is the 5th largest exporter of wheat. They cannot plant anymore. If they could, they wouldn't be able to deliver the crop to the cities. The roads, bridges, and railroads are being blown up by the Russians. The war is destroying the infrastructure.

The largest exporter of wheat is Russia. Many of their ports have stopped shipment. Many countries have sanctioned imports from Russia because they invaded Ukraine. Even before the war started, there was a global shortage of phosphate and nitrogen fertilizer. Natural gas is needed to make nitrogen. Russia has stopped drilling for natural gas. European fertilizer manufacturing companies suspended most of their nitrogen production. It is too expensive to produce. Without fertilizer, yields will be much less. Europe will not be able to feed their people, and they will not receive grain from Ukraine. Brazil is the world's largest exporter of soybeans. Their yields will be reduced drastically because they normally get their fertilizer from Russia.

Here in the United States, farmers are receiving higher prices for their crops, if they have grain to sell. Usually this is a good thing, but the reason for the high prices, the war, is not good! The cost of inputs, such as seed and fertilizer are also higher, and in short supply. It's not as severe as in other countries, but there is also a shortage of nitrogen fertilizer, in the United States, because of the restrictions on drilling natural gas. The nitrogen that will be produced, will be expensive.

There are other reasons for a possible food shortage besides the war. For example, bird flu has resurfaced in Central Minnesota. This will cause a shortage of chicken. Also, a large portion of the United States is still considered being in a drought.

It will be a challenge, but the United States farmers are needed, more than ever, to feed a hungry world. We are going to have to share our resources. There are alternatives for synthetic fertilizer which needs to be researched and developed, then put into practice. Livestock manure, a natural fertilizer, has regained its value. Many farmers are starting to plant cover crops which reduce the need to buy fertilizer. The United States has helped during other wars, they can do it again.

If you ever thought about planting a garden, or expanding your garden, this would be the year to do it. If you don't have room in your yard for a garden, you could try a raised garden.

We all need to pray for the people of Ukraine, and for all the starving people of the world. Also, please pray for the US farmers so they will be able to produce an abundance of food, not just for themselves, but for the world.



Toni Bergerding, Chair

INTERNATIONAL REPORT

The Crisis in the Ukraine and Russia has affected the whole world at this time. Please pray with the Pope and all those who can effect political change to bring a peaceful end to this conflict.

(From the CRS website) - Amid the COVID crisis, CRS announced the following eight humanitarian crises that CRS staff believe could plunge millions more people into deepening poverty in 2022:

1. Afghanistan has slid into economic freefall, made worse by a prolonged drought that has left 23 million Afghans at risk of starvation. The situation is especially alarming given the onset of winter and a lack of food, which is already forcing families to sell assets. CRS is providing cash to thousands of rural farming families in some of the hardest-hit areas while continuing its primary education program for 17,500 children.
2. Ethiopia - More than 8 million people are affected by the conflict in the Amhara, Afar and Tigray regions of Ethiopia, including 2.1 million people who have been displaced from their homes. Millions are in urgent need of food and other lifesaving assistance. Since the start of the conflict, CRS has provided food to 3 million people, with the hopes to reach up to 6.5 million people once access to the most affected areas permits.
3. Madagascar - Southern Madagascar is experiencing its worst drought in more than 40 years, which has led to a worsening hunger crisis. Consecutive months of lower-than-average rainfall have decimated harvests while impacting the ability of farmers to put food on the table. What's more, the price of food – from rice to maize to cooking oil – has skyrocketed. Nearly half a million children under the age of 5 are malnourished. CRS provides a range of assistance throughout the country, including food, clean water, cash and seeds for farmers.
4. Yemen – five-year-old war between Houthi rebels and government forces, backed by a Saudi Arabia-led coalition, has caused a humanitarian crisis of epic proportions. With a blockade and insecurity limiting people's access to food and income, 80% of the population is in urgent need of aid, including 2 million children suffering from acute malnutrition. Health systems have collapsed, along with access to clean water and sanitation, which has led to deadly cholera outbreaks. To address the spread of disease, CRS and our partners are supporting health systems across the country.
5. Venezuela - Since 2015, nearly 90% of Venezuela's population has been pushed below the poverty line amid the country's ongoing social and economic upheaval. More than 5.6 million Venezuelans have since left the country, straining resources in neighboring countries. CRS is supporting the work of Caritas Venezuela, which includes a range of social services. CRS also supports local organizations in neighboring countries.
6. Central America - In addition to struggling with chronic poverty, tens of thousands of families across Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador live in constant fear of gang violence. A lack of job opportunities, coupled with successive failed harvests driven by climate change, have made the situation even more bleak. The spread of COVID-19 has added to the region's worsening food security outlook. As a result, thousands of families continue to flee north to escape the region's harsh conditions. The Catholic Church has played a critical role in supporting migrants, from

providing them with places to bathe and eat, along with medical care and other services. CRS supports more than three dozen frontline partner organizations across Mexico and Guatemala. In addition, CRS provides support to returning migrants in Honduras.

7. Haiti - Haiti continues to reel following a 7.2-magnitude earthquake that hit the country in August, wiping out critical infrastructure and killing more than 2,000 people. To make development activities, leaving an estimated 4.9 million in need of support. CRS is reaching hundreds of thousands of people with emergency support, including providing shelter rehabilitation, cash assistance and improved access to clean water.
8. The Central Sahel - Across Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, violent extremism has uprooted more than 2 million people from their homes, creating one of the fastest-growing displacement crises in the world. High unemployment, corruption, a lack of social services and unequal access to capital have crippled economies and have left young people especially vulnerable to bad actors who seek to profit from their relative poverty. As the chaos spreads, those on the coasts wonder whether their



communities will fall next. In 2019, the Catholic Church in West Africa, with support from CRS, launched the Sahel Peace Initiative to raise awareness of the crisis, advocate for change and to mobilize humanitarian and development support.

Joyce Simones, Chair

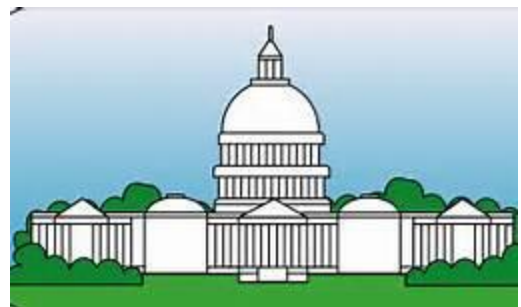
LEGISLATIVE CONCERNS

MCCL CURRENT LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES:

Combat Spread of Chemical Abortions

A new MCCL-backed bill would combat the spread of dangerous chemical abortions across Minnesota. The bill, SF3561, would require that chemical abortion drugs be administered in-person by the physician rather than shipped to women through the mail.

Chemical abortions have consistently increased over time, and risen dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, 4,964 chemical abortions took place in Minnesota, according to the Department of Health. That's a 114 percent jump since 2009. Chemical abortions now account for 55 percent of total abortions in the state—up from just 19 percent in 2009.



The increase is likely to continue. In early 2021, the Biden administration suspended an FDA safety rule that required that abortion drugs be dispensed in person. The suspension has now been made permanent. As a result, such drugs can be sent to women through the mail without any in-person medical evaluation beforehand. A new group in Minnesota, called Just the Pill, is offering these “telemedicine” abortions to Minnesota women.

Chemical abortions—which typically involve two drugs, mifepristone and misoprostol—pose risks to women’s health, and those risks grow when no in-person evaluation takes place first. Medical examinations are necessary to rule out the dangerous possibility of ectopic pregnancy and to verify an appropriate gestational age (the risk of complications increases later in pregnancy).

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS!

You can help advance this lifesaving bill by contacting your state representative and senator during the legislative session to urge their support!

**MN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE INITIATIVES:
Help protect Minnesotans from predatory gambling**

Urge your state representative to vote NO on HF 778—a bill that would legalize online sports gambling for people as young as 18 years old.

Efforts are underway at the Capitol to legalize sports betting—including making it available through mobile apps. Legalizing sports betting will open our doors to a predatory industry that has been linked to the following social ills:

- Increased rates of problem gambling, the precursor to Compulsive Gambling Disorder
- Alarming rates of suicide (One in five problem gamblers will attempt to or will end their lives)
- Increased rates of white-collar crime (theft, embezzlement, credit card fraud)
- Aggressive advertising that targets kids

Catholics should be concerned that legislators are seeking to provide an entertainment option for a privileged few, at the expense of our youth, the poor, and the vulnerable.

The Minnesota Catholic Conference will also monitor other issues during the 2022 session, including:

- *Legalizing recreational marijuana*: MCC will continue to oppose efforts to legalize recreational marijuana use. A bill that would have created a commercial recreational marijuana industry in the state passed last year in the House but failed in the Senate.
- *Physician-assisted suicide*: Opponents of physician-assisted suicide have been effective in helping to shape the public conversation regarding the moral and ethical concerns it raises.
- *Positive Alternatives Grant Program*: MCC supports increased funding for this program, which supports the work of crisis pregnancy centers. The program promotes healthy pregnancy outcomes and assists pregnant and parenting women in developing and

maintaining family stability and self-sufficiency. In a budget that will reach \$60 billion by 2024, the state allocates only \$3.7 million for these services, according to MCC, although the most recent round of grant applications totaled about \$6.5 million.

Mary Griffith, Chair

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Our Women's Lenten Retreat at Holy Family Parish in Belle Prairie on March 12 was well attended and received loads of positive feedback. Despite some glitches with publicity of the event, it appears parish bulletins are the main source of contact. However, everyone is always welcome to assist us to spread the word through Facebook and personal invites, as well as posting copies of flyers at your local library, grocery store, post office, etc.

Pat Kasella, Chair

SCHOLARSHIP FUND NEWS

Bittersweet news. Maurine Herbst of Foreston, MN passed away in January, 2022. She was active during her life in her parish and as a Catholic woman. She was an amazing lady who gave so much. A donation was received from her estate and we have decided to put the money into our Scholarship Fund in her honor. THANK YOU!

The Scholarship Fund for the diocesan board was created with a donation from the estate of Father Harold Kost, our first Moderator in his memory. It has been added to several times. The original donations remain in the fund; only the interest is used.

AIM of the FUND:

- To support, empower and educate CCW Board members in Spirituality, Leadership and Service.
- To promote and stimulate interest in the learning apostolate, to further the useful knowledge of additional training to be of further service to others.

This is accomplished through financial support and assistance to:

- those providing leadership in CCW activities
- those willing to share their newly acquired knowledge within their faith community.

If you would like to remember a loved one or you would like to donate to the fund, please contact: Eva Koep, 201 W Summit Street #6, Battle Lake, MN 56515. 763-218-2057.

Thank you. It will be greatly appreciated.

EASTERN DEANERY REPORT

On January 15th, 2022, the Eastern Deanery convened at St. Louis Bertrand Catholic Church in Foreston, MN, (east of Foley, MN on Hwy. 23). Their Area Catholic Community is the center of our deanery. At the meeting, attendees discussed the restructuring of the diocese deaneries and Barb Jacobson was nominated to the office of Deanery Treasurer. Thank you to the women of St. Louis for hosting our event and for such a wonderful brunch!

We invited all women to bring a friend and join us for the next event held on Saturday, April 30th at St. Louis Bertrand, in Foreston, which included a prayer service for Ukraine's people who are suffering, especially the many orphans in Ukraine. Watch your church bulletin announcements and your emails, for further announcements.

The Christian Women from St. Michael's also are promoting **The Pilgrimage of the Holy Family:** This Spiritual Journey is a journey of the host family in union with prayer partners. The host family invites The Blessed Holy Family picture into their home and commits to praying the chaplet of the Holy Family each day for a week. (It is a simple five-minute chaplet that is ideal for young children). If you are interested in being a host family, you may contact Patty at (320) 468-2487.

Praise and Blessings to you, Our Lord, Jesus Christ!

Nita Hayes, President

NORTHWESTERN DEANERY

We have exciting news—we had our FIRST Board meeting on February 24 with a total of twelve members present, one on zoom, plus our Spiritual Advisor Deacon Mick Froslee. A soup and sack lunch was provided by the president. We have our treasurer in place and have a Budget Committee named. We also have a nominating committee to present candidates for election to the board in the fall.

We are looking at all the information received from our Young Women's Advisory team to better involve them in our group. These Young Women are the heartbeat of the new Deanery and we pray they will all feel welcome and anxious to join in our vision of spreading the peace of our Lord with one another. One of my goals is to share resources, such as the extra books parishes purchased and share them with other parishes that did not receive them.

I am also "Excited" to announce the we are going to be having a NW Deanery meeting/workshop entitled "How Does Your Garden Grow". This event will be held at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Butler, MN on April 30. We will start with our business meeting at 9 am followed by the workshop from 10 until noon. Lunch will be served by the Holy Cross Church with a fee of \$5 to cover the meal expenses. RSVP's will be required so we can inform the Ladies of the Church the number of women attending.

The 2023 Diocesan Fall Conference: The NW Deanery will be hosting and Barb Piecek has confirmed that St. Ann's Catholic Church in Wadena, MN has been reserved for this Conference.

God's Peace, *Bonnie Jennen, President*

NOMINATIONS NEEDED

DCCW OFFICERS: TREASURER, 2022-2024; VICE PRESIDENT and SECRETARY 2023-2025!

Nominations are now open! The Nominating Committee is seeking women to serve on the DCCW Executive Committee: the offices of Treasurer for the 2022-2024 term, Vice-President for the 2023-2025 term and Secretary for the 2023-2025 term.

In his address to the general audience assembled at St. Peter's Square on November 6, 2013, Pope Francis said, "The Holy Spirit distributes to the faithful a multitude of spiritual gifts and graces.... The charisms...are gifts that the Holy Spirit gives us: talents, possibilities.... Gifts given not to be hidden but to be shared with others. They are not given for the benefit of the one who receives them, but for the use of the People of God."

As the nominating committee for the women of the Diocese of St Cloud, we need your gifts, your talents, and your leadership skills. As we move forward, your willingness to step up and serve, our vision for the future is bright.

For the 2022-2024 term the office of Treasurer, deadline for application: July 1, 2022. Offices to be filled for 2023-2025 are Secretary and Vice-President. Deadline for application: July 1, 2023 for the offices of secretary and vice president. To be considered, a nominee should have previously served as an officer on the deanery level and have the approval of her pastor or spiritual advisor. No nominations will be accepted from the floor at the Fall Conference. Contact us for more information. stcloudccw@gmail.com or aroelike8@gmail.com

Prayerfully consider helping to fill these positions. If you can't, do you know some who would be willing and able? Don't wait to be contacted, but take the first step and contact a member of the nominating committee.

May the Holy Spirit be your/our
guide

Eva Koep, 763-218-2057, eakoep@arvig.net
Arleen Roelike, 320-282-9941, aroelike8@gmail.com
Polly Rabideau, 320-492-4958, rabideaudp@gmail.com

A little history: these 4 ladies really stepped up! All four were from Minnesota and became presidents of the National Council of Catholic Women. Gertrude Hill Gavin was born in Minnesota but lived in New York when she was elected the first president. How would you like to grow in your service and become one too?



POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS FOR 2022:

April: We pray for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.

May: We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

June: We pray for Christian families around the world; may they embody and experience unconditional love and advance in holiness in their daily lives.

July: We pray for the elderly, who represent the roots and memory of a people; may their experience and wisdom help young people to look towards the future with hope and responsibility.

August: We pray for small and medium sized businesses; in the midst of economic and social crisis, may they find ways to continue operating, and serving their communities.

September: We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country.

October: We pray for the Church; ever faithful to, and courageous in preaching the Gospel, may the Church be a community of solidarity, fraternity and welcome, always living in an atmosphere of synodality.

November: We pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.

December: We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

(From [USCCB.org](https://www.usccb.org)) (see also www.vatican.va for more information)



The following 2 pages are the poster and registration sheet for the Fun, Food and Fund Day celebrated this June. We'd love to have you join us. I will also attach these to the email I am sending. Please copy and share. Feel free to present this at your meetings. Attach them to bulletin boards in your area.

Thank You and we'll see you there!



Fun, Food & Fund Day

"Take Jesus Home"

June 16, 2022

Saint Mary's Parish
755 Kraft Drive
Melrose, MN 56352
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

\$15 EARLY REGISTRATION
\$20 LATE/AT THE DOOR

For Information Call:

Caroline Jacobs, 320-267-2878

Arleen Roelike, 320-282-9941

stcloudccw@gmail.com

See Website: stcloudccw.org

8:30 AM, Registration
Morning Refreshments

9:30 AM, Nathan Newman Music
Silent Auction begins

11:00 AM, Mass

NOON, Lunch
Special Diet? Call Ahead

1 PM, Father Derek Wiechmann
**"NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC
REVIVAL"**

1 PM, Silent Auction Ends

Closing Prayer
Winners announced
Take Home Treat

Sponsored by Saint Cloud DCCW
Hosted by West Central Deanery
Make Checks to: **St Cloud DCCW**

Send Registration to:

Lora Knafia
11719 16th Avenue NW
Rice, MN 56367
320-393-2701
lorakna1@hotmail.com

**St. Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women
31st Annual Fun, Food and Fund Day**

THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2022

Saint Mary's Catholic Church
755 Kraft Drive SE Melrose, MN 56352

REGISTRATION FORM

NAMES OF ATTENDEES FOR ID BADGE

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

List additional names on back

PARISH: _____ City: _____

DEANERY: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

\$15 per person postmarked by June 10, 2022 or \$20 per person after June 10, 2022 or at the door

Total Attending _____ x \$15 or \$20 \$ _____

Donation \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: Saint Cloud DCCW

SEND TO: Lora Knafia
11719 16th AVE NW
Rice MN 56367
320-393-2701