

Our Catholic Voice

November 2023

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: stcloudccw@gmail.com

Website: stcloudccw.org



Saint Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Letters from Lois

320-894-5837, dccw.president@gmail.com

BRINGING THE PAST AND FUTURE TOGETHER

As the vice president, my last event was the National council of Catholic in Salt Lake City, Utah. There were four of us that went together. There were other delegates that we met from many other areas. There were many interesting speakers. The one that I was very interested in was "TEACH THINK". The tours of the city were also very interesting. We spent a lot of time in meetings and Mass times. There were a lot of spiritual connections during the Convention. We came back with a lot of information to share.

September 16th, we had a Fall Conference in Wadena. Bishop Neary came to install me as president and our officers to the board of the DCCW of the St Cloud Diocese. It was an honor to be able to spend time with the many women who attended. I was happy to have my husband Will, two of my daughters, a son-in-law and two grandsons attend. Thanks to all who made the experience special.

Last Friday and Saturday I went with the past president, Linda Borgerding to Winona-Rochester. Friday evening was a lunch with wonderful food and good times visiting.

Saturday began with a wonderful speaker named Chelsey who was speaking about the Marian Apparition at Champion Wisconsin in 1859. This was especially interesting since I had been to the Shrine in August. The story of Adelle Brise is being remembered in October with many people coming for the anniversary of the fire and the appearance of the Blessed Virgin. She appeared in white with 12 stars around her head. The message of Adelle's response to Mary is very fitting with our response as women in service of the church. "What do you want of me?" and "What more can I do dear Lady?" <https://championshrine.org/>



In the afternoon, there was a speaker from Peitra Fitness, combining prayer and exercise to make a healthier body and soul.

I am looking forward to attending more events and meeting more of the wonderful women.

Lois Wesbur, President

COMMUNITY REPORT

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Abuse happens all year long: Did you know abuse takes many forms:

- Emotional torment
- Verbal
- Sexual Assault
- Threats and,
- Physical force or injury (*from NCCW flier*)

Anna Marie's Alliance is the local shelter in St. Cloud for women and their children who suffer from domestic violence. For more info, to get involved or donate call 320-251-7203 **HOT LINE: 320-253-6900**, 24 hours a day to receive **help**. Please spread the word in your parishes about this information.

The Fall Conference was an enjoyable and informative day about the "Fruits of The Holy Spirit". On the tables were topics of discussion statements. One was "How have you received the Holy Spirit in your life?" After living as a Catholic for 75 years I have encountered the Holy Spirit many times.

When I was in my 20's pregnant with our second child we were driving to my husband's parent's house in a snowstorm from Terre Haute IN to Ashkum IL. It was 9:30 at night as my husband had to work till 9. The snow was blinding as we slowly made the 3-hour drive along 2 lane highways. I was very nervous and tense. I started praying for a safe trip and felt a **calming peace** come over me. I relaxed and quietly sat for the rest of the trip knowing that God was watching over us.

We had moved many times through my husband's job and I was learning that in order for us to be happy we had to find a Catholic Church where our family could thrive.

At this time, we had 3 girls and 1 boy so we needed the support of a church to raise these children without family nearby. I was looking at houses with a realtor who asked if I was Catholic and I said yes "Why"? He quietly said his wife told him that I would know instantly if the house was where we could live a good life. He said to pray about it. Well, I did and when we walked into this house in Avon MN, I knew right away that this was where we were meant to be. Of course, we had to attend Mass at St Benedict's to confirm the choice which we made. Father Simon gave a wonderful sermon and he jested about the people who slept through it. (my husband!!!) Years later after me poking him to wake up at Masses, Father Simon told me at the parish festival to let him rest. He worked hard all week to provide for me and our 6 children.

We raised 6 children at this home, my husband has passed and I still know that this is where I was meant to be. The peace of the Holy Spirit has shown me the way through life's challenges.

May the Holy Spirit keep working in our lives!

Polly Rabideau, Chair



CHURCH COMMISSION

Fall is in the air... And - exciting change of seasons, weather wise, and liturgically! We have jam packed months of great Saints to celebrate. The awesome examples they have given us to live out our faith, wow what are we doing? Also, it's the month of the Most Holy Rosary, Respect Life Month in the Catholic realm; in the public realm it is domestic violence awareness month, pregnancy and infant loss awareness month. A busy month, a lot to be aware of and to make others aware of. It really is a domino effect; one awareness can often lead to the next. November and December do not fall short for awesome feast days either, the richness of our Catholic faith is brought forth in all these days as well. November is national adoption awareness month, and indigenous people's awareness month also.

With the holidays coming, I am already trying to think of ways to simplify for them. It is a hard thing to do when you love celebrating these times. I love that I have a golden opportunity to share our Catholic faith, an open window if you may, to bring the real reason for the season right in the living room, kitchen table, or wherever you gather. I love to decorate, bake and candy make, and give gifts, how do you find that balance, especially as a family grows? I'm still trying to figure that out, but the one thing I know I can't let decrease is my daily prayer time. Saint Mother Therese said the busier we are the more time we need to spend in prayer, whether in adoration or in our home. Man - I struggled with that for a while, like gosh, "I'm wasting time, so much could get done, etc.!" Well, I gave in and found the work got done faster and better. Yes, it is a spiritual battle, daily. Daily prayer is a fueling station, you need a full tank if you're going to confront the many stresses of life.

Quote from Saint Mother Therese:

"I make a Holy Hour each day in the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. All my sisters of the Missionaries of Charity make a daily Holy Hour as well, because we find that through our daily Holy Hour our love for Jesus becomes more intimate, our love for each other more understanding, and our love for the poor more compassionate. Our Holy Hour is our daily family prayer where we get together and pray the Rosary before the exposed Blessed Sacrament the first half hour, and the second half hour we pray in silence. Our adoration has doubled the number of our vocations. In 1963, we were making a weekly Holy Hour together, but it was not until 1973, when we began our daily Holy Hour, that our community started to grow and blossom."

The world we live in, is, to say the least, scary...

So much darkness, lies, unawareness, on every level of politics, here and around the world. It feels overwhelming and all so big, but not for God! We have to do our part,

being Steadfast with Prayer, Evangelize, and spread Joy! God will take our prayers and works and use them for his glory!

In these Eucharistic Revival Years, let us grow more in love with our Lord, coming before him at the table of Adoration, the table of the Sacrifice of the Mass, or at your prayer table. Then, extend those prayers and conversations at your dinner table with family, friends, and relatives. May Our Blessed Mother, the Mother of Hope, and Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament along with all the Saints, and your Guardian Angel be with you as the Holy Spirit descends upon you in the next few months! Blessings,

Quoting St. John Chrysostom:

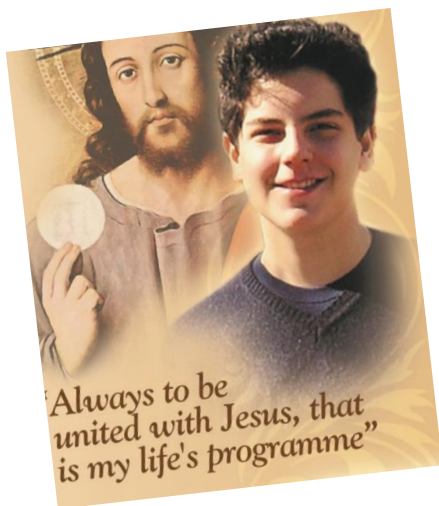
"Prayer is the place of refuge for every worry, a foundation for cheerfulness, a source of constant happiness, a protection against sadness."

St. Mother Therese prayer:

Dear Jesus, help me to spread Thy fragrance everywhere I go. Flood my soul with Thy spirit and love. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that all my life may only be a radiance of Thine.

Shine through me and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel Thy presence in my soul. Amen

Jean Zwillling, Chair

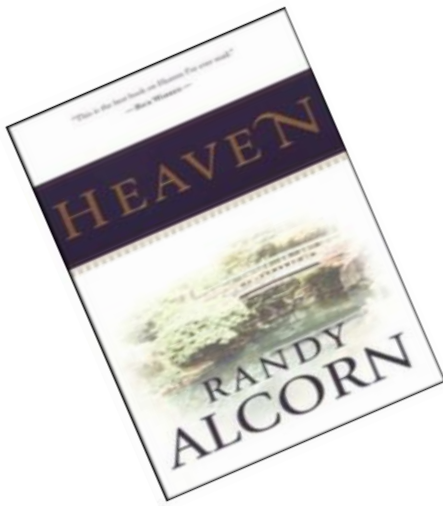


Learn about the International Exhibition of Eucharistic Miracles created and designed by the Blessed Carlo Acutis: www.miracolieucaaristici.org

Check his website to learn about his life: carloacutis.com

FAMILY COMMISSION

The imagination can expand with a tantalizing read, books of all sorts support many viewpoints. Lately I have been reading about Heaven. The book is titled Heaven. The author is Randy Alcorn, and this book was published in 2004.



I became very interested in the chapter “Will There be Marriage, Families and Friendships?” At the outset, let’s have the concept of heaven in our thinking – there are so many questions and I suppose we truly do not know what heaven will be. Therefore, we can imagine there will be families in heaven – our own family and others who have families. The author proposes that Heaven does not erase who we have as family on earth. After all, our children (if we had them) will still be our children. And we will be part of one BIG family: Jesus said those who follow Him will gain “brothers, sisters, mothers, children” (Mark 10:29-30).

And what about marriage? Will there be the one marriage: the marriage of Christ to His church? We will not know until the final resurrection. Where does this all leave us? With Hope.

Fr. Leo Bock (Reflection, Give Us This Day, Oct. '23) writes: Christian hope is based on who God enduringly, unchangeably is. Hope is the enduring sense it is that all is going to turn out all right.

Mary Jane Hay, Chair

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION REPORT

Because I am new to this position for Legislative Commission. I looked up what this position entails... it said, to (Spiritually) promote programs to educate us in the key elements of Catholic Social teaching. This includes watching lawmakers so they keep Christian values in mind as they work on new laws.

Programs that I have been involved in!

MCCL Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life: Major Pro-Life organization works with pro-life house & senate members to keep abortion restrictions in place. However, this year, I want to read to you how extreme our state has become on abortion!!

Pregnancy Care Centers: Positive Alternatives Act funding for Options for Women and all like centers were repealed if they refuse to do abortions.

Forty Days for Life: An internationally coordinated campaign to end abortion through Prayer, fasting, community outreach and with peaceful all-day vigils in front of abortion businesses. Planned Parenthood in St. Cloud is one place to visit or there is one in Alexandria... contact me for addresses etc.

USCCB: I recommend you check out their website, USCCB.org They speak loudly against abortion and give directions to combat abortion.

Minnesota House of Representatives: and the state senators Use the MCCL website to see how they voted, https://www.mccl.org/_files/ugd/e95b3f_0cec4

On the Federal Level: Check your Senators and Representatives to see how they voted! Google them!

EWTN & the FACE Act. Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances! I recently watched a video on EWTN about this act and how it is really used to terrorize pro-life activists. Read about pro-life activist Mark Houck's ordeal when the FBI arrested him for an altercation at an abortion center in Pennsylvania! A SWAT team with 25 agents and 15 vehicles showed up at his home. They arrested him terrorizing his entire family. Facing 11 years in prison he was acquitted by a jury after only one hour of deliberation. EWTN is a good website to visit often to see what things the government is doing to suppress Christianity. www.ewtn.com

CNA, Catholic News Agency, another good website to visit is CNA. There is a lot of information n now about the brutal attack on Israel by Hamas.

www.catholicnewsagency.com



Mary Reuter, Chair

Editor's note: see also Minnesota Catholic Conference: www.mncc.org

RURAL-ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

As a new commission chair – I embark on the task of what goes into the DCCW Newsletter. In my past – I grew up on a diversified family farm of dairy, sheep, hogs, chickens, and crops of corn and hay. As one of 14 children – we all took part in family chores. In our first years of married life – we had a dairy farm and farmed over 500 acres. But as the farm crisis hit – we were in a too-urban area to continue and unable to find a suitable farm in another area. We moved and gradually transitioned to living in the country and falling back on our college degrees of Nursing and Business. So now I ponder these questions in this rapidly changing environment - What is meant by rural and what is meant by environmental? And what is meant by the intersection of rural and environmental together? What do you think of environmental issues of:

- Effect of loss of bees, butterflies
- Global warming
- Drought/Flash Floods
- Ozone layer
- Ocean trash/Plastics
- Forest fires
- Deforestation and change of original land– draining one swamp for long even rows for crops
- Resource depletion – fishing, mining, logging, consumerism
- Overpopulation in some areas
- Waste/Recycle/Pollution
- Greenhouse effect



What social concerns affect the broader rural area:

- Public transportation in rural areas
- Lack of human services/healthcare in rural areas
- Rural infrastructure
- Aging in place – retired and where to live
- Smaller families – what is the legacy of the family farm

What does the Bible say about the earth and the environment? (**Genesis 1:26**) "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.'"

The earth is sacred. It's not just a piece of land. It's not just air to breathe. God made it. It's precious and we are here as stewards of the land.

So as this fall season is upon us – let us give thoughtful thankfulness for the rich rural environment that we live in – keeping in mind the impact of our national and global environment also.

Joyce Simones, Chair

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

Ladies, you really don't know what you are missing when you don't attend our Diocesan Council of Catholic Women events. Reading reports about the event never seem to do justice compared to being there in person. I know we are all busy and may have other things going on the same day. I, too, had a wedding on September 16, the date of our Fall Conference, but I chose to go to the Conference and was still able to put in an appearance at the wedding reception later.

Our theme "*Fruits of the Holy Spirit*" presented itself many times and ways throughout the day: In "The Fruits of the Mysteries of the Rosary" led by Church Commission Chair, Jean Zwilling; in the readings at Mass with Bishop Neary; at lunch as we networked with "our fellow fruit"; and again, in Kathy Janku's presentation.

There were a few of us "overflow fruits" who found ourselves at a table together, along with Bishop Neary. Ambrosia comes to mind. It is amazing how small our world really is sometimes as several of us had very similar experiences when speaking of our parents' passing. Meeting new women and working with the entire DCCW board is such an enriching experience.

A lot of time and effort go into these events and the ladies of the Northwest Deanery and St. Ann's Parish in Wadena did a remarkable job hosting our Fall Conference.

Mark your calendars now for our next DCCW event – Women's Lenten Retreat on March 9, 2024 hosted by the West Central Deanery.

Pat Kasella, PR Chair



Save the Date!

March 9, 2024

Annual Lenten Retreat

"Journey of a Woman's Life"

Using the Sacraments to Grow in Our Faith

Saint Martin Parish, St Martin, MN

INFORMATION PHONE: Jean Hopper, 250-290-2770, Lora Knafka, 320-393-2701

WEBSITE: stcloudccw.org

EMAIL: stcloudccw@gmail.com, dccw.treasurer@gmail.com

SPONSORED BY- St. Cloud DCCW. HOSTED BY West Central Deanery.



EASTERN DEANERY UPDATE

‘Mary, Our Spiritual Mother’ was the theme for our Fall Deanery event held at St. Joseph’s parish, Pierz, on the memorial of *Mary of the Rosary*, October 7th. In her presentation, Jean Zwilling shared the photographs and the story of her family’s 2023 trip to Fatima and Lourdes. Jean also gave an overview of the Eucharistic Pilgrimage that was held in August. In doing so, she shared with others the prayer hands that she makes, with the prayer to Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament and the Prayer to Receive the Holy Spirit.

As we ponder our Spiritual Mother, she shows us how to pray to her Son, Jesus. It is through her grace from the Holy Spirit and through Jesus that Mercy flows abundantly. We ask our Mother Mary to perfect our prayer offerings and our petitions to her Son, as only she knows how to perfectly do.

As Catholics, our receiving the sacrament of The Holy Eucharist transcends to our belief in the *true presence of Christ*. As we receive Jesus, He walks beside us as we bring Jesus to others.

Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Feast Day, May 13

Virgin Immaculate, perfect lover of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, we ask you to obtain for us the graces we need to become true adorers of our Eucharistic God. Grant us, we beg of you, to know Him better, to love Him more, and to center our lives around the Eucharist, that is, to make our whole life a constant prayer of adoration, thanksgiving, reparation, and petition to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Amen.

V. Pray for us, O Virgin Immaculate, Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

R. That the Eucharistic Kingdom of Jesus Christ may come among us! AMEN
(St. Peter Julian Eymard)

Nita Hayes, President



Our Lady of the Hills, Millerville, MN

SOUTHWEST DEANERY

Our fall meeting was held November 7, 2023, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Glenwood. Thank you to the women of the parish for hosting this gathering.

At the business meeting the focus was finding a date and a location for the 2024 Fun, Food, and Fund Day for the St. Cloud Diocese. This included discussing a theme and the role of each parish/ ACC to be involved in the preparations.



Information was given about the Spiritual Bouquet to be done in honor of the NCCW Chair of the Spiritual Advisors, Rev. Miguel Gonzalez on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of his ordination to priesthood. We hope women from each parish/ ACC will attend to bring this information back to their individual locations.

Our speaker was Jean Zwilling who gave a talk on the topic of Eucharistic Revival, and she also shared her recent experience to Fatima, Portugal and Lourdes, France.

There are open positions for president and vice president for the South Western Deanery. Please prayerfully consider serving in one of these offices for a two-year term. We need officers to build our deanery organization. If you have questions, contact the other officers (Cheryl at 320-309-7844). There is a handbook to use as a guide and support from previous officers in form of a mentor will be provided.

Cheryl Weller, Acting President



Volunteers are needed on all levels of Council!

Please let the Holy Spirit be your guide and share your talents.

NORTHWEST DEANERY

Greetings from a grateful Northwestern Deanery, thank you to all who attended the events in our area. First the “Source and Summit Tour” that hi-lighted the different parishes in our Deanery. What a wonderful day of praise and thanksgiving seeing old and meeting new friends from our Diocese. Praying together to our wonderful Father. The day was filled with wonderful songs, prayers, adoration and food. For me nothing is better than the bus ride where we shared stories and laughter with amazing women.

Last month it was the pleasure of our Deanery to host the Fall Conference in Wadena. Because of our amazing women we were able to treat our guests with Love. I was so impressed with and humbled by how diligent everyone worked to prepare and welcome our guests. Thank you all for everything you did to make the day so special: the use of Patrice MacArthur’s “Mysteries of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit” which she was so gracious to give us permission to use, the beautiful Worship Aids to the amazing release of the Doves symbolizing the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, to the delicious food prepared and the imprint of a Chalice on the short bread cookies. With the donation of time, talent, and financial support it was all very much appreciated. You are what makes our Deanery Awesome.

We are now gearing up to receive the “Box of Joy” collection, last year we were able to send out 600 boxes to children to whom this may be the only gift they get at Christmas. Let us share the gift of Love, Generosity and a Message of our Faith which is the most precious gift of all. May we each open our hearts to these beautiful children of God.

Our next meeting was on October 28 at 10 AM in Long Prairie, at St. Mary’s of Mount Carmel. We brought our filled Boxes of Joy along with us. Deacon Mick Froslee, our Deanery Spiritual Director, talked about Eucharistic Adoration and then we joined him in Adoration. The election of our new President took place after lunch. Linda Scepurek was elected. I know from experience how welcoming you will be for her, and I thank you for that. We concluded our meeting with our Speaker Jean Zwilling from the St. Cloud DCCW, who told us about her European Eucharistic Pilgrimage. I pray you will bless us with your presence for this inspiring day.

Let us all remember God doesn’t need our gratitude. But we all need the benefits that comes from having a thankful heart that praises the God who gives us all more blessings than we can count. Throughout this season of Thanksgiving let us remember to thank and praise God each and every morning with a thankful heart.



Psalm 92:1–5; Luke 17:16–19; 1Thessalonians 5:18

Love and God’s Peace,

Bonnie Jennen, Out-going President

WEST CENTRAL DEANERY

The West Central Deanery has had no luck in recruiting officers for the various open positions. The situation will be discussed at the Fall General Meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 10th, at Sts. Peter & Paul in Richmond. Arleen Roelike has been helping the deanery as “past president”. We are in need of a president, vice president and secretary to carry on the workings of the deanery. We will also be asking for Commission Chairs, an Historian, and a Public Relations chair. So, at this point we are uncertain as to how to move forward if we are unable to fill these positions.

Our deanery is hosting the DCCW Spring Retreat, which is scheduled for March 9, 2024 at the church of St. Martin, in St. Martin. We will be working on that at our fall meeting; arrangements for the various committees need to be decided.

At our General Meeting we will be reviewing the updated bylaws, describing the DCCW Spiritual Bouquet program for Fr. Miguel Gonzalez, explaining the DCCW Event Rotation

Schedule and hopefully get a preliminary “Meeting Site Rotation Schedule” for our deanery. We will also be having an “Explanation of the CCW Commission System” and a Silent Auction, which is always interesting to see what items are placed for sale.

Our next meetings will be in February or March for the Board meeting, and in April for the General Meeting. Hopefully the weather will cooperate for those meetings, and for the Retreat!

I want to thank the West Central Deanery parishes who have already graciously hosted our meetings since our “resurrection” – St. Francis, Albany, Melrose, Albany, St. Rose, Luxemburg and Richmond. They have all provided the site, refreshments and whatever the deanery has asked of them, - so “THANK YOU” to all of you wonderful ladies.

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



Jean Hopper, President

BOXES OF JOY

This was our second year doing Box of Joy. Last year, we asked each of our 36 parishes to do 10 boxes. We ended up filling 566 boxes. This year I had one person from each of our seven Area Catholic Communities help lead the Box of Joy program. Tomorrow the truck arrives to pick up our 56 cartons -- we are shipping 989 Boxes of Joy to Cross Catholic Outreach!! Of those, our deanery filled 786 boxes. The rest were brought in to our drop-off center from other organizations. Our drop-off center was the church hall at Our Lady of Seven Dolors in Millerville, MN. (A big thank you to them as well!)

I had a wonderful group of volunteers who helped make all this happen. Next year we hope to provide Spanish literature to areas with a large Hispanic population. We are learning as we go.



*Sheri Streasick, Box of Joy Project Leader
Northwestern Deanery CCW*

2023 NCCW CONVENTION

Here is a short summary of some of the presentations.

Beth Knobbe of Catholic Relief Services crs.org spoke on the topic “Answering the Call: Moving from Encounter to Action.”

CRS provides humanitarian services in over 100 countries dedicated to upholding Human Dignity. They are present when a natural disaster occurs. "Whatsoever you do to the least of my people, you do unto me." Or, "Whatsoever you do unto these, you do unto me". The goal of CRS is to end Global Poverty.

Tessie O'Dea of Cross Catholic Outreach crosscatholic.org spoke of encountering Christ among us and our encounter with Christ among the poor. We begin with relationships.

A lot of emphasis is on the rosary. Since 2020, 3.8 billion dollars have gone out to 36 countries. Agricultural disaster relief in Ukraine has helped in feeding the people in the war-torn country. Cross Catholic Outreach supports families through prayer teams. They work to re-center God in the homes. They help families to learn how to change their lives. Catholic schools in 15 countries contain a spiritual component in their curriculum.

Another project is the Boxes of Joy which has provided a gift to more than 15,000 children. There are many children dying each day from malnutrition. Food services and education are sent to ease the death rate. <https://crosscatholic.org/box-of-joy/>

Speaking for Holy Cross Family Ministries was the Reverend Fred Jenga CSC. The family that prays together stays together was his opening statement. The rosary is introduced to the family to encourage prayer in the home. <https://www.hcfm.org/>

We Teach Think” by Angela Copenhaver of TEACH THINK MARKETING. She begins with a picture of the fertilized egg and the words LIFE BEGINS on DAY ONE. Angela was a Pro-Choice speaker before she moved to Billings, Montana and began to work for a Catholic radio station. She joined 40 Days for Life. As she learned of a woman who was fighting for her grandchild, she heard the voice of God saying “You know what to do.” Angela converted to the Catholic Faith. She began using her background in advertising to make people question and think what pro-life means. Millions of dollars are spent on posters but are useless if they do not make people think. We see some posters so often that our brains no longer react. Angela uses her background in marketing to create posters and literature with the focus on making the audience THINK about when does life begin, and how much is the human life worth. <https://www.weteachthink.com/>

Lois Wesbur, DCCW President

2023 NCCW CONVENTION, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

The National Council of Catholic Women 2023 Convention was filled with business presentations from commissions, and speakers.

My report is a summary of Krisanne Vaillancourt Murphy's talk given Thursday, August 24th. It was titled, "From Woundedness to Healing: Restorative Approaches to Harm". Ms. Murphy is the Executive Director of Catholic Mobilizing Network. She first recalled watching a movie 'Dead Man Walking' and considered the dehumanizing effect of the death penalty. She quoted Pope Francis who said we are to be people who are inspired to end the death penalty. What breaks God's heart? The Killing of human beings. The death penalty gives the person no opportunity to redeem themselves; that it is morally and inadvisably wrong. In light of the gospel, the death penalty is unacceptable and attacks human dignity.

There is woundedness in our world and we are called to chart a new path. Ms. Murphy said in restorative justice there are opportunities for action. We need to recognize the wounds in people and not treat others with indifference as in a throw away culture. Next, we need to have paths to heal the woundedness and to be peacemakers. This involves proactive reconciliation. There needs to be truth-telling which sometimes is not done and also the resistance for revenge. Then there needs to be understanding and forgiveness. Forgiveness is a journey and can be transformative.

The mission of Catholic Mobilizing Network is to recognize that each person has God given dignity. There is a need to advocate and pray for the end of the death penalty. This will build the capacity in the United States to engage in restorative practices. At the conclusion of her talk, Ms. Murphy showed a video clip of people who were charged with the death penalty in California. It explained the suffering of the families, the loss of human life and the cost to our society. <https://catholicmobilizing.org/>

Cheryl Weller



For more information as it becomes available see:

stcloudccw.org or provinceofsaintpaul-minneapolis.weebly.com

Not all of us can attend the NCCW National Convention, but do try to attend this conference. Province Conferences are always enlightening and filled with Spirituality and fellowship. Let's carpool!!

Go to either of these websites to gather information for yourself and for your

meetings. They contain past and future events, meeting minutes, newsletters and links to many websites, including many other Diocesan CCWs.

NCCW.org is always a good website to read and find programs etc. your local council can use.

Linda Borgerding, Cheryl Weller, Chris Heiderscheidt,

Linda Scephurek, Lois Wesbur



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Special Days: 2023

December 7th: Memorial of Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

December 8th: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary

December 12th: Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Queen of
Mexico, Patroness of the Americas and the Philippines)

December 13th: Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

December 14th: Memorial of Saint John of the Cross, Priest and
Doctor of the Church

December 25th: The Nativity of the Lord (Mass During the Day)

December 26th: Feast of Saint Stephen, first martyr

December 27th: Feast of Saint John, Apostle and evangelist

December 28th: Feast of the Holy Innocents, martyrs

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

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

2024

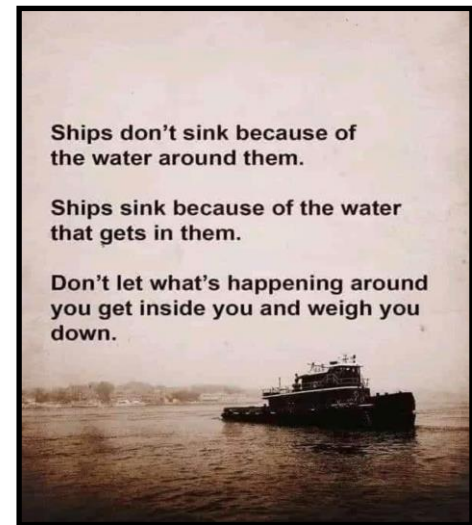
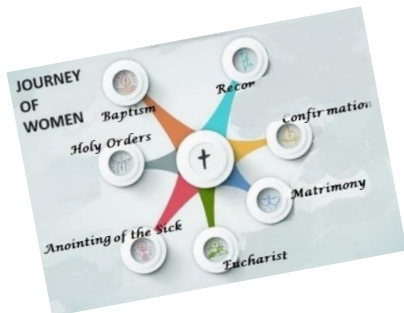
March 8, Annual Lenten Retreat, "Journey of Women" Saint Martin
Parish, Saint Martin, MN

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

June, TBD Fun Food Fund Day, Southwest Deanery

August 15-17, NCCW Convention Oklahoma City

September. TBD, 70th DCCW Conference, Metro
Deanery



Please send us the dates of your events, we will include them in the calendar.