



Our Catholic Voice

July 2024

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 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

President.dccw@gmail.com



Hope that everyone is well and enjoying the summer days.

On June 24th, I, along with five other DCCW members from our membership, traveled to Sleepy Eye, Minnesota for the Province Biennial Conference. We began with a meeting led by President Carol Shukle on the evening before the Conference. After the meeting and some socializing, we left for the AmericInn where we spent the night.

The morning of June 25 we met for Mass at the beautiful Church of St Mary, Help of Christians. Mass was celebrated by Bishop Chad Zielinski of the New Ulm Diocese. After Mass we enjoyed beverages and rolls.

A welcome from our Province Director Carol Shukle began the business of the day.

The first speaker was Father Tim Tran, he spoke of his journey to the priesthood. He had planned to go to college and major in chemistry, but the Lord had other plans for him. He is currently the point person for the Eucharistic Revival. Father Tran grew up during the Eucharistic Youth Movement - an international Catholic youth organization He was very interesting to listen to, as he shared his love for the Eucharist and his message of Faith.

The next Speaker was Angela Copenhaver, the founder of the WE TEACH THINK marketing organization. Her message was to allow people to learn to really think about the importance of human life. In her own life she began as a pro-choice advocate, but took on a mission to use her education in marketing to influence people, educate people, and teach them awareness and perception of human dignity and rights. Her common sense is to teach awareness of the sanctity of human life. She has been traveling throughout the country asking people to use common sense and protect life. Amanda left a variety of posters and literature for us to take back and share in our respective areas.

Melissa Kaufenburg spoke on how our stories are connected. Through hard times we find new roads to travel and meet new sources of knowledge and support. She told her story of how her faith and connections led her through hard times much as the statement "When a door closes, God opens a window".

Deacon Mike McKewan spoke on the dangers of Yoga and New-age practices.

Katie Brautick started a ministry to offer support and embrace women who have been hurting after the loss of a child due to miscarriage. For many present it was a reminder of their own miscarriages and the loneliness and often guilt that follow a miscarriage. She has been instrumental in getting support groups started in other communities.

All in all, the conference was very enlightening and rejuvenating, I felt the entire time was well spent.

Lois Wesbur, President

Eucharistic Youth Movement (EYM) is an International Movement for the Christian formation of children and young people from 5 to 25 years old. EYM invites young people around the world to live in Jesus' way, <https://www.popesprayer.va/what-is-eym/>

CHURCH COMMISSION

Here we are the end of July! We had a wonderful turnout for our Fun, Food and Fund Day at Saint Paul's, Sauk Centre, June 20th. Thank you to all who made this day possible! Especially the parishes in the Southwest Deanery who were the hosts this year. We were blessed with lots of Fun, delicious Food and the Silent Auction was amazing! We kept running out of space to place all the items! Thank you again!

Just returned from the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, IN. What a great Historic event those 5 days were. I've been asked so many times what was my favorite, but I have too many to pick just one! It was definitely led by God; you could see his hand in every detail. No human could possibly put on something this big without divine intervention! It was uplifting, energizing, hope filled, inspiring, and intimate. How could it be intimate when you're with 60,000 plus people you may ask? God was speaking to each individual just as if we were the only 2 in the room. Adoration was so amazing, at times it was so quiet, you could only hear the babies cooing or crying! Crying most likely because they were hungry, just like all people are hungry and thirsty for Jesus, they have a deep yearning inside to satisfy their hunger and thirst, they may not realize this is their need, not only their need, but their desire. We are the 'chosen' to make Him known to all, unafraid to evangelize. They need to know Jesus saves us, when the Priest holds Jesus in his Hands, Body and Blood, and says "Through Him, With Him, In Him," is at that time Jesus says to the father on the cross, "I commend my spirit!" Think about that, think about his love, it brings me to tears. We have Jesus and nobody can take us away from Him!

The talks from speakers were profound, all were able to help you understand the power, yet love from the Lord and through the Lord in the Eucharist.

There were two things that most speakers emphasized during the Congress: one - was Repentance, how important it is to make confession a regular practice of your faith and how the graces flow from that sacrament, to open our understanding of the Eucharist; and two - get out and plant seeds! We need to evangelize; we never know when that seed will become a tree with strong roots because of something we said or did! Be a burning coal, spread the fire! Don't let it go out!

Man, there is so much more to talk about from the Congress; at the bottom of the page, I will give references where you can go back to listen/watch the National Eucharistic Congress, (NEC).

In closing, another quote from the Congress that was impressed upon my Heart:

"Knowledge can make you great, but only Love can make you a Saint! So, God help us to
LOVE"
God Bless You,

Jean Zwillling, Chair

CHURCH COMMISSION (Con't)

1. Relevant Radio: download the free App, look for Nation Eucharistic Congress events. Sessions from every day.
2. EWTN: <https://ondemand.ewtn.com/free/Home/Series/ondemand/video/en/national-eucharistic-congress>
3. National Eucharistic Congress. <https://www.eucharisticcongress.org/>
4. You Tube: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=eucharistic+congress+2024
5. Saint Cloud Diocesan Catholic magazine: centralminnesotacatholic.org

This photo was the work of the Holy Spirit!

The light that shown onto the altar was not planned.



COMMUNITY

5:55 am **Time** to get up and start the day. Today I am going to write the report and get it sent off before the IT director goes bananas. I don't jump out of bed anymore, but I make it to my chair and read the daily prayers and then say the rosary. Doing this before coffee or anything else helps start the day on the right path.

6:30 am **Time** for coffee, toast and my crossword puzzle, then WORDLE that I share results with a friend. One more game of Words to play with my sister who lives in Illinois. I am so happy that my sister is feeling better after her chemo treatment. She had to go to the ER Wednesday after fever & chills. Stayed all night at the hospital with an IV for antibiotics. Playing that silly game throughout the day is fun for her so we go back and forth all day when **Time** permits.

7:50 am **Time** to move, I dressed, started the laundry, took out the garbage and cleaned my bathroom.

10:am **Time** to start the report. I better start with the NCCW site. Oh, dear I have to pay my dues. Looked through some things and didn't find what I was looking for. I have problems on this site and keep going in circles. The dryer is beeping, **Time** to get the clothes out of the dryer so they don't wrinkle. Who has **Time** to iron?

Oh well. **Time** to start the report. Haven't used my Chromebook in a while so, I get the message to update and find a new browser. Really? I don't have **Time** today for this. Made my way out of that and now I am really serious about this report.

My message is that **Time** is important. **Time** is life, **Time** is living, **Time** is a gift from God.

Make me a wise manager of my **Time** and strengthen me to make choices that honor You, that lead me closer to You, and that reflect Your love to the world.

"There is an appointed time for everything and a time for every affair under the heavens...."
(Ecclesiastes 3)

We all know the rest of this verse. I enjoy reading scripture and realizing that from the beginning of **Time** people struggled with **Time**. They knew our **Time** on earth is short and honoring the Lord in all we do is the best use of our **Time**.

Thank you, Lord for giving me your gift of **Time**.

Polly Rabideau, Chair



RURAL/ENVIRONMENTAL

The Minnesota Center for Rural Policy and Development issued a document called the State of Rural 2024 (<https://ruralmn.org>). Some interesting facts came from the report. It mentions rural Minnesota as having a population increase from “in-migration”, while the Twin Cities urban counties are having out-migration. It is predicted that Minnesota’s population will decline over the next 20 to 30 years. Black, People of Color, Latino, and Hispanic will be seen as the population growth in the rural areas coming from the metropolitan areas. This influx of people to the rural areas have filled much needed employment needs in these rural cities. Additional resources need to be installed in these areas to accommodate these newest immigrants. COVID increased the death rate in 2020 and 2021. The birth rate continues to fall.

A high percentage of employment continues to be in education and health services across Minnesota. Agriculture is prominent in the western counties, while leisure and hospitality is seen in some northern counties. Central and southern Minnesota has a large manufacturing basis. Wages are lower in rural areas, but the cost of living is lower also. “After a decline in land values from their peak in 2014, values again have increased to historic highest in 2022. Land along the western side of the state has increased in value as much as 1,000% since 2000.”

The Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (<http://mncenter.org/protect>) is a non-profit organization to defend Minnesota’s environment and protect the health and wellbeing of all Minnesotans, especially those most directly impacted by environmental degradation and climate change. One of the areas that they have been fighting in the courts against is PolyMet Mining since 2018 when the DNR issued a Permit to build a sulfide mine without a plan to reclaim and restore the natural resources. It would allow PolyMet to maintain a lake of polluted water. The permit allows them to use a 50-year-old taconite dam to hold back pollutants.

Most of us are so blessed to be able to obtain fresh fruits and vegetables any time of the year. According to Second Harvest Heartland (<https://2harvest.org>) – there were 7.5 million food shelf visits in 2023. 29% of black households experienced food insecurity compared to 7% of white households. Seniors 60+ are the fastest-growing group of food pantry visitors. 40% of people experiencing hunger are not eligible for federal food assistance programs. In Minnesota, 537,890 people are facing hunger – and of them 183,480 are children.

Be sure to read the August 24 issue of *The Central Minnesota Catholic*, where there is an article about a new immersion summer course at St. John’s University that explores the depth of rural life. Topics include prayer and reflection through examining rural churches, nature, family farms, rural health facilities, and manufacturing companies.

Midsummer – how are your gardens and fields? Was the corn in your area “Knee High by the 4th”? The corn here was shoulder high with all the rain and warm weather. The gardens are starting to produce heavily – like squirrels we freeze, can, and dehydrate for the winter. With only my husband and I at home, we no longer have to store large quantities of food as when we had children at home. A few waist-high garden beds have taken the place of the large garden in the past. What a joy to watch that first tomato go from blossom to red! And oh, so sweet.



Joyce Simones, Chair

FAMILY COMMISSION

“My Name is ...” You recognize the blue bordered adhesive labels with the white blank horizontal space across the center of the paper, right? They are large and when we approach a person wearing the ‘tag’ we lean into their space (well, not too uncomfortably close – we don’t wish to impose too greatly).

After that encounter we squint and try to recall their features. The ‘direct descendants’ are a reflection of our ancestors. Hmmm. This person reminds us... Who? Are you? Where did you live? Have I met you before? You are the daughter of a cousin? Maybe we enjoyed one another’s company at the mud pie puddle when we were four years old? You wore a beret and I dirtied my patent leather shoes. Perhaps at a wedding – pardon me but: my first experience with crinoline is excruciating.

Advancing to these latest days, I am walking through a cemetery seeking my Grandparents’ resting place. They are together, along with my two uncles and an uncle’s wife. Their monument is large, a handsome granite, slightly tan in color. And my brother is with me. He is saving GPS coordinates of the graves. He is older than I, very fit and can walk like a Tennessee Land Surveyor.

We finish our journey at the ice cream shop (here is a clue: initials). It’s a good day.

Pope Francis released his message for 2024 Grandparents and the Elderly Day, Sunday, July 28: **“Do not cast me off in my old age”**. Psalm 71:9

(Note: The U.S. bishops have approved the transfer of the celebration of World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly in the U.S. to the first weekend after Labor Day in September to coincide with National Grandparents (and the Elderly) Day in the United States as many local communities, schools, and parishes have celebrated for some time.)

However, this fourth Sunday in July coincides closest to the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne, Jesus’ grandparents.

Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell, Prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life, said the theme is a reminder "that, unfortunately, loneliness is a widespread reality, which afflicts many elderly people, often victims of the throwaway culture and considered a burden to society."

Families and parishes, he said, "are called to be at the forefront in promoting a culture of encounter, to create spaces for sharing, listening, to offer support and affection: thus, the love of Gospel becomes concrete."

"Our communities, with their tenderness and affectionate attention that does not forget its most fragile members, are called to manifest the love of God, who never abandons anyone," the Cardinal said. * From USCCB.



Wait... Don't I know YOU?

Mary Jane Hay, Chair

INTERNATIONAL

Today I would like to write to you about a small group of devoted Catholics that decided to put their faith into action. In 1981, Unbound, was formed as an organization based on principles of Catholic social teachings, grounded in the belief and needs of the most vulnerable should come first.

They took seriously what Jesus taught in Matthew 25:40: “Amen, I say to you, what you did for me of these least brothers of mine you did for me.” Reaching out to generous hearted people within the United States to help the economically developing world, they anchored with four core values that honored God-given dignity to program participants, to free them and to choose their own path out of poverty.

Today, families from Africa, Asia, and Latin America have overcome poverty. With the help of dedicated priests preaching on our behalf to parishes, and generous Americans, this has been made possible. 90.2% of the income received goes to program support.

Ways to be a sponsor:

Sponsor a child and walk with them on their path out of poverty;

Encourage a youth and help them receive their education with financial resources, saying, “I believe in you”;

Befriend an Elder, who often experience challenges related to nutrition, health, and social isolation - Pray with them, receive weekly faith, reflections in your inbox.

Respecting the dignity of all people, loving our neighbors where they may be, prioritizing the needs of the poor and vulnerable, and growing in community and solidarity with others. These are the Unbound core beliefs. Check it out on the web: Unbound.org

God has so greatly enriched our lives by his words and deeds. May we each search our hearts and find ways to help support and give to those in need around us or within the world.

God’s Peace,

Bonnie Jennen, Chair



Our mission is to walk with the poor and marginalized of the world.

By providing personal attention and direct benefits, we help children, youth, elders and their families in Africa, Asia and Latin America build their unique paths out of poverty.

We invite all people of goodwill to join our community and walk in solidarity with the world’s poor through one-to-one sponsorship. The connections we create foster relationships and transform lives across geographic, economic and social divides.

For more information, see the website; unbound.org

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

The tide is beginning to turn in favor of unborn babies and their moms!

Earlier this year, the New Hampshire legislature rejected an effort to enshrine abortion in their State Constitution. Then in Maine a similar effort failed in their State House when they could not come up with enough needed votes. Now here in Minnesota we are seeing Minnesotans push back against the sweeping no-limits abortion agenda advanced by the governor and House and Senate leadership.

Abortion supporters control all three and used that power to ram through an "Abortion — up-to-birth " law while repealing numerous longstanding pro-life policies. This year they wanted to go even further by making it a permanent mandate in our constitution, leaving lawmakers powerless to protect unborn children—even viable babies late in pregnancy.

Here is where MCCL stepped in. They held meetings across the state to motivate and equip pro-lifers to make a difference. When the 2024 legislative session began, pro-abortion lawmakers added it to the so called "Equal Rights Amendment", disguising unlimited abortion in the language of "equal rights" mixing it with other controversial issues.

Of course, Legislative leaders touted the ERA, confident it would pass. IT DID NOT!

Why Not? Because pro-lifers went on the offense. MCCL's TV ads effectively showed the extremism of Minnesota's current law—and how lawmakers now wanted to make it permanent. Calls flooded into legislature while they ran newspaper, radio, and social media ads. Mass emails and letters were sent to legislators. All this made a difference. A USA poll showed that 64% of Minnesotans did not want abortion added to the so-called ERA! In the end, the House did push through the ERA but it never came up for a vote in the Senate. For now, at least, the effort to enshrine unlimited abortion in our Constitution has been stopped. I will be watching closely as it could come up again in the next legislative session!

Respectively submitted,

Mary Reuter, Chair



NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

On July 17-21, 2024 history was made. The 10th National Eucharistic Congress was held in Indianapolis, IN. The last National Eucharistic Congress (NEC) was 83 years ago! It was held in June, 1941 in Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN. There was an International Eucharistic Congress held in Philadelphia in 1976. That was 48 years ago.

Following is a list of the National Eucharistic Congresses:

1. 1895 Washington D.C.
2. 1901 St. Louis
3. 1904 New York
4. 1907 Pittsburgh
5. 1911 Cincinnati
6. 1930 Omaha
7. 1935 Cleveland
8. 1938 New Orleans
9. 1941 Minneapolis-St. Paul
10. 2024 Indianapolis

The first International Eucharistic Congress that was held in the United States was in Chicago in 1926.

On May 18th, the National Eucharistic Revival Pilgrimage began. The pilgrims started their journey from four different routes, the Marian route, MN, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton route, CT, St. Juan Diego route, TX, and St. Junipero Serra route, CA. The pilgrims traveled in “Eucharistic caravans” across the United States making many stops on their way to the National Eucharistic Congress. On Wednesday, the start of the NEC, these pilgrims processed into the Lucas Oil Stadium, the site of the NEC, with the picture of the patron saint of their route held high above their heads.

The National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis was the climax of the U.S. Bishops 3-year Eucharistic Revival. Over 50,000 Catholics joined together in Indianapolis for the NEC. The event was for all Catholics, priests, deacons, seminarians, religious brothers and sisters, bishops, young people, elderly, and families, the whole body of Christ, to come together for an incredible opportunity to grow closer to Jesus in the Eucharist. AMEN! See follow-up article by Bishop Cozzens:

<https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2024/08/14/bishop-cozzens>



Toni Borgerding, Historian

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Thank you to all who attended and supported our FUN, FOOD and FUND Day in June, as well all those signed up for the Source & Summit Pilgrimage.

Plans for our 70th Annual Fall Conference are in the process of being finalized. This will be held Saturday, September 21, at St. Anthony's Parish in St. Cloud. We hope to see you all there. We have a wonderful speaker lined up to further educate us on the Eucharist – Fred Blonigen; and Mass with Bishop Neary, C.S.C.

Please help spread the word by making extra copies of the flyer and posting it at area businesses, as well as making sure the info is in your parish bulletin and events board.

Watch for more information elsewhere in this newsletter or at stcloudccw.org.

Pat Kasella, PR Chair



Come to the Table of Plenty

EASTERN DEANERY



Our next Eastern Deanery event is an early birthday celebration for baby Jesus. It will be sponsored by the women from St. Louis Bertrand parish in Foreston, near Foley. Events are always on a Saturday morning to encourage working women to join in. We will enjoy Christmas music and other fun holiday activities. Watch your Bulletins for more details. Join us to get into the Christmas spirit!

Our prayer life is something we may contemplate and develop throughout our lives. Rituals are beneficial in developing a close relationship with our Lord Jesus. There are many ways to pray. We teach young catechists to thank, praise, petition and listen to the Lord. Each is an important part of our prayer life. The Rosary helps me to get back to a routine when I need to enhance my daily prayers. As Catholics, we are so lucky to have prayers with the Mass, Adoration, numerous Chaplets, Novenas, Consecrations, Litanies, the Way of the Cross, Holy Doors and other pilgrimages, the Eucharistic Revival events, Divine Mercy, and the Rosary, to name a few. These mentioned should spark you to think of your favorite prayer life and the many ways of communicating with Jesus! What are your 'go-to' prayers?

As members of Christian Mothers/Women, our prayers should be held for the children in our parishes. Our mission of supporting children in their faith calls for parish women to sponsor the Catholic schools, religious events and religious education programs for children. The benefits of prayer for children will help to sustain the church with religious vocations and also, spur the future generations of the Church to remain active in their faith. For these reasons, I ask all women of faith to put our catholic children on your prayer list. It is important to pray for the development of strong, faith-based children to continue our faith-filled mission.

One's membership in a Catholic parish automatically indoctrinates all women as members of their Deanery in the St. Cloud Diocese. Any woman, age 19 and up is considered a member of their Deanery. You do not need to do anything extraordinary to become a member, as you automatically are one by virtue of your Baptism. Everyone should feel welcome to attend and enjoy scheduled events. The primary mission of both the Deaneries and the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women is to provide education in *Spirituality* and to develop women in leadership. There are many opportunities to meet with women from neighboring parishes and Area Catholic Communities throughout the Diocese, by attending these events.

Your prayers are also needed for the Women's groups to stay strong and viable in our Catholic communities, as we serve as an *example* to the younger generations, in all that we do. We are blessed to have the women that we have in leadership roles throughout our parishes, Area Catholic Communities and our Diocese. Thank you for all the ways that you serve the Lord, through your parish and women's groups.

Prayer partners, this is a request for on-going prayers for our children, families and for one another.

Blessings,

Nita Hayes, President

NORTHWESTERN DEANERY

I read somewhere, that we should support other parish's doings. But how do you do that when your deanery has seven area communities and each one having between 3-8 parishes. I have to look over the bulletins of the churches in the Northwestern Deanery.

This is the time of year that most of their fund-raisers are done. The fund-raisers can be anything from a picnic with a raffle, a potluck with a raffle, games along with a raffle. to a bazaar with a chicken dinner. These activities start in May and go till end of October. I do attend the activities in the Haven of Mercy ACC when I can, but then attend family get-togethers and attending bazaars at my children's churches. It very hard to fit that many of them in.

Rural Life Mass will be celebrated in the Northwestern Deanery this year on Sunday, August 18th at Middendorf's farm near Long Prairie. It is on my agenda to attend this.

Northwestern deanery held a brat sale on June 28 & 29 at Coborn's in Little Falls. It was a success, bringing in \$565.00.

We again will be doing the "Boxes of Joy" boxes, the boxes have been ordered and will arrive here in early September.

Our fall get-together is scheduled for October 26th in Fergus Falls with Father Brady giving a talk on prayer. We are waiting to see what works for him, if it will be a morning or afternoon meeting.

*Submitted by,
Linda Scepurek, President*



For information

<https://crosscatholic.org/box-of-joy>

SOUTH WEST DEANERY

FFF Day, June 20, 2024, St. Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

A day filled with music, food, and fun happened at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Sauk Centre. The South West Deanery hosted the Fun, Food, and Fund Day for the St. Cloud Diocese on June 20, 2024. Given the theme "Lord of the Dance", women from all over the diocese enjoyed hearing the theme song. Next names of dances were used to complete an ice breaker/ mixer and women were entertained by line dancers from the surrounding area. Mass in the morning was celebrated by our spiritual advisor Fr. Larn Virnig and Fr. Mark Botzet. Across the back wall and along the side were tables with over 100 silent auction items for bidding. Entertainment in the afternoon was a group of musicians from the Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary in Morris.



A big thank you to all the women involved: West Union for helping with registration, St. Paul's and Our Lady of Angels in Sauk Centre for greeters by the doors, serving the noon meal, set up and clean up, Elrosa for morning refreshments, Belgrade, Chokio, and Herman for table center pieces/ door prizes, Alexandria for take home treats, Morris and Osakis for dessert, Elbow Lake and Kensington for monetary donations, St. John Nepomuk and St. Bartholomew for clean-up. To all the parishes and individuals who donated items for the silent auction, thank you very much for making this Fun, Food, and Fund Day so successful.

It was a great day to renew long time friendships and make new friends.

Cheryl Weller, SW Deanery Secretary



WEST CENTRAL DEANERY

The West Central Deanery is still in the same situation of not having filled all our officer positions. Our treasurer, Sue Berg, has continued to serve, Arleen Roelike has agreed to be the secretary (in addition to her many duties on the SCDCCW board), and I have continued as president. So, we are still in need of a vice president. At this time, we have 2 women who have agreed to serve as Commission Chairs for “Church” & “Rural/Environmental”, leaving 5 other Commissions to be filled.

At an executive board meeting recently, we decided on a method of how to prepare a “meeting rotation schedule” to involve most or all of the ACC’s/parishes in our deanery in hosting our board and general meetings. We will be contacting representatives of the ACC’s soon to begin implementing our plan, and hopefully it will be fruitful. So far, since the “new” West Central Deanery has been in existence we have been fortunate to have all the parishes we contacted agree to host the meetings, and we are very thankful for that, but the entire process of planning meetings is much easier when there is a schedule to follow.

Our spring 2024 meeting was held in Upsala at St. Mary’s Church, and it was hosted by the All Saints parishes of Holdingford. The meeting was preceded by a Mass and a great meal. It was very well attended. Hopefully we’ll get our rotation schedule in place soon, so our fall board and general meetings can be scheduled. (See above)

I attended the SCDCCW Fun, Food and Fund Day at St. Paul’s Church in Sauk Centre on June 20th sponsored by the Southwest Deanery. It certainly did not disappoint in the Fun (Line Dancers entertainment), Food (great lunch) and Fund (so many silent auction items to bid on and hopefully win). It was very well done and I’m sure everyone had a good time. I was pleased to see so many of our West Central Deanery members present

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

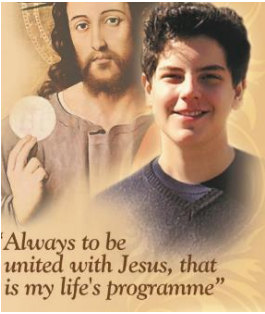


Respectfully submitted,

Jean Hopfer, President

INFORMATION TECHNICIAN

Carlo Acutis: The first millennial saint



The Italian computer-coding teenager who died of cancer in 2006 is known for his great devotion to the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

When we attended the 2022 NCCW National Convention in St Paul, MN, we learned about Blessed Carlo Acutis. He was a regular kid most of the time, but he had a great devotion to the Eucharist. In this age of the internet, he spent much of his time documenting the Eucharistic Miracles. He did this in his short 15 years of life when he lost his life to leukemia. The good news is that he will

be canonized in May 23, 2025! Wouldn't it be wonderful if our youth would choose him as their patron saint?

Please refer to his website: <https://carloacutis-en.org> for more information. There is a list of the miracles he compiled at: <http://miracolieucaaristici.org/en/list.html>.

If you would like to see a video of the dedication of the windows of the Chapel of Saint Ann in Foreston, MN, it can be found on You Tube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dGsxclcsIXg>. It is believed to be the first window of its kind in the US.

Arleen Roelike, Editor

CALENDAR

2024

September 8, World Day for Grandparents and elderly

September 21, DCCW Conference, Saint Anthony Parish, Saint Cloud

September 25, 40 Days for Life Vigil Begins, Saint Cloud & Alexandria

October 26, Pray Always, Northwest Deanery, Our Lady of Victory, Fergus Falls

December 1, Advent Begins

Please submit dates of your events to stcloudccw@gmail.com



Pray Always!

Pope Francis has asked Catholics to dedicate 2024 to intensifying their prayer lives in preparation for the celebration of the Holy Year 2025. To support our efforts in this, the Northwestern Deanery Council of Catholic Women is inviting you to join us for a presentation by Fr. Brady Keller on how to enrich our prayer life.

Date: Saturday, October 26, 2024

Time: Check-In at 9:30am
Presentation by Fr Brady Keller at 10am
Adoration (with musical Divine Mercy Chaplet)
Lunch

Location: Our Lady of Victory
207 North Vine Street
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Please register for attendance by October 19 so we can plan for refreshments & lunch. Register by contacting Sheri Streasick (phone: 320-805-0010 or email: SLStreasick@gmail.com). We are asking for a free-will donation (at check-in) to cover expenses.

Note re Box of Joy Donations: Filled Boxes of Joy can be brought to this meeting. Sheri Streasick will make sure they are taken to the Drop Off Center.

**St. Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women
Annual Fall Conference
Saturday, September 21, 2024**



Come to the Table of Plenty

**St. Anthony's Catholic Church
2405 1st Street North
St. Cloud, MN**

Handicapped accessible

(parking w/elevator access - west side - Door 4)
All others park on east side - use main entrance

Registration : \$20 due by 9/10;
\$25 after 9/10 and at the door

Payable to: St. Cloud DCCW

Mail to: Lora Knafle
11719 16th Ave. NW
Rice, MN 56367

Questions: Contact Lora (320) 393-2701
Website: stcloudccw.org

Schedule

- 9:00 a.m. Registration & Refreshments
(Parish Center/Montessori Bldg)
9:30 a.m. Welcome & Business meeting
10:00 a.m. Speaker - Frederick Blonigen
*"Rediscovering with Amazement the
Incredible Gift of the Holy Eucharist"*
11:00 a.m. Mass with Bishop Neary, C.S.C.
Installation of Officers
12:00 noon Lunch
1:00 p.m. Speaker - Frederick Blonigen
*"Praying, Understanding and Living the
Holy Sacrifice of the Mass with the
Faith & Fervor of the Saints"*
2:00 p.m. Closing Prayer & Door Prizes

Hosted by: Metro Deanery

Fred Blonigen is a member of St. Anthony's Parish, St. Cloud. He retired in 2017 from St. Agnes High School, St. Paul where he was Chair of and instructor in the Theology Dept for 32 years. He started the first high school Pro-Life Club in the Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis in 1986 at St. Agnes - a club which, over 30 years later, is still the largest extracurricular organization at the school! He has taught adult and youth religious education at various parishes in the St. Cloud Diocese for 20 years. Fred was a long-time board member of Catholic Parents Online, an organization supporting Catholic education, and is the author of numerous articles and book reviews on Catholic topics. He has a passion for teaching and defending the Catholic faith and promoting Eucharistic adoration.