

Our Catholic Voice

July 2021

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.



Saint Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Contact us: stclouddiocesanccw@gmail.com

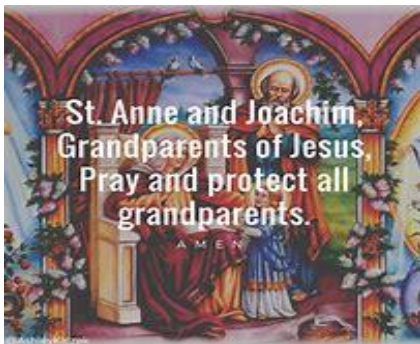
Website: stclouddccw.org

President's Message

Linda Scepurek 320-632-4805 lindascepurek@hotmail.com

GRANDPARENTS!! Most of us are grandparents.

Did you know that Pope Francis has set the fourth Sunday in July as "World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly."? This year it will be celebrated on July 25.



It is close to the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. Grandparents living out their faith, can offer the perfect opportunity to model faith lived in their daily lives. The most powerful gift we can bring to our grandchildren is the understanding that prayer is a gift from God. This is a way to communicate and build a relationship with God. We need to teach them traditional prayers of faith, but also to think about and reflect on what they are saying.

It is so good to see many people back in church and receiving the sacraments. There still are many changes going on. Clustering of the churches, Little Falls is called "Haven of Mercy", and combined the 3 Little Falls churches with Randall, Sobieski and Flensburg. This is the time of year, when Priests are moved and each one brings their own ideas with them to their new churches. Churches are able to have services at the Masses. Singing is back with the whole chorus. No more masks. Life is good among all the changes.

The DCCW Board has been busy working on getting the new deaneries up and going. Bishop Kettler has decreased the number of deaneries from 7 to 5. We are meeting in person again and some on zoom.

The Province Conference was held in June at St Augusta. It was our 1st big get-together and it was well attended. Irene Schmidt did a very good job getting it all together.

Our Fall Conference will be held Saturday, September 18 at St John's Parish in Foley. This will be a half-day conference only since we did not know where we stood on the food issues at the time we arranged it. Another change. Maybe next year!

Jesus promised to be with us and with the Catholic Church until the end of time. Each day as we turn to God with our prayers, and requests, take the time to listen to what God is telling you.



SPIRITUAL ADVISOR'S COMMENTS:

given at the Board meeting in July

Remembering that every woman in every parish is a member of CCW – as we are all part of the church. Training sessions are good for assisting new leaders and other women. Keep asking the Lord for his help. We are called to be the best we can be – Moses didn't plan on leading the people out of Egypt; he planned on being a shepherd. But God called him for something else. He kept asking, "Why me?" God is calling each of us to do something – and we shouldn't miss out on God's call to us. And remember that God gave us the greatest gift of his son – Jesus – in Holy Communion. We need to put God first in our lives. We need to say "Yes" to God's will for us.

Father Laurin Vinnig

WHO ME?

And the Lord said, Go
And I said, Who me?
And He said, Yes you.
And I said, But I'm not ready yet.
And there's company coming
And I can't leave the kids
And you know there's no one to take my place.
And He said, You're stalling

Again, the Lord said, Go
And I said, But I don't want to.
And He said, I didn't ask you if you wanted to.
And I said, Listen, I'm not the kind of person to get involved in controversy
Besides my family won't like it.
And what will the neighbors think.
And He said, Baloney!

And yet a third time the Lord said, Go
And I said, Look, I'm scared.
People are going to hate me
And cut me into little pieces
And I can't take it all by myself.
And He said, Where do you think I'll be?
And the Lord said, Go
And I sighed, Here I am Lord, send me.

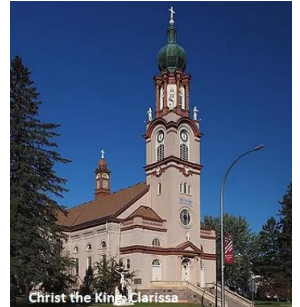
This was taken from the [St Cloud Visitor](#) January 12, 1984, author not given. I've carried it with me ever since.

Arleen Roelike, Info Tech

SPEND A DAY WITH ST JOSEPH!

In this year dedicated to Saint Joseph by Pope Francis, I'm inviting everyone to participate in a pilgrimage to visit a few of the Saint Joseph churches in our diocese.

- When: Wednesday, August 4, 2021.
- 8:15 A.M. meet in Browerville at Christ the King Church for Mass. Car pool with friends/fellow parishioners. Fr Mitch Bechtold will give a talk on St. Joseph churches in the area after Mass.
- Next, tour the Saint Joseph Church, Clarissa.
- 11 am: Lunch at Farm House Cafe (going as a group but Dutch) Trivia during our lunch.
- 12:30-12:45: tour St. Joseph Church, Bertha.
- Prayers will be said at each church.
- Day should end by 2 pm or thereabouts.
- We will gain a plenary indulgence by making this pilgrimage.
- Contact **Jean Zwilling by July 30th, 320-492-7069** if you plan to go, the restaurant would like a headcount.



Thank you,
Jean Zwilling
Church Commission,
Melrose/Sauk Centre Deanery

Here are the other Saint Joseph Churches in our Diocese, if you'd like to go on your own: Grey Eagle, Morrill, Pierz, Saint Joseph and Waite Park.



INTERNATIONAL REPORT

Ethiopia: Rebel forces in the Tigray region of Ethiopia last week reclaimed the regional capital of Mekelle, after the country's military abruptly withdrew its forces. The future is far from certain for the region and the country, following eight months of conflict that has led to some 2 million people being displaced, according to U.N. estimates. The development in Tigray marks the latest wave of uncertainty for a nation that has been plagued in recent years by violence, food insecurity, and natural disasters. Three aid workers were killed June 27 while supporting the approximately five million people in need in Ethiopia's war-torn Tigray region.

Covid Vaccines: In response to the administration's pledge to purchase 500 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine to donate to 100 vulnerable countries overseas, **Bill O'Keefe**, Catholic Relief Services' executive vice president for Mission, Mobilization and Advocacy, issued the following statement:

"We're pleased to see the U.S. pick up the mantle of global leadership on COVID-19. While many G-7 countries, including the United States, are experiencing astoundingly successful vaccination rollouts, the rest of the world struggles, with cases spiking Haiti, Nepal, Brazil and across Africa. The secondary impacts of the pandemic, like growing hunger and increased violence against women, are crushing the world's most marginalized people. The poor are getting poorer. The quicker we can vaccinate vulnerable populations, the quicker we can make up for such losses as well as prevent future loss. Yet U.S. support for overseas vaccination efforts needs to be more holistic. U.S. global leadership providing vaccines will only succeed when coupled with a U.S.-led plan to get those vaccines in arms. National ministries of health and faith-based health providers need more funding and support, especially in conflict areas. Only then will the pandemic end everywhere."

Study in Guatemala: As people from Central America continue to migrate to the U.S. in record numbers, a **new study** commissioned by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) finds that most people in Guatemala would choose to stay in their communities if they were able to access basic services, such as education and health care. According to the **study**, entitled "Rootedness and the Decision to Migrate," of 785 people surveyed, 77% had little or no intention to migrate out of Guatemala. Factors keeping people rooted to their homes include: access to basic health and educational services; access to stable and formal jobs, especially for young people; access to formal education and other types of training, especially when linked to profitable job opportunities; and the knowledge and skills to adapt to climate change.

(Information from CRS. org)



Joyce Simones, Chair

ORGANIZATION COMMISSION

What are we as women looking for in our life? What needs do we have that need to be filled? What are our expectations, our hopes, our dreams? Are we waiting for someone else to fill these needs? Or will we go out to search for our dreams.

As I sit and ponder these questions, I feel an emptiness. My life has become so busy with family, friends, volunteering, and many other commitments that I wonder how life has gotten away from me. I was so good about organizing my life and fitting prayer right up at the top. The last month I seem to have gotten lost, so busy that my morning quiet time is gone.

So now I need to search my heart and feed my soul. I need to take care of me first so that I can help others. I seem to have forgotten that. If I don't, then everything else becomes work, a chore. All the good things I do for family and friends become a burden.

Do you think that maybe this could be why it is hard to find leaders? To find women who want to share their time and talents with us. Are these women feeling like they are being spread thin? Do we need to offer them something to feed their souls? If their souls are not feed, they will be lost.

Council of Catholic women has become an important part of my life. It helps to fuel my soul. It has given me more confidence in myself. I feel empowered and refreshed after attending the conferences. I would like to share this group with others.

Linda Borgerding, Chair

For more information, check out these sites:

[Saint Cloud Diocesan CCW, stcloudccw.org](http://stcloudccw.org)

[Province of Saint Paul/Minneapolis, provinceofstpaul-minneapolis.weebly.com](http://provinceofstpaul-minneapolis.weebly.com)

[National Council of Catholic Women, nccw.org](http://nccw.org)

[World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, wucwo.org](http://wucwo.org)

RURAL LIFE COMMISSION

Before we celebrated Independence Day on July 4th, we celebrated June Dairy Days. In 1937, grocer organizations sponsored “National Milk Month” to distribute extra milk during the warm months of summer. The surplus milk came because fresh cows grazed on the lush green grass in the spring. The Businesses and individuals continue to salute the Dairy Industry in June. Thank you to all the dairy farmers for all your hard work and dedication. Dairy farmers work long hours to take care of their livestock, and to produce quality milk for their consumers.

Here are some fun cow facts:

- A cow can eat 27 pounds of grass every day.
- Cows are social animals, and they naturally form large herds. Like you, they make friends.
- Cows have almost total 360-degree panoramic vision.
- A Holstein's spots are like a fingerprint, no 2 cows have exactly the same pattern.
- Cows actually do not bite grass, instead they curl their tongue around it.
- A dairy cow can produce 125 lbs. of saliva a day.
- A cow has one stomach with four different sections.
- Cattle are red-green colorblind. In a bull fight, it's the waving of the cape that attracts the bull – not the red color.
- The typical cow stands up and lies down about 14 times a day.
- Only female cattle are called cows and have udders and can produce milk.
- Cows have a great sense of smell. They can smell something up to 6 miles away.
- You can lead a cow upstairs, but not downstairs. Cow knees can't bend properly to walk down stairs.



(These fun cow facts were found on the package of Organic Valley's cheese sticks.)



Milk contains 13 essential nutrients such as calcium, protein, potassium, vitamin D, B vitamins, and more. These nutrients help our bodies function properly. Calcium and vitamin D help build and maintain strong bones and teeth. Protein helps build and repair muscle tissue. Protein, zinc, selenium, and vitamins A and D help support a healthy immune system. The B vitamins in milk can help your body convert food into fuel.

Our area churches held Mass on some Friday nights in June and July to pray for rain. Not only was the Mass a petition for rain, it was also to thank God for the many blessings we have. After many weeks of dry weather, our area was blessed with rain.

Toni Borgerding, Chair

LITTLE FALLS DEANERY

Spring arrived with cold temperatures but summer is upon us with hot, humid days.



I pray for rain each day so the farmer's crops, flowers, trees, and gardens grow and produce abundantly. I have been watering and weeding the flowers in the grotto at North Prairie with the help of other parishioners.

With the COVID rate going down and most people have been vaccinated, I plan to visit the elderly again who live in their own homes, people in the nursing homes, and assisted livings.

We were able to have a Corpus Christi procession again this year at North Prairie. We have 4 field stone altars in the corners of our cemetery and various members of the parish decorated them. Fr. Lourn Virnig substituted for Fr. Roger and led us in the procession.

I attended Province Conference on June 11th and 12th in St. Augusta. There were some wonderful speakers for the two days. We were blessed to have Bishop Kettler celebrate the Mass on Friday afternoon. Following Mass, we had a delicious supper. Entertainment was provided by 4 lovely ladies who sang and told some stories.

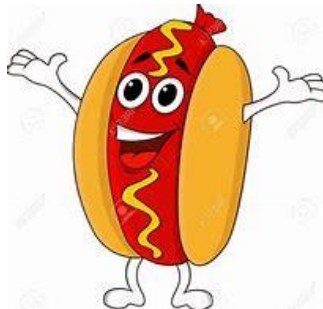
As we all know, it is the year of St. Joseph this year. To honor him, the area in front of the altar was decorated for the last two Sundays with his statue and old tools that he would have used. A couple of the men from the parish were able to provide these tools.

The Little Falls Deanery will be selling a brat lunch at Coborn's in Little Falls on July 16th and 17th with proceeds going to the DCCW.

Our pastor, Fr. Roger Klassen has been assigned to some new parishes. His last Mass here was celebrated on June 27th. A farewell dinner was held for him after Mass in Bowlus at the Community Center. We will all miss him, but wish him well in his new assignment. We are looking forward to meeting our new pastor, Fr. Greg Sauer.

Have a fun and safe summer,

Darlene Nix, President



DIOCESAN CCW NEW DEANERY COMMITTEE UPDATE

After the announcement about reduction of deaneries from seven to five, the St Cloud Diocesan CCW board appointed a Deanery Committee to help us with restructuring challenges. The Committee is lead by Linda Borgerding (board VP) and Sheri Streasick (board Secretary), with 2 representatives from each of the new deaneries. (See the April issue of the Central MN Catholic magazine for more details about Deanery changes.) The Deanery Committee first met in May to brainstorm the issues/challenges facing the diocesan CCW. Those issues/challenges were grouped into six major categories and then prioritized. The categories are as follows in priority order:

- 1) Officer Leadership,
- 2) Financial,
- 3) Membership Recruitment,
- 4) Communication over long distances,
- 5) Engagement of Young Women,
- 6) Re-engagement of non-active parishes,
- 7) Clergy involvement/support, and
- 8) Information Gathering.



Yes, there is overlap between some of these, and as

we move forward, we may find that we have already addressed some of these issues.

The second meeting in June was focused on our first priority – Officer Leadership. We brainstormed action items to address challenges and grouped and prioritized these into Action Plans. Relating to Officer Leadership, the prioritized action plans are: 1) Leadership Selection, 2) Leadership Training, 3) Leadership Mentoring, 4) Deanery Bylaws, and 5) Community Outreach. We broke up into two groups. One group focusing on Leadership Selection, and the other group focusing on Leadership Training. Each group developed an Action Plan Recommendation and presented this to the board on July 14. With some minor tweaks, the board gave the committee permission to forge ahead. The committee will continue developing action plans for all remaining categories and challenges.

Within the next 2 months, representatives from the Deanery Committee will be contacting parishes in each new deanery and asking women to attend an informational meeting (either in person or via Zoom). Attending does NOT commit you to anything – we want input and engagement in this process. And, yes, we are looking for volunteers for open leadership positions in each deanery – even if people are willing to do only a short-term interim commitment to help us through this transition. Once we have key leadership positions filled, we will do leadership training for all officers and commission chairs.

We view this change as helpful chaos to re-energizing our organization. This will not be a short-term fix. We are focusing on our mission statement to ensure actions we take are aligned correctly. We must keep in mind that ALL women in every parish are part of our organization, whether they pay dues or not, regardless of which formal organization they belong to (Christian Women, Daughters of Isabella, Mission Group, Quilting Group, etc.), or if they belong to no formal parish organization at all. So come one, come all!!! God gave everyone special gifts to share – whether in a leadership position or as a member interested in increasing her spiritual learning and can bring along another soul. PLEASE look at our mission statement to help you understand what we are about.

God Bless All!!! We beg for your prayers as we move forward.

Linda Borgerding (320-293-1839) & Sheri Streasick (320-805-0010)

“The Year of St. Joseph”

*St. Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women
67th Fall Conference*

SEPTEMBER 18, 2021

*St. John’s Parish
621 Dewey Street
Foley, MN 56329*

Registration Form

NAME	EMAIL (optional)	PHONE

**Prepaid registration \$15 before September 7th, 2021
\$20 after September 7th and at the door**

NONREFUNDABLE

ENCLOSED: # of attendees _____ X \$15 or \$20 = \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to St. Cloud DCCW

Mail To:

**Lora Knafla
11719 16th Avenue NW
Rice, MN 56367
320-393-2701**

THINGS YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW!!

In March, 1920, NCCW was founded under the auspices of the U.S. Catholic bishops. The bishops had witnessed the important work done by Catholic women's organizations during World War I and had the wisdom to call for the founding of NCCW to bring these organizations together. This gave U.S. Catholic women a unified voice, a national service program and the ability to reach out to each other through a national organization.

There are many programs initiated by NCCW that support the NCCW Partners:

Bread for the World <https://bread.org> a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad.

Catholic Climate Covenant <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org> is grounded in the Church's deep history of teaching on creation, ecology, and the poor.

Catholic Relief Services <https://www.crs.org/> putting our faith into action to help the world's poorest create lasting change.

Catholic Mobilizing Network <https://catholicmobilizing.org> mobilizes Catholics and all people of goodwill to value life over death, to end the use of the death penalty.

Cross Catholic Outreach <https://crosscatholic.org> provides food, water, housing, education, orphan support, medical care, microenterprise and disaster relief — and the love of our Lord Jesus Christ — to the poorest of the poor in over 30 countries around the world.

Education for Justice <https://educationforjustice.org> global digital subscription membership service that provides resources for those who wish to study, teach, and practice Catholic social tradition.

National Catholic Educational Association <https://www.ncea.org> serving as the national voice for Catholic schools

National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations [NFCRV.org](https://nfcrv.org) dedicated to increasing the number of women and men entering religious communities by offering financial assistance to religious institutes.

Religious Alliance Against Pornography <https://www.guidestar.org/profile/31-1255568> mission is to create a broad interfaith effort to alert, educate, and mobilize all people to understand and combat pornography.

U.S Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking <https://sistersagainstrafficking.org/> envision a world without trafficking and slavery.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops <https://www.usccb.org/> drawing **Bishops** together to promote the greater good of the **Catholic** Church.

The Associates of the National Council of Catholic Women, Inc. [,NCCW.org](https://nccw.org) individual membership organization designed to strengthen their support of NCCW

Friends of NCCW for WUCWO, Inc. [NCCW.org](https://nccw.org) an organization which is rooted in our gospel values of helping others.

World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations <https://www.wucwo.org> represents nearly 100 Catholic women's organisations worldwide, active in around 50 countries including all continents and some island states, representing more than eight (8) million Catholic women of every walk of life.



"THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH"

**67th FALL CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 18, 2021**

**Saint John's Parish
621 Dewey Street
Foley, MN 56329**

Sponsored by the St. Cloud Diocesan
Council of Catholic Women.
Hosted by the Eastern Deanery

For more information see:

Website: stcloudccw.org

Facebook: St. Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic
Women



8:30 AM Registration, Light
Breakfast

9:15 AM Business Meeting
Election of Officers

10:00 AM
Sister Elise Saggau, OSF
*"Saint Joseph: A Saint for our
Times"*

11:00 AM MASS Installation
of Officers
Bishop Donald J Kettler
and available priests
Door Prizes

Registration: \$15
After September 7, 2021: \$20
Make checks out to St Cloud DCCW
SEND REGISTRATIONS TO:
Lora Knafle
11719 16th Avenue NW
Rice, MN 56367
320-393-2701

Presentation will be available on YouTube
after the Conference. Freewill donations
can be sent to Lora.