

Our Catholic Voice

February 2019

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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Contact us: stclouddiocesanccw@gmail.com

Website: stclouddccw.org



Saint Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Message from President-Cheryl Weller

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There is one thing that we can be sure of and that is change. Within our own personal lives each day brings change in things so simple as the weather, our families, and our daily activities. Within our parishes there may be change in new families joining, office staff retiring, or long-time members passing.

The communications department for the St. Cloud Diocese has changed its publication from a newspaper format called *'The Visitor'* to a monthly magazine called *'The Central Minnesota Catholic'*.

Also coming to our diocese is the realignment of parish clusters into Area Catholic Communities. Bishop Donald Kettler at our recent Diocesan Pastoral Council meeting urged everyone to attend a regional meeting, become familiar with the draft proposed by the Diocesan Planning Council, and share comments/ concerns with board members from your deanery.

We may look back at the changes in our lives over many years. Through these changes we have learned more about ourselves and our surroundings. As we advanced in years we grew in our understanding and appreciation for our parents and other people in positions of authority. Change is hard. It takes us out of our comfort zones and yet it gives us repeated opportunities to grow.

Where do we go for guidance and comfort with all of these changes in our lives? Jesus has promised to be with us and with the Catholic Church until the end of time. Each day as we say our daily prayers, we can ask God to guide us through the changes that are happening in our lives. If our prayer is to give our lives to God and do His will, then we will have the strength to move through the changes ahead of us. Will the road ahead be bumpy? Of course! Perhaps these changes in our lives are giving us the opportunity to decrease so the presence of God in us can increase. We don't know how these changes of Area Catholic Communities will affect officers and members of our deaneries. It will be an adjustment.

Please join us at the Women's Lenten Retreat "Dignity of Women" on March 16, 2019 in Albany. This could be the place where God will speak to you and answer prayers.

PROVINCE DIRECTOR REPORT

The NCCW Board Meeting January, 2019

- Attended the Opening Mass for the Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. The president (Mary Beth Stewart) and president-elect (Jean Kelly) were invited to sit in the sanctuary by the side of many priests, bishops and cardinals. And that NCCW was recognized from the altar. The Basilica was packed, including the crypt below, with families, religious, organizations and many youth delegations from around the country. The procession in took over ½ hour!
- The next day we gathered at the corner of Constitution and 12th and marched with our banner to the Supreme Court Building. It was a balmy 40 degrees.
- Saturday morning, we gathered for prayer, breakfast and mass in the chapel celebrated by Fr. Paul Dressler from the Catholic University. Our Spiritual Advisor was ill and unable to attend the meeting.

- The board meeting began and we heard the following reports:
 - The **Treasurer** then presented a Financial Analysis for the nine months ended September 2018, a report covering our current savings and checking balances as well as the generous amounts collected and forwarded to CRS, after which she asked everyone to take some time to go over the proposed budget which was subsequently accepted by a vote. She then reminded board members of their annual donation.
 - **Jean Kelly**, our President-Elect, then provided information on the 2019 Convention plans and our Monthly Member Calls.
 - Our President, **Maribeth Stewart**, gave her President's report that covered items that have come up since her last Board update. We voted to accept the following: Preparation of a Strategic Plan, Signing the petition to the UN's Human Rights Council condemning the Tamil genocide in Sri Lanka, and creation of a certificate noting Convention session hours for attendees.
- After lunch, we received reports from:
 - **Education Committee** noting their work on a 30-day guide for our members through *Laudato Si* and their work on outreach to younger women.
 - **Andrea Cecilli**, our NCCW Executive Director, then gave a demonstration of the new affiliate news page on our website and the new Board members only page on the website where we shall have information such as the minutes, updates from the president, and other pertinent information.
 - We heard reports from our **Leadership Training Development** team
 - We heard of the work of the **Nominating Committee** that culminated in the announcement of the names of candidates for President-Elect, Secretary, and the Nominating Committee.
 - **Alison Mimms**, President of the Associates, spoke of their generous work and noted that the Associates are soon to celebrate their 50th anniversary in 2020 as the NCCW marks its centennial.
 - **Mary Beth Stewart**, representative to the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, presented information about the WUCWO General Assembly in Senegal held in October 2018 and the upcoming WUCWO Board meeting in Rome in May
 - We had updates from **committees** for the Our Lady of Good Counsel Award, Liturgy, Hospitality, Resolutions, and By-Laws.
 - **Sheila Hopkins**, co-chair of the Legislative Advocacy Committee, presented that report combined with information from our representative to the Religious Alliance Against Pornography after which we spent time commenting on the Province Director reports received prior to the meeting, pulling out best practices from each other's reports.
 - Following this discussion, we went around the room and presented one fact about ourselves that others would not know about us. The stories told indicated that our women are full of ingenuity, courage, perseverance, deep faith, compassion, and possess a very rich sense of humor.
- Sunday, we met for Morning Prayer and broke into our three commissions, Spirituality, Leadership and Service, to work on projects and to prepare presentations for Convention. We also worked on developing one or more resolutions to submit to the Resolutions Committee. We broke for Mass at 11 am in the chapel, lunch, and more work on our committee



PRAYER TO MARY, UNDOER OF KNOTS

(Composed by Pope Francis)

Holy Mother, Mother of God and our Mother, to you, who untie with motherly heart the knots of our life, we pray to you to receive in your hands (the name of person), and to free him/her of the knots and confusion with which our enemy attacks. Through your grace, your intercession and your example, deliver us from all evil, Our Lady, and untie the knots that prevent us from being united with God so that we, free from sin and error, may find Him in all things, may have our hearts placed in Him, and may serve Him always in our brothers and sisters. Amen.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

January, February, and March are the upcoming months. January is **Catholic Charities** month. Many parishes are having **FOOD DRIVES** that we may donate to to help those less fortunate than most of us. St. Cloud had a **MARDI GRAS** benefit evening on January 26 at the **River Center**. A good way to donate and have a fun time. Many communities have food shelves, thrift stores where we can donate to and volunteer our time to help work at them.

January was also **Respect Life Month**. We are all familiar with the abortion industry. In this area we can join the groups walking and praying in front of the **Planned Parenthood** abortion facilities. The new session will be starting again on March 6 to April 14. Find the closest one to your community and join the group. A good Lenten act of penance. The elderly and the mentally and physically handicapped also need to be cared for and respected. I also read an article talking about **capital punishment**. It is wrong, no good to snuff out another human life. Therefore, we need to talk against this practice of punishment. Domestic violence, so called abuse is also taking away **Respect Life**. If you see any of this happening to spouses or children find help for them at **Domestic Violence Shelters**. Most of them don't advertise where they are located for safety reasons so you would need to contact local authorities for help.

Are you all familiar with **Dynamic Catholic**? If not, go on their web site (dynamiccatholic.com). There is much vital information on what they are doing to help make the Catholic Church stronger. They have developed many new programs. During the year of 2018 they have released several new programs such as **Better Together**, their latest Catholic Moment designed to build stronger marriages. They launched **The Turning Point**, their first Bible study (hosted by Dr. Allen Hunt). Also shared **Best Lent Ever** and **Best Advent Ever** with nearly a million people. Matthew Kelly who started Dynamic Catholic is one of my favorite authors and speakers.

Now we come to March. Lent begins. A time to reflect on our Catholic Faith by looking over what the Church offers.

1. **Remember the formula.** The church does a good job capturing certain truths with easy-to-remember lists and formulas: 10 commandments, 7 sacraments, 3 persons in the Trinity. For Lent, the Church gives us almost a slogan—Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving—as the three things we need to work on during the season.

2. It's a time of prayer.
3. It's a time to fast.
4. It's time to work on discipline.
5. It's about dying to yourself.
6. Don't do too much.
7. Lent reminds us of our weakness.
8. Be patient with yourself.
9. Reach out in charity.
10. Learn to love like Christ.

"The fruit of silence is **PRAYER**

The fruit of prayer is **FAITH**

The fruit of faith is **LOVE**

The fruit of love is **SERVICE**

The fruit of service is **PEACE.**"

-Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta

May each and every one of you have a Blessed and Happy Easter!!

Margaret Schluender

Chair

FAMILY COMMISSION

Words From "Grandma" on Becoming an Adult

I was blessed to have my two grandchildren visit with us over Christmas break; my granddaughter is eleven and my grandson is thirteen. These two are at a critical stage in their lives because they are growing into young adults. It is a very formative time. And although I don't constantly harp on things, I do look for opportunities to give "Grandma" advice to help them think about what they are doing and the choices they make.

My grandson is a gifted young man. He is in advanced math and science classes and hopes (at this point in his life) to become a doctor. But he is still in that early teen stage. He can get cocky and pushy with his parents. And he hates losing in anything –doesn't lose gracefully, and gloats over his wins. After he beat his mom and his sister in a game, he went on and on about how good he was and hadn't lost yet – which was getting under everyone's skin and becoming annoying. I explained to him that no one minds a graceful winner; but that it is hard to lose and have someone gloat about it. It hurts the person who has lost. A better way would be to find something graceful and kind to say. I noticed after I said something that he tried to live that advice. I'm so proud of him. Sometimes teens "tune out" advice from Mom or Dad, so maybe it's a lesson only another concerned adult could give.

My granddaughter is at that age when her body will start changing – she will be 12 this year. I remember that age – for me it was about 7th grade. While us ladies (my daughter-in-law, granddaughter and I) were preparing a meal together, I asked if they had conversations about

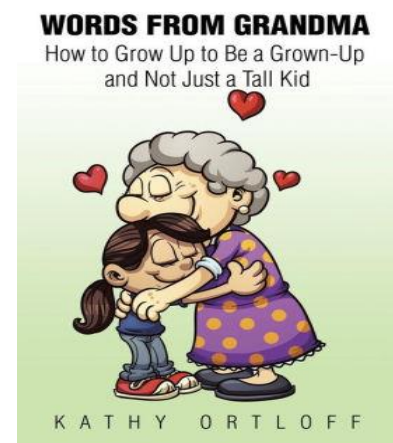
body and emotional changes that would be coming for my granddaughter. We had a good conversation and I shared some of the things that were hard for me, as my daughter-in-law shared her stories. What we did by having that conversation was to make it OK for my granddaughter to bring up these issues again when things start happening in her life.

None of these conversations took very long – maybe just a few minutes at most. It's important for children this age to know they have supportive adults who they can go to and talk to about difficult issues. And that they know the advice they get from those adults is to help them, not condemn them. These discussions are done with love; so, it's important that there is a good relationship as a foundation.

There is a great book by Kathy Ortloff titled *“Words from Grandma: How to Grow Up to Be a Grown-Up and Not Just a Tall Kid.”* (And I do know several adults who are Just Tall Kids.) It is a book an adult can read to help with thinking through a conversation to be held with a young person; or the book can be given to a young person to read. It is a quick and easy read (55 pages). Another alternative would be to read a chapter WITH the young person and discuss what it means to them. Maybe do a chapter a week.

Kathy Ortloff covers the following topics in this book (maybe 2-5 pages on each):

- Families
- Education
- Disappointments
- Talents
- Health
- Safety
- Sex
- Human Trafficking
- Money
- Friends
- Laws, Rules, and Habits
- Vote
- Honesty
- Giving
- Life Skills
- Attitude
- God



Kathy's advice is done in a way that shows how growing up is an exciting journey that includes learning new skills and gradually taking on the responsibilities that go with being an adult... but remembering to enjoy this time and to stay childlike. Being child-like is different from being child-ish. Being childish is the bad traits of a 3-year-old: whining, self-centeredness, not sharing (i.e., being a tall kid). Being child-like includes the good traits: a sense of wonder and

curiosity, playfulness, expressions of affection. Our wish is to help all young people become the best person they can be (which is also God's wish for us).

God Bless You and Your Family

Sheri Streasick

Chair

LEGISLATION CONCERNS COMMISSION

Well, we all know the outcome of the 2018 election regarding how voting went for Minnesota governor and senators from Minnesota. It really was a disappointment that the voting did not go to pro-life legislators. So, all pro-lifers have to continue intensely the on-going fight to get anti-abortion legislation passed in Minnesota and the U.S. Congress.

I recently contacted Minnesota Catholic Conference to get a list of the issues they will be working on this legislative session. Included are these "Advocacy Areas":

- CARE OF CREATION: Environment - clean water, Mississippi River headwaters clean-up
- EDUCATION: School Choice - Opportunity for All Kids, Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit, Increase Funds for Catholic Schools, Increase non-public pupil aid
- HEALTHCARE: Numerous issues listed; Coordinated with CHA (Catholic Health Association of MN)
- LIFE/BIO-ETHICS: Abortion - Stop tax-payer funding, create a policy to support mothers with challenging pregnancies, increase availability of adoptions; Assisted Suicide - Advance care not hasten death; Gender Theory - Numerous resources available for information; Gun Violence - Recommend comprehensive background checks and a ban on assault rifles, implement commonsense initiatives; Surrogacy - Restrict commercial surrogacy
- MARRIAGE/FAMILY: Family Investment Program, Family Economic Stability
- MIGRATION: Federal immigration reform, Stop Human Trafficking
- RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: Nothing was specifically mentioned

One can always access the issues on the MCC or the Legislature websites for information on how to contact your legislator so you can make your opinion known to them. Remember as a faithful citizen, it is our moral obligation to stay abreast of the issues and try to build a better society by helping to determine the course of public policies. And also pray, pray for help in guiding the legislators to make the morally right decisions.



There are several gatherings to attend:

Feb. 7th - Thursday - JRLC - Joint Religious Legislative Coalition
(<http://jrlc.org/about-us>)

Feb. 19th - Tuesday - Catholics at the Capitol

March 4th (Monday) or 14th (Thursday) - Student Day at the Capitol

Jean Hopper

Chair

ORGANIZATION

“Our Faces Be Seen”

How can we be seen as members of Catholic Council of Women?

Be active in your parish by:

- Helping with special activities;
- Decorating the church for holidays, and of course with the cleaning of the church;
- Helping with special projects around Christmas time, such as:
 1. Taking a name off the Christmas tree for someone who needs a gift,
 2. Donating food for a basket for the needy,
 3. Or as at my Church-donating to the Helping Hands program.
- Spending time with the homeless; through New Pathway program or others,
- Attending extra Masses, esp. the ones that the CCD program will be participating in,
- Helping with the Religious Ed program,
- Attending group meetings where the Rosary will be said,
- Attending funeral wakes to pray the Rosary for the deceased,
- In our surrounding parishes, we can support them by attending their fund-raising activities,
- Pierz, Harding, Lastrup and Buckman are having a mission again this month so plan on attending.

In the communities, we can:

- Ring the bell for the red kettle for the Salvation Army,
- Volunteer at the Boy and Girls Thrifty shop,
- Deliver meals on wheels to the shut-ins,
- Give rides to people to medical appointments, grocery shopping or just so they can get out in the communities,
- Volunteer with the Hospice program,
- Visit people in Nursing Home.
- Volunteer for the Blood mobile by donating blood or helping out.

There are so many ways we can let our faces be seen. These are only a few ideas. Each community has different needs, so let our faces be out there in God's name.

Linda Scepurek
Chair

RURAL LIFE COMMISSION

January is a slower time for farmers as far as there is no work to do in the fields. But that doesn't mean they are not busy! Now is the time for more bookwork, year-end reports and income tax returns. For dairy farmers, the cold weather and snow make it harder to get chores done. Water fountains can freeze, snow needs to be moved, tractors don't like the cold, and livestock need to be fed more calories to keep them warm and growing. Although, I have to say, this winter has been pretty mild - so far.

The winter months are also a time for farmers to go to meetings. There are annual meetings for local co-ops, businesses hold appreciation meals, and there are many educational meetings and conferences for farmers. Farmers are always looking for ways to improve their practices. Farmers also take care of business at the Farm Service Agency in January. Some farmers go to the FSA office for loans on their grain. Farmers sign up for programs and need to report their yields from the previous year. None of this can be done at this time. Because of the government shut down, the FSA office is closed. Hopefully the farmers who really needed the loans were able to do this before the office closed.

In 2018, there were about 10% less dairy farms in MN, WI, & MI, but no less milk. The long-term low milk prices have been forcing the small farmers to quit. Large dairy farms are still expanding. It is sad that we are losing small farms! This affects our rural communities. With the decline of small farms, small businesses decline also. Our rural schools and churches will not be as full as they once were. The new farm bill did get passed before the shutdown. It includes some help for small dairy farms!

At our Oct. meeting, I mentioned we were working on a plan to have our 2 sons, & a daughter-in-law transition to part owners of our farm. On January 1, 2019, Danny & Tommy bought our dairy cows. They formed a partnership between the 2 of them. Joe will continue to provide the feed for the livestock. After 40 years for me, and even longer for Joe, it is very different not being in charge of our dairy business. But we are excited to pass this responsibility to our sons, to be able to give them this opportunity. Our farm will continue to be a family farm. Danny's wife, Colleen, is also involved in the farm, and their 4 kids like to "Go to the farm". Danny is passionate about saving our rural communities.

I can't help but think about how different it will be for Danny & his family, and Tommy then it was for Joe & I. When we were younger, most of our friends were dairy farmers. When we played in a volleyball tournament on a Sunday afternoon, everyone had to quit to go home for chores. School & community events were scheduled around farmers' schedules. That is no longer the case. When we were starting out, dairy farming was the norm. At that time there were 25,000 dairy farms. Now there are just over 3000. Now being a farmer, you are almost a minority. Also, there are so many school activities for kids now, when we think it would be nice to just let them stay home. In some ways it will be nicer for the next generation. Having two of them in charge, and good hired help, it will be easier to take a night off.

One thing I have to mention, we did not get through the fall without an accident. On Nov 8th, Joe broke his leg, in multiple places, when he got hit with a flying manure hose that had an iron coupler on the end of it. It is scary to think of what could have happened. We are so thankful it was his leg, and not his head or chest that got hit!

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, His love endures forever. 1 Chronicles 16:34

Toni Borgerding
Chair

INFORMATION TECHNICIAN/WEBMASTER

It's been an interesting few months. I am on the 2017-2019 National Nominating Committee as the recording secretary. We found candidates for NCCW Treasurer last year, and it was fairly simple in comparison. This year we have selected candidates for 2019-2021 President-Elect, Secretary and the next Nominating Committee. I was appreciative that CCW women stepped up to the challenge and sent in their applications. If they hadn't, we would have done a lot more calling.

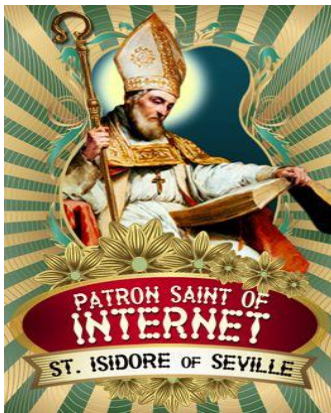
On the local levels, I wish members would do the same thing. As you can see, our Diocesan CCW is looking for a Vice-President and a Secretary. The Deanery I am part of is also looking for a Vice-President and Commission Chairs.

Please prayerfully think about serving as officers. You're never alone! I personally have learned so much since I became a CCW member. There are conventions, conferences, workshops and so many opportunities to "become the best version of yourself" (Matthew Kelly). Being a part of CCW is so much more than I ever thought it would be. I never would have believed what I can do now that I couldn't do before.

The good news is that here is another newsletter, which I couldn't do without help. Thanks to everyone who supplies the information. Thanks to Jean Hopfer and Irene Schmidt who help with proofing and distribution.

The website (stcloudccw.org) is up and running. Again, thanks for all the information. We also have just done a website for the Province. (provinceofstpaul-minneapolis.weebly.com).

The Facebook page is there for all to see. ([St. Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women](#)) There we can share posts from other CCW groups from all over esp. Canada. Please take a look at all of them.



I would like to request a bit more help from everyone. We put upcoming events in the *Our Catholic Voice* and on the website. So, if your Catholic Women's group is sponsoring an event, please send the information to us and we'll help you promote it.

The NCCW website is (NCCW.org) is now doing Affiliate Happenings. Go to the website, click on NCCW News and then Affiliate Happenings. There you will find what your council sisters across the nation are doing. Our Lady of Mount Carmel of Holdingford, MN has a picture there.

Arleen Roelike

ALEXANDRIA-MORRIS DEANERY
Come see Us!



The Church of
St. Mary

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COLD SPRING DEANERY

SAVE THE DATE

The Cold Spring Deanery of the DCCW will host the **Annual Fall Conference** at ST BONIFACE Church in Cold Spring, Sept 21st, 2019. The Cold Spring Deanery members have met to make sure the day is going to be enjoyable and educational for all who attend.



FOLEY-PRINCETON DEANERY

Since the Lenten Prayer Service, our women's group held at the Foley Heritage Nursing Center last year was so well received, it was suggested by Joyce Simones (DCCW Service Commission Chair) that we consider something for Advent.

So, this past Advent, our group put together a six-part, half hour program of prayer, Advent Kyrie song, and Advent attitude ideas to share with the residents wishing to attend.

The turn-out was good and much appreciated. Our ladies agreed that we should make an annual event of the program.

We are edified by the new things we allow ourselves to do in the service of others.

“Be not afraid”.

Mary Jo Fitzpatrick
President

FERGUS FALLS-WADENA

A Note from Father Alan Wielinski, Our Lady of Victory, Fergus Falls

Some food for thought today...

In the church of a small village, an altar boy serving the priest at Sunday Mass accidentally dropped the cruet of wine. The village priest struck the altar boy sharply on the cheek and in a gruff voice shouted: “Leave the altar and don’t come back!” That boy became Tito, the Communist leader.

In the cathedral of a large city an altar boy serving the bishop at Sunday Mass also dropped the cruet of wine. With a warm twinkle in his eyes the bishop gently whispered: “Someday you will be a priest.” That boy grew up to become Archbishop Fulton Sheen.

Psychologists tell us that it takes close to fifty positive comments to offset the effect of just one negative remark. And although we may hear countless words about love in sermons and books, they mean little to someone who has not experienced love at the hands of another. This is an integral part of the ministry of priest and religious and all who help form the spirituality of the young. In the words of St. John Bosco, whose feast day was January 31st, to his order of teachers: “Dear brothers, let us always err on the side of love.”

LITTLE FALLS DEANERY

As the new president of Little Falls Deanery, here are a few of the things I attended:

- On December 11, 2018 at Holy Cross Church in North Prairie, Fr. Chris M. Alar, M.I.C spoke on the Divine Mercy which was very uplifting.

- On December 12th, he also spoke at St. Hedwig's church in Holdingford, where he addressed the scandal of sexual abuse committed by priests. He pointed out while there is no excuse for the actions of the priests and those that covered up their crimes, our children and grandchildren are safer with the catholic priests than in the public schools.
- On Christmas Eve at North Prairie church the religious education students put on a pageant acting out the gospel as Fr. Roger read it with a 3-month-old baby boy lying in On Epiphany Sunday, the young people stood in for the (close space) three kings; along with one of them riding a camel as they presented themselves to baby Jesus with their gifts.
- a manger. It was absolutely breath-taking!

As the new president, I hope to visit several parishes when they have their Christian Mothers Meetings.

Darlene Nix
President

MELROSE/SAUK CENTRE DEANERY

It is truly amazing how fast time flies. It seems that I was just sitting down to write my fall article for the newsletter and now it is almost time for spring. I LOVE spring.... It leads to summer... The best season.

Winter is just flying right by, which is ok for me. We in the Melrose/Sauk Centre Deanery have been busy planning the Spring Lenten Retreat for the St. Cloud DCCW. The retreat will be held March 16th in Albany at Seven Dolors Church. We have accomplished much and still have so much more to do. It has been truly wonderful working with the women who came to the initial planning meeting at my home. But I would like to thank individually some of the women who really have stepped up to help. I thank Carol Wenning and Luann Goebel from Albany, and Evelyn Budde from Grey Eagle. I also would like to thank Cheryl Weller, Arleen Roelike and Jean Hopfer for all their time and for all the questions they have answered for me. These ladies are all amazing. A special thanks to Patty Voss who makes me a better person.

Several of the parishes in our Deanery ran a project that was a Baby Shower for Jesus. So many people in several parishes were so generous. Several of the CCW groups have done much for the children in their parishes; from the children being baptized to the young adults graduating. There was also St. Nick greeting children after masses, decorating Christmas cookies with children, Christmas caroling at the nursing homes. Several parishes had bake sales and helped with cleaning and decorating their churches.

Thank you to all the women that help with the projects in your parishes. Doesn't it make you feel great to help others and help make the lives of others just a little happier?

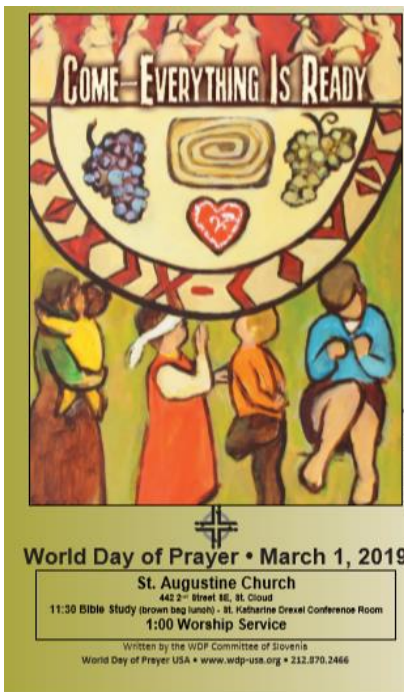
In Faith

Linda Borgerding
President

SAINT CLOUD DEANERY

2019 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

Everyone is invited to attend the local World Day of Prayer service at St. Augustine Church, 442 2nd Street SE, St. Cloud, on Friday, March 1, 2019 at 1:00 PM.



A Bible study will be held in the Saint Katharine Drexel School Conference Room at 11:30 AM. Participants in the Bible Study are encouraged to bring a bag lunch.

The theme for the Bible study and the worship service is: **“Come – Everything is Ready”**, based on Jesus’ parable of the Great Banquet (Luke 14).

This year’s ecumenical prayer service is written by the women of Slovenia, one of the smallest and newest countries in Europe. The people of Slovenia challenge us to widen our circles and to expand our outreach.

This year’s event is co-chaired by Lora Knafla and Mary Alice Tomporowski.

The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen’s initiative. It is run under the motto “Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action,” and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. The movement aims to bring together women of various races, cultures and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer, as well as in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.

For more information on the World Day of Prayer: <https://worlddayofprayer.net>



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

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

CONTACT CHAIR:

EVA KOEP: ekoep@arvig.net, 763-218-2057

OR COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

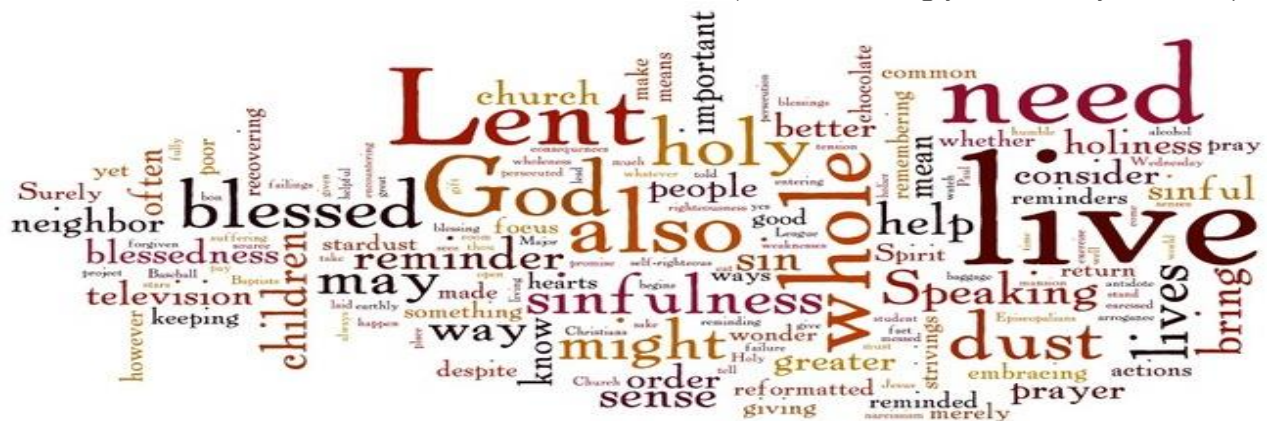
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**The 2019 Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6,
for Latin-rite Catholics with Easter Sunday on April 21.**

During Lent, we are asked to devote ourselves to seeking the Lord in prayer and reading Scripture, to service by **giving alms**, and to sacrifice self-control through **fasting**. Many know of the tradition of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season. Contemplate the meaning and origins of the Lenten fasting tradition in this **reflection**. In addition, the giving of alms is one way to share God's gifts—not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2446).

(See USCCB.org for more information)



WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT

“DIGNITY OF WOMEN”



March 16, 2019

Seven Dolors

150 2nd Street S, Albany, MN

Registrations, mail to:

Linda Borgerding
33504 Shorewood Drive
Avon, MN 56310

- 8:30 am Registration, Refreshments
- 9:15 am • Rosary & MASS
Celebrants:
Father Julius Beckerman
Father Lurn Virnig
- 10:30 am • Retreat
- Lunch (*gluten-free options available-
please call before*)
- 1:00 pm • Retreat continues
- 2:15 pm • Closing prayers, door
prizes
- Cost: \$15 by March 1, 2019-OR-
\$20 after March 1 and at the door.
- Handicapped Accessible
- **For Information Contact:**
Linda Borgerding
320-293-1839
lborger77@gmail.com

Sponsor:
Saint Cloud Diocesan Council of
Catholic Women

“Dignity of Women”

WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM

SEVEN DOLORS CHURCH

150 2ND STREET S, ALBANY, MN, 56307

NAME OF ATTENDEES FOR ID BADGES

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

DEANERY _____ PARISH _____ CITY _____

Prepaid registration \$15.00 before March 1, 2019

(includes Mass, speakers, handouts and luncheon)

NONREFUNDABLE

Registration postmarked after March 1, 2019 or at the door \$20.00

AMOUNT ENCLOSED # of attendees _____ x \$15 OR \$20 = \$ _____

Mail to: Linda Borgerding, 33504 Shorewood Drive, Avon, MN 56310

Hosted by: Melrose/Sauk Centre Deanery CCW

Sponsored by: Saint Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

February 23, 2019	Catholic Men's Conference	Sacred Heart, Sauk Rapids
March 1, 2019	World Day of Prayer	Saint Augustine, Saint Cloud
March 6, 2019	Lent begins	
March 16, 2019	Women's Lenten Retreat, St Cloud DCCW	Seven Dolors Church Albany, MN
April 21, 2019	Easter Sunday	
April 26, 2019	Duluth CCW Conference	St Christopher, Nisswa
April 27, 2019	New Ulm CCW Conference	St Anastasia, Hutchinson
May 4, 2019	Honoring Marriage Day	Saint Mary Cathedral
May 3-4, 2019	ACCW Spring Conference	St John Newman, Eagan
June 25, 2019	Fun, Food Fund Day	Saint Augustine, Saint Cloud
August 20-24, 2019	NCCW Convention	Atlanta, GA
September 21, 2019	Annual Fall Convention	Cold Spring Deanery
October 18-19, 2019	Immaculee Ilibagiza	Saint Paul Church, Sauk Centre
June, 2020	Province Conference	Saint Cloud Diocese
August 26-29, 2020	NCCW Convention 100th Birthday	Arlington, VA