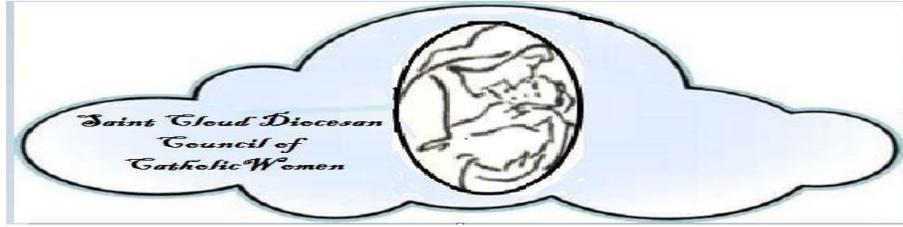


Our Catholic Voice



Our Catholic Voice

July 2017

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.

Our 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.*

A word from the president!

Your St. Cloud president has been busy as ever with conventions in different dioceses.

I traveled to the ACCW in Shoreview, New Ulm DCCW in Sleepy Eye and the Duluth convention in Cross Lake.

Our Fun, Food, and Fund day was at St. Ann's in Wadena and was an enjoyable day.

We are working hard to prepare for our Annual Fall Conference on **Sept. the 16th** at Little Falls, at Our Lady of Lourdes parish.

Several from the council will travel to Dallas, TX for our annual National convention, Sept. 6th thru the 9th. It will be an exciting time as we will have a new Province Director installed at that time: Irene Schmidt. We also have a representative on the NCCW Nominating Committee: Arleen Roelike. The St. Cloud Diocese is excited to have wonderful ladies serving on the National board.

I hope all are having a wonderful summer, even as it has been hot at times. It just seems summer came and not too long and Labor Day will be here and children are back to school.

Eva Koep
eakoep@arwig.net

CHURCH COMMISSION REPORT

What is the Church? What do we think of when someone says "church"?

I thought that I should look in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) to see what it says. Wow, there are pages of reading talking about the Church. It all began when we read in Scripture when Jesus said to Peter, "Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

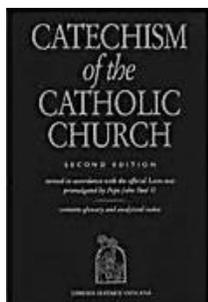
The following is just a small segment of what the CCC says about the Church and I quote: (CCC 737) "The mission of Christ and the Holy Spirit is brought to completion in the Church which is the Body of Christ and the Temple of the Holy Spirit. This joint mission henceforth brings Christ's faithful to share in his communion with the Father in the Holy Spirit. The Spirit prepares men and goes out to them with his grace, to draw them to Christ. The Spirit manifests the risen Lord to them, recalls his word to them and opens their minds to the understanding of his Death and Resurrection. He makes present the mystery of Christ supremely in the Eucharist, to reconcile them, to bring them into communion with God, that they may "bear much fruit".

(CCC 738) "Thus the Church's mission is not an addition to that of Christ and the Holy Spirit, but is its sacrament: in her whole being and in all her members, the Church is sent to announce, bear witness, make present, and spread the mystery of the communion of the Holy Trinity."

This quote says so much. Lectio Divina is a way of studying Scripture. You read the Words of God, read them again, ponder them, pray about them and listen to what they say to you. Try doing that same process with the quotes from the CCC. If you do not have a copy of the CCC, maybe you might get one and try to learn about the Catholic Church. The Catechism has an excellent index. Look up something that interests you or that you are curious about, read what the CCC says and then make sure you check the foot notes. Many times, the footnotes will refer you to the Bible. Then you read what the Bible says about the same topic. It is a profound way to study the Scriptures because the CCC will help you to understand. The Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church will teach you about Christ and His Church

Linda Christen,

Chair



(Editor's note: This new edition can be read or downloaded at:

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings>

**COMMUNITY COMMISSION REPORT
THE SEVEN SISTER APOSTOLATE**

The Seven Sister Apostolate had its beginning in 2010 when Janette Howe (the mother of Father Spencer Howe who was ordained a Catholic priest in 2013) sensed a nudge to pray more frequently for her pastor Father Joseph Johnson who was pastor at the Cathedral of St. Paul in St. Paul, Minnesota. She felt the very least she could do for her parish priest in gratitude for all his care, concern and prayerful counsel might be to offer a Holy Hour for him.

After several weeks of steady prayer for her parish priest Janette Howe heard the words Seven Sisters in her heart. This was the beginning of one mother's prayers which has to date formed more than 250 apostolates in parishes, chanceries, seminaries, hospitals and other locations all around the world.

Seven Sisters Apostolate groups are formed by identifying Seven Sisters or women in a parish who are willing to each pray for one hour one day each week specifically for their parish priest. The women are asked to give one hour in prayer, typically in a Holy Hour spent before the Blessed Sacrament. The prayers are unique to each sister. Two things they do pray for are the sanctity of their priest and to deepen their priest's devotion to our Blessed Mother. The priest is made aware of the group; however, he may not always know who is in the group. The commitment is considered a hidden gift.

Each Apostolate has an anchoress who coordinates the groups schedule and maintains contact with the priest at a minimal level. Occasionally a priest may contact the anchoress for a special intention. There are three saints that grace the apostolate group, Madonna of the Grapes, St. John Vianney and St. Margaret of Clitheroe.

The guidelines of the Apostolate have been read, fine-tuned and approved by Father Joseph Johnson. The Apostolate is continuing to grow and mature. God-willing it is producing eternal fruit in the hearts of both the intercessors and the priests for whom they pray. All glory be to God.

To obtain more information about the Seven Sister Apostolate committed to praying for priests you may refer to the website www.sevensisterapostolate.org.

*IN STRENGTHENING THE PRIEST, YOU STRENGTHEN THE WHOLE CHURCH...
STRENGTHEN THE PRIEST AND YOU STRENGTHEN THE WHOLE FOUNDATION,
YOU STRENGTHEN EVERYTHING IN THE CHURCH.* Father Gerald Fitzgerald

A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

Lord Jesus, you have chosen your priests from among us and sent them out to proclaim Your word and to act in Your Name. For so great a gift to Your Church, we give You praise and thanksgiving. We ask You to fill them with the fire of Your love that their ministry may reveal Your presence in the Church.

Since they are earthen vessels, we pray that Your power shine out through their weakness. In their afflictions let them never be crushed, in their doubts never be destroyed, in their persecution never abandoned.

Inspire them through prayer to live each day the mystery of Your dying and rising. In times of weakness send them Your Holy Spirit, and help them to praise Your Heavenly Father and pray for poor sinners. By the same Holy Spirit put Your word on their lips and Your love in their hearts, to bring good news to the poor and healing to the broken hearted.

And may the gift of Mary be your gift to every priest. Grant that she, who formed You in her human image, by the power of Your spirit, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

Respectfully Submitted,
Beverly Nett, Chair

FAMILY CONCERNS COMMISSION

Now that we are in mid-summer, many parishes are having their parish festivals and bazaars for families to attend for food, fun and entertainment.

The Tri-Parish community of Little Falls have each had celebrations in June. A Tri-Parish newsletter featured two extraordinary events.

Holy Family Parish in Belle Prairie was the first parish in the St. Cloud Diocese established in 1852. They held their annual Heritage Festival June 11 with a Polka Mass under a big tent, a catered dinner, country store, games, petting zoo and a bouncing tent for youngsters. Also featured was heritage displays and stories of families who passed on the faith through the years.

Our Lady of Lourdes Church celebrated their centennial on June 17 & 18 with Bishop Donald Kettler as celebrant for two Sunday masses. Several priests who formerly served there concelebrated with him at the 10:30 AM Mass. Many Franciscans Sisters were present as they were teachers at the school for many years. At 2:00 PM Fr. Joe Herzing opened a time capsule sealed since 1922 when the church was finished.

Historical displays and tours along with book orders of the history of Our Lady of Lourdes Church written by John Lauer were taken. This book explores the 100-year history of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, school and the people who have made this parish their spiritual home since 1917.

St. Mary's Church held their Annual Summer Raffle and Breakfast on Sunday, June 25.

Plans are in the making to celebrate their 150th anniversary next summer.

Another special family event takes place at Our Lady of Lourdes on July 29 & 30 for their Annual Bazaar and Grand Raffle. Many events for all ages are in the plans including music, food, games, silent auction and a dunk tank which is a fun feature for the children.

All parish families who come together have similar goals and activities for bonding and deepening their faith. Let us pray that the youth will carry on the tradition which began so many years ago with our forefathers.

*Janet Berendt,
Chair*

LEGISLATIVE CONCERNS COMMISSION REPORT

Well, the Minnesota legislative session ended a few days late (on May 26th), but it isn't over yet until the lawsuit against Gov. Dayton gets settled. In January, my report listed the goals Minnesota Catholic Conference determined they would be supporting. As follow-up to that information - listed below are the goals and the outcomes of the issues MCC supported at the beginning of the session

1. Expanding educational choice (FIF 386): Opportunity Scholarships - K-12 Scholarship donation credit provided, that would have provided tax breaks to those who provide scholarships to low-income students at private schools - The bill was passed by both house & senate, but the Governor refused to sign it as presented - Failed.

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2. Opposing legalized suicide - this is what they did for that'. (SF 112) Palliative Care Advisory Council - made up of doctors, health care system managers & other experts, to look at how palliative care can be expanded to aging, those with disabilities, chronically ill and terminally ill. - it did not make it to a vote as a bill, but was established as an advisory committee - PASSED.
3. Regulating commercial surrogacy - not considered, will pursue next session.
4. Increasing temporary cash assistance to struggling low-income families with children - Gov. Dayton vetoed as part of an Omnibus bill.
5. Publicly identifying pornography as a public health crisis - introduced, but no hearings ensued.
6. Clean Water - some funds were set aside for some projects; the buffer strips set-back law did not change from the previous guidelines.

Listed below are some of the issues that the site identified they were supported after the session ended.

1. The Real ID bill (HF 3): to comply with the federal Real ID Act of 2005 did pass, but did not expressly approve driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants.
2. Tax credit for beginning farmers (HF 608/ SF 1414): established farmers to rent or sell at affordable prices; provided credit for beginning farmer financial management programs.
3. Non-public pupil aid - Increase in funds: 2 parts of the bill passed, but 1 failed (mental health aspect).
4. Urban Ag initiative - wanted grants for urban agriculture - small pieces passed; will help people to apply for grants, but the money was not appropriated
5. Marriage Disincentive -the marriage penalty would have been removed from laws. If couples getting MFIP and want to get married they would have a 12-month grace period during which they could still collect funds even if their combined incomes would be above MFIP maximum threshold - Passed as part of an Omnibus bill.
6. Ban on taxpayer funding of abortions from state-sponsored health programs (HF 809/SF 704): Vetoed by Gov. Dayton
7. Abortion facility license (HF812/ SF 704): - Would have required facilities that perform 10 or more abortions per month to pay \$ 365.00 fee every 2 years, and be required to meet standards of a national organization that accredits abortion facilities - Vetoed by Gov. Dayton

Hopefully the next legislative session will produce better results for the issues that were not acted upon this past session or that were vetoed. Perhaps we all need to check these websites more often to keep abreast of the issues and act upon them by contacting our representatives and senators to make our opinions and wishes known.

Information for this report was taken from: Minnesota Catholic Conference,

Shawn Peterson, Associate Director,

Minnesota Legislature website

*Jean Hopfer,
Chair*

RURAL CONCERNS

When you walk into a grocery store to buy milk are you overwhelmed by the many varied brands, especially the ones that say almond or soy? Do you ever wonder if they are made with real dairy milk or plant based ingredients? You see the word milk on the carton of almond and

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soy but that doesn't mean it comes from dairy cows. I will explain that remark in the next few paragraphs.

The misuse of dairy terminology on products from plant sources such as, almond milk and soy yogurt have been brought to the attention of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). State Milk Regulators requested the FDA enforce the proper use of milk and milk labeling terms when it comes to imitation dairy products. According to FDA regulation milk and milk products must come from an animal source.

State Milk Regulators would like to see this new labeling happen because plant-food manufacturers are using the word milk on their labels. A couple of examples are soy milk, almond milk and soy yogurt. These products are not made from real milk and don't have the nutritional value of real milk.

If people want or need to move away from cow's milk products, that's fine. When plant-based companies don't follow the rules, and label their products as real dairy products this hurts the dairy farmer.

So, the question is, do you have milk or plant-based product?

God bless us all and say a prayer that the farmers have good weather for a bountiful harvest.

*Karen Weber,
Chair*

Rural Life Celebration, August 13, 2017

Join us in Celebrating Rural Life! – The 2017 Rural Life Celebration sponsored by Catholic Charities, the Diocese of St. Cloud and The Catholic Foundation will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 13, 2017. This year, it will take place at the Joe & Toni Borgerding Family Organic Dairy Farm located 3 miles south of Elrosa, Minnesota. The address is 39736 275th Street; Belgrade, MN.

This year's celebration features an outdoor Mass at 11:00 a.m. with Bishop Donald Kettler, immediately followed by a special guest speaker Abbot John Klassen, OSB.

The day will include lunch featuring hot beef sandwiches, chips, corn on the cob, coleslaw, ice cream and homemade cookies. Musical entertainment by Slew Foot Band follows the Mass. This celebration will take place rain or shine and is being hosted by St. Donatus of Brooten, Saint Francis de Sales of Belgrade and Saints Peter & Paul of Elrosa. **All are welcome.**

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Soon my term of being immediate past president of DCCW will be over. A new president will be installed at our September 16, 2017 Annual Fall Conference in Little Falls. I will continue to stay on the board as Public Relations Chairperson. This is a role I can carry on while I am away this winter in Texas. I can do it from my computer and need not be present at meetings.

What does Public Relation chair do? I googled it just to see what I am supposed to be doing. It's interesting to note that my job description should read that I should do all I can to keep good relations between "you", the public and the DCCW board; the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

It's to communicate to the public: what the activities are and why, where and when. We do that with our ads in the Visitor, bulletin announcements and articles about our events on the radio, printed in local newspapers, our own newsletter and website.

Communication is vital in all aspects of our lives and it is especially true in dealing with others in our organization. We want to keep our Council strong and active in our parishes and we need to do that in communion with our Lord, Jesus Christ.

*Julie Maarhead Miller,
Chair*

***Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery.
And Today?
Today is a gift. That's why we call it the present."***

Containers the size of shoeboxes are being filled for children who don't ordinarily get gifts. More information is on the Cross International website: <http://www.crosscatholic.org/boxofjoy>. To help locally with this project, Contact: Patty Commerford, 9395 250th Avenue, Royalton, MN 56373, 320-468-2487.

LITTLE FALLS DEANERY

LITTLE FALLS DEANERY



LITTLE FALLS DEANERY

I received a call in May from the committee of Our Lady of Lourdes 100th year celebration asking if Christian Women would like to carry a banner in for the celebration; which was a surprise, since I did not know we ever had a banner. I was told that there was a banner from the first celebration.

So, Gerri Klimmek and I went to look at the banner. It was 3 ft. by 2 ft. burlap with red letters and with a picture of a rosary. It was simple so we thought we could use the same layout and go with blue back ground, so after a week of talking, I call Deb Collis to see if she would help us out. She agreed. I told her what we were looking at. She wanted to see the old one, so we proceeded to get that to her and within a week we had a beautiful banner.

On the day of the celebration, the ladies carried in the banner for the Little Falls Deanery and the one for Christian Women. At the end of Mass, Father Joe asked a representative from each banner to come up and tell about their organization. I was happy to make the point that each woman over 18 is a member of the Christian Women's group and that our last project was the garage sale that brought in \$1800.00. The Deanery banner, I did not do as good with that; I just mentioned it was the next step above the local parish.

*Linda Scepurek,
President*

MELROSE/SAUK CENTRE DEANERY

Having the opportunity to visit different and "new to me" churches in our deanery and throughout the diocese has been an interesting part of being President of the Melrose/Sauk Centre Deanery.

The first time visit to St. John's Church, Foley for the Spring Retreat was delightful, especially the lighted Rosary used by the side altar as we said the morning Rosary. Seeing how parishes remodel and make great gathering spaces for meals and visiting is also interesting to see and enjoy.

Fun, Food and Fund day at St. Ann's in Wadena was a perfect time to visit with old friends who were in attendance, as well as new friends that I met that day. Father gave such an interesting overview at the end of his mass of the church repainting and remodeling and it is beautiful, practical and something to be proud of.

We sure don't need to travel to Europe to see great churches, nor to visit with wonderful women; I will just continue to do all that here in Minnesota.

*Evelyn Budde,
President*

SAINT CLOUD DEANERY

The St. Cloud Deanery parishes have been active, but there is a certain amount of “inactivity” in the later spring and beginning of the summer, getting prepared for the lazy, hazy days of summer. Some parishes have their churches’ festival or bazaar earlier in the summer, while others in the St. Cloud area are preparing for the later summer ones or fall festivals. Hopefully everyone will get the chance to attend a festival or bazaar that is in another area parish – it is a terrific way to get some latest ideas for your own festival as well as visit with other involved parishioners around the Saint Cloud vicinity.

Many of our deanery parishes are involved with the Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity who build homes for families in the area. This year a home is being built for the Mohamud Omar family in Sauk Rapids, Minnesota.

Parishes in the Deanery have held both First Communions and Confirmations within their parish. Many of our women’s church groups provide a gift of a rosary, statues or Bibles for their young parish members. This is a wonderful way of showing our young people support as they first receive Jesus and when they commit themselves as adult members of the parish.

Sacred Heart Parish, Sauk Rapids held a Ladies Craft Night which is a wonderful way for camaraderie and finally getting that craft project done that you have had around the house for quite some time. The parish also has a Card Making Group – what a great idea to recycle “received” cards into new cards that can be “received” again!

St. Mary’s Help of Christians of St. Augusta held a Volunteer Appreciation Night and were busy with preparing for their Parish Festival in June. One of their specialties is the Bountiful Baskets at their festival.

St. Francis Xavier, Sartell held something new this year – A Spring Bling Sale – Donations of jewelry of all types, scarves, purses etc. were gathered from parish members. Attendees of the sale could enjoy a glass of wine along with cheese & crackers while they shopped. The profits from the sale will be used for the enhancement of the gathering area during different liturgical seasons.

St. Augustine's: We had a very successful jewelry sale the beginning of May before Mother's Day, Confirmation, First Communion and Graduation. We had received many donations of jewelry as we were all out of jewelry.

Many parishes in the deanery held Mother’s Day Flower Sales with proceeds going to various support groups, such as the Pregnancy Resource Center in St. Cloud.

Parishes in the area also hold a “Food & Fund” for the Food Shelf once a month – the food shelves get empty throughout the summer since students are out of school.

Parishioners around the St. Cloud Deanery area participated in the “Defunding Planned Parenthood Rally”.

Seven of our Christian Women went to Fun, Food, & Fund in Wadena and enjoyed the day of prayer, socialization and delicious food! "Thank you" to the Fergus Falls/Wadena Deanery for hosting us.

*Mary Alice Tomporowski,
President*

INFORMATION TECHNICIAN/WEBMASTER

As I was working on this newsletter, I read the report by the Public Relations Chair, Julie Moorhead/Miller. Naturally, she mentioned the need to communicate. We all need to do that oftener. So, I thought I would take a little time to explain some of the functions we sponsor.

First, each spring, usually during Lent; we have a Retreat. It is open to all Catholic women and meant to be Spiritual with Mass and a program for the day. And yes, there is the fellowship gained by participating. There is no business discussed during the day. We have one or two presenters depending on their message. Last spring, Sister Nancy Gunderson spoke in the morning and the afternoon. Our Blessed Virgin is her expertise, so we gave her the time she needed. Who knew the representation of Our Lady of Guadalupe's image on the tilma had so many interesting features.

The third Thursday in June, Fun, Food and Fund (FFF) Day is held. Just as the title suggests, it could be called faith, fellowship and finance. Again, there is no business discussed on this day. It is a day to meet with the women from around the Diocese and enjoy your time together. There is Mass, entertainment, a delicious meal and a silent auction. It is the only fundraiser we have for the Diocesan Council. The funds raised are used by the board for donations, dues we owe and education. Part of the education is to travel to other Council of Catholic Women events to learn what they do and what programs and projects can be brought back to the Saint Cloud DCCW.

In September, the Annual Fall Conference is held. This is where the business is brought forward. You get to vote on new officers and the resolutions that become part of what we do for the following year. A Conference booklet is produced and handed out to all attendees. It contains annual reports and treasurers' reports from the Diocesan Council and the Deaneries. By doing a booklet, we have time to include Presenters and reports from the National Convention. Bishop Kettler, our Honorary President, attends this event, says Mass and installs new officers. All other clergy are invited to attend. We also send our invitations to other women's groups to attend.

We are co-sponsors with the Catholic Foundation, to present Act-ober Fest held in October. This variety show brings together amateur talent from the clergy and lay persons from the nearby communities. We volunteer at other events; Men's Conference and Honoring Marriage Day to name a couple.

Please feel free to join us at any of these events. Some are advertised especially in The Visitor. Please read and pass on Our Catholic Voice. Information can also be found on our website; Stcloudccw.org. We also have a Facebook page. [St. Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women](http://St.CloudDiocesanCouncilofCatholicWomen). Contact us at stclouddiocesanccw@gmail.com or aroelike8@gmail.com.

Arlene Roelike