Saint Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Our Catholic Voice

May 2025

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: stclouddccw@gmail.com

Website: stclouddccw.org

Find us on Facebook

Saint Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

President's Message

Lois Wesbur
DCCW.president@gmail.com

Greetings Ladies!

It is a sunny day today with the temperature, cold. The Lenten season has been busy with religious activities and prayer sessions. The colors in the church go from purple to pink to a return to more purple as the statues and crucifix get covered in purple. We are looking forward to the colorful décor of the church for the Easter Season. We are blessed with many generous doners in our parishes who assist in beautifying our church with flowers and colorful draping to enhance the church for different seasons and contribute to the celebration of the Eucharist.

This time of the year is also a time of many meetings. April 23rd is the DCCW meeting at St. Augustine in St. Cloud. April 26th is the date for the convention of the Daughters of Isabella and the New Ulm DCCW meeting at Tracy, MN. As we continue into the month of May there are more meetings and conventions. I will be going to Indiana for a Confirmation followed by a First Communion the next morning back in Minnesota.

We cannot ignore the importance of our support to our children receiving the Sacraments for the first time. Every time I am present as a witness to someone drawn deeper into the body of the church, I recall my own first Communion, Reconciliation, and Confirmation. I recall the feelings of awe and wonder over the great miracles God has given us in the Sacraments. We can all renew that Great gift over and over.

Lois Wesbur

Saint Cloud DCCW President

May is traditionally dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, a month of special devotion and honor in many Catholic traditions. The ways Mary is honored in May is as varied as the people who honor her. This devotion can manifest in various ways, including praying the Rosary, reciting the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and participating in May Crowning ceremonies. Parishes often have daily Rosary recitations and may erect special May altars with statues of Mary. Additionally, it's a time to reflect on Mary's faith, humility, and maternal care, and to seek her intercession.

CHURCH COMMISSION

Sisters in Christ,

Happy Easter! Christ has Risen! Lent and Easter are my favorite times of the Year! This year Lent was extra special as 11 of my family members went to Rome, Italy to see our granddaughter who is studying there this semester. What a great experience for her and us! So much to see, I don't think you could see it all in a semester either! It was definitely busier in Rome being a Jubilee year. There's so much to tell, I'll limit it to one experience!

We had a scheduled tour set of the Vatican Museum at 8 AM which took 2 1/2 hours, so much to see, and awesome information. We were planning on going from there over to Saint Peter's Basilica, which we did. Once there the line to get in was very long we would have to wait at least three, if not four hours to get in the Basilica. With 8,10, and 12-year-olds that would've been hard for them not to lose patience and it was very warm already at 10:30 AM. Some of us have seen Saint Peter's Basilica already, but there is so much to see you can't grasp it all at one time so seeing things twice is great! Yes, we were disappointed, but you can never out-do God.

Our granddaughter Abigail was told by some friends to go see Saint Chrysogonus Basilica, so being we had time, we went. Upon arriving, we did a little tour of the church on our own. I promised I would pray for people and their needs or events. I had a notebook with all this written in. At each church I placed the notebook on the communion rail and ask the Lord to answer the prayers of these people, events, and my prayers! Of course, I had all the CCW's from the diocese and our Lenten retreat written down also!

We found an office at the church, Abby asked if Fr. Augustine was around, as she was also told to ask for him. They gave him a call; he came right over. Wow did we get a great tour, explaining this beautiful Basilica dating back to the 11-12th century! The mosaics on the floor were like codes telling the story of the church, it was amazing. Then he surprised us, as under the church was a crypt! An underground church before Christianity was legal! His knowledge was amazing. He showed us the area that was Saint Chrysogonus' house and Rufus's house, (Simon who carried the cross for Jesus, Rufus was his Son) most likely remains from the first century!

The original Basilica in the crypt was dated back to the 3rd century. There was a great part of a painting on one wall that was in very good condition of Saint Benedict healing people in the underground basilica also. They figure he walked in this dirt, stone church that they painted him and his actions on the wall. So, we were walking on the ground of who knows how many Saints! There were Sarcophagus's in excellent condition from the second century also in the ruins. Also connected to the church was a Baptistery. The architects could identify that this part was a baptistery because it had a circular or octagonal shape which represented the number 8, which symbolizes a "new beginning". They were designed with a basin for immersion, surrounded by a circular ambulatory area for ministers and witnesses. This one had a waterway dug in it for fresh water to be let in from above for the baptisms! There are so many more details to share, it is amazing! Again, from our disappointment of not getting to see St. Peters Basilica to seeing a more ancient church with our personal tour guide, YOU NEVER CAN OUT-DO GOD! Thank you, Jesus!!!

So, we go from ancient churches to an exciting happening in our day and age on April 27th, 2025, the canonization of **Blessed Carlo Acutis,** the first millennial Saint to be canonized! I'm sure

most of you know of Carlo, a 15-year-old teenager who died from leukemia in 2006. "God's influencer" was/is a nickname for him. All his life he had insight beyond many people of any age. He loved computer technology, but was so disciplined, only to use it for fun and games after he attended Mass and prayers and studies. He loved research and was so touched by Eucharistic miracles and felt so strong that people need to know of these miracles. He compiled them on the Internet. He loved talking to people about Jesus and used his talent of computer technology to help bring them to Jesus. His model was "off the website and back to church"!

I couldn't help thinking about Carlos's mother, Antonia. How does it feel to know your child is a saint? How was it watching him grow and know he had something special about him. Reminds me of Mother Mary watching her son grow and increase in knowledge and wisdom. How would you handle it? Would you have to change your ways? How do you think you would feel after experiencing your child's canonization? Would you look at your life differently? Let's narrow it down - would you look at your hands differently, knowing you held him with those hands, fed him, dressed him, now you can fold your hands in prayer and pray for his intercession as a Saint! Hmm, hard to imagine! Take time reflecting on this and then fold your hands in prayer asking Saint Carlo Acutis to pray for you and your needs. Remember April 27 is his canonization and also on April 27 to April 29, there will be a movie called "Roadmap to Reality" on Carlo Acutis. Check theaters who will be showing it. There is a book written by Antonia, "My Son, Carlo", "Carlo Acutis through the eyes of his Mother." In case you would be interested in reading more about him. I have read it, and is very good.

Last, but not least the Source and Summit Pilgrimage, Jubilee Year, Pilgrims of Hope will be on August 7, 2025. It will be a very fulfilling day, but also a long day. I'm very excited to see the sacred sites and visit and pray with some of the religious communities. See insert on the Pilgrimage, or also look at the Central Minnesota Catholic magazine for May to read about it. Hope to see you on the bus! God Bless You!

Jean Zwilling, Chair

(Note: Because of the death of Pope Francis, canonization has been put on hold. Pope Leo XIV 's calendar will determine when it will take place.)

FAMILY CONCERNS

How about that? What a great day the Creator gifted us! We can think about the days and be appreciative of every day, however the days and nights all occur within the time we are given. What amount of time have you been given?

Or, perhaps, are there the days or nights you would like to restore and begin again? A family experiences so many of the moments which are wished or prayed to restore and relive. And those days can be joyous or contentious or bring great sadness.

An examination of moments might bring to our thoughts an experience of a stroke. The month of May is given a place in our calendar as "stroke month". Note: these few paragraphs will not be a deep learning encounter with medical terms.

There is an acronym for recognizing the onset of a stroke: FAST – Face, Arms, Speech, Time – these are quick assessments to recognize whether an individual is having a stroke. Face weakness: a drooping smile; Arm weakness: can they raise their arms; Speech: slurred speech (clarity) and can the individual understand what you are saying. Time: to call for help.

The above was a brief interpretation of the medical advice – always listen, learn and take in more from professionals.

Don Kvernen, a psychologist, had a stroke. His wife, Rosella, writes their story Stroke Survivor, A Story of Hope[1]. This is a snippet of their story….in 'rehab' after many weeks, Don could not feed himself. His sister was feeding him small bites. He repeatedly asked for corn. There was no corn. His language was mixed up and his sister thought he was using the wrong word for the peas. She fed him peas again and he ate them. When he asked again for corn, she said there was no corn on his plate. He answered, "I can pretend." Rosella writes that he had lost a lot, but not his humor.

Many trials followed. Don eventually tested and regained his privilege to operate a motor vehicle. Throughout, he had the support of his spouse, family, friends and support groups.

Time. What amount of time was given to Don? In time, Don and Rosella experienced hope and what God means in their lives.

Psalms 139:10 Wherever I go, your hand will guide me; your strength will empower me.

Mary Jane Hay, Chair

[1] Stroke Survivor, A Story of Hope 2012, Two Harbors Press

COMMUNITY

We had a nice family meal at Easter. It's so nice to get together and enjoy the comings and goings of family life. Everyone did their fair share with preparation and clean up so it was especially good for me.

One of my daughters asked me if I had written my report for the deanery. How did she know that I hadn't done it yet? I had kept putting it off and was now late. Someone asked what kind of report and I told them that I was the Chairperson for the Commission of Community. Well, just use AI and send it in. Hmm, AI??? Why would I use AI? Artificial Intelligence that doesn't sound right to me.

I want Real Intelligence! How do I find that? Well, the Holy Spirit is the real intelligence to me.

Holy Spirit guide me in thoughts and words today to finish this report.

Bless my family as they go through their days of work and family life.

Bless the wonderful Ladies who put so much effort into our deanery.

Bless Father Laurn who guides us in prayer.

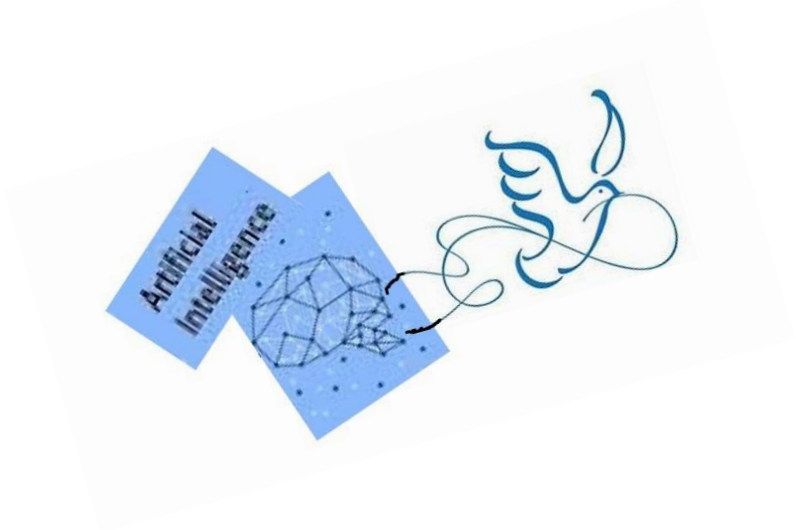
Bless the DCCW throughout our state and country who answer

God's call to be leaders and support to our deaneries.

Thank you, Lord for keeping us on the path to good living with your teachings in our hearts. Amen.

Polly Rabideau,

Community Chair with the help of Real Intelligence, the Holy Spirit.



ENVIRONMENTAL-RURAL

On February 6, 2025, Sourcewell hosted the Center for Rural Policy and Development highlighting recent research in rural Minnesota, (ruralmn.org). Slides and videos are available for download.

Marnie Werner, Vice President of Operations and Research discussed her recent research about what parents can do in accessing **mental health services for youth** in rural Minnesota. Since 2009 – reports of self-harm among children and adolescents began to rise nationally, especially for girls. Suicidal ideation has caused a sharp rise in Emergency Admissions. The broad question is "Where do rural parents get help for their kids?" There are long waiting lists and distances to obtain mental health services. In small towns – there is a concern about anonymity. There is a huge workforce shortage of mental health providers. There is difficulty in getting people into the mental health field and getting them licensed in the rural areas. There are three things that we can do now.

1. Educate yourself about children's mental health (National Alliance or Mental Health Minnesota – NAMI- MN, MN Dept of Health, MN Association for Children's Mental Health). Get help early. Call 988 for anonymous help. School intervention programs. Every county has a crisis center.
2. Consult your regular doctor. There may be physical issues. Family doctors can treat depression and anxiety disorders and refer to therapists.
3. Mental health services at school. Most schools have therapists in their school or available by telehealth.

In another webinar, Kelly Asche, Senior Research, provided an overview describing the **decline in nursing beds across rural Minnesota**. In many counties – due to the aging population – the peak need for nursing beds will be in 2037 to 2045. Since 2013 – Minnesota has lost a third or more of its nursing home beds with rural areas seeing the most decline either by closure or shrinkage. Workforce shortages are a huge concern. Since 1970's – there has been an increase in assisted living and home care facilities. The smaller the facility – the harder it is to meet the financial requirements. People who may need care have to travel many miles to find a bed.

Kelly Asche also gave another report on "**Working together – our roles in keeping and attracting residents**." "The importance of migration is growing as birthrates fall and the state's population ages. By the late 2040's any population growth that the state experiences will be due to migration rather than natural growth. As a state, though, Minnesota does not perform well regarding migration – losing residents to other US states." He suggests the following on how to work together.

1. Commit to Minnesota, not just your region.
2. Retaining college-age movers. There are excellent schools in our area.
3. Retaining and attracting prime working-age movers.
4. Attracting retirees.

Joyce Simones, Chair

ORGANIZATION COMMIS

A Call to Keep Holy the Sabbath: Being in Community with Others

I often hear people protest that they do not need to go to church to worship God – they can worship Him in nature, in the blessings they receive, in private moments with God, in their personal prayers, in studying scripture, etc. All of those things are good, but alone they are not enough!

Most importantly, the third commandment specifically gives us an obligation to gather together to worship on the Sabbath (our Sunday) – Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy (Ex 20:8). Many people claim this just means keeping it as a day of rest, that there is no requirement to attend Church. Scripture also links the Sabbath to joining in a "sacred assembly." "Six days shall work be done; but on the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation (assembly); you shall do no work; it is a Sabbath to the Lord" (Lv 23:3). The word "Church" means assembly (comes from the Greek word ecclesia meaning assembly). Jesus faithfully observed the Sabbath by attending the synagogue (another word for assembly). Attending Mass on Sunday is our obligation to give ourselves to God, to worship and thank Him, to hear together the word of God, and to receive Holy Communion. Without the Holy Eucharist that is the Body and Blood of Jesus, we are starving ourselves spiritually. Eventually, we will "have no life" in us! (Jn 6:53). Missing Mass (with exceptions such as illness, weather that prohibits travel, care of others, etc.) is a deadly thing, a mortal sin!

By assembling together to worship God, we come into community with each other. Joining with other people who share our faith can be a great help in nourishing our souls. Praying together can help us lift each other up. And the grace we receive by assembling at Mass and receiving the Holy Eucharist is as close as we can get to Heaven here on earth – a foretaste of heaven. Why would anyone NOT want to go to Mass as often as possible? God wants us to assemble as a community and raise our voices together in praise and thanksgiving. Mass is not about what we can get, it's about what we come together to GIVE! We give ourselves to God and pray for His entire holy Church. ("Pray brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father. Response: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of His name, for our good and the good of all His holy Church.") Some believe that just watching Mass on TV is the same as attending Mass in person. It is not! It does not bring us into an assembly with others. It does not allow us to receive Holy Communion. There are people who for one valid reason or another cannot physically attend Mass, and TV Mass may be their only option.

In Sirach 27:6, it states "The Fruit of a tree shows the care it has had." How do I nourish and cultivate myself so that I can bear good fruit? Obviously going to Mass, regular prayer, studying scripture, learning more about our faith through books and videos can help us. But there is one other not-so-obvious answer: your relationships with other brothers and sisters in Christ. Find ways to connect with others with whom you can pray and lift each other up. Catholic Women's organizations are a good way to find like-minded women who can help each other on their spiritual journey. Often these women's groups will sponsor retreats or events. Join in; offer to help. It is a great way to build up your spiritual community.

"Lord, help me bear good fruit!"

Sheri Streasick,
Vice President & Organizational Chair

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for the offices of Vice-President and Secretary of the St. Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. Prayerfully consider sharing your gifts, your talents, and your leadership skills, or nominating someone you know who would be an asset to our board. Our God-given gifts are to be shared with others, not hidden. May the Holy Spirit be your guide.

Toni Borgerding, Jean Zwilling & Pat Kasella

DCCW Nominating Committee

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The St. Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for the offices of Vice-President and Secretary for the 2025-27 term. A nominee should have previously served in some capacity on the deanery level, unless approved by the Diocesan Spiritual Advisor. Deadline for applications is July 1, 2025.

Voting will take place at the Fall Conference on September 20, 2025. There shall be no nominations from the floor.

Please forward name and bio to Toni Borgerding at toniborg@outlook.com or contact Toni at (320) 290-3677 with questions.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

How wonderful to see a full house at our Diocesan Lenten Retreat "The Secret of the Holy Face" held Saturday, March 8, 2025, at St. Michael's Parish in Buckman. The speakers kept the attention of all in attendance. Kudos to all the hard work the Eastern Deanery and parishes put in to host the retreat.

Now, it's off to the next event -- Fun, Food & Fund Day -- June 26, 2025 at St. James Parish in Randall. As always, there will be silent auction items galore, so spread the info, invite your friends, and have a great time. Don't forget your wallet!

Pat Kasella, Chair

SAINT CLOUD DCCW (SCDCCW) TREASURER

I want to thank our many women's groups who sent in their annual dues and also updated their officers and their parish office personnel. Registering the many attendees for our Spring Lenten Retreat held on March 8th at St. Michael's in Buckman was my next task. There were nearly 300 women and men in attendance listening to our two interesting and informative speakers. St. Michael's women's group did a fantastic job of preparing, welcoming, and accommodating everyone. Thank you!!

I will be sending out your Annual Dues Statement for the fiscal year of 2025-2026 in a few months, (the end of July or beginning of August). When you receive your dues statement it will not be a duplicate. It will be your statement for the coming year (7/1/2025-6/30/2026). After a new Treasurer is elected a transfer of responsibility occurs and many times sending out communications can get delayed; this is what happened last year; you received your notices the middle of November instead of the middle of August.

The St. Cloud Diocesan Board's Mission statement states that we "Support, Empower and Educate all Catholic Women in Spirituality, Leadership and Service". We use the Parish Membership Dues to **Empower** and **Educate** our Women's groups through sharing information from the National Council of Catholic Women pertinent to our Catholic Faith; and in **Supporting** and participating with the NCCW and Catholic Relief Service projects of Water for Life and the Madonna Plan. We also participate in "Boxes of Joy", a ministry of Cross Catholic Outreach and many local organizations including Pregnancy Resource Centers, area Food Shelves, Eagles Healing Nest, among others.

We will again be sponsoring our Annual **Fun, Food and Fund Day on June 26, 2025** at St. James Parish, Randall, MN 56475 and you are also invited to the third annual SCDCCW **Source and Summit Parish Pilgrimage on August 7, 2025.** We encourage you to participate and meet new friends from your larger Catholic diocese.

If you have suggestions for the Diocesan Board to explore, please share with me or any Board member. We are always open to suggestions. When attending a DCCW event please introduce yourself to your St. Cloud DCCW Board members, we would love to get to know you.

Carol Brunn, Treasurer

METRO DEANERY

The beginning of good news! Several women are meeting to get the Metro Deanery up and running again. Any help you can give will be appreciated. Contact any board member and your message will be forwarded to them.

EASTERN DEANERY REPORT

"Show us Thy Face O Lord, that we may be saved."

The Eastern Deanery along with St. Michael's Church, in Buckman, hosted the SCDCCW Spring Lenten Retreat on March 8th. It has started an amazing movement in the diocese, of devotions to the Holy Face. One need not become a member of the ***Archconfraternity of the Holy Face of Jesus***, in order to be a part of the monthly prayer groups being established. As a member though, there are so many graces bestowed on the membership, as worldwide devotions are prayed. These graces are given to our families and are offered for our personal intentions.

To learn more about the Holy Face devotions, go to the one specific website recommended, the www.martinian.org in which both the Confraternity of the Holy Rosary and The Holy Face Archconfraternity preside. The League of St. Martin is the umbrella website that provides the prayers for Holy Face devotions, which are in printable pdf format. The five official devotion groups scheduling monthly devotions in the St. Cloud diocese include Paynesville, Milaca, Brennyville, Pierz/Buckman and Sauk Centre/Belgrade parishes. The Paynesville group had been established prior to our Retreat. Check Bulletins for upcoming devotions; anyone interested may attend. The Fr. Xavier Francis Pierz ACC invites you to join us for our first Holy Face devotion / meeting, at St. Michael's Church, Buckman, with devotions beginning at 7p.m., on Wednesday evening, May 21st.

With Holy Face devotion, a new energy envelops our Eastern Deanery, as we connect the dots to the Rosary, Fatima, Lourdes, Divine Mercy, and the Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. As this is the devotion of our times that will save society, Area Catholic Communities (ACCs) are learning and growing in spirituality. Yes, Jesus we Trust in You! The author of The Secret of the Holy Face; A Devotion Destined to Save Society, Fr. Lawrence Carney III, will be in Central Minnesota on July 1st and 2nd to present on the Holy Face at 7 p.m. in Waite Park on Tuesday and in Buckman on Wednesday. Stay tuned for more on this, as we embrace being a people of the time in which Jesus is asking us for prayers of reparation for the sins of the world. Learn what you can do to aid in the conversion of sinners and in the forgiveness of sins and in His great Mercy. A Consecration to Mary acknowledges our belief in her power to crush the head of the serpent and to lead the Spiritual Battle needed to bring our country and world to peace.

The April 12th Eastern Deanery meeting was held at St. Louis Bertrand Church in Foreston, where a presentation was given by Vicky Gruba, on the ***Veil of Veronica*** and its undeniable connection to the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts. Women from outside the deanery also joined us in wishing to know more, after they attended the SCDCCW Lenten Retreat on the Holy Face. Daily Prayers to Save America – Operation True Cross (Mary Foundation) books were handed out and all were encouraged to pray this.

The Lord bless thee and keep thee; The Lord show His Face to thee and have mercy on thee; The Lord turn His Countenance to thee, and give thee peace. (Num. 6:24-27)

Nita Hayes, President

NORTHWESTERN DEANERY

Joy and I have met on the planning for Fun, Food and Fund Day that is scheduled on June 26 in the Northwestern Deanery, at St James Parish in Randall. We had our spring meeting on March 14 at St Joseph in Grey Eagle.

I have been reading the bulletin from the other ACCs in our deanery. The ladies have been very busy during Lent helping out with breakfast and fish fry events. Easter is a good time to attend a ham bingo or get some sweets from the Christian Women's bake sale.

Several parishes have been having Bible Study. Haven of Mercy has been doing "Saint Ignatius' Rules of Discernment". Disciples of the Mission is doing a "Wild Goose Session" and the "Called to Gifted". They have not forgotten our students who are making their First Communion or Confirmation. The ladies are in charge of giving them a gift and a reception.

Pro-life activities are going on. I noted that a Pregnancy Center has opened in Long Prairie and has bottles at our school to collect money plus we have bottles from Pregnancy Resource Center & Medical Clinic in St Cloud at our churches. Morrison County Chapter of Minnesota Concern for Life had a dinner that collected baby item plus had a quilt raffle that raised $2,700.00 for Elevate Pregnancy Resource Center in St Cloud and Lakes Area Pregnancy Center in Brainerd. St Ann's Mission in 5 Star ACC has put layettes together.

With summer coming, most of the churches will be having a fund raiser that will have the ladies being called on to help with. What would they do without us ladies!

At Sacred Heart in Flensburg, as you walk into church - up on the top of the altar is a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus with His arm extended outward. When I walk into this church it feels like it is telling me to come to Jesus, He is waiting for me.

Linda Scepurek, President

SAVE THE DATE!

WEST CENTRAL DEANERY

The West Central Deanery had their Spring Board Meeting on April 8th at St. Benedict Church in Avon, of the Harvest of Hope ACC. They graciously agreed to host the meeting for their ACC, as the first time around with our newly installed meeting rotation schedule. Linda Borgerding has graciously agreed to be the liaison for the Harvest of Hope ACC to do the site selection for meetings.

As stated in my last report, we are still looking for officers for our council. We still need a vice president and we would like to get all of the Commission Chair offices filled – we have 3, but ideally should have 7 in all. And, so far, our Meeting Rotation Schedule seems to be working, but with the rumblings of the new diocesan planning – it appears there are changes coming, so who knows how the ACC's will be affected. Arleen Roelike gave an informative presentation about the Boxes of Joy Project, which will be undertaken by our deanery.

Our Spring Deanery General Meeting is scheduled for May 6th, @ St. Mary Help of Christians, St. Augusta, hosted by the Holy Saints ACC. The evening will start with Mass @ 6:00 pm, followed by a light supper and the meeting. Several members volunteered to serve some of the ministries for the Mass, with some of the ministries being taken care of by the hosting parishes. We are looking forward to meeting more of our deanery ladies from the eastern section of our deanery.

Our deanery will be hosting the SCDCCW Fall Conference on Sept. 20th, also at St. Benedict Church in Avon, from the Harvest of Hope ACC. The diocesan board is in the process of getting all the arrangements made. At the board meeting, several members signed-up to help on some of the committees, but the bulk of the recruitment will hopefully be accomplished at the general meeting.

Our fall board and general meetings dates and sites are still pending.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Hopfer, President

SOUTHWEST DEANERY

The deanery keeps moving on and as with some of the others we need officers and commission chairs. There is a form you can look at to find your interests. Check the website, stclouddccw.org, click on the FORMS page. See "What Can I do?" Download if you wish. Answer the questions and follow the suggestions for a position.

This will help for officers, commission chairs especially for CCW.

ANYONE CAN DO THIS FOR ANY CCW BOARD – diocese, deanery or parish

DATES TO REMEMBER

2025	
May 1-31,	Month to honor Mary
May 1,	Nominations open for DCCW Vice-President and Secretary
June 1-30,	Month of the Sacred Heart
June 7,	Ordination to the Priesthood, Dcn. Nathanial Daubner, Dcn.Joseph Vandenheuvel
June 13, 2025	Canonization of Carlo Acutis and others
June 10,11,12	Sacred Heart Tour Sauk Rapids, Freeport, Becker
June 26,	Fun, Food and Fund Day, Saint James Parish, Randall, MN "Hope Plants the Garden; Faith Makes it Grow"
July 1,	Nominations for DCCW officers closed
July 1-31,	Mental Health Awareness Month
August 7,	Source & Summit Pilgrimage
August 19-23,	NCCW Convention Orlando, Florida
September 20,	71st Annual Fall Conference, Saint Bendict Parish, Avon MN, West Central Deanery Hosting
October 1-31,	Respect Life Month. Domestic Awareness Month
October 11-12,	DCCW Sunday (tentative)
2026	
January 6,	Closing of Jubilee year, Saint Mary's Cathedral

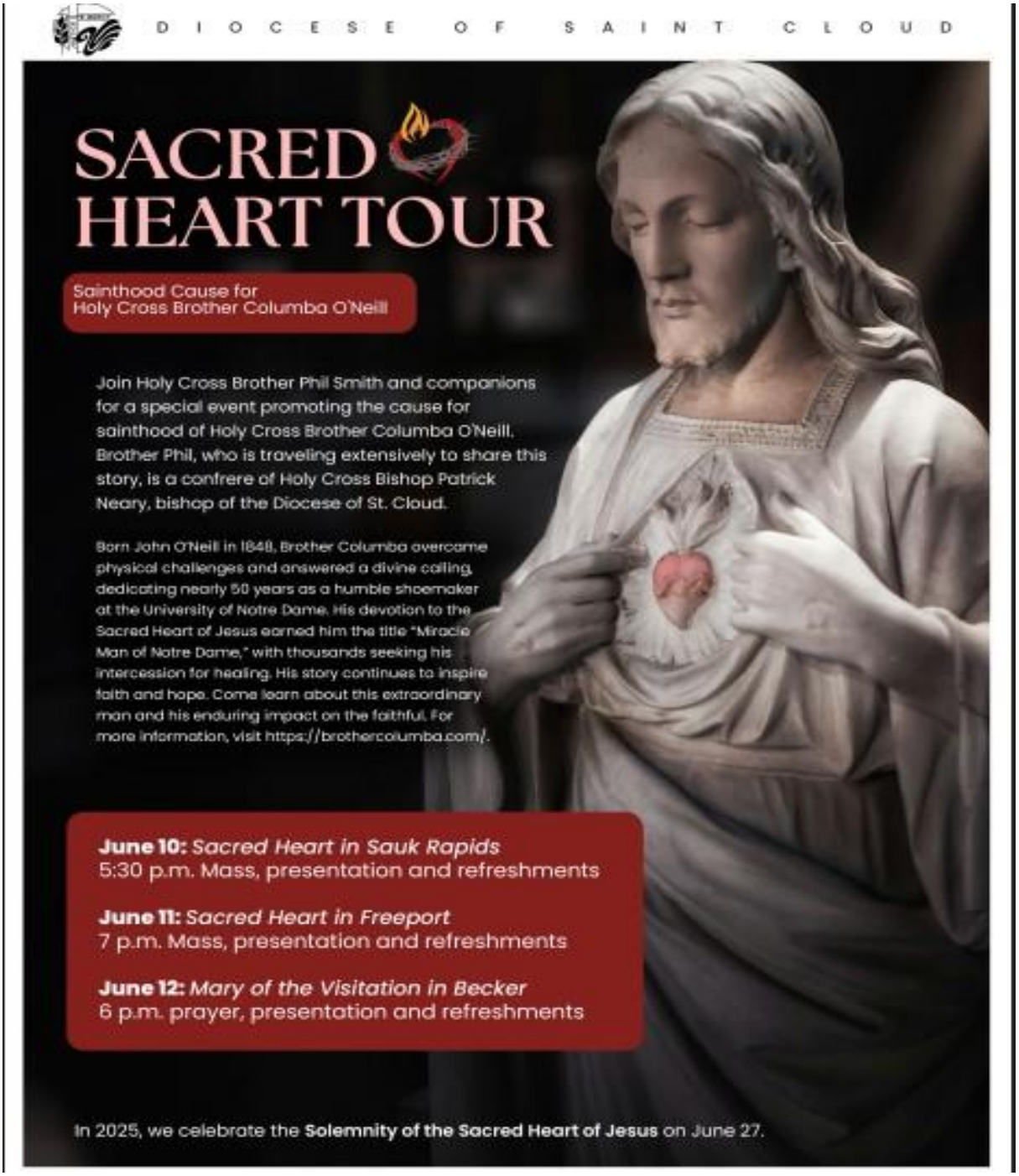
CANNONIZATION OF CARLO ACUTIS June 13.2025

Carlo's kit to become a saint
Here are the 8 steps:

1. Go to Holy Mass and receive Holy Communion daily.
2. Spend time daily in front of the Blessed Sacrament.
3. Pray a daily Rosary.
4. Read Scripture daily.
5. Go to Confession weekly.
6. Pray for the grace to become a Saint.
7. Make sacrifices and self-denials frequently.
8. Ask your Guardian Angel to help you at all times.

SACRED HEART TOUR June 10,11,12

Sainthood Cause for Holy Cross Brother Columba O'Neill



Hope Plants the Garden; Faith Makes it Grow

St. Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

FUN, FOOD & FUND DAY
June 26, 2025

St. James Parish
403 E. Minnesota Ave
Randall, MN 56475

Bring a friend

Silent Auction
9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Registration & Refreshments: 8:30 a.m.
Welcome: 9:00 a.m.
Entertainment & Games
MASS: 11:00 a.m.
Lunch: 12:00 p.m.
Rosary & Musical Sing-A-Long

$20.00 by 6/10; $25 after 6/10 or at the door

Send Registrations to: St. Cloud DCCW
14267 Fairway Lane
Becker, MN 55308

Questions: Contact Linda Scepurek
(320) 632-4805 or 630-2961

Hosted by: Northwestern Deanery
www.stclouddccw.org

DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN HOSTS

Jubilee Passport PILGRIMAGE

Thursday, August 7

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women is excited to lead pilgrims across the diocese to discover and explore beautiful sacred sites in honor of the Holy Father's Jubilee Year of Hope. This will be an opportunity to pray together, deepen faith and learn more about how we can all be "Pilgrims of Hope."

Cost: $25 | Call Jean Zwilling for lunch and/or bus reservations at 320-492-7069. **Deadline is July 21.** Please mail checks to Carol Brunn, 14267 Fairway Lane, Becker, MN 55308.

Itinerary:

Tour begins at 7:30 a.m. at St. Paul Church in Sauk Centre with Divine Mercy Chaplet, followed by Mass at 8:15 a.m. The bus will return to St. Paul's at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Additional stops include:

- Saint John's Abbey in Collegeville
- Assumption Grasshopper Chapel in Cold Spring
- St. Mary's Cathedral *(lunch will be served in the lower church)*
- St. Clare's Monastery in Sauk Rapids
- Crosier Priory in Onamia

TO DOWNLOAD THE PASSPORT AND BEGIN YOUR PILGRIMAGE, VISIT WWW.STCDIO.ORG/JUBILEE-2025-PILGRIMS-OF-HOPE/