Saint Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Our Catholic Voice

November 2025

Contact us: stclouddccw@gmail.com

Website: stclouddccw.org

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Saint Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

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

Sheri Streasick, President
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I've only been in the President's position for about a month and I'm feeling a bit overwhelmed… with meetings, sorting through paperwork and writing reports. But I know that God's grace will get me through this and help me to learn what I need to learn. I just must keep reminding myself that I am just his pair of hands… only he can help me to do his will. My guardian angel is also working overtime here….

We held a Leadership Mentoring Training session on September 24 at St. Michael's Church in St. Cloud. We had 20 attendees and have been asked to do a repeat session for those ladies who are still working during the weekdays. So, we are looking at either doing a Zoom session or having something on a Saturday. We will get the word out via email or through the deaneries as to a follow-up session.

I attended my first "in person" Province Board meeting on October 15th. (My first meeting was a Zoom meeting in February.) Now, a lot of you may be like me and have no clue what the Province level includes. Members of the Province board include: the President, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, Commission/Committee Chairs, Spiritual Advisor, Webmaster, Immediate Past President, and Parliamentarian. The rest of the board members are the Presidents, Vice Presidents, Spiritual Advisors and Immediate Past Presidents from our five dioceses: the Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis, and the Duluth, New Ulm, Winona-Rochester and St. Cloud diocese. We share information and ideas with each other and discuss issues that cross all our diocesan borders. This group is a good sounding board for diocesan officers to use in identifying programs, speakers, resources, etc. that we can use to support, empower and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. This group meets twice a year, and each diocese takes turns hosting the board meetings. (Note: the deanery boards fill a similar role and should be sharing information and ideas across their parishes & ACC's. Maybe in my next article I should talk about deaneries.)

My first St. Cloud DCCW board meeting as President will be on October 22nd. I am still looking for someone to be the Service Commission Chair. This Chair will have a small committee to assist with duties and fill-in for the chair as needed. The focus for the Service Commission will be on family, community, rural/environmental and international issues. And the chair will assist the committee in keeping a focused approach to programs, often based on ideas from another diocese or from the National Council of Catholic Women.

I want to thank the women of our current 2025-2027 board. I am looking forward to working with them over the next 2 years. They are:
Cindy Riedner, Vice President/Organization Commission Chair
Carol Brunn, Treasurer
Mary Griffith, Secretary

Lois Wesbur, Immediate Past President
Linda Borgerding, Leadership Commission & Scholarship Chair
Cheryl Weller, Spirituality Commission Chair
Mary Reuter, Legislation Commission Chair
Eva Koep, Parliamentarian
Pat Kasella, Public Relations Chair
Arleen Roelike, Webmaster/Info Tech
Evelyn Budde, Historian
Jean Hopfer, West Central Deanery President
Nita Hayes, Eastern Deanery President
Linda Scepurek, Northwestern Deanery President
(We are still seeking leadership for the Metro and Southwestern Deaneries.)

God bless all these ladies for sharing their time and talent. *We are the Council of Catholic Women…* ***women of Faith and Action****!!*

October 22, 2025 Saint Francis DeSales Church, Belgrade MN. transition board meeting: outgoing and incoming members.

SPIRITUALITY

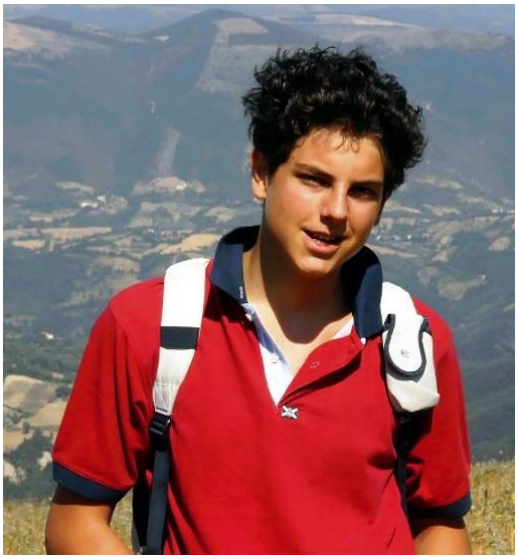
November 1st is when the Roman Catholic Church celebrates All Saints' Day. Recently in this Jubilee Year in September two new saints were canonized: St. Carlo Acutis and St. Pier Giorgio Frassati. On October 19, 2025, seven more people from various foreign countries were canonized saints in St. Peter's Square. We believe the saints in heaven are our family in Christ and we feel close to them with their relics.

An article from EWTN stated that relics, historically, have been divided into three categories. First-class relics were part of the body of a saint, for example, a bone fragment or a lock of hair. Second-class relics were items owned or used by the saints such as a prayer book or clothes. And third-class relics were items that have been touched to a first- or second-class relic. However, in 2017 the Holy See has used a simplified classification, "significant relics" and "non-significant relics". The first are the bodies, notable body part, or sum total of their ashes, if cremated, whereas little parts of their bodies and objects which have come in contact with them are called "non-significant", but still qualify as "relics".

Frequently churches will display relics for regular veneration. Every altar in every Catholic church has a relic, usually of a martyr. On a recent pilgrimage to Europe, I was able to visit the Basilica in Avila, Spain where the relics of St. Teresa were displayed.

This month of November let us get to know and grow closer to the saint's name which we chose when we were confirmed or the saint's name if one was chosen when we were baptized.

Cheryl Weller, Chair



Both St. Carlo (16)

and St. Pier (24)

died young.

Both were

dedicated to the Eucharist.

CHURCH COMMISSION

Hello Sisters in Christ,

Wow, a lot has happened in the past few months. On August 5, Bishop Patrick Neary, read and signed the proclamation honoring St. Cloud DCCW. We, some of the board members, were honored to be a part of this event! He proclaimed October 12th as Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Sunday in our diocese. What an honor! (See proclamation in this issue.)

On August 7th was the "Jubilee Pilgrims of Hope" Pilgrimage. We filled two buses and had some pilgrims follow by car. Approximately 130 pilgrims enjoyed a day of seeing Sacred sites, hearing of the history of each site and/or the Saint associated with it. A time to pray, reflect, and meet pilgrims from all around the diocese. Once again, realizing how blessed we are to have so many beautiful places right in our diocese!

September 20th was our 71st Annual Fall Conference, "Pilgrims of Hope" at Saint Benedict Parish in Avon. Another faith-filled day being surrounded by Women of Faith and nurtured by Fr. Tom Knoblach's message of Patience and Perseverance in waiting once we planted seeds of faith by our good work, holiness, and purity of heart. Always having God as our Hope!

We were led by Eleanor Kiel in scripture and song to always have hope in the Lord, which we gain by scripture, Ex: Romans 5:2, to whom we have gained access by faith to this grace in which we stand, and we Boast in Hope of the Glory of God.

And in Song: In Christ Alone (My Hope is Found) Vs.1

In Christ alone, my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song.
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

POWERFUL!!!

Leah Brix joined us in the afternoon and lead us in building a house of Hope!!!

1) Foundation:

The foundation of your house needs to be Sacramental. You need loving children, husband, and wife who laugh together as it keeps demons away from your children.

2) Walls:

Prayer is the wall of the house, the protection and strength that holds a family together.

3& 4) Roof: together, they are the Roof of your house:

3) Work: You need to work together to keep your house strong, not only physical work but at your Prayer life also.

4) Evangelization: We are all commanded "go and make disciples of all nations" Matthew 28: 19-20.

Great analogy!!

Lastly, I want to Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your lives as DCCW Church Commission these past 4 years, prior to that for the deanery. My HOPE is that you grew in knowledge of our Catholic Faith and God's tremendous Love He has for each of You, as You Blessed me with your examples of Faith, Hope and Love of our Gracious God.

I want to end with a prayer that the Holy Spirit Prompted me to write when we were at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Opole, MN. I was active in the Christian women's group; we were celebrating 100 years of Christian Women by praying a 100-day Novena.

This is the prayer:

O Most Beautiful Flower of Mount Carmel, Fruitful Vine, Splendor of Heaven, Queen of Angels. You are the perfect model of a wife, mother, daughter, and woman. We have confidence in your powerful and never-failing intercession to help us as Christian women to attain peace. Peace in our world, our nation, our families, and within our own being. By this, may we become instruments, the women we were created to be, drawing others to Christ and his love. By your example, Blessed Mother, teach us to be women of prayer. Let us never rest until we and all we know, rest in your son. Intercede for us always to your son Jesus Christ, give us patience and trust, knowing God will give us all the graces we need to persevere, and then He will fulfill his promises and we will see his glory. Amen.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel CCW Centennial Novena

God Bless You Always!

Jean Zwilling, Past Church Commission Chair

Jean was given a certificate of appreciation for her work as Church Commission chair: providing Praying Hands prayer partner cards for us and arranging the Pilgrimages for the Deanery and Diocesan Councils over her years of volunteering.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT
Pregnant Students

Whatever happened to Bill, H. R. 6914 — Pregnant Student Rights Act? On January 5, 2024 Representative Ashley Hinson from Iowa introduced a bill, to require institutions of higher education to disseminate information on the rights of, and accommodations and resources for, pregnant students.

Congress finds the following:

1. Female students enrolled at institutions of higher education and experiencing an unplanned pregnancy may face pressure that their only option is to receive an abortion or risk academic failure.
2. Almost 30% of all abortions in the United States are performed on women of college age between the ages of 20 and 24.
3. Scientific evidence and personal testimonies document that women who have abortions can be at risk of mental health issues. Studies show that after an abortion, women are 34% more likely to develop anxiety disorders, 37% more likely to develop depression, 110% more likely to rely on alcohol use or abuse, 115% more likely to develop suicidal behavior, and 220% more likely to take on marijuana use or abuse. As many as 60% of women having an abortion experience some level of emotional distress afterwards, with 30% being classified as severe distress. Potential complications of abortion include heavy or persistent bleeding, damage to cervix, abdominal pain or cramping, scarring, placenta previa, perforation of uterus, damage to other organs and even death.

4. An academic disparity exists because of the lack of resources, support, and notifications available for female college students who do not wish to receive an abortion, but to carry their baby to term.

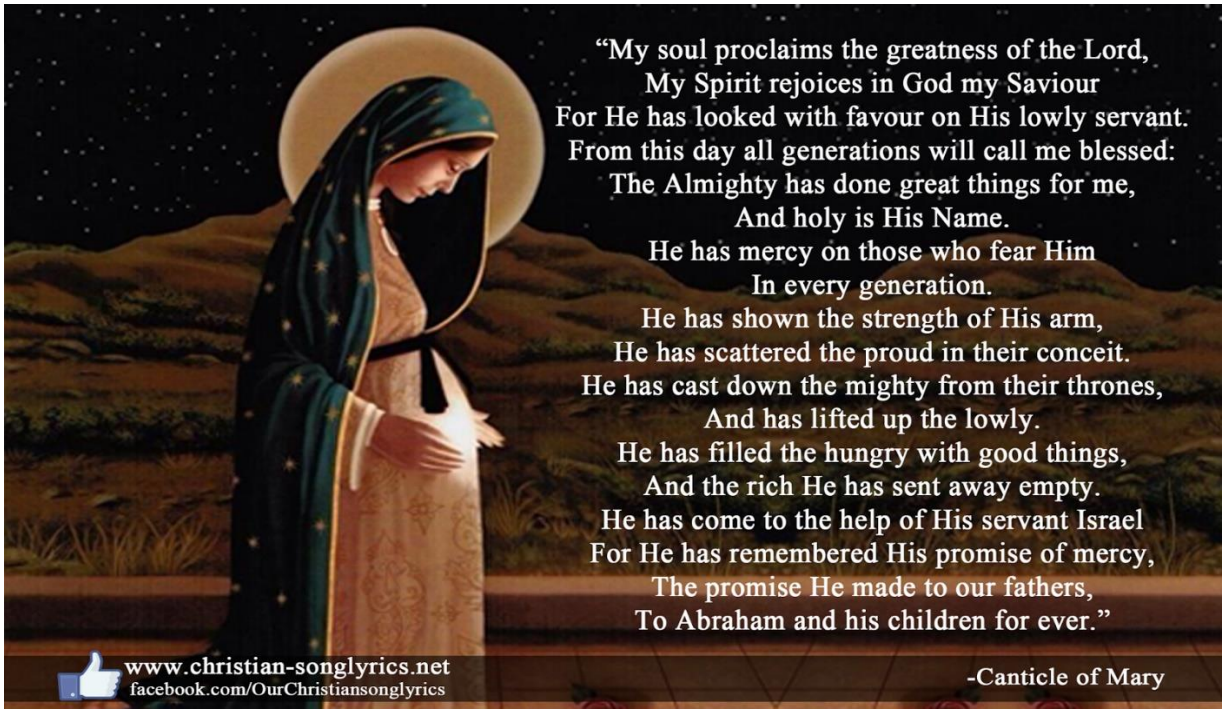
Notice of Pregnant student rights, accommodations, and resources.

Each institution of higher education participating in any program under this title shall carry out the information described in the following:

1. A list of resources on campus and in the community that exist to help a pregnant student in carrying the baby to term and caring for the baby after birth.
2. Information about the accommodations available to help a pregnant student carry the baby to term and parent the baby after birth.
3. Information on how to file a complaint with the Department of Education, if a student believes she has been discriminated against on account of the student determination to carry the baby to term.
4. Information emailed to each student at the start of each period of studying during an academic year.
5. Provision of information in student handbooks, at each orientation for enrolled students, at student health or counseling center, and on the publicly available website of the institution of higher education.

This bill was passed by the house on January 10 of 2024 but was never passed by the Senate. Bill numbers start every 2 years. This one was introduced in the 118 Congress which met from January 3, of 2023 to January 3 of 2025. Legislation not passed by the end of a Congress is cleared from the books.

Mary Reuter, Chair



ORGANIZATION COMMISSION

I am Cindy Riedner, the newly installed Vice President of the St. Cloud DCCW. I have been the treasurer for the South West Deanery for three years, and attended all of the meetings for our deanery. Prior to the VP position, I had attended four conferences in the last two years, and was beginning to get a feel as to what the SCDCCW is about and wanted to become more involved.

I have been an active member of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Morris, Minnesota since 1974. I have two children and seven grandchildren and two great granddaughters. I am blessed as they all live within 2.5 hours and I am able to be a part of their lives.

I will admit I am a bit overwhelmed by all the materials I have been given after being installed as the Vice President and realize I have much to learn. Please have patience with me as I will be learning "on the job" as to what the Organization Commission is and what I need to do. I know I will rely heavily on Linda Borgerding as my mentor as this year progresses. I will truly appreciate her help.

Members of my faith family ask me what DCCW is about. I would say it was like our Christian Mother's group that was active when I first came to Morris, but is no longer active. I would like to see these women's groups become more active organization within our churches.

With lots of prayers and the Holy Spirits guidance, I would like to find out what each church within each deanery in the St. Cloud Diocese has for active groups, the names of their groups. What do these groups do, how often do they meet. My parish has the St. Michael's Mission Group and I am the second youngest. We meet May through early December and would love to have younger members.

I want to find out if each parish has its own active groups. Have some joined their groups together within the ACC and do they meet at different churches each month? How do we invite other women to our group? What do we do to make it fun as well as spiritual?

One project I do and would love to expand is my community is the "Card Project". I contacted the nursing home and assisted living facilities and asked if there were people who had no family or few visitors and would enjoy getting cards. I enjoy the project but did not realize how some people are impacted. A nurse was cleaning out a residence after the person had passed away. She asked if I knew him because he had several years of cards he had saved and looked at often that were from me. I was greatly impacted, knowing he enjoyed receiving those cards along with a Valentine chocolate or birthday cookies. I had only his first name and birth date (not birth year). My grandchildren loved helping me with preparing these cards.

Through our activities in our parishes or ACC's we can touch peoples' lives. I will be contacting the parishes and ask groups to share their thoughts and activities. I look forward to hearing what groups are doing. Then I want to share this information with all the churches and deaneries. Please feel free to email me your thoughts and ideas.

Cindy Riedner, Vice President
dccw.vp@gmail.com

A Few of the Projects Supported By the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

(involvement from all CCW levels is encouraged)

Water for Life: Water for Life uses a combination of appropriate water technologies, water health education and basic research so that communities can identify and solve their water problems. Our mission is not to simply provide safe water to those in need, but to train individuals and communities to create and maintain their own local water resources. We do so by a highly interactive process combining formal instruction with hands-on training.

The Madonna Plan: Since 1958, the Madonna Plan has supported the Catholic Relief Service Mother and Child Survival Projects working with pregnant women and women with children under age 5. These projects address healthy behaviors and provide needed health services, such as vaccinations and immunizations to pregnant women and their children, nutrition and hygiene best practices, exclusive breastfeeding and complimentary feeding, as well as sanitation.

Box of Joy (Cross Catholic Outreach): These are Christmas gifts sent to children in developing countries like Haiti, Malawi and the Dominican Republic. Filled with toys, clothing, school supplies, a rosary and *The Story of Jesus*, these gifts represent Christ's love. Your donation will demonstrate Christ's compassion to a child who may have never before received a Christmas gift. DCCW supports this through the National CCW and encourages support from parishes, ACCs and deanery CCW groups.

Natural Disasters Within the U.S.A.: The DCCW is very conscious of hardships caused by natural disasters within our country. We have donated money to Catholic Relief Services for such things as the floods in southeastern United States, the catastrophic LA fires, etc.

Fun, Food & Fund Day: Is our annual fund-raising event that allows us to provide financial help where needed within the diocese, within the U.S. and worldwide. We have Mass together, entertainment, and a silent auction. This event is publicized in the Central MN Catholic magazine and in ACC bulletins. Cost is minimal ($20-25).

Bus Pilgrimages: The DCCW has been sponsoring annual bus pilgrimages for the past four years. These are one-day events that highlighted various Catholic sites around our diocese – such as adoration chapels, monasteries, our cathedral, Crosier seminary, historic old churches, etc. Cost has been $25.

Lenten Retreat & Fall Conference: The DCCW selects a theme and provides speakers who can provide spiritual insights on that theme. These events are published in the Central MN Catholic magazine and in our ACC bulletins. Cost is minimal ($20-25). We always celebrate Mass at these events and any money from the collection is donated – half to a local charity designated by the sponsoring ACC, and half to a DCCW charitable cause.

Volunteer Opportunities: The DCCW supports other diocesan events by volunteering their services to assist. Other events include such things as: the Men's Conference, Marriage Day, Festival of Families, etc.

None of this happens without women who are willing to give their time and talents to plan, organize and carry out these action items. **We are women of Faith and Action!!** We are The Council of Catholic Women!!

WE ARE – WHO WE ARE

We are Catholic Women strong and lean,
Oh! maybe not so lean, but mean.
We have husbands, families and many careers.
We got the job done over the years.
We are Catholic Women.

The Bishops organized the women's groups with a mission
90 years ago, about time of prohibition.
One-dollar dues, a small sum.
Where do you think the communion wine came from?
We are Catholic Women.

They told the women" We need your advice."
The parish women did not think twice.
The Bishops said, "We will not leave you in the lurch."
One of your first jobs is – clean the church.
We are Catholic Women.

We fix funeral lunches, bake sales and teach religion.
Eucharistic ministers, servers, sew quilts for the mission.
Not one – but many,
And we count every penny.
We organize, specialize and supervise.
We are Catholic Women.

We are, Who we are; ageless and unassisted.
Age is just a number, and our number is unlisted.
We are the church's best kept secret.
If the world knew about us, it would be their regret.
We are Catholic Women.

We are, Who we are, a council, a sisterhood.
We are proud to be Catholic, to be understood.
We are not one, we are many, we have a strong bond.
For each and every woman we are fond.
We are Catholic Women.

We work endless hours without any pay.
We solve world's problems with common sense, the easy way.
We get down on our knees and to the Lord God We pray.
We are Catholic Women.

We are one large family of great friends
We will do the Lord's work, till our final job ends.
We will meet our Lord at the pearly gate.
He will say, "What took so long? You are late."
We will say with a smile,
We are – Who we are
We are Catholic Women.

Geraldine Jacobs Allen

Province Conference 2010
Reprinted with permission

Thank you, Geri. For many years Geri has been an officer or commission chair on the parish, deanery and diocesan levels. She also served as Saint Paul-Minneapolis Province Director from 1997 to 1999.

HISTORIAN

Bishop Peter W. Bartholome, issued a mandate and the St. Cloud DCCW had the 1st organizational meeting on the feast of Christ the King, Oct. 25, 1953. That is one thing I learned after reading the "50 Years of History Book – Sept. 13, 2003." This booklet is included in a St. Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) scrapbook.

Some of the scrapbooks were in my possession while I was the DCCW Historian. Before I packed them away, I did flip through them. But, last May, when Arleen was looking for information on the last DCCW Sunday, I looked at the scrapbooks closer and read more articles. The scrapbooks are full of interesting news articles about happenings in the St. Cloud Diocese and the DCCW. Pictures are also used to record happenings.

There are many pictures with ladies having smiles on their faces. They had a lot of fun at DCCW events. Dancing at a Province meeting, enjoying the entertainment at the National Convention, and having fun at Fun, Food, and Fund day are just a few of the great pictures in the scrapbooks.

At the 2001 Fall Convention a new secretary and Vice President were installed. These two ladies were still on the board during the 2024-2025 year, but holding different positions. They are not the only ladies that served multiple years on the board and held multiple positions. The current treasurer is serving for her 2nd term. Thank you to all the ladies who are so dedicated to the DCCW.

Not all the pictures are happy pictures. There is a picture of a lady crying as she left St. Anthony's Church in Padua after the closing Mass on June 10, 2001. Sadly, there might be more people crying when their church closes in the near future.

Many articles were taken from the "St. Cloud Visitor," the diocesan newspaper before the "MN Catholic" magazine. One article was about the photograph "Grace." It was designated Minnesota's official state photograph in 2002. The picture was taken in the mining town of Bovey, MN. There are articles on the Rural Life Celebration. In 2019 Act-oberfest was held in Sauk Centre. I believe that is the last one that took place, which is too bad. That was a fun event.

In June of 2002, Bishop John Kinney celebrated 25 years as a bishop. In the scrapbook is a letter to the DCCW thanking them for the Spiritual Bouquet for his Anniversary.

Bishop Speltz celebrated his 90th birthday on May 29, 2002. He was the Bishop of St. Cloud from 1968 – 1987. In the Feb. 12, 2004 Issue of the St. Cloud Visitor an article was titled, "Bishop George Speltz 1912-2014". Mourning a 'gentle soul who walked among us.' This was included in the article, During the Mass, Archbishop Flynn encouraged those present particularly the bishop's relatives, to keep the legacy alive of "the gentle soul who walked among us."

In a newspaper article, "Retired St. Cloud Bishop dies at age 91," St. Cloud Bishop John F. Kinney says, "With the death of Bishop George Speltz, we have lost a spiritual leader…. his lifelong leadership in promoting rural life and family farming, and his affection for the local and universal church.

If you get the chance, take some time to look at the DCCW scrapbooks. You will most likely learn some interesting facts about the history of the DCCW. You will also see some fun pictures.

Toni Borgerding, Past DCCW Historian and Rural Life Chair

PUBLICITY REPORT

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the DCCW Fall Conference in Avon on September 20. Thank you to all the women who volunteered their time and talents to put this event together.

I hope you also received information and promoted CCW Sunday within your parish or ACC.

Speaking of ACCs, many are working to comply with the All Things New guidelines established by the Diocese. If there is a change in the contact information for your ACC or CCW, please be sure to let us know that so we have the correct email to push our bulletin and event posters to you.

I recently attended a conference where the speaker stated we are like a stone -- no we don't just sink to the bottom . . . Look at the surface: we leave a ripple -- one that continues to move outward further and further.

Let's all reach out to others. It's more important now, than ever. Whether it be to offer a helping hand, extend an invitation, or just to say "hi", this can leave a lasting effect on others.

Publicize your events. Invite your neighboring ACCs. If we all make a lot of ripples, will it become a wave?

Our next event will be the Lenten Retreat which will be hosted by the Southwest Deanery on Saturday, March 14, 2026 at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Morris, with a theme of "*Praying for the Prodigal*". More info coming soon.

Pat Kasella, Publicity Chair

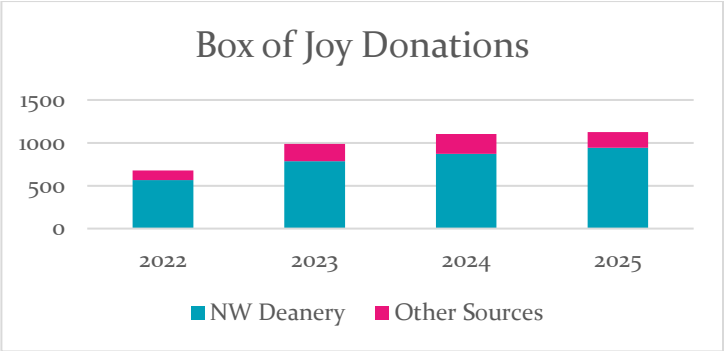
SAVE THE DATE!

Watch for more Information. Central MN Catholic, your Church bulletin or Our Catholic Voice Newsletter!

2025 BOX OF JOY UPDATE

Box of Joy is an annual Christmas gift ministry facilitated by Cross Catholic Outreach and supported by Catholic parishes, schools, groups and individuals throughout the United States. Every year, these incredible participants either pack hope-restoring presents themselves or donate online so our volunteers have the resources to create these life-affirming packages. Either way, the gifts are wonderful surprises for children living in extreme poverty. Many of the boys and girls blessed by Box of Joy have never received a Christmas present before — **so each gift sent makes the season very special.** (Quoted from the boxofjoy.org website.)

The St. Cloud Northwestern Deanery has participated in the Box of Joy program for the past four years. Our deanery is a large geographical area stretching East to West from Little Falls to Breckenridge and North to South from Menahga to Brandon. We have seven Area Catholic Communities which are comprised of 36 parishes. We started the Box of Joy ministry in 2022 hoping that each parish would contribute 10 boxes for a total goal of 360. We received 566! We also registered as a Drop Off Center for anyone else who filled gift boxes, so we actually shipped 679. And as word has spread over the past four years, the generosity of people in our Catholic communities has been astounding. The chart below shows our progress over the last four years. Our total boxes shipped this year was 1,127 with 941 of these coming from the NW Deanery Area Catholic Communities. The other 186 boxes came from the Southwestern Deanery (they do not have a drop off center).



I want to thank every person in our seven ACCs who helped make this happen, especially the ACC leaders who worked with their parishes in setting up, gathering and delivering filled boxes to the Drop Off Center in Millerville (Our Lady of Seven Dolors parish hall). God bless all of you!!

I do want to mention that the Eastern Deanery is also actively involved with Box of Joy. I know the Cambridge/Braham/Isanti group brought in 202 boxes. And the Drop Off Center in Pierz shipped 416 total boxes. (West Central Deanery also sent 138 boxes from 2 parishes.)

If you wish to read more about the impact this ministry has on children, I urge you to go to the www.boxofjoy.org website and read the stories. Or, go to YouTube and search for "box of joy thank you".

Have a wonderful Christmas and keep the children around the world in your prayers! Through Box of Joy, we can bring the joy of Jesus to children one box at a time.

Sheri Streasick
St. Cloud DCCW President &
NW Deanery Box of Joy Project Leader

RESOLUTION 2025

Supporting and Praying for Bishops, Priests, Deacons and Seminarians

Purpose: To support, encourage and pray for the Bishops, Priests, Deacons and Seminarians.

Whereas, as stated by Pope John Paul II, "No priest, no Eucharist... no Eucharist, no priest" *(Gift and Mystery. On the Fiftieth Anniversary of My Priestly Ordination),* and bishops, priests, deacons and seminarians are essential for maintaining the Church and the world's access to the sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist; and

Whereas, The Church encourages us to pray for those in authority -- bishops and priests hold places of authority in the Church, as *"Alter Christus"* (another Christ). In obedience to God's Word, our prayers encourage them with deacons and seminarians in walking and living according to this supreme dignity; and be it

Resolved, That DCCW foster a culture of respect for the clergy. That members be mindful of the challenges faced by bishops, priests, deacons and seminarians and offer them understanding and compassion, encouragement, and prayers of support and strength; and

Resolved, That DCCW members regularly pray for bishops, priests, deacons and seminarians, individually and as a community, offering support for their various needs and roles as outlined above, utilizing programs such as Seven Sisters Apostolate (sevensistersapostolate.org) and make use of the many prayers available through USCCB and other sources.

These suggested prayers can be used.

- Dear Lord, we humbly come before You, seeking Your divine guidance for our **Bishop.** Grant him wisdom, strength, and clarity as he leads our community. May Your Holy Spirit inspire his decisions and actions, helping him to shepherd us with love and grace. Surround him with Your peace and fill his heart with Your truth. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

- Lord God, we pray for our **priests** and **seminarians**. We ask for your blessing as they serve your people and the Church. May they be faithful and bold in sharing Your Word and ministering to those in need. We ask that You give them understanding, courage, and a great love for You and others. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.
- Holy Father, we lift up our **deacons** before You, asking for Your divine guidance and strength. Grant them wisdom as they serve, compassion as they lead, and courage to uphold Your truth. May they be vessels of Your love, inspiring others in faith and good works. Amen.

This resolution was passed by the NCCW for the 2024-2025 years. Saint Cloud DCCW also passed this at its' Annual Fall Conferences with the prayer suggestions. Please make copies and use the prayers whenever you can. One idea was to place a page where weekly adoration takes place.

EASTERN DEANERY REPORT

The Fall Deanery meeting and presentation **NEW SAINTS/OLD DEVOTIONS**, was held in Hillman at St. Rita's Church, on October 4th, 2025. Our hope was that during 'good' weather, we would get CM/W Presidents or Officers to attend from our local eastern parishes. The record-breaking weather did the opposite. We did not have a quorum; therefore, all parish contacts will receive communications in other ways to plan for our 2026 events. All is good and are Blessed. **+JMJ+**

The presentation on new *Saints Carlos Acutis* and *Pier Giorgio Frassati*, shared an important reminder stated by *Pope Leo IV* at the September 7th canonization, where he concluded the Mass saying "**Both are our invitation to not squander our lives, but make them a masterpiece!**"

At the conclusion of the Deanery meeting, attendees shared their favorite Devotion, as we discussed the Rosary, the Stations of the Cross, The Divine Mercy Chaplet, Novenas and other Chaplets (including the Sacred Blood and the Holy Face Chaplets). Further explanation of the Holy Face Devotion was presented, with Chaplets handed out to all, and the Holy Face Chaplet was prayed together, followed by a Mass with Fr. Marv Enneking.

Our Spring Deanery meeting will be held during the Lenten season. Watch your Bulletin for location and date.

Assignments will be given out to Eastern parishes for the **St. Cloud DCCW Fall Conference,** which we are hosting in 2026, at Holy Family Church, in Belle Prairie, to be held on Saturday, **September 19th, 2026**. **Mark your calendars**! **

Blessed Be His Holy Name!
Nita Hayes, Eastern Deanery President

Location:
DCCW
72ndAnnual Fall
Conference
18777 Riverwood Drive
Little Falls, MN 56345-6477

NORTHWEST DEANERY

Our fall meeting was held on Wednesday, October 8th at Sacred Heart in Dent with a service project.

Our theme was doing a baby shower. We had a speaker from Lakes Area Pregnancy Center from Staples, (the closest center to Dent). We were told about their program and the people they service. It was voted on to give them $500.00 for their ultrasound program along with the many baby's items the ladies brought in. Joy led us in playing a couple of games.

Deacon Mick Froslee was there to say his good-by after being with us for 3 years (as Spiritual Advisor).

Bonnie Jennnen was installed as our new Treasurer after the checkbook was audited. We did have a problem getting the notice of our meeting into all seven bulletins, we will be working to this for our spring meeting.

We are still looking for a vice-president, and for spirituality, leadership and service commissioners.

Our spring meeting should be at St Ann in Staples on April 18th. A call has been placed to them, but have not heard back.

Eva Koep is working on getting a host site for Lenten Retreat in 2027. She is looking at Henning or Battle Lake.

Linda Scepurek, Northwest Deanery President

From the **Northwest Deanery** Bylaws:

Section 2 The ***Vice President*** shall:

A. Assist the president as required and promote the general interest of the council.
B. Preside at the meetings of the deanery council in the absence of the president.
C. Assume the office of the president if the President can no longer perform her duties or cannot fulfill her term.
D. Assist the president in building relationships with local parish/ACC Catholic women's groups.
E. Assist in selection/reservation of meeting sites for future deanery board and general meetings.
F. Advise the board on leadership development and membership recruitment opportunities.
G. Perform other duties as requested by the President.

From **West Central** Deanery Bylaws

Section 2. The **President-elect** shall:

A. assist the president as required and promote the general interest of the council.
B. preside at the meetings in the absence of the president.
C. serve the unexpired term of president at the resignation or death of the president,
D. serve as the Organization Commission Chair,
E. As president-elect, move up to president as terms expire or need arises.

We need volunteers! Several deaneries are also looking. If you have ever thought about becoming an officer, try becoming a Vice President (President-elect). Following is a job description from 2 deaneries. Say a prayer to the Holy Spirit for guidance. There are also openings for commission chairs. Contact saintclouddccw@gmail.com for more job descriptions.

SOUTHWEST DEANERY

St. Charles Catholic Church in Herman welcomed women from the South West Deanery with homegrown produce fall table decorations. Our annual fall meeting was held on October 23, 2025, with 13 women from five different parishes present. Opening prayer was Prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel. The focus of the meeting was organizing tasks for the Lenten retreat March 14, 2026. The theme of the retreat is "Praying for the Prodigal" with Jason Prigge morning speaker and Roxane B. Salonen afternoon speaker. Mass is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. with Chaplet of St. Monica to be included in the day. All parishes in the South West Deanery are asked to volunteer to make the diocesan Lenten Retreat a success.

Also discussed at our meeting was the need for offices of president and vice-president. Please pray about stepping forward to serve in these positions. Our deanery is in need of a Spiritual Advisor which can be a priest or deacon. If you know of anyone to serve in this position, contact one of the officers. Our meeting closed with delicious snack provided by the women of the parish and door prizes.

Cheryl Weller, Secretary

Editor's note. Contact us though saintclouddccw@gmail.com *or use the Contact us icon on the website. Your message will be forwarded.*

WEST CENTRAL DEANERY

The West Central Deanery has been making some progress in procuring officers and commission chairs; however, we still do need to fill the positions of Vice President and President. Three women have accepted the Commission Chair positions of Church, Community and Rural/Environmental Commissions, but there are 4 other Commissions for which we need chairs, those being: Family, International, Legislative and Organization. We will also be asking for an historian, and a public relations chair. So, at this point we are still looking to fill those positions because we would like to again produce a Deanery Newsletter with their reports to keep all our parishes informed about pertinent information in their respective commissions.

The situation was discussed again at the Fall General Meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 28th, at St. Michael, Spring Hill. Also, at our General Meeting we explained the West Central Deanery Rotation schedule. The evening began with a Silent Auction, then a Mass, at which we installed our secretary and the commission chairs. We also had a light supper, followed by the meeting, door prizes and awarding of successful bidders for the silent auction, which is always interesting to see what items are placed for sale, and hopefully will be lucrative, as it is our only source of income. Father Mitchell Bechtold celebrated the Mass, Joined us for the meal and gave an inspirational message.

Our deanery recently hosted the SCDCCW Fall Conference, held in Avon at St. Benedict Church. It was a wonderful day – the theme was "Pilgrims of Hope", with Eleanor Kiel's "Songs of Hope: Music to Uplift the Soul" and Leah Molitor Brix's "My Hope Comes from Him" presentations to inform and inspire Hope in our lives. We were blessed to have the Mass concelebrated by Fr. Thomas Knoblach, Fr. Edward Vebelun and our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Laurn Vernig. We had 16 of our deanery parishes helping, with approximately 40 members helping fulfill the duties of the various committees needed to facilitate hosting the event, either by working or contributing to the expenses required. I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all our members who were able to share parts of their days helping – it seemed that day was a "very" busy day for many of the ladies I contacted to help. So, THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR GREAT DEANERY LADIES!

Our meetings in 2026 will begin with one in March for the Board meeting, and in April for the General Meeting. Hopefully the weather will cooperate for those meetings.

I want to thank the West Central Deanery parishes who have already graciously hosted our meetings since our "resurrection" – Albany, Melrose, Albany, St. Rose, Luxemburg, Richmond, Eden Valley, Holdingford (@ Upsala), Jacob's Prairie, Paynesville, Avon, St, Augusta, St. Wendel and up-coming Spring Hill. They have all provided the site, refreshments and whatever the deanery has asked of them, - so "THANK YOU" to all of you wonderful ladies for helping keep our deanery together.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Hopfer, President

The 2025 Annual Fall Conference attendees.

NCCW NATIONAL CONVENTION, ORLANDO FLORIDA

Spiritual Day of Encounter – "Eucharistic Encounter with Mary/Mother of Hope"

Held at Mary, Queen of the Universe Basilica and National Shrine, Thursday, August 21, 2025

Fr Mike MacInnis serves as the Coordinator of Human Formation and Director of the Propaedeutic Program at Saint John's Seminary in Brighton, Massachusetts. He is involved in priestly formation and spiritual direction. Propaedeutic just means that the first year at the seminary is a year of discernment and initial studies. A year where they can decide if this life fits them. Is this what they are meant to do?

When Father Mike was a child, he was one of four children and seven angels. His mother had had 7 miscarriages. His younger brother Sean had special needs. Mike as a child had always felt that Superman was his special person, he loved all things superman. One day when Mike came home, he saw something strange through the window. He ran into the house and saw his dad running into his office and closed the door. Mike knocked on the door and walked in to find his dad getting dressed but could see he had a Superman suit on beneath his clothing. Mike backed out of the office and went to the kitchen and saw his mom standing by the stove. All of a sudden it hit him, if his dad is Superman, his mom must be wonder woman. Wow was he lucky.

Then he stood in front of us held out his hands and said, blessed are you among women. He was referring to the encounter of Elizabeth and Mary. He said he was blessed to be among women, daughters of God, made in Gods likeness.

The theme Eucharistic encounter with Mary. What does it mean to walk in faith with the Eucharist and Mary? Mary is the model of how we should live with Jesus. Put your worries at the feet of Jesus. We are made for heaven. Hope is at the center of our soul. Hope is the first thing that the catechism teaches us. God's love is unconditional. Mary is the Mother of Hope because she is the mother of Jesus, that gives us hope. Hope is a choice; it is not a feeling. Mary teaches us to make the choice of hope.

Mary didn't have all the answers, but she had Faith, Trust and Hope. At the Eucharist we enter in faith, the church (us) are at the foot of the cross with Mary.

Mary believed in fulfillment.

1. Receive like Mary at the Annunciation. Mary was told she would give birth to Jesus. Mary didn't have all the answers but she had faith. Mary receives the word of God into her body. Amen - I believe we are surrendering. We are the ones to bring people to Jesus; we are one in Jesus.
2. To adore like Mary at the manger. Mary could see the infinite God, made small enough to hold. God came as a baby, to woo us to him. God's love became tangible. God is a person who came to us in our messy lives. When Mary held Jesus for the first time, no words came, only silence and deep love.
3. Persevere like Mary did at the cross. When you feel like praying stand like Mary at the foot of the cross. And believe, Mary had trust at the foot of the cross, by holding onto the truth of who God is. She did not give up hope she did not lose faith.

There is power in the Eucharist. The Eucharist was always the center of Mike's life. Here is the rest of the story:

Mike's mom and dad divorced, due to differences in how they were raising Sean, the younger brother with special needs. His Dad eventually met another woman and they lived together. His mom stayed faithful to her vows.

Mike prayed to his 7 siblings who were angels. He said you must always believe that your miscarriages are real children. When he prayed to them, he could feel their presence and their love. This hit me hard; you all know that I lost twins who were born at 6 months. I always included them in our family. But I never prayed to them. This brought great sadness to me. To think of all the love, I missed out on. Back to Mike, he prayed every day for his parents' marriage. He offered all masses for their marriage to be saved. His dad told him many

times to stop praying for healing his marriage. His dad even talked to his sister Mary and told her to talk to Mike. Mike at this point was in the seminary. For 3 mornings at 3 am he would wake up and hear a voice say, work it out with Adele, who was his wife. Fr Mike said it was the power of the Eucharistic prayer that healed his parents' marriage. They did remarry. How do we imitate Mary's adoration? In silence and confirmation. As looking at Jesus in adoration. Fr Mike's mom would look at him and ask are you sleeping enough, are you eating enough, and are you getting enough SON SHINE (time with the lord).

Wisdom from Mike's mom. His mother had many health issues; she died at 77. She was always filled with faith. She told Mike to never waste your suffering, offer it up to Jesus, lay it at the foot of the cross. He had given his mother last rites prior to a major surgery. During surgery she had a massive heart attack and only lived for days. She said to surrender your life to Jesus. The Eucharist is a sacrament of trust and surrender. Where do we need most to let Jesus into our lives? Perseverance, surrender and adoration. In Mary we find a direct guide to Jesus.

REMEMBER - Mary said yes. She had faith. This is what we need to spread.

The Second speaker was Sister Pamela who is the director of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston. She serves as adjunct faculty in theology for Saint Leo University at its Charlston extension. Sister Pamela has authored numerous articles and books, most recently "How We Can Suffer Our Sorrow". She spoke on missed opportunities and opportunities taken. An example was - she missed the opportunity to teach Pope Leo.

But on August 11th she took her final vows.

Most missed opportunities could lead to something we should be doing, but often at different times.

Linda Borgerding, Leadership Commission Chair

NCCW CONVENTION AUGUST 19 – 23, 2025

ORLANDO FL.

"BELIEVE IN THE EUCHARIST: *BLESSED, BROKEN AND SHARED*

Tuesday, August 19, We arrived at the NCCW Convention in Orlando.
We found our room, explored the hotel, met many Councils of Catholic Women from all over the USA.

Each day began with Confessions, Eucharistic Adoration and Meditation available for all

Wednesday: 8:30 – 11AM --TOUR OF THE CATHEDRAL OF ST JAMES

On the bus to the Cathedral, the Rosary, with mediations, was prayed. Upon arriving at St. James Cathedral, we were introduced to the Very Reverend Miguel González, Rector of St. James Cathedral; he was our host all day.

The Cathedral was beautiful, above the altar - six murals were hand painted and depict important scenes in the life of Jesus and the apostles. The Pentecost mural is located in the Sanctuary dome and was designed and hand painted by Renata Rohn of Rohn and Assoc. The Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, is descending upon Mary and the Apostles 50 days after Easter. The seven rings or power emanating from the dove represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit that each Catholic receives at their Confirmation. Dozens of symbols and pieces of art are showcased throughout the cathedral. Along the outer borders of the wooden pews, the symbol of the scalloped shell is engraved. The scallop shell is the traditional symbol of St. James the Great, because he was a fisherman in Galilea. The cathedral uses it as its primary symbol.

Located in the nave and eastern transept of the cathedral, there are 20 stained glass windows depicting the 20 mysteries of the rosary. St. James Parish traces its roots to May 20, 1881 when it was established as the first Catholic Church in the Orlando area. We then went back to the hotel and Convention Center for Mass with Father Tom Washburn, as Celebrant. Father Washburn is NCCW Chair of Spiritual Advisors. Mass was followed by the opening session and business meeting, where members of the NCCW Board were introduced and reports from various committees were given. We also received the NCCW "25th Anniversary Resolution Book". A book of all NCCW Resolutions from 2000-2024. It was emphasized that any Resolution made by your Council of Catholic Women should always be acted upon during the year.

Wednesday evening was open for our own enjoyment. The hot tub and swimming pool had my name on them; followed by a good night's sleep.

Thursday - ***"A SPIRITUAL DAY OF ENCOUNTER with MARY, MOTHER OF HOPE"***

We had a very spiritual day at "Mary, Queen of the Universe Basilica and National Shrine.

In Orlando this shrine offers Mass, prayer, museum, garden, chapel and gift shop for all Catholic tourists. If you get to Orlando this is a great place to visit.

The day began with breakfast. Then we boarded a bus for the Basilica. On the bus we prayed the rosary together.

Our first speaker was ***Father Michael MacInnis.*** He is involved in priestly formation and spiritual direction in Brighton, Massachusetts. His first statement was "We need more Priests, but mainly HOLY PRIESTS"

He then began by encouraging us to come to "A special space and leave all behind". During his talk he shared how he grew up in an active Catholic Home where his parents loved their Catholic Faith. Then, when he was thirteen something went wrong and his parents divorced. Through his early Catholic training he remained faithful to his Catholic faith and especially the Holy Eucharist and Mary. He turned to Mary and prayed the Rosary each day for his parents. Father Mike's father would always tell him he can quit praying for him because he was happy where he was with his life. But Father Mike never quit praying to Mary, "Mary, our Mother of Hope". He reminded us that Eucharistic HOPE is a choice; a Choice we can never give up on. After many years, Mary answered his prayers and his parents reunited. Father Mike's message was clear; **"Live with Eucharistic Faith and Walk with Mary", Mary-united with Jesus' Presence; always persevere in Prayer**. Receive Jesus with Joy, Reflection and Learning. He was a very engaging speaker. If you ever have a chance to hear Father Michael MacInnis speak, I encourage you to go.

Our afternoon speaker was **Sister Pamela Smith,** the Director of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston, SC. Sister Pamela spoke about "Missed opportunities and opportunities not taken" by us. Like the 10 lepers in Luke's gospel, only one recognized the opportunity he was given by being cleaned. We may have been given opportunities by God and missed them; if we recognized God's opportunities, where would they have taken us?

Then it was back to our hotel for pictures and a delicious Province Dinner. Seating during dinner is random, so you meet many more interesting women from all over the United States, getting to learn about each other.

Friday - After Confessions and Eucharistic Adoration the rosary was prayed by all in the Grand Ballroom, then sessions from the Education and Leadership Commissions.

Leadership introduced the Leadership Training Development (LTD) commission and the support the NCCW has available for each of us. They shared how we can bring Spirituality into our meetings; how we can develop leadership through our meetings and how participation at each meeting, by all members of your board, is so important. Service projects are also important. Remember, we as members are all leaders.

These sessions were followed by **The Golden Rose** awards luncheon.

This is the 3rd year NCCW awarded the Golden Rose Award. Nominees must be ages 14-21 who show leadership abilities, display spirituality, are involved in a service project and are practicing Catholics who regularly attend Sunday Mass.

This year, the **Golden Rose** was awarded to Micaela Verdeja, age 17, a member of the St. Paul Cathedral in the Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis. Listening to her share her Faith, Leadership, Service and Love of God with passion and humility was awe inspiring. Micaela's mother was who encouraged her to apply for this award, telling her "Don't hide your light under a bushel"; Micaela is very shy. We have many young women in our diocese who

are eligible for this award; let's encourage them to continue their leadership and spirituality and apply for this award through our Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

The Archdiocesan August 26th newspaper "The Catholic Spirit" has an article about Micaela that you may want to read.

The principal celebrant/Homilist for our Mass that evening was the Bishop William Wack, C.S.C.

He emphasized how Adoration and the Rosary helps everyone become "People of Hope". We must not let the devil separate us, knowing that GOD brings us together. We need HOPE, "Dread or Fear is not of GOD". He suggested we read the Gospels to bring Hope into your lives. We must then cultivate that Hope and share this Hope with others. Bishop Wack, CSC. ended with "Our God delights in us at all times". We are here at NCCW Convention to take home Christian Hope, which is to expect The Kingdom of Heaven. He encouraged us to read the Encyclical Letter "***SPE SALVI" of the Supreme Pontiff Benedict XVI.*** You can find this on the website https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi. It is 18 pages long, but very interesting.

Saturday - Commission Reports followed by:

Musician & Speaker, Marie Miller, leading us in "The Way of Love" a beautiful Spiritual reflection on the Love of God for all. **Marie Miller,** is a renowned singer and speaker who blends music, humor, and storytelling to share the message of God's love. Marie was honored to perform for Pope Francis during the Festival of Families in 2017.

Marie has a beautiful voice. Her message was inspired by St Therese of Lisieux's "The Way of Love", sharing how Mary is at the foot of all of our Crosses. "Mary comes down to us, not only looks down on us". Marie can easily put you into a spiritual meditative state. She gave a spiritual message and then put it into song. She was able to captivate you with her message and music.

Saturday - Presidents Closing Meeting:

Reports of NCCW Committees/Associated Organizations

Dianne Vangness, our new Province Director was installed, succeeding Carol Shukle.

NCCW Vocation Purse Program was explained. It is a great program helping young women who have large college debt that must be paid off prior to entering a Religious Order.

The NCCW announced that Magnify of Central Florida is the 2025 Convention charity. Magnify is a faith-based nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting individuals with disabilities by providing them with essential resources, community engagement opportunities, and spiritual guidance.

Sunday - Get up early, have a cup of coffee, wait for our Uber ride, then off to the airport. Board our flight to MSP anxiously waiting to see and greet my husband, Jerry.

What an exhilarating 5 days; Thank you for giving me this great opportunity to meet so many wonderful Catholic women sharing our Love of Christ, the Holy Eucharist and Mary. Praise the Lord!! God is Good all the time; All the time God is Good!!!

Next Year the NCCW Convention will be August 26 – 30, 2026 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The theme will be "Speak, Lord, Your Servant is Listening". Grand Rapids, Michigan is only a nine-hour drive from here. Did you know that Michigan is called "The Mitten State"?

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Carol Brunn DCCW Treasurer

2025 NCCW CONVENTION IN ORLANDO FLORIDA.

On Tuesday August 19, I traveled by plane to Orlando with Linda Borgerding and Carol Brunn. We checked out some of the attractions of the hotel.

Wednesday began with a bus trip to the Cathedral of St James. It was beautiful. The pipes of the pipe organ were made in Minnesota. There were very large pictures in the front of the church depicting the life and death of St James. The large stations of the cross along the side walls were framed in large dark wood frames. The Choir loft and pillars supporting it were also made of the dark wood. The entire Cathedral was adorned in beauty. The many stained-glass windows and paintings added to the beauty. Father Miguel was our host while we were at the Cathedral.

We returned to the Convention center for Mass and a noon luncheon. The afternoon was scheduled business meetings. The board members were introduced along with past presidents, the leadership training and development team, NCCW Staff and other members of various committees.

Thursday began with a bus ride to the Mary Queen of the Universe Basilica. It was a spiritual day of Encounter with Mary Mother of HOPE. Father Mike spoke about his early years and how he thought his dad was Superman. He spoke about his faith and dedication to the Eucharist. We become bearers of Hope in the Eucharist. "Hope is a Choice". He had his audience spellbound listening to every word.

There was lunch followed by another speaker. We were free to move about the grounds and the beautiful building. Mass was celebrated. The tabernacle opened from the Sanctuary and from the back side of the Sanctuary there was an identical tabernacle which opened to the adoration chapel. People were able to receive the sacrament of reconciliation while at the Basilica. The entire day was very calming and peaceful. It was truly a Spiritual day of encounter with Mary Mother of Hope.

Friday Morning exhibits were open, Rosary was prayed in the Grand Ballroom, and Bishop William Wack C.S.C. gave his greetings. The silent auction was open and Marie Miller was a guest speaker during the awards luncheon. Mass was celebrated for the deceased members. The Celebrant for the Mass was the Most Reverend William Wack CSC.

The Purse Auction took place in the Grand Ballroom with purses selling for thousands of dollars.

Saturday featured the posting of winners of the Silent Auction, Marie Miller with her lovely music, lunch on our own, and final remarks from the president. The evening ended with a banquet and music.

Lois Wesbur, Past President

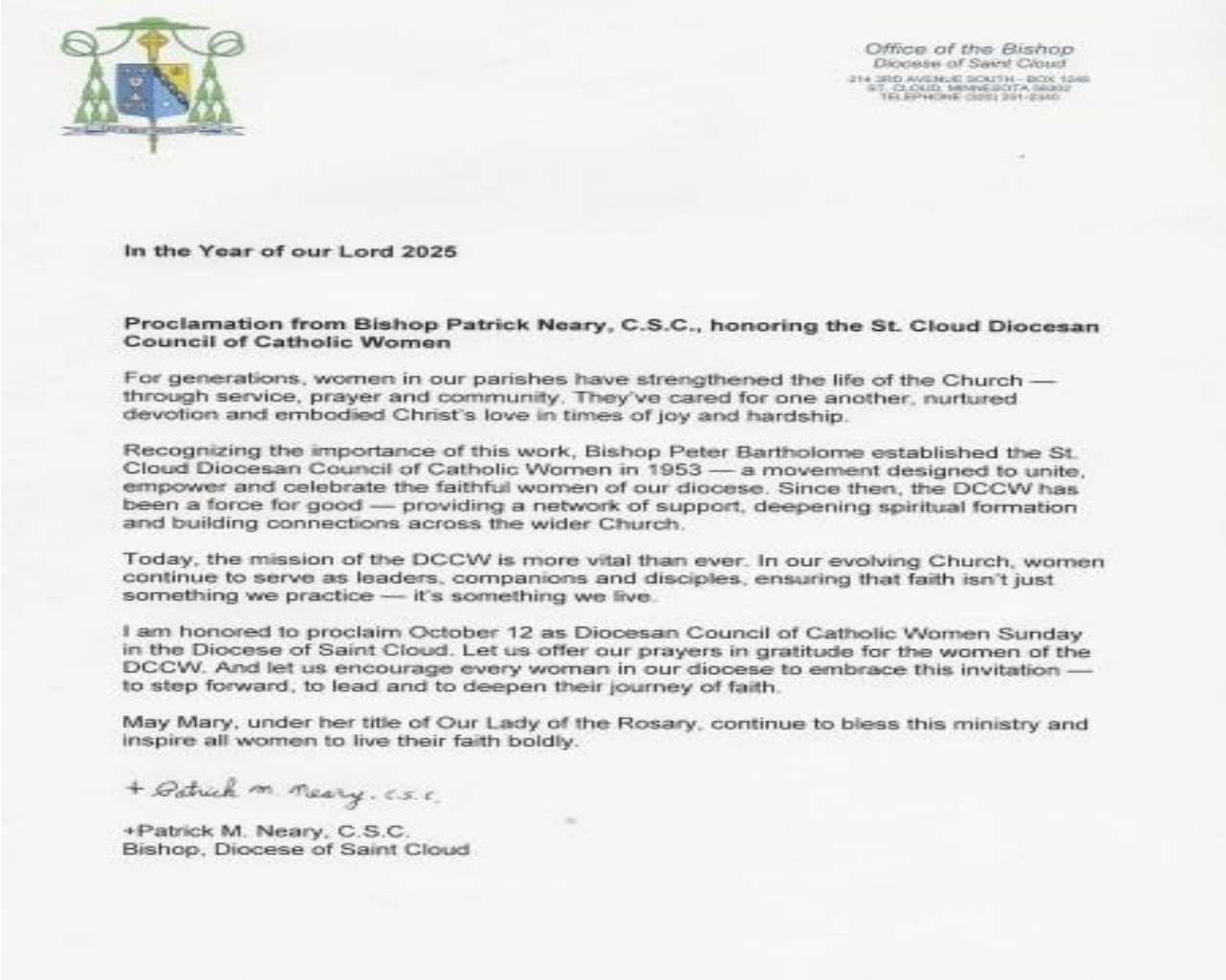
DCCW SUNDAY

A big thank you goes out to the many of you who made DCCW Sunday a success this year. It was a good beginning as we started late in getting the word to the clergy and women of the parishes. We will be sending more information after January 1,2026

We definitely will continue this in the future. So, the **first** thing to do is to confirm a Mass to be said on the second weekend of October (considering Saturday and Sunday Masses). We've gone back in history to find information about previous celebrations and will continue to share as time goes on.

We will have another Proclamation issued later and we will have lists of ideas for you to use when you participate. Keep watching and checking the website, saintclouddccw.org

We wish to acknowledge those who already celebrate the women of their parishes. Remember all baptized Catholic Women are members per Bishop Peter W Bartholome (1953 Proclamation).



Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Saint Cloud
214 3RD AVENUE SOUTH - BOX 1248
ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA 56302
TELEPHONE (320) 251-2340

In the Year of our Lord 2025

Proclamation from Bishop Patrick Neary, C.S.C., honoring the St. Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

For generations, women in our parishes have strengthened the life of the Church — through service, prayer and community. They've cared for one another, nurtured devotion and embodied Christ's love in times of joy and hardship.

Recognizing the importance of this work, Bishop Peter Bartholome established the St. Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women in 1953 — a movement designed to unite, empower and celebrate the faithful women of our diocese. Since then, the DCCW has been a force for good — providing a network of support, deepening spiritual formation and building connections across the wider Church.

Today, the mission of the DCCW is more vital than ever. In our evolving Church, women continue to serve as leaders, companions and disciples, ensuring that faith isn't just something we practice — it's something we live.

I am honored to proclaim October 12 as Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Sunday in the Diocese of Saint Cloud. Let us offer our prayers in gratitude for the women of the DCCW. And let us encourage every woman in our diocese to embrace this invitation — to step forward, to lead and to deepen their journey of faith.

May Mary, under her title of Our Lady of the Rosary, continue to bless this ministry and inspire all women to live their faith boldly.

+ Patrick M. Neary, C.S.C.

+Patrick M. Neary, C.S.C.
Bishop, Diocese of Saint Cloud

LENTEN RETREAT

Praying for the Prodigal

SPEAKERS:

Jason Prigge
Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry
Sauk Rapids, MN

Roxane Salonen
Author, speaker, podcast host
Fargo, ND

Welcome to all Catholic women!

We will be praying the Chaplet to St. Monica.

Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m.

MARCH 14, 2026

9 A.M. – 3 P.M.

Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary Church
207 E. 3rd Street, Morris, MN 56267

$25 early registration per person
$30 after March 2nd

Sponsored by:
St. Cloud Diocesan Counsel of Catholic Women

Hosted by:
the South West Deanery

Handicapped Accessible

REGISTER TODAY!

Mail a check payable to DCCW to:
Cindy Riedner, SWDCCW Treasurer
306 E. 3rd St.
Morris, MN 56267