

FEBRUARY

2024

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SPIRITUALITY, SERVICE
And LEADERSHIP



Connecting Catholic Women!

Throughout the Diocese of Madison

A Monthly Newsletter of the Madison Diocesan Council
of Catholic Women (MDCCW)

Affiliated with the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW)

Connecting Catholic Women throughout the Catholic Diocese of Madison

President's Pen News

Greetings for February!

This year, Ash Wednesday will be on Feb 14. How fitting—we remember God's great Love for us in sending His Son, Jesus to save us! *John 3:16* Jesus suffered and offered Himself on the Cross to redeem us of our sins and open the gates of Heaven for us. Let us try to offer ourselves during this Lent: growing in Spirituality and offering our service to help make the lives of others better (Walking with Moms, helping in your parishes or communities—food pantries, donating time, and finances, etc.). Spread your love around and we will make this world a better place! Let us follow in the footsteps of 3 Women in the Bible: The Woman at the Well – go and tell others about Jesus/ Living Water (I saw a Facebook post that said “It wasn't the water He came for, it was for Me”—how true!), Mary—listening to the Word of Jesus and, Martha –serving others.

See President's Pen News continued on Page Two!



FROM THE PEN
OF LINDA RIPP

President of the Madison
Diocesan Council of
Catholic Women

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VOICE of the SAINTS

Feasts, Memorials and
Solemnities this month!

Feb. 2, Presentation of the Lord
Feb. 3, St. Blaise, Bishop
Feb. 5, St. Agatha
Feb. 6, St. Paul Miki
Feb. 10, St. Scholastica
Feb. 14th Ash Wednesday
Feb. 14, St. Valentine's Day
Feb. 22, The Chair of St. Peter
Feb. 23, St. Polycarp, Bishop
Feb. 27, St. Gregory of Narek,
Abbot and Doctor of the Church

"See God's will in every-
thing, and to do His will
with joy, out of love of Him"

Blessed Maria Caridad Brader, a
Franciscan Swiss nun who served
the poor in Ecuador, established a
Congregation of the Franciscan
Sisters of Mary Immaculate.

Women on a journey

sharing our stories

United With Our Province

in the
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
CATHOLIC WOMEN.

Greetings from your Province Director, Jane

When one thinks about the month of February, one usually thinks of Valentine Day cards, candy in heart shaped boxes and red roses! If those are some of your thoughts, then you will enjoy learning what is making a *smashing hit* in many Councils of Catholic Women across the United States. NCCW President Beth Mahoney has developed several prayer cards to be used and distributed during her 2-year presidential term. She is encouraging all women to share their stories of Council. Stories of friendship, love, and relationships! The front of the prayer card is the title of this article and NCCW President Beth Mahoney's over-all theme. The prayer is in the next column. More copies of these prayer cards can be obtained from NCCW by calling the NCCW Office at 703-224-0990.

Share your stories and share your friendship!
May your Councils grow and thrive!

Jane Schiszik, Province Director
Province of Milwaukee

Lord Jesus,

As Catholic women, we long and desire
to share our lives, to tell our stories
and to walk this journey with you.

Help us to open our hearts to those in
need.

Guide us to know when to speak.

Inspire us to invite others to walk this
journey with you.

Be with us as we, the NCCW, pause to
give you thanks:

For all that you do for us,
For your grace,
For your love,
And for always being there for us.

Your mother, Mary, is a woman who held
all things within her heart,

Help us to embrace your presence and to
hold everything within your heart.

May we remain faithful witnesses to
sharing our stories and walking this
journey with you.

We are grateful for your gift of grace and
we pray for your continued guidance.

Amen

NCCW – Beth Mahoney, President 2023-2025

The Mission of the NCCW is to Support, Empower, and Educate all Catholic women in Spirituality, Leadership and Service

MDCCW is affiliate of the National Council of Catholic Women which acts through its membership to respond with Gospel values to the needs of the church and society in the modern world. Learn more at www.mdccw.com and www.nccw.org

February 2024

Mark Your Calendars!

June 7th Priest Ordination & Reception

June 18th MDCCW Convention!

Madison Diocesan Council

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Linda Ripp

From Pastorate 19

President Elect: Carol Rogers

From Pastorate 4

Secretary: Coreen Marklein

From Pastorate 7

Treasurer: Patty Spragg

From Pastorate 7

Leadership Commission:

Sue Barker *From Pastorate 20*

Spirituality Commission:

Judy Lyons *From Pastorate 14*

Service Commission: VACANT



DIOCESE OF MADISON

Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations

Mon. - Fri. 9 - 11:45 am

At Holy Name Heights Oratory,
702 S. High Point Rd, Madison

Daily Mass

Mon. - Fri. Noon

At Holy Name Heights Oratory,
702 S. High Point Rd, Madison

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
CATHOLIC WOMEN

NCCW's Spirituality Reflection

Grant me, O Lord my God,
a mind to know you,
a heart to seek you,
wisdom to find you,
conduct pleasing to you,
faithful perseverance in
waiting for you,
and a hope of finally
embracing you.

Thomas Aquinas

Connecting Catholic Women with Spirituality and Service!

throughout the Catholic Diocese of Madison Wisconsin

President's Pen News Continued from Page One!

Have a great Lenten journey and look forward for Jesus' Resurrection on Easter Sunday! Reminder: We are in the planning stages for the MDCCW convention. It will be Tues, June 18, 2024 at St. James in Madison. If you would like to be on the planning committee, have a theme or suggestions, please let me know.

There will be an MDCCW Board meeting on Saturday, Feb 3, 2024 (snowdate, Feb 10) 9:00 am at St Martin's in Martinsville/Cross Plains. Let me know if you would like to attend.

Linda Ripp

President of the Madison Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Jesus is the Light of the World; May We Become a Light of Hope

SPIRITUALITY Faith Finds a Home at Home

Each Lent in our household, we set out a crown of thorns made of a dried grapevine wreath covered with toothpick "thorns." Every time someone performs an act of kindness or offers up a small sacrifice, he or she can pull out a thorn from the crown. The goal is to have all the thorns removed by the end of Lent, and on Easter morning the crown is covered instead with flowers. It's a hands-on way for children to visualize the effect of our little sacrifices required throughout Lent. What can you do to remove thorns from Our Lord's crown this Lent?

By Julianne Nornberg

Contributor to the Catholic Herald and member of Pastorate 19

SPIRITUALITY RESOURCES World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life February 2nd

'Consecrated persons advance the mission of the Gospel in the Church today by bringing the light of the Gospel to those they encounter', said Bishop Earl A. Boyea of Lansing. In preparation for the celebration of the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life on February 2, the USCCB's Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations (CCLV) commissioned a study on newly professed men and women religious through the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University. Discover their surprising findings!

<https://www.usccb.org/news/2024>

MDCCW UPDATES:

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (MDCCW) is planning the details of the June 18th Convention! Mark your calendars now!

Our host: St. James Catholic Church,
(Good Shepherd Parish), 1128 St James Ct, Madison

SERVICE

Diocesan Focus this LENT

Prayer, Service and Almsgiving puts our hearts right smack into the mystery of the Kingdom of God.

Pray first to know the will of God and then give of yourself in all ways!



LEADERSHIP

Showing Our Love for Jesus

February is here and we are ready to celebrate St. Valentine's Day. Did you know St. Valentine was real? His feast day is February 14, and this year Lent starts on that same day. Celebrate or Fast? We can do them both if we plan accordingly. Valentine's Day and Lent are both about love for another. To offer up something during Lent shows our love for Jesus and our faith.

Another way to show love is to be part of Drug and Alcohol Sunday by sponsoring an Addiction Awareness program in your parish. Is your group a part of volunteering at a local shelter, possibly The Beacon Homeless Shelter, in Madison? Maybe you help out at a food pantry or your parish has a St. Vincent de Paul group that does home visits. Visiting a nursing home or fundraising for a specific cause may be for you. These are all great projects for your CCW to start or continue with. A very current need in our diocese is the possible closing of St. Peter's School in Ashton. The need for a Principal and teachers are paramount at this time, along with monetary donations.

Make a choice of what will work best for you. Invite other women from your parish and you may find a few new members joining your CCW!

By Sue Barker,
MDCCW Leadership Commission Chair

"it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me"

Galatians 2:20