

**JULY
2024**

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Connecting Catholic Women!

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

Affiliated with the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW)

Uniting Catholic Women throughout the Catholic Diocese of Madison, Wisconsin

THE PEN

Thank you for the honor of being installed as your MDCCW President at the Conference on June 18! I am gratified that old and new friends offered congratulations, support, and encouragement to me during and after the Conference. Getting to know many more of you in these next two years is one of my goals. The goals of this term are as follows:

- * Work with Bishop Hying and our priests to build the Body of Christ.
- * Promote communication among the women of the 30 Pastorates.
- * Establish method and timeline to elect/appoint representatives to the MDCCW Board from the Pastorates.
- * Become acquainted with the women of the diocese.
- * Encourage participation in the Council of Catholic Women at the individual, parish, pastorate, and national levels.

Because I am the President of your diocesan council, please communicate your needs, desires, goals, ideas, reflections, criticisms, etc. The presidency is always at your service... goals may change but our movement will always be forward to holiness.

Central to my vision for the women of the diocese of Madison is building the body of Christ. Such efforts begin with spiritual growth and extend across a broad spectrum that includes unifying women in discipleship. Our common goal is to reach Heaven. To do this we must connect everything to Christ. Only then can we expect success. For Scripture tells us "Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain." - Psalm 127:1.

As Jesus loved His mother, we love her. As she continuously pointed people to her Son, we do too. As the saints tell us that the fastest way to the Heart of Jesus is through the hands of Mary, we also say, "All for Jesus through Mary."

See **THE PEN** continued on Page Three!

United across the Diocese

**Meet your new Officers
Of the Madison Diocesan Council
of Catholic Women!**



Uniting our efforts to serve you are the newly installed Officers of MDCCW. Shown left to right back row: President Carol Rogers, Co-Presidents Elect Jane Lepeska Grinde and Carolyn Zenter, Secretary Marie Fleisner. In the front row is Treasurer Patricia Spragg.

United in Voice

**With the National Council of Catholic Women
Who is the NCCW?**

Founded in 1920 by the U.S. Catholic bishops to provide all Catholic women a common voice and an instrument of unified action, the NCCW continues its Mission to support, empower and educate all Catholic women in Spirituality, Leadership and Service.

Our own Madison Diocese holds an affiliated chapter of the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) which is called the Madison Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (MDCCW). Here, we respond with Gospel values to the needs of the church and society in the modern world.

Watch a quick video and learn more at
www.nccw.org

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
CATHOLIC WOMEN

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



Reflections on FREEDOM FOR ALL

* Pray the Rosary daily in July for world peace
* Hold a Patriotic Rosary Service at your parish
* Teach your children or grandchildren the profound faith of our country's founding fathers.

VOICE of the SAINTS

Feasts, Memorials and Solemnities

St. Thomas, Apostle, 7-3
St. Elizabeth of Portugal, 7-5
St. Maria Goretti, 7-6
St. Benedict, Abbot, 7-11
St. Bonaventure, 7-15
Our Lady of Mount Carmel, 7-16
St. Mary Magdalene, 7-22
St. Bridget, 7-23
St. James, Apostle, 7-25
Sts. Joachim & Anne, 7-26
Sts. Martha, Mary & Lazarus, 7-29
St. Ignatius of Loyola, 7-31



St. Anne

Pictured above is a St. Anne medal available from Catholicsaintsmedals.com or from your favorite Catholic store.

LEADERSHIP

Inspiration for Local Councils

The Leadership Commission's job is to suggest ways to improve meetings, keep members involved, and welcome new members. Also, to pass on information about opportunities to attend workshops and conventions, that will enhance their understanding of Council. Taking on this responsibility enables a CCW member the chance to learn what our group is about and to share with other women who are eager to learn. When I was able to take an active part in CCW I didn't know much more than we provided funeral lunches and had a fund-raiser or two to help with parish needs. It is so much more than that! Taking on the Leadership position, I have been able to do all these things. I have met many more women, locally and nationally, that I would not have gotten the chance to know. Going to area meeting and conventions has made it possible to see how others run their meetings and get more new ideas to bring back to St. Andrew Church, now Divine Mercy Pastorate, and MDCCW.

Attending NCCW Convention opens up a whole new world as far as why CCWs were established and how they have affected policies in local areas, our country and internationally. Behind all this is our belief in and dedication to God and our Mother of Good Counsel. I have been blessed in this position and encourage ALL of you to fill any open position and see how you grow. As I once heard an experienced CCW member say, "You run a household, there's no reason you can't hold a position in CCW!"

By Sue Barker
Leadership Commission Chair, MDCCW

Saint Anne

Saint Anne was the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the grandmother of Jesus Christ. She and her husband Joachim were virtuous and loving parents and no doubt, extraordinary grandparents! Best known as the patron saint of grandmothers, St. Anne is also the patron saint of unmarried women, housewives, women in labor, childless people, equestrians, lacemakers, miners, the poor, and seamstresses. Besides copious religious art, prayers to St. Anne are also plentiful.

Prayer of Grandmothers to St. Anne Mother of Mary

Saint Anne, show me the best way to serve my children as they raise their growing family. Help me always to give them words of encouragement, support, and respect. Show me how to be a good grandmother to their children. With great love, I pray for each of my grandchildren and ask you to intercede on behalf of their needs, intentions, and aspirations. Pray that we may enjoy a long life together and after our death be united again for all eternity in the Kingdom of Heaven. Amen.

"Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality"

Rom 12:13

LEADERSHIP

Meet a National Leadership Trainer!

Coreen Marklein, former Secretary and Service Commission Chair for the MDCCW has entered the national spotlight. Volunteering as a group leader for the NCCW, she trains parish CCW's and works with leaders of all levels to build up the Council of Catholic Women. Coreen is ideally suited to rally women as she has been instrumental in the Sauk Vicariate region and organized the Boxes of Joy service project for many years.

Your CCW or pastorate can tap into Leadership Development Training (LTD) offered by the NCCW. With over 50 topics including Officer Training, Leadership Succession, Mentoring, Managing Volunteers, Image, Effective Committees, Gaining your Spiritual Advisor's support, Recruiting Members, the LTD team can assist with these issues and countless others. Offering one or two day training sessions for your members, the sessions include training exercises, group discussions, and handouts to enhance your training day.

Find all the information you need to start at www.nccw.org under the 'EXPLORE' tab.

SPIRITUALITY

Faith Finds a Home at Home

July is the perfect time for getting together with family and friends and taking some time to rest and recharge. What a beautiful month to contemplate and devote to the Precious Blood of Jesus, poured out for our salvation. As we take time to rest with our families this month, resolve to spend at least an hour a week resting with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament as well, adoring Him and thanking Him for the Precious Blood He sacrificed for each of us. We can rest in His love, knowing that He poured out His entire self for us. We must strive to do the same for Him.

By Julianne Nornberg
Contributor to the Catholic Herald and member of Pastorate 19 (now Holy Cross Pastorate)



THE PEN CONTINUED

By way of background, I was born in Marshfield in central Wisconsin, 3rd in a family of eight children with great parents. Every evening while I was growing up, we would kneel in the living room and recite the family Rosary. Our neighborhood friends knew that they could not call at the back door for us to come outside to play until the final Amen. We were all blessed to attend 12 years of Catholic school in which the Faith was infused into every part of the curriculum. (Wait for ensuing editions of "The Pen" to hear how I got to Fennimore.)

My mother was an active member of the Rosary/Altar Society (precursor to the Council of Catholic Women), and she encouraged her five daughters to be active alongside her. We enjoyed the social events and worked at the fundraisers and event dinners. Though she thought that she couldn't do it, when nominated to become President, she accepted, and was elected to consecutive terms. I pray that my mom, the reluctant, yet effective leader, will be guiding this Presidency, right along side of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Ann (patron of our Sodality CCW here in Fennimore), and Queen Esther (who was named my patron saint during the installation ceremony).

Come along with me as we build the Body of Christ!

Carol Rogers

President of the Madison Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

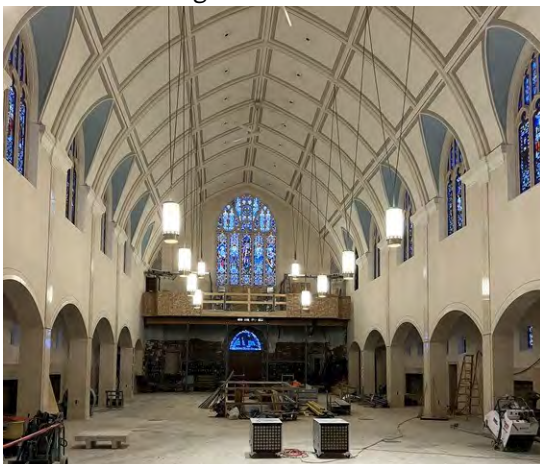
"to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ," Eph 4:12

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Following our Cathedral
in the Diocese of Madison!

Since the devastating fire at St. Raphael, Madison's Diocesan Cathedral in 2005, we have been without a cathedral for nearly 19 years. Bishop Donald Hying choose St. Bernard Parish in Madison as a 'cathedral worthy' church building that architecturally lifts us in terms of transcendence.

Renovations are well underway as an act of love. Cabinetry including the high altar are being built by congregation member Paul Lang, and the steeple will be the salvaged steeple from St. Raphael. While stained glass windows remain, hidden gems discovered during construction will be brought forward into the light.



St. Bernard Cathedral's renovation in 2024 is scheduled for completion in 2025!

Photo Credit John Hart, Wisconsin State Journal

SERVICE

MDCCW Hosts Reception!

After the Priest's Ordination on June 7th, to welcome Rev. David Drefcinski and Rev. Anthony Kersting, their family, and friends, MDCCW women hosted a bountiful reception with joy! Thank you to all of our volunteers!

SERVICE Pick-a-THEME

Theme Based Service Projects with catchy phrases help grow participation in your CCW's activities, build enthusiasm and assure year-to-year easy repeats! Here are a few ideas to get you started for July!

THEME Based on a PASTORAL CALENDAR:

STS JOACHIM & ANNE = Family Strong:

Host a family day, Pro-Life info, intergenerational style service projects.

THEME Based on the current MONTH:

CHRISTMAS in JULY: Plan for Box of Joy!

Collect items for distribution at Christmas
SUPPLY JULY: Buy now: Collect school supplies to stuff backpacks



THEME Based on 'BE-ATTITUDES'

COUNSEL THE DOUBTFUL

Bibles: Supply your church

Invite a Friend: To Mass, to CCW meeting, to events

THEME Based on NCCW-Endorsed Projects:

VISIT THE IMPRISONED: Focus on Justice

Collectively write to Representatives, discover a project needed for ministry in prisons, Explore Dis-mas Ministries.

Mark Your
Calendars!

July 1 - Due Date

Final Registration for
NCCW Convention in
Oklahoma City

Aug. 13-17.

www.nccw.org

July 17-21

National Eucharistic
Congress in Indianapo-
lis. See

www.eucharisticcongress.org

August 10

St. Paul's Catholic Stu-
dent Center celebrates
the great vocation of
motherhood with a
mom's retreat. Learn
more at
www.uwcatholic.org/beholdyourmotherretreat

October T.B.D.

Madison Women's Club
is making its final plans
for its Day of Reflection.

October T.B.D.

Vicariate Meetings are
being planned! Stay
tuned.

Prayer Intention

Ideas for July

Be-Attitude Style

Prayer Intentions:

- *For our nation and leaders that they lead with justice and goals of lasting peace.
- * To Bless the Peacemakers as they will be called children of God.
- * For freedom from oppression, injustice and prejudice and to bear wrongs patiently.