



NEWSLETTER

CONVENTION ISSUE Spring 2015



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Rosa Ropers

President's Message

Call to Convention

Dear Catholic Women in the Madison Diocese,

As president of the MDCCW

organization, elected by you to carry out our NCCW Mission, I encourage each and every one of you to come to the 61st convention, hosted by the West Dane Vicariate, at St. Bernard Church, Middleton, June 16 and 17. Over the past year, the planning groups have gone out of their way to create two days of learning, praying and enjoying and yes just a little bit of shopping.

The convention theme reflects my theme of "Live, Learn, Love and Share Our Catholic Faith" and one of the newest programs of NCCW, "We Are Called to Witness."

MDCCW board members will host the Tuesday evening banquet paralleling our theme and promising to uplift you spirituality with conversation, readings, and beautiful music. The evening will enable you to relax as you share your stories with other women and learn the reason for NCCW.

Our keynote speaker, Sheri Wolfert, will reflect on our theme in her presentation titled, "Live Like You Love Him."

Sheri is committed to Christ and the Catholic faith. She will give new insights to our spiritual side, while reminding us how good it is to recognize God in our life. Later in the program Sheri will do a presentation on "Spreading the Faith to Those You Know."

Past presidents Carol Brennan and Coreen Marklein will present a shareshop to help you hone in on your leadership skills. The third shareshop on service will feature the Donkey Project. Do come and listen and learn. Ask questions of the presenters and get some hands on advice as to what you can do in your home parishes.

Please pray for guidance in making your decision to attend this gathering. It is my hope that you will invite other women to join us for a day: other members, sisters, mom, daughters, and a neighbor.

I have only mentioned a few of the highlights of our gathering. I promise you will return home motivated to lead your organization in new and different ways to promote God's work and love.

Blessings,

Rosa Ropers
MDCCW President

NCCW MISSION STATEMENT

The National Council of Catholic Women acts through its membership to support, empower, and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership, and service. NCCW programs respond with gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world.

Live, Learn, Love, and Share Our Catholic Faith



Carol Brennan

Leadership Commission

We are Called to Witness

"We need more doers, fewer talkers; more to say it can be done, fewer who give up trying; more to inspire others with confidence, fewer who throw cold water on

anyone taking a positive initiative." — James Keller, founder of The Christophers

In response to the Pope's plea for New Evangelization and a request from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), NCCW developed a wonderful new program to bring the New Evangelization to the women in the pew. The "We Are Called to Witness" program was developed by a committee convened by NCCW President Rebecca Woodhull.

Evangelization is not something we simply talk about; it is something we need to live. Evangelization is not something that just happened in the past; it is happening right now as we are constantly growing in our faith. Our challenge is to not keep this knowledge simply for ourselves but rather to share this with others in our words and actions.

You can find "We Are Called to Witness" on our website at www.mdccw.com/commissions.html#leadershipResources. The program calls on us to first deepen our own faith and grow spiritually. Hopefully we made progress on our Lenten journey, but we can't stop; we need to continue. The next step is reaching out to others. Use this program for yourself and in your councils.

God wants to use us where we are, as we are — imperfections and all. Jesus didn't choose learned, perfect men for his disciples; instead he chose quite a motley crew, and look what he did with them! A big way to share Jesus and His love is by your actions. Listen to others, smile, give a kind word or compliment, do a small act of caring.

Matthew Kelly says God want us to "Become the Best Version of Ourselves." Through evangelization we help others discover the love and wisdom of God and help them become the "Best Version of Themselves." He also states, "Evangelization is the ultimate form of love of neighbor."

Use this resource in your council with its many prayers, ideas, and suggestions. We always need to keep praying but remember we Catholic women are not only "Women of Faith," we are also "Women of Action." We like to do things.

I invite and encourage all of you to come to our MDCCW convention June 16-17 at St. Bernard church in Middleton. Every year we hold this event for you. We want you to come, grow spiritually, increase your knowledge, network and bond with sisters of faith, laugh and have fun, and most of all be excited about being Catholic and Catholic women!

Carol Brennan
Leadership Chair

Individual Membership

A goal of the Madison Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (MDCCW) is to promote membership at all levels: diocesan, vicariate, and parish. With this in mind, MDCCW President Rosa Ropers encourages women whose parishes are not affiliated with the MDCCW to join as individual members. Created several years ago, the membership is \$10 annually and gives members a connection to the diocesan council. Individual members are welcome at vicariate and diocesan board meetings and encouraged to help whenever they can with events.

The following individuals are members:

Sandra Adamsky, Beloit; Lucille Bittner, Reedsburg; Pat Fisher, Madison; Rita Marklein, Spring Green; Judy Pearce, Platteville; Rosa Ropers, Waunakee; Jo Ann Russell, Madison; Carol Statz, Verona; Rita Macewicz, Beloit; Maureen Lazars, Marshall; Linda Roseijka, Helenville; Joyce Fichtel, Hillpoint; Dorene Shuda, Jefferson.

For information on joining, go to www.mdccw.com.



Mary Stasek

Spirituality Commission

Remembering Our Friends In Prayer

Patty Johnson , NCCW Spirituality Commission Chair, talked about the Bible study group that has a purse that is passed around the room. It contains small slips of

paper for each person in attendance to write a special prayer request. These prayer requests are then shared with all the members of the group to pray upon. They are frequently referred to as "Prayer Warriors" as so many times their requests are answered when it never was thought possible.

These intercessory prayers not only bless the person who is prayed for, but also the person who prays for that person. God is very generous, and we are very grateful for His generosity. Johnson also referred to the Gospel story about the friends of the paralyzed man whom they lowered down through the roof so that Jesus could cure him. Because of their faith in

God and devotion to their friend, Jesus cured him, telling the man that "the faith of your friends has saved you."

You can also pray for the new Catholics who entered the Church at Easter time. Pray also for those being confirmed, our seminarians, our priests, bishops, archbishops, cardinals, and for Pope Francis. There are many good things going on in our Church at this time for which we can be most grateful and thankful.

I don't want you to forget those suffering for their faith in Iraq, Iran, and Syria; our own parish family members in nursing homes and hospitals; and our deceased family members. Lastly, please don't forget to pray for the poor souls in Purgatory.

Mary Stasek
Spirituality Chair



Coreen Marklein

Legislative SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION SUBCOMMITTEE

MDCCW President Rosa Ropers and I attended Catholics at the Capitol the day after the April election. We helped with morning registration and attended a day full of sessions with excellent speakers. Held every two years to coincide

with the biennial budget session, the event brings together individuals of varied backgrounds to learn about what is happening in the Wisconsin State Legislature and what we can do to interweave our Catholic social teachings in everyday life. The day featured a variety of workshops, ranging from immigration policy and the family to reforming Wisconsin's criminal justice system.

Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald and Assembly Minority Leader Peter Barca, both Catholics, gave opening remarks. They spoke about the biennial budget process and its timeline. Among the issues they noted were pro-life, increasing the speed limit, right to work and the Wisconsin Supreme Court. They shared information on subsidies between the states and federal government, long-term care, Family Care, disability issues, SeniorCare and affordable prescriptions, and stewardship programs such as BadgerCare and Medicare. Primary health care is a key issue.

The morning began with a prayer service led by the Most Reverend Robert C. Morlino, Bishop of Madison. Jean Kelly, our Milwaukee Province director for NCCW, gave the first reading. CCW members also attending were Gayle Johnson and Lucille

Brandner from the Diocese of Superior. After the prayer service, attendees went to one of many breakout sessions.

Keynote speaker was Dr. Jonathan J. Reyes, executive director of the Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. He spoke on "Combatting Poverty through a Culture of Encounter." He noted that we are a culture of exclusion, becoming two separate Americas. The gap between the upper and lower classes has widened. We are a culture of encounter. We need to take the time to connect with one another.

Attendees selected from morning and afternoon breakout sessions focusing on Catholic faith and teaching. A panel discussion was held in the afternoon "Giving Voice to the Cry of the Poor." The bishops of Wisconsin are forming a task force to help them develop a statewide Catholic response to poverty. Panelists shared their perspectives as to what Catholics should ask of society and of each other in addressing poverty. Most Reverend Jerome E. Lisecki, Archbishop of Milwaukee, closed the day with remarks and prayers. Participants went to the Capitol afterwards to visit with their legislatures.

Wisconsin Catholic Conference:
<http://www.wisconsincatholic.org>

Budget Issues & Catholic Perspective:
http://www.wisconsincatholic.org/State_Budget_.pdf

Coreen S. Marklein
Legislative Chair

Live, Learn, Love, and Share Our Catholic Faith



Sandra Hull

Service Commission

Called to Change the World

“Each of us has a mission; each of us is called to change the world, to work for a culture of life, a culture forged by love and respect of the dignity of each human person.” — Pope Benedict XVI

Do you remember the Donkey Project? The Global Solidarity Partnership began in 2002 with the Diocese of Novrogo-Bolgatanga in Ghana, and in 2005 The Donkey Project was started. The purpose was to supply donkeys, along with plows and carts, to the women there to help with their farming which would otherwise be done by hand. In 2009 a self-sustaining donkey farm was begun, but it needs \$20,000 a year to keep it going. In the past many parishes sold Fair Trade chocolate with the proceeds going to this project. Your parish can do that as well as sell other fair trade items by hosting a SERRV sale. Information on SERRV can be found at www.serrv.org.

Caps of Love is a service project promoted by the National Council of Catholic Women. Recycling plastic caps raises money to buy wheel chairs for disabled children. As there are only a few places in the United States that recycle this type of plastic, all caps must be shipped to the founder of Caps of Love in Florida. Get started in your parish by visiting nccw.org and clicking on Caps of Love under Commission Resources at right of the page. There you will find a wonderful flyer to display. More information can also be found at capsoflove.com.

Please visit our website (www.mdccw.com/commissions.html#serviceResources) to download a copy of “**Women Healing the Wounds**.” It has a wealth of information on domestic violence and ways you can respond and help women in your community. This resource includes a list of examples of abuse- and violence-warning signs in a relationship and a flyer you can customize with your local shelter information.

Start saving those caps today!

Sandra Hull

MDCCW Service Commission Chair



Jean Kelly

From the Province Director

Alleluia! He is Risen! When I am asked about what makes the Council of Catholic Women special to me, I always refer to the history. In 1920 the bishops asked the National Council of Catholic Women to be the umbrella group for

all Catholic women’s organizations, inviting representatives from all over the United States to attend a meeting in Washington, D.C. We continue the tradition of holding national board meetings there. If you would like to know more, you can go to the website (www.nccw.org) to order a wonderful book on “The First 75 Years of NCCW NCCW.” It is also on Kindle.

It is a big year for the NCCW as we are celebrating 95 years. The national convention in Orlando, Florida, Sept. 9-12, will include many celebrations. I would love to see as many of your MDCCW members attend as possible. We will have our province dinner Friday evening where we join with the other dioceses from Wisconsin. The entire convention will be a time for learning and fun. Check the website (www.nccw.org) for more information, including how to register. There will not be any onsite registration this year. **The early bird registration ends June 30!! Send in now!!**

NCCW has two new programs being implemented all over the nation. The first one is the “We Are Called to Witness” program which has suggestions for your organization to do in response to Pope Francis’ call to the New Evangelization. I hope you have been able to implement some of the ideas. The second one is the new “Women Healing the Wounds” domestic violence program with ideas for your group to help those in need. Both of these are available free on the NCCW website. They are wonderful to use in your vicariates and parishes.

This is my last year as your province director. It has been a very special time for me. I have learned a great deal about NCCW and have met many wonderful faith-filled women. Everyone is welcome to join the NCCW. You will be glad you did. You can go to the website or contact me, and I will be happy to help.

If you have any questions I am always willing to answer them!

Jean Kelly

Milwaukee Province Director

Rural Life SERVICE COMMISSION SUBCOMMITTEE

Farmers and ranchers grow and produce a basic human need: food. They do this season after season even as they endure uncertainties of Nature and Market. We hail our farmers by stating that they “feed the world.” To this end, we can say that farming and producing food is a sacred calling. But in the constant struggle to stay in business, farmers may wonder if they are still in line with the divine plan.

Catholic Rural Life, along with the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and a number of farm organizations and academic institutions, organized a symposium in St. Paul, Minnesota, this past November to examine how faith can inform our natural connections to the land, plants, and animals; in a way that raises mundane business to the level of vocation, or a calling.

Long-time members of Catholic Rural Life will likely agree that there is something about agriculture — the most fundamental connection between Nature and Culture — that calls the humble farmer to contemplate the mind of God. This is not a lyrical overstatement. In the presentations by speakers at the Faith, Food, and the Environment symposium, their conclusions always led to this elevated point of view about the true place of humans in the world and our relationship with nature.

“The Vocation of the Business Leader,” an article issued by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the John A. Ryan Institute for Catholic Social Thought, said: “Despite the challenges facing agribusiness leaders today — eco-

nomie globalization, information technology, financial speculation — the Church urges those in agriculture and food industries to promote sustainable practices that provide for a hungry world while preserving the land and natural resources. The Church also has particular concern for family farms, small farmers and farmworkers.”

“From the very beginning, the Creator asks us to ‘till’ the earth and to ‘keep it’ (Gen: 2:15). It is part of our assignment as human beings. It cannot be ‘just a job’ if we treat it as part of God’s plan of love in history.” There are two main questions that we should ask ourselves, How does one’s vocation inform the complexities and challenges of the agricultural market? and How would one manage such complexities as if faith mattered?

The Theology of the Church states on agriculture and the environment that our view of farming, whether we are aware of it or not, implies a particular understanding of nature and the divine. This understanding shapes our relationship as human beings to the physical world, to other human beings, and to God the Creator. Many participants at the symposium did not hold back in questioning if conventional agricultural practices are in harmony with the physical, moral and spiritual world around us.

Barbara K. Seamandel
MDCCW Rural Life Chair

The following messages from the NCCW president and secretary respectively are reprinted from the April **Connect**, the on-line newsletter of NCCW.

From the NCCW President

Spring is finally here in the Midwest along with potential tornados and lots of rain; trees and forsythia started blooming just as Easter Sunday arrived with beautiful weather. I pray that yours was just as lovely! As we walked out of the church my husband said, “Wouldn’t it be nice if the church were this full every Sunday...and people actually dressed up for Holy Mass!”

Our Bishop’s homily stressed the plight of persecuted Christians in other countries and our need to pray for them as fellow Catholics/Christians and provide support to help make sure Christianity is not eliminated. You may know that I am a Lay Dominican and our Dominican Sisters in the Middle East send reports of the rampant persecution and executions of men, women and children who will not convert to Islam or a political ideology. It is not just the Middle East but also Africa, China, South America and Europe where Christians

are facing persecution. Can you imagine living where the practice of your faith is so perilous?

We are so blessed and yet we must fight, even here, for our religious freedoms. I urge you to do all you can for these persecuted sisters and brothers in the faith and for protecting our religious liberty worldwide. From the March 10, 2015 USCCB Administrative Statement on Religious Persecutions:

“We urge all people of goodwill to work toward protections of the marginalized and persecuted. In union with the local Churches and the Holy See, we call upon our nation to: work with the international community to intervene and protect the rights of religious minorities and civilians within the framework of international and humanitarian law; address political and economic exclusion that are exploited

Continued on next page.

Live, Learn, Love, and Share Our Catholic Faith

FROM THE NCCW PRESIDENT

Continued from previous page

by extremists; and increase humanitarian and development assistance.”

As spring arrives, your NCCW Commissions and Committees continue to provide relevant resources with the FREE Domestic Violence brochures and FREE new NCCW Membership brochures as supplies last! Order some for your upcoming conventions and meetings. These resources are part of your membership benefits to help you address issues that are important to the Church and to women in particular.

If you call the NCCW Headquarters Office in Arlington, VA, you will notice a new voice from Heide Seward, our new administrative assistant. Heide is learning fast how to respond to the many issues that come to the NCCW. She fielded 62 calls her first week!

Many of our councils change officers in the spring, and I pray that each council president will submit the officer changes she has to the NCCW office as soon as your elections are held. Please send officer changes or any address changes to Beth Ward bward@nccw.org to get these into the new NCCW database. This is especially important to do because we have NCCW elections for president-elect and secretary coming up June 1 and we need current affiliate presidents' information to send the ballots. Also, don't forget to order an NCCW President's pin for your new parish, deanery or diocesan president or new Spiritual Advisor. The order form is on the NCCW website.

Convention is also coming up fast so please plan for your convention program ads thanking your special ladies and priests and congratulating new officers! We continue to collect photos of the many NCCW 95th Birthday affiliate celebrations and these will be featured at convention!

Last, I want to alert you that when the new database is implemented (soon) that we will send out dues notices from it to everyone. If you already paid dues for 2015 please do not be offended – this is the best way we can make sure every affiliate and member got a dues notice and that our data is correct. If you have not yet paid 2015 dues please consider this a gentle reminder!

I pray that you enjoy a beautiful Eastertide carrying into it the renewed prayer life and good works reflected upon during Lent!

Rebecca Woodhull, Ph.D.
NCCW President

Spring Cleaning of Files

So your term is ending, and you wonder what you need to keep in your files. Pat Reymann, NCCW Parliamentarian offers the following:

- One copy of the minutes of every meeting should be kept forever - preferably in a bound book.
- Treasurer's reports and bank statements should be kept for 7 years (according to my understanding of IRS rules.) After that, you may get rid of them. The report of the treasurer is summarized in each set of minutes, so you will have a reference for some of the information down the road.
- Other files and things may be kept for as long as they seem relevant; keep only one copy, not multiples.
- Be careful throwing out, though. The historian (if you have one) and at least one past president can be helpful in determining what is still relevant or interesting. If you are in doubt, ask someone.

Carolyn Morrison
NCCW Secretary

NCCW 95 Years Old!

Washington, D.C. — On March 4, 1920, the same year women won the right to vote, women representing parishes and women's organizations from all across the country gathered in Washington, D.C., to create a national women's council. The National Council of Catholic Women was founded by the U.S. Catholic bishops to give Catholic women a common voice and an instrument for unified action, to ensure Catholic representation on national issues, and to stimulate and encourage every existing women's organization.

Dr. Rebecca Woodhull, President of NCCW, commented, "The National Council of Catholic Women works to fulfill not only the U.S. Bishops' purposes for us but also to fulfill the message of the Second Vatican Council's closing statement on women: '[A]t this moment when the human race is undergoing so deep a transformation, women impregnated with the spirit of the Gospel can do so much to aid mankind in not falling.'"

NCCW consists of thousands of Catholic women and affiliated Catholic women's organizations in parishes and dioceses throughout the United States. Some quick facts about the National Council of Catholic Women:

- NCCW is represented at the biannual meetings of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the United Nations, the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO), the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, and other prominent Catholic organizations.
- NCCW is a founding member and participant with the Religious Alliance against Pornography.
- NCCW partners and collaborates with other Catholic groups such as Catholic Relief Services, Cross Catholic Outreach, Center for Missing and Exploited Children and Catholic Climate Covenant.
- NCCW offers its members: spirituality, leadership and service opportunities; programs and resources such as We Are Called to Witness, an aid to the New Evangelization for women (available in both English and Spanish) and Women Healing the Wounds, a resource to prevent domestic violence; annual subscription to the quarterly Catholic Woman magazine and the monthly Connect e-newsletter; annual convention; an avenue to network with Catholic women across the country and abroad; and more.

Past President, Patty Johnson, who is currently Chair of the Spirituality Commission, stated, "For over 50 years the National Council of Catholic Women has been, for me, a pathway to strengthen my faith and answer my baptismal call to serve. The sisterhood formed with Catholic women united in purpose has enhanced my love for all God's people. I believe the future of NCCW is bright as we continue to act with the Joy of the Gospel."

The National Council of Catholic Women acts through its membership to support, empower and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. NCCW programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world.



Be the Voice of Catholic Women: Sowers of Hope

You are cordially invited to attend the **NCCW 2015 Annual Convention** September 9-12 at the Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista.



national council of catholic women
To support, empower, and educate all Catholic women

For more information and registration visit: nccw.org/AnnualConvention.

Check Out Our New Website

Our website (www.mdccw.com) has recently been redesigned. It was our intent to make it a useful tool for individual members and leadership and commission chairs at the diocesan, vicariate and local levels of our organization.

On our site you will find a calendar of events that includes upcoming MDCCW board meetings, vicariate meetings as well as important events within the local parishes. This calendar will continually be updated as information on future events becomes available. Where possible, programs and registration information will be supplied for these events. Also on our website is an extensive list of programs supported by MDCCW and NCCW along with resources to help you in implementing these programs within your local parishes. Under Commissions you will find a description of the purpose and function of each commission with tools and resources pertinent to the respective commissions. Throughout this newsletter you will find references to materials that you can find at mdccw.com.

Please take some time to check our site. If you have any suggestions for improvement or information that you would like posted on the calendar of events you can contact me at webmaster@mdccw.com, or go to www.mdccw.com and find my email link under the Board of Directors.

Karen Gramann
Website Coordinator

Preserving Our History

It will soon be convention time again. I have been working on the scrapbook and going through articles that have been in the Catholic Herald the past year. I need your help to make sure the scrapbook contains items from all the parish affiliates. Please give me copies of invitations, programs and photos from all your vicariate meetings. I also like to include information from parish and affiliates on special events and activities. This can be promoting the service projects that you do for your parishes as well as projects for the National Council of Catholic Women. Perhaps there was a photo or article in your local newspaper that could be included in the scrapbook. Please include the name of the photographer who took the photo as well as the author of any written articles. We want to give credit where credit is due. The MDC-CW scrapbook should be well represented by all the parish and council affiliates.

It is time to spring into action on our projects. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Convention.

Kathy Loy
Historian

Live, Learn, Love, and Share Our Catholic Faith

From the Editor

In Gratitude

Since our newsletter is produced in pages of four, our wonderful and talented graphic designer and webmaster, Karen Gramann, tells me we need one more page to fill. So, here goes!

I want to write in gratitude of the many wonderful faith-based women whom I have met and helped me grow spiritually.

As you read this, I know you, too, will think with gratitude of the many women who have touched your life through MDCCW and your faith community. Once I started thinking about the women, I just kept thinking of more and more. Just this past week, I had the privilege of leading the Rosary at the visitation of Mary Jane Bull from my Good Shepherd parish in Madison. I knew her from participating in parish book and Bible studies, attended mostly by women, all of whom I can say I love! Mary Jane always had amazing insights. I would see her at the occasional daily Mass that I got to attend, and I would see her at the Catholic Multicultural Center, to which she dedicated so much time. When I read her obituary, I was amazed at all of her other interests and activities. What a gift she was to so many and so humble. Despite not being able to speak in her last months, she gave hugs and thumbs up and only asked for our prayers.

Our incredible parish nurse Cynthia kept in touch with Mary Jane and sent out emails asking for prayers. Now, let me tell you about Cynthia. Those of you fortunate enough to have parish nurses probably are similarly in awe of your nurse since it takes a special person to be in that role. I am lucky to call Cynthia a friend as well. We first met as St. James School parents when we had kitchen duty together. I was down to the last of my four children still at school. Three of her four children were in school, and she had a sweet little toddler with her. Over the years, we have connected through other ways, including the care ministry program at the parish and our shared love of shopping resale stores, especially the Dig and Save on Park Street!

My parish — as I am sure yours — has many exceptional women of faith. I feel privileged to call Marian Fredal



my friend. An advocate for social and racial justice, she practices what she believes. She and fellow parishioner Leonard Reed will lead a discussion about race and faith, using the book, “Racial Justice and the Catholic Church,” written by Fr. Bryan Massingale, an African-American priest in the Milwaukee archdiocese and professor of ethics at Marquette University. The discussion will be held Tuesday evenings, May 12, 19, and 26 from 7 to 8:30, at St. James Church, 1128 St. James Ct., Madison. For more information or to RSVP, contact Marian at mhfredal@gmail.com, 608-658-5272.

Then, there’s Sister Zita, our pastoral associate who just celebrated her 50th year as a Dominican. What enthusiasm and spirit she brings to her job—although it certainly is more than a job for her. Look for an article about her in an upcoming Catholic Herald. Speaking of the Catholic Herald, I have to mention the talented and dedicated editor, Mary Uhler. Thanks to my mom Dorothy Lepeska, I have the good fortune to be able to call Mary my friend. Dedicated is one of many adjectives that describes each of the women I mentioned, but it describes you as well.

I think of the meeting I had earlier this year with our MDCCW president Rosa Ropers and convention leaders Joan Pregler and Linda Ripp. Informally chatting, we all agreed that we like to be with women of faith. That is why vicariate and diocesan gatherings are so worthwhile. They enrich us and connect us to others with whom we can pray and share our stories and to contribute to making the lives of others better.

I am grateful indeed to my mother for introducing me to MDCCW and sharing her faith and friends and being an example of service. In gratitude I pray for the many, many women — from the obvious to the ones whose names I don’t even know—who continue to influence my life.

Jane Lepeska Grinde
Editor

Madison Diocesan Council of Catholic Women
(Affiliate of the National Council of Catholic Women)

61st Annual Gathering of Catholic Women DAYS of CELEBRATION !

A Joyful Assembly to Pray, Learn and be Inspired !

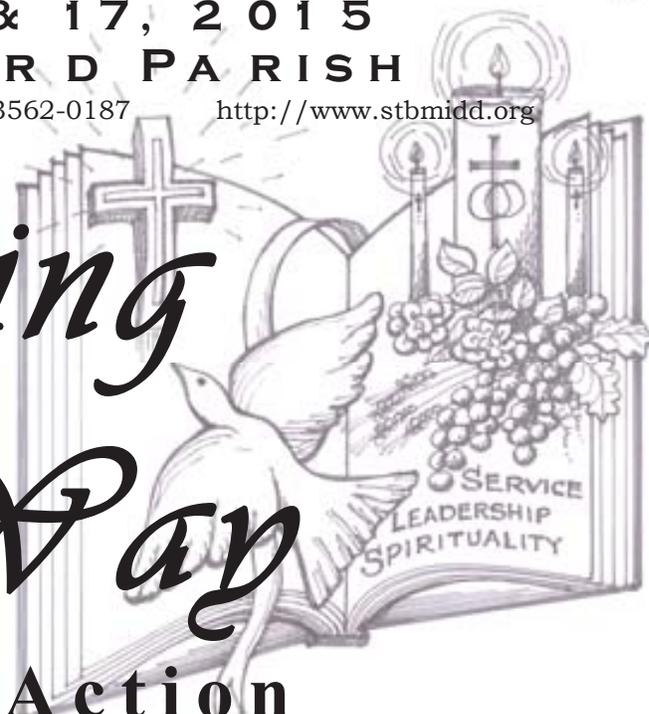
JUNE 16 & 17, 2015
ST. BERNARD PARISH

2015 Parmenter Street

Middleton, WI 53562-0187

<http://www.stbmidd.org>

Lighting The Way Our Faith in Action



Bringing Catholic Women Together in Faith to Share Our Story of Life, Learning and Love

Invitation from the West Dane Vicariate

Set aside a couple of days to be in the presence of Catholic Women from around the Madison area and beyond to share in the good works faithfully inspired and joyfully given, to build God's Kingdom on earth.

Help us fill food pantry shelves at both the Middleton Outreach Ministry and Waunakee's Food Pantry by bringing a gift of nonperishable food to share with these local pantries! Be inspired at our Shreshop Sessions for international charitable opportunities.

Linda Ripp, past president of West Dane Vicariate and current secretary, chairs the convention. She is thankful for all

the help she received from both East Dane and West Dane parishes as well as individual members.

A life-long member of St. Martin Parish, Martinsville, Ripp has served her parish in many capacities including as religious education instructor and coordinator and choir member. She and her husband Dave (almost 27 years) have two sons, Mike and John. She teaches at Little Red Preschool in Middleton and also serves as a member of Waunafest in Waunakee.

Live, Learn, Love, and Share Our Catholic Faith

Convention Banquet

Savoring the Light of Christ

The Tuesday evening banquet will include a lesson in spirituality narrated by Sister Jude Seaman, Columbia North Vicariate president and religious education director of All Saints Parish, Berlin. MDCCW board members will serve as table hostesses as participants engage in conversation and be inspired by readings and beautiful music by Meg Aspinwall.

Past MDCCW President Coreen Marklein will tell about the "beginnings of NCCW and why it is important to our nation." Expect a few surprises as well!



Keynote Speaker and Workshop Leader

Sheri Wohlfert

SPREADING THE FAITH TO THOSE YOU LOVE

Motivational Speaker Sheri Wohlfert will focus on how we can have a closer relationship with God and "Spread the Faith to Those You Love" in her keynote speech on Wednesday morning of the convention. She will also lead a shareshop in the afternoon.

MDCCW members attending the national convention last fall heard Wohlfert present and recommended her for the diocesan convention. Past President Coreen Marklein said, "Wohlfert provided us with practical tips that we can use in our daily lives to bring about a closer relationship with our Loving Father. She is able to weave God's word and truth with the challenges and celebrations of daily life, while at the same time blending in humor. Whether you are cooking or cleaning or folding laundry, put God in the middle of everything you do."

Marklein encourages women to come to the convention and experience "Sherri's huge sense of humor and her deep love of God. She will leave you laughing, thinking, praying and finding God's fingerprints in all corners of life." In the meantime, Marklein shared the following points from Wohlfert's presentation at the NCCW convention.

We Are Women Of Joy. *Jesus — Others — You.* The greatest act of selfishness is complaining; the greatest gift of God is compassion.

We Are Women Of Perspective. "Faith sees the invisible; believes in the incredible; receives the impossible."

We Are Women Of Prayer. Remember your morning prayers by making lists and writing them down.

WOW – We praise God and glorify Him in His majesty.

THANKS – We offer thanks for all His love and care.

OOPS – We say we are sorry for the times we have done wrong.

GIMME – We ask for what we need, not necessarily what we want.

We Are Women Of Service. According to Blessed Mother Teresa, we are called to service and not to be served.

An elementary teacher in Westphalia, MI, Wohlfert has a bachelor's degree in secondary education and a master's degree in elementary education and is a diocesan-certified religious education instructor

To learn more about Sheri Wohlfert, go to her website and read her Joyful Words blogs that are updated twice per week at www.joyfulwords.org.

Service Commission Shareshop

THE DONKEY PROJECT

Jenny Hansen, former coordinator of the 1st grade faith formation at Holy Mother of Consolation Parish, Oregon, will lead the service shareshop Wednesday afternoon. Her passion and enthusiasm will be evident as she tells how she engaged the young children in the Donkey Project. Her article in the Fall 2014 newsletter described her work with the children on this diocesan-supported project.

Hansen will share what she did with the children as they learned to help others by raising money to purchase donkeys for a donkey farm in the diocese of Navrongo-Bolgatanga in Ghana and has helped improve the lives of so many in need.



President Rosa Ropers (standing) reviews convention plans with Linda Ripp (left) and Joan Pregler. Ripp is convention chair. Pregler has been handling logistics, including the production of the reports book.

MDCCW Convention Agenda

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2015

- Noon - 1:00 pm **Registration** in St. Bernard Parish Center — Lunch on your own
- 1:00 - 3:30 pm **MDCCW Board Meeting** in the St. Bernard School Lower Level
- 3:30 - 3:45 pm **Break and Free time** to visit Vendors & Raffle items
- 3:45 - 4:15 pm **Prayer** in St. Bernard Church
- 4:15 - 5:00 pm **Free time** to visit Vendors and Raffle items
- 5:00—5:30 pm **Hospitality and Social time.** Vendors are open
- 5:30 pm **Banquet Buffet!** in the St. Bernard Parish Center with special Table Prayers lead by our MDCCW leaders and Sister Jude!
Welcome by West Dane Vicariate President
Introductions by Rosa Ropers, MDCCW President

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2015

- 7:30— 9:00 am **Registration – Continental Breakfast** in the Parish Center
Free time to visit Vendors, Raffle items & Basket Bonanza!
- 8:15 - 9:00 am **Optional Daily Mass** in St. Bernard Church
- 9:00 - 9:45 am **MDCCW Day of Celebration Gathering** in the St. Bernard School Lower Level

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17 (CONTINUED)

- 10:00 - 10:45 am **KEYNOTE: Sheri Wohlfert** 'Live Like You Love HIM!'
- 10:45 - 11:00 am **Break** and Preparation for Mass
- 11:00 - Noon **LITURGY:** The Most Reverend Bishop Morlino Concelebrates the Liturgy with Monsignor Dushack, Pastor of St. Bernard Parish, Spiritual Advisors Msgr Duane Moellenberndt & Rev. Lorin Bowens, and other religious.
Noon Luncheon Buffet in the St. Bernard Parish Center with Special Recognitions
- 1:30 - 2:00 pm **SHARESHOP #1 (Spirituality)** by Sheri Wohlfert 'Spreading the Faith to Those You Love'
- 2:15 - 2:45 pm **SHARESHOP #2A (Leadership)** by Carol Brennan and Coreen Marlin (MDCCW past presidents)
- 2:15 - 2:45 pm **SHARESHOP #2B (Service)** by Clarence Mouglin on the Donkey Project and Jennifer Hansen, Project Coordinator at Holy Mother of Consolation, Oregon
- 3:00 pm **Basket Bonanza and Raffle Winner** Announcements in the Parish Center
- 3:15 - 3:45 pm **Closing Prayer** in the Parish Center



GRAND PRIZE: QUEEN SIZE QUILT

Convention Raffle

June 17 at 3:00 p.m. (need not be present to win).
Tickets \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00

- **GRAND PRIZE: QUEEN SIZE QUILT**
- **2 Milwaukee Brewer tickets** with parking July 31st game (game starts at 7:10 p.m.) Milwaukee Brewers vs. the Chicago Cubs – Brewer T-shirt Day (complimentary Adult Medium or XL t-shirt)
- **Hotel Stay at Holiday Inn Express** – Germantown, WI (20 minutes from downtown Milwaukee) and \$50 cash
- **Hotel Stay at Chula Vista, Wisconsin Dells** and \$50 cash
- **Blessed Virgin Statue**
- **2 – \$50 cash prizes**
- **Painting by Father Wankerl**



Painting by Father Wankerl (pastor at Holy Mother of Consolation Catholic Church – Oregon)

June 16 & 17, 2015

At

St. Bernard Parish
7450 University Avenue
Middleton, WI 53562
www.stbmidd.org

REGISTRATION FORM

Madison Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's

61st Annual Gathering of Catholic Women DAYS of CELEBRATION

GETTING THERE

Take State Highway 12 into Middleton. Exit University Avenue. Turn Left (East) onto University Ave. Parish is on your left at the corner of Parmenter St. & University.

Lighting the Way Faith in Action

Bringing Catholic Women Together in Faith to Share Our Story of Life, Learning and Love

Room Accommodations:

A block of rooms (2 Queen Beds) has been reserved for "MDCCW" for TUESDAY, June 16, 2015 at

Country Inn & Suites

2212 Deming Way
Middleton, WI 53562
(608) 831-6970
\$89/night + tax

Comfort Suites

1253 John Q. Hammons Drive
Madison, WI 53717
\$101.96/night + tax

A Time for SPIRITUALITY

Learn how you can *Light the Way* by putting your Faith into Action. Learn about the National Council of Catholic Women's new program *We Are Called To Witness*, which helps women discover and actively participate in sharing the Good News, the Joy of Jesus-- the New Evangelization!

This joy empowers us to live the gospel humbly, yet courageously!

The Most Reverend Bishop Morlino will lead us in our Wednesday liturgy!

And, don't miss the Joyful Reflections tableside at our Tuesday Evening Banquet Buffet!

A Time for CHARITABLE FOCUS

We unite to reach our goal of learning about and serving both local and international charities.

Be inspired at our Shareshop Sessions for international Charitable opportunities!

A Time for ENLIGHTENMENT

Start your Wednesday with joyful words of encouragement from our dynamic keynote speaker, and continue to learn about leadership in your parish and Council of Catholic Women, charitable works projects you can use and faithful inspiration presentations!

Please Bring Non-Perishable Food for our COLLECTION for the Middleton Outreach Ministry & Waunakee Food Pantry

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete only ONE person per Registration Form; make additional copies as needed.

Be sure to invite and register your parish priest/priests and religious.... Fees are ONLY \$15/day for Religious!

2015 MDCCW Days of Celebration

Lighting the Way

Our Faith in Action

Please Check All That Apply:

- I am a first-time attendee.
- I am a member of the MDCCW Board.
- I am a Past President of MDCCW.
- I am a Parish President or a Designated Representative for my Parish.
- I am an Individual Member of MDCCW
- I need a baby-sitting service during my attendance
- I have special dietary needs:

Priest or other Religious (\$15/day)

NAME: _____ PHONE (____) _____ - _____

ADDRESS: _____

PARISH: _____ VICARIATE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

I AM REGISTERING FOR THE FOLLOWING:

TUESDAY, June 16 \$35 \$ _____

Includes: Board Meeting, Prayer Service, Hospitality Hour and Tuesday Evening's Joyful Reflections Banquet Buffet!

WEDNESDAY, June 17 \$35 \$ _____

Includes: Gathering, Sheri Wohlferf-Keynote Speaker, Liturgy, Luncheon Buffet, ShareShop Sessions, and Raffles

TOTAL ENCLOSED check # _____ Amount \$ _____

Please make checks payable to "West Dane Vicariate"

Mail Registration to: Barb Darcey c/o MDCCW Convention

819 Barbara Street, Sun Prairie, WI 53590

Questions? Contact Barb at (608) 837-3095

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS: June 1, 2015. Fee must accompany Registration. Fees are transferable, but not refundable

DEADLINE May 15, 2015