

President's Message

Call to Convention

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This year, for some reason, winter seems to have lasted forever. The unseasonably long dreary days, the biting cold, the howling winds, snowstorms — small and large — and icy sidewalks and roadways seem to have taken their toll on me. Winter in Wisconsin! It happens every year. I should expect it. I should know that in Wisconsin the weather is always subject to change. As they say, if you don't like today's weather, wait until tomorrow. Why do I bring up the weather just when the weather the last few days has me believing there is actually a glimmer of hope for warmer and nicer weather?

While I have complained about the weather and all the things I did not like about it, I forgot that it gave me an opportunity to put my house in order, cleaning closets, cleaning the basement, sorting out CCW files, etc. I have been anticipating warmer weather and looking forward to spring that is just around the corner. Isn't that what Lent is all about?

Lent, like the winter, is a time of preparation. Lent allows us the opportunity to put our spiritual houses in order. Instead of complaining about fasting and abstinence, be thankful that most of us have food on our table. Others less fortunate than we do not. What can you do to put your spiritual house in order during the forty days of Lent (Sundays do not count as a day of Lent)?

Pope Francis chose the theme of poverty for his Lenten message. Calling upon Catholics around the world to contribute to the efforts to feed the poor, he said, "Jesus became poor so, that by His poverty, you might become rich." Pope Francis asks us to end world hunger through a sustained campaign of "Prayer and Action." Use

the days of fasting and abstinence as an opportunity to donate food or monetary gifts to your local food pantry, to charities such as Catholic Relief Services or Cross International, or buy a meal for a neighbor in need.

Lent is also a time for us to make spiritual journeys from now to Easter Sunday. Green Bay Diocesan Bishop David L. Ricken, who chairs the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), offers "10 Things to Remember for Lent." The information below is a summary of information that can be found on the USCCB website (www.usccb.org).

1. **Remember the formula and lists:** 10 Commandments, 7 sacraments, and 3 persons in the Trinity. Pope Francis asked that we concentrate on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during this Lenten season.
2. **It's a time of prayer**
3. It's a time to fast. Fasting is actually a form of penance, which helps us turn away from sin and toward Christ.
4. **It's a time to work on discipline.** Instead of giving up something, i.e. candy, spend 15 minutes each day in prayer with Christ.
5. **It's about dying to yourself.** Give up bad habits and create good ones.
6. **Don't do too much.** Keep this time of reflection simple and focused.
7. **Lent reminds us of our weakness.** Seek God's help with renewed urgency and sincerity.
8. **Be patient with yourself.** Do not let anger or frustration get the better of you.
9. **Reach out in charity** to others as a way of sharing the experience of God's unconditional love.

10. **Learn to love like Christ.** Christ suffered and poured himself out unconditionally on the cross for all of us. Ask for God's help in learning to love like him.

What has NCCW and MDCCW been up to since the last newsletter? First, I want to wish a very Happy Belated Birthday to NCCW. NCCW celebrated its 94th birthday on March 4.

NCCW Update

Rosa Ropers and I attended a Milwaukee Province meeting in February in Plover. The Province meetings provide a valuable resource as the president, president-elect, and spiritual advisor of each of the five dioceses in Wisconsin meet. Most diocesan CCWs are experiencing the same issues facing our diocesan council — reduction in active parish affiliates and inability to interest members in serving as officers of their parishes and vicariates. Jean Kelly, our province director, represents Wisconsin at the NCCW board meetings. Her brief update indicated that the 2013 NCCW Convention showed a profit of \$100,000. The convention success and donations have eliminated \$240,000 of NCCW's debt in seven months.

Jean also provided an update on the "WE ARE ONE CAMPAIGN." This campaign was introduced at the NCCW Convention in September and has been a success, thanks to your efforts! The campaign was to have ended in February but has been continued. A basket raffle at the MDCCW November Board meeting resulted in \$100 going to the We Are One Campaign. Over Valentine's weekend, All Saints Parish CCW, Berlin, collected \$200 in donations for NCCW's We Are One Campaign. What has your parish or vicariate done to solicit donations for this campaign? You can still contribute.

St. Ambrose Academy Dinner

I attended St. Ambrose Academy's 10th Anniversary Benefit Dinner in December at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. I had a table with our vicariate tri-fold display, our scrapbooks, information, and brochures. St. Ambrose Academy is a Catholic school with grades 6 through 12 that provides students with a classical Catholic education. Please pray for our Catholic schools so that they continue to thrive and flourish in these troubled times.

NCCW Convention

Mark your calendars now to attend the NCCW Convention Sept. 24 to 27 at the Grand Amway Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The theme for this year's convention will be "Be the Voice of Catholic Women: Catholic Women United in Truth." The NCCW Board heard our voices regarding the high cost of attending the convention. This year's registration fee is \$340 through May 15, a decrease from last year. The room rate per night for two persons/room is \$149. Banquet and province dinners cost less than last year. The Province of Milwaukee expects to charter a bus to offer transportation to Grand Rapids. More information on the bus option will be available at a later date. Convention information is available at the www.nccw.org website.

Membership

Seventeen individuals have joined MDCCW since the individual membership category was added at the June 2013 convention. They receive a welcome letter and information on MDCCW. We welcome our individual members and all members who belong to CCW through their parishes and vicariates.

Ordination Reception

Two transitional deacons, Rev. Mr. Scott Jablonski and Rev. Mr. James Leeser, will be ordained on Friday, June 27, at St. Maria Goretti

Church, Madison. It is truly an awe-inspiring evening! Plan to attend if you can and help with the reception which we host following the ordination. If you are unable to attend, please consider contributing money or food for the reception. Contact Carol Brennan if you are able to help. Please keep the transitional deacons and all seminarians in your prayers.

2014 MDCCW Days of Celebration

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the first gathering of the Madison Diocesan Council of Catholic Women! Hosted by the Sauk Vicariate, the two-day birthday celebration will be held May 20 and 21 at the Clarion Hotel, Baraboo. This year's theme is "Finding Grace through Faith, Trust & Patience." Plan to attend both days, but if not able to attend the first day, join us on Wednesday, May 21. Tuesday, May 20, will be a board meeting (open to the public), followed by praying the Rosary, a social hour, banquet, and entertainment. You won't want to miss Fr. Domenic Roscioli's "A Prayer, A Story and a Glass of Wine."

Wednesday will begin with a brief business meeting, including voting and election of new officers, followed by our keynote speaker. Fr. Donald Everts will share with us what we can do to Become Intentional Disciples. Our spiritual advisors, Msgr. Duane Moellenberndt and Fr. Lorin Bowens, will concelebrate the Mass with other attending priests. After lunch, we will have Leadership and Service share shops. Chris "Topher" Aderhold, assistant director of Camp Gray, will speak on Leadership in Service. Our Service share shop speaker will be Sue Palm from Catholic Charities who will provide us with information on the Mobile Food Pantry Program in the diocese.

There will be opportunities to purchase raffle tickets for prizes that include a queen-sized hand-tied quilt, a set of Milwaukee Brewer tickets with a preferred parking pass, a Blessed Virgin Statue, and two \$100 cash prizes as well as other cash prizes. We will also be selling tickets for our Basket Bonanza. Each vicariate is asked to donate a basket or other item. We will have vendors on Wednesday.

This newsletter includes the registration form and agenda. Join us for a great opportunity to visit with fellow CCW members from throughout the 11 counties of the Madison Diocese.

I look forward to seeing you at your spring vicariate meetings and at our 60th Anniversary Celebration.

Yours in our Lady of Good Counsel.