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WEST DANE VICARIATE

Council of Catholic Women!

Affiliated with the Diocese of Madison
Council of Catholic Women (MDCCW) &
National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW)

February 2023

Connecting Catholic Women in the West Dane Vicariate of the Diocese of Madison

In February, We Celebrate Feasts, Memorials and Solemnities!

The church season of Ordinary Time includes these special days:

Presentation of the Lord, St. Blaise, St. Agatha, St. Scholastica, Our Lady of Lourdes,
St. Valentine's Day, The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle.

LENT BEGINS this month!

Ash
Wednesday

Vicariate President's Message

Dear Catholic Women,

February is the second month of the new year and the beginning of Lent. February 2 is the official end of the Christmas Season, with the presentation of Jesus in the Temple. It is also the feast of St. Blaise, celebrated by the blessing of throats to prevent illness. Most churches do not observe this practice anymore, but in the past it was observed on the day of, or Sunday closest to February 2. Another celebration this month is Valentine's Day, February 14. Contrary to the modern idea of angels flying around with arrows, there was a real St. Valentine who died a martyr because he would not give up his faith.

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 22, a day of fasting and abstinence. Three practices are observed during Lent: Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. Do you have a prayer plan for Lent, possibly attending mass more than just Sunday? Will you add a prayer or prayer time to your daily schedule? Consider discussing this at your meeting: your group may decide on something special all members can participate in. A good choice would be praying for the success of the "Into the Deep" program in our diocese. Other ideas are praying the rosary, keeping Sunday holy, monthly confession and no meat Fridays. These 4 practices have been encouraged by Bishop Hying to be done all year long. Consider what will make an impact on yourself, your CCW and your parish.

Have a Blessed Lent!

Sue Barker,

President West Dane Vicariate Council of Catholic Women

PARISHES

In the West Dane Vicariate

Ashton - St. Peter Parish

Rev. Christopher Gernetzke, Pastor

Cross Plains - St. Francis Xavier

Rev. Scott Jablonski, Pastor

Martinsville - St. Martin of Tours

Rev. Christopher Gernetzke, Pastor

Mt. Horeb - St. Ignatius

(St. Michael the Archangel Parish)

Rev. Chahm Gahng, Pastor

Paoli - St. William

(St. Christopher Parish)

Rev. Robert Butz, Pastor

Perry - Holy Redeemer

(St. Michael the Archangel Parish)

Rev. Chahm Gahng, Pastor

Pine Bluff - St. Mary of Pine Bluff

Very Rev. Richard M. Heilman, Pastor

Verona - St. Andrew

(St. Christopher Parish)

Rev. Robert Butz, Pastor

Waunakee - St. John the Baptist

Rev. Msgr. James Gunn, Pastor

Westport - St. Mary of the Lake

Rev. Msgr. James Gunn, Pastor

West Dane Vicariate BOARD of DIRECTORS

President: Sue Barker

(St. Andrew Church, Verona)

President Elect: Vacant..

Is this calling you?

Secretary: Joan Pregler

(St. Peter Parish, Ashton)

Treasurer: Kelly Huntington

(St. Peter Parish, Ashton)

Join Our Growing Council!

No Parish CCW?

Connect with Catholic
Women around the area!

Contact Rosa Ropers at
rosa.m.ropers@gmail.com

GATHER

Your parish women to welcome new faces - Do it with LOVE!

Our parishes, churches, and vicariate will soon change borders delineating one from another. The Diocese of Madison's INTO THE DEEP initiative brings a wider vista to all of us. While many parishes do not have an active Council of Catholic Women, they may soon be connected to those that do. Be prepared to welcome new friendships, new connections, and opportunities with this change!

Find resources on the NCCW or MDCCW website to assist you in getting a council reinvigorated or started! As plans continue to unfold at the Diocesan level and your new pastorate, visualize your new Council and its mission.

We can extend the resources to truly become **'The Voice of Catholic Women'!**

Events at your parish in the West Dane Vicariate? Send information to joanpregler@gmail.com by the 25th of the month prior to the event.

Connecting Catholic Women in the West Dane Vicariate of the Diocese of Madison

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Sept. 29 - Oct. 1, 2023 - A 3-day Congress

Plan now and pre-register to attend the Madison Eucharistic Congress at St. John the Baptist, Waunakee.



PRAYER AND FASTING

A Lenten Focus

Scripture mentions over 1000 times that it is the heart that prays. If our heart is far from God, the words of prayer are in vain.

Catechism 2562

Find your source of prayer deep within you by devoting time to communicate with God.

The Diocese of Madison, the USCCB and NCCW have bountiful prayer options to assist you. Follow your Heart.

Interior Penance of Christians can be expressed in many and varying ways. Scripture and the Fathers insist above all on three forms, *fasting, prayer, and almsgiving*.

Fasting is an imitation of the fast of Jesus for forty days in the desert.

Catechism 538, 1434, 2043

Align your Fasting to a cause that promotes God's love, and calls you to Prayer and Almsgiving.

The Council of Catholic Women are Women of Prayer

AROUND OUR (WEST DANE) VICARIATE * CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK *

January 29th- February 4th

Catholic Schools are experiencing a surge in enrollments for good reasons! Catholic education includes not just academic excellence, it incorporates formation in faithful Catholic practices such as daily prayer, weekly Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, service projects alongside faith-filled witness in teaching and pastoral staff. The big take-aways are a child's formation in virtue, responsibility, spiritual growth and their knowledge that they are indeed Children of God!

The West Dane Vicariate has 3 Catholic schools:

Ashton - St. Peter School

grades preK - 5th

Cross Plains - St. Francis Xavier School

grades 4K-8th

Waunakee - St. John the Baptist School

grades K-8th

Playing a critical role in passing on the faith and forming future generations, a Catholic education keeps parishes vibrant communities of faith, worship, and service.

SERVICE AND ALMSGIVING

Local Food Pantry Shortages

As food insecurity increases due to the termination of extra FoodShare Benefits and other Federal programs, your donations fill a critical gap in a local family's ability to adequately care for their children. The safety net of sufficient food and supplies collapses for the most vulnerable of the working poor in our communities. This Lent be GENEROUS with your donations of material goods and time in service.

Diaper Drives Needed

Babies and Beyond (formerly Pregnancy Helpline) reports that in December alone:

733 Clients were served

33,793 Diapers were distributed

24 Baby Care packages were delivered

471 Volunteer hours were logged.

The year 2022 saw a 59% increase in clients served, a 50% increase in diapers distributed and more! What can you do this Lent to serve this growing need in our community?



Your Parish's Service Appraise your Activities Share your Efforts

Each of our parishes is a unique community. Each has its own culture of worship, service, formation and fellowship. With our parishes and vicariates changing, we may be wondering how this will affect the groups, committees, councils and activities within our local church.

Now is the time to assess the valuable services you are doing within the parish and outward into the community. Imagine your parish being the only one fueling a vital outreach ministry when your parish becomes only a portion of the new and larger pastorate. Your generous spirit can ignite new interest in others to include service as a part of their daily life.

Imagine a vibrant program for Walking With Moms in Need, domestic violence prevention, respect for life/prolife activities, food pantry collections, diaper drives, and a strong anti-sex trafficking presence.



Did You Know NCCW monitors Legislators?

NCCW members participated in numerous meetings with Congressional offices to discuss:

- The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act
- The Afghan Adjustment Act,
- The EARN IT Act to help create a better framework governing the prevention of online sexual exploitation of children.

If you are called to participate in Legislative advocacy, learn more at:

www.nccw.org

New Book! LEADERSHIP *Rising* *Learning from Women's Leadership in Catholic Ministries*

A new book by author Dr. Carolyn Woo is written for Catholic women, especially those aspiring to be leaders within the church. Elements of good leadership are presented and integrated into Catholic organizations and examples of women active in the church.

Get your copy online or through NCCW: Published in 2022 by Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY