

**MADISON DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN
69th ANNUAL MEETING
MINUTES**

Tuesday, June 18, 2024, 8:45 am

St. James Catholic Church, Good Shepherd Catholic Parish, Madison WI

“The Eucharist – God’s Gift of Unending Love”

Welcome: Rev. Andrew Showers, parochial vicar, welcomed conference attendees to St. James Parish. Jane Lepeska Grinde also welcomed attendees as St. James is her home parish.

Call to Order: Linda Ripp called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. at St. James Parish.

Opening Prayer: Linda began the meeting by leading the “Prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel” followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Linda indicated that in some of the goodie bags she included a dedication to the Council of Catholic Woman. If you would like a copy, please provide your email address to Linda Ripp. Linda indicated that she received these from our Province Director who sent them out to all diocesan presidents. Linda thought it was nice to share as they actually had a little background of Our Lady of Good Counsel. The information may be useful to provide banking institutions with information about CCW.

Introductions: Linda introduced current members of the Board present at the meeting: Monsignor Duane Moellenberndt – Spiritual Advisor MDCCW; Carol Rogers – President-elect; Patty Spragg – Treasurer; Coreen Marklein – Secretary; Kathy Loy – Grant Vicariate president; Sue Barker – Leadership Chair and former West Dane Vicariate president; Lenore (Lenny) Glover – Columbia North Vicariate president; Jo Heath – Sauk Vicariate president; and Barbara Unger – representative of Madison Woman’s Club. Other guests introduced were Jane Schiszik – Milwaukee Province Director; Diane Oakland – MACCW president; Diane Zayeczek – MACCW; Kathryn Kesler – LaCrosse Diocese treasurer; Jeanette Knauf-Masanz – former Milwaukee Province Director; and Mary Uhler – co-president of Madison Catholic Woman’s Club. Linda Ripp noted that there were no representatives from Green Bay diocese as their conference was held on June 18. Linda Ripp also recognized former MDCCW presidents: Dorene Shuda, Rosa Ropers, Coreen Marklein, Sue Koch, Ellen Martin, and Bernadette Schaefer. Linda Ripp indicated that the diocese had 11 vicariates, of which only three remain active. Since the change to pastorates, a new structure – other than vicariates – has not been defined. The Bishop is working on a new structure for the Pastorates.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting at last year's MDCCW Conference on June 7, 2023, submitted by Coreen Marklein were printed in the program and filed as printed.

Credentials Report: Final credentials report are as follows:

Total Attendees including guests: 91

Board Members: 10

Current & Past MDCCW Presidents: 7

First Time Attendees: 34

Monday Evening Reception: 29

Finance Report: Patty Spragg provided the Treasurer's report as of June 10, 2024, as printed in the program. Linda Ripp indicated that Patty Spragg took over as Treasurer in December. Linda Ripp noted that MDCCW receives custodial funds that come to MDCCW but are sent to NCCW, such as Water for Life, Purse Club, etc. MDCCW is seeking individual members to join MDCCW, women in the diocese who are interested in CCW but whose home parish does not have a CCW group. Annual dues are \$10.

Spiritual Advisor Report: Linda Ripp indicated that Monsignor Moellenberndt was not on the agenda because he was going to be giving the homily at Mass.

Officer Reports/Commission Reports: Linda Ripp referred participants to these reports as printed in the program (also refer to May 2024 Newsletter on MDCCW website). In addition, she noted that there is an opening for Service Commission Chair. Service activities included the Priest Ordination Reception held on June 7 at St. Maria Goretti Parish in Madison for two newly ordained priests. The chair of this activity was Coreen Marklein, along with her sister Kathy Loy and husband Joe Loy. Next year there may be four deacons being ordained to the priesthood. The ordination will be held at St. Maria Goretti Parish since the new Cathedral will not be finished. The other service project chaired by Coreen Marklein was coordinating the Box of Joy initiative in which MDCCW collected and sent over 1,000 boxes in November 2023.

Linda Ripp recognized members of the Madison Catholic Woman's Club (MCWC). Linda indicated that there were no active CCWs in Madison. The MCWC was founded in Madison before the CCW was founded. Linda indicated that MDCCW has been working with MCWC for years. Look for more details on a joint sponsored Spiritual Day to be held in October.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers: Linda explained that officer elections are held in alternate years for Secretary and Treasurer and every two years with for President-elect. President-elect Carol Rogers automatically succeeds to the President position at this meeting. Treasurer Patty Spragg was never formally installed when she took over as treasurer in

December 2023, so she was to be installed after Mass. Coreen Marklein term as Secretary ended with this election. She is also serving as Co-chair of the NCCW By-laws Committee and as a member of the NCCW Learning, Training and Development Team.

Nominations:

Co-Presidents-elect:	Jane Lepeska Grinde, Madison St James Parish and Carolyn Zentner, St. John the Baptist, Princeton, Columbia North
Secretary	Marie Fleisner, St. Bernard Parish, newly relocated to Watertown from LaCrosse Diocese

Linda Ripp asked if there were any other nominations from the floor for each position, and there were none. Motion made by Sue Barker to unanimously approve the slate of candidates as presented. After receiving a second, a vote was taken by show of hands. Motion carried. Installation will be held after Mass in church. Linda Ripp noted that this is the first occurrence of a mother/daughter being elected president-elect. Jane Lepeska Grinde, new Co-President elect is the daughter of former MDCCW President Dorothy Lepeska.

President's Report: Linda gave her final president's report. Her theme for the past two years was "Jesus is the light of the world. Let us bring the light of hope to the world." Linda noted that there was a tea light in each little gift box to symbolize the Light that is Christ and our cooperation with Him. One of Linda's goals was to try to connect women across the diocese, so she started the monthly Pen newsletter. Linda thanked members indicating she was blessed to be our president. She also indicated that it was her privilege to attend several vicariate meetings and Milwaukee Province conventions during her term. She was trying to be a cheerleader for CCW. She noted that she may have been preaching to the choir. She indicated, as Immediate Past President, she may concentrate on membership. She will continue to remain active in CCW. In closing, Linda thanked members for electing her as President two years ago.

The "formal" business meeting ended with Linda introducing Jane Schiszik, the Milwaukee Province Director.

Message of Province Director: Jane Schiszik, Milwaukee Province Director, began her welcome indicating that it was exciting and humbling to feel the love of Our Lord and know that he is present among us today. Jane spoke about the planting season she saw on her way to Madison. She enjoyed seeing the corn and soybeans grow in the fields, the miracle of germination, and the goals of tiny seeds that turn into plants in abundance in richness and goodness.

She equated CCW to those seeds. Schiszik said that she was thankful that our mothers, teachers, parents, and council sisters gathered and scattered seeds among us. Schiszik also indicated the seeds of virtues of hope, and faith. Their seeds opened

our eyes to see, our ears to hear, and hearts softened to accept love. The seeds also gave us the desire to share our time and talents with others. God is an awesome creator, and we are all part of his handiwork.

Schiszik indicated that some of the first timers are seeds from Master Gardeners' seeds that have been nurtured and replanted time and time again by women that have attended conventions before and are familiar with the Council of Catholic Women.

During the past year, the Madison Diocese has undergone a big change with the Into the Deep initiative. This change has and is causing seeds to be planted in new areas and established plants are being transplanted elsewhere. Each planting is being nurtured and care is done to provide the very best environment for growth and survival. Our seeds were found to be strong and are becoming stronger each day. New growth is happening; new councils are forming; and more friendships are being made in the roots. The plants reaching out and touching our hearts is a process that takes time. Time is needed for the seeds to adjust and slowly start a new growth pattern taking on their own shape and color. The seeds will produce a variety of different plants, some tall and some short, some that need lots of sunshine, and some that only like shade.

In closing, Schiszik indicated that she was so proud of what we have become and that we continue to flourish as a stronger Council of Catholic Women. All the characteristics of those seeds have described council sisters with experiences this past year. She hoped that we realize the need for everyone to be firmly guided by prayer, be open to new opportunities, and welcome change. The Council of Catholic Women needs steadfast, resilient, caring women who are rooted in spirituality, leadership, and service. She noted that the women of the Madison Diocese are the kind of plants who bloom, grow, and blossom where we are.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Ordination Reception: The ordination reception was held on June 7, 2024, at St. Maria Goretti Parish in Madison with two deacons being ordained.

Ordination on June 17, 2025, will have two deacons being ordained with the possibility of two additional deacons being ordained. The reception will be held at St. Maria Goretti, as the new cathedral (St. Bernard's) will not yet be completed.

Volunteers will be asked to assist; note the date on the calendar. The will Mass begin at 7 pm with reception following. Prepare for a long evening as serving occurs after 9 pm. The past few years, John Undraitis from St. Joseph's Baraboo ordered fruit, vegetables, and chips. Kathy Loy has been the baker for the past few years, and her husband Joe Loy has helped. Volunteers came early to prepare the serving tables and food while others came later to serve the reception, followed by dish washing and cleanup. Mark "ordination" on donations to help defray the cost of this reception and send them to the CCW Treasurer.

Coreen indicated that she has resigned after many years as chair of this event, as well as her sister and brother-in-law Kathy and Joe Loy. Thank you to all who have helped, including those from MDCCW, Madison Catholic Woman's Club and other women of the diocese. Remaining supplies, trays, plates, napkins, etc. are stored temporarily with Coreen.

MDCCW Bylaws: Linda Ripp noted that the Bylaws have not been reviewed and/or amended since June 13, 2018. Moving further with the Into the Deep initiative may require changes to the Bylaws and Standing Rules. The Bylaws are the "Bible" of any organization including CCW. Each parish, vicariate, diocese, province and national CCW has its own Bylaws.

NCCW Convention, August 13-17, Oklahoma City: To date, the following will be attending the NCCW convention - Linda Ripp, Carol Rogers, Coreen Marklein, and Sue Barker [from Verona]. (Added later to attendees Kathy Roelke, Sue Barker [from Waunakee], and Lori Ziemann.)

Madison Catholic Woman's Club: Susanna Herro provided information on the history of the MCWC and its interaction with MDCCW. She spoke about the Walking With Moms in Need project in the Diocese. She also provided information on the Spiritual Day of Renewal/joint project with MDCCW, to be held in early October 2024.

Alice Krystoviak Award: Alice Krystoviak was a long time faithful CCW member of St. John the Baptist Parish in Princeton. When she passed away, her family donated her Madonna statue collection to CCW. It was decided to hand out one of the Madonnas each year to the youngest 1st time attendee at the MDCCW Convention. The award was presented by Lenora Glover, Columbia North Vicariate president, to Cassie Radl of St. Norbert's Parish in Roxbury. Cassie is the granddaughter of long-time CCW member Lucy Kippley, also a member of St. Norbert's.

New President Assumes Office: Linda Ripp officially ended her presidency by handing the authority of President to Carol Rogers, who thanked everyone for attending the conference. She is looking forward to the next two years as President. She noted that openings exist for some commission and committee chairs. If interested, please contact Carol Rogers.

Raffles: The day ended at 3:15 pm with Prayer as raffle and silent auction winners picked up their winnings.

Coreen S. Marklein
Secretary, MDCCW