

**MARCH
2025**

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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) and your local parish Council (CCW)

Uniting Catholic Women throughout the Catholic Diocese of Madison, Wisconsin

THE PEN

"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain." Psalm 127:1

Building the Body of Christ

During the Jubilee Year of Hope, the lay faithful are encouraged to participate in some pilgrimage. In his Pastoral Letter on Jubilee 2025, Bishop Donald J. Hying of Madison stated: *"I pray that this Jubilee Year be a sacred time of spiritual renewal and active charity for every Catholic in the Diocese of Madison. By living the teachings of Christ, proclaiming the Gospel by word and deed, making disciples, and serving the mission of the Church, we will be witnesses to the hope that does not disappoint, and thus serve as instruments of the Lord's merciful salvation made manifest in Christ."*

The Latin words 'per ager', means "across the fields," and 'per eger' means "border crossing," so our word 'pilgrimage' comes from these root words and is understood as the undertaking of a journey. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says "Pilgrimages evoke our earthly journey toward Heaven" (CCC 2691).

A Pilgrimage is an opportunity of Grace, not a vacation. The pilgrim is drawn closer to God, to seek forgiveness, and to pray. A Pilgrim need not travel to Rome during Jubilee 2025, but can visit locally designated pilgrimage sites to gain the special indulgence(s) and to seek God's help in our call to missionary discipleship.

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



CAROL ROGERS

President, Madison Diocesan
Council of Catholic Women

CONTACT ME:

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MEMBERSHIP

AFFILIATIONS:

ALL PARISH women are
council women if your
pastorate CCW pays dues.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS:

Available to individual Catholic
women in parishes without
MDCCW & NCCW affiliation
to receive full benefits and
resources.

CONTACT MDCCW:

www.mdccw.com

CONTACT NCCW:

10335A Democracy Ln
Fairfax, VA 22030
www.nccw.org



United Across the Diocese

ASH WEDNESDAY offers all Catholics a sober reminder that they are DUST and to DUST THEY WILL RETURN. So, if DUST, do we live our lives blowing in the wind or do we ourselves become the whirlwind of faithful witnesses to prayer and almsgiving that the Season of Lent offers? From charitable Rice Bowl reflections, Stations of the Cross, Food, Clothing and Diaper Drives, Retreats and more, your pastorate and those across the entire Diocese await your discovery. Take your pilgrimage on a journey like the wind; caressing all surfaces of our tender faith.

United in Voice with NCCW

From Fr. Tom Washburn, Spiritual Advisor to the
National Council of Catholic Women

Pilgrims of Hope by Fr. Tom

Dear NCCW Family,

This month, I want to stick with this theme of the **Jubilee Year of Hope**; and in particular think about what it means for us to be pilgrims. The Jubilee calls us all to be "pilgrims of hope." One of the ways that I am marking this Jubilee is by walking the Way of St. James this June – the so-called "Camino" is one of the most famous and ancient pilgrimages in the Church (if you would like to join me or learn more, send me an email: frtomw@gmail.com). So, I have been spending a lot of time reflecting on what it means for us to be pilgrims.

Continue 'Spiritual Advisor' on Page 4



The Mission of the NCCW is to Support, Empower, and Educate all Catholic women in Spirituality, Leadership and Service.
MDCCW is an 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

VOICE of the SAINTS

Feasts, Memorials and Solemnities

St. Katharine Drexel, 3-3
St. Casimir, 3-4
ASH WEDNESDAY, 3-5
Sts Perpetua & Felicity, 3-7
St. John of God, 3-8
FIRST SUNDAY of LENT, 3-9
SECOND SUNDAY of LENT, 3-16
St. Patrick, 3-17
St. Cyril of Jerusalem, 3-18
ST. JOSEPH, SPOUSE, 3-19
THIRD SUNDAY of LENT, 3-23
ANNUNCIATION of the LORD, 3-25
FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT, 3-30

LEADERSHIP

Inspiration for Local Councils by Sue Barker,
MDCCW Leadership Commission Chair

March: the month of St. Joseph, Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, and Daylight Savings Time. Madison Dane Council of Catholic Women (MDCCW) holds their first Board Meeting of 2025 on March 15. We will be getting together at St. Andrew Church/St. Christopher Parish in Verona. Discussions will be held on issues such as Spring Vicariate meetings, Spring Craft and Bake Sales, and our Diocesan Convention June 28 in Cross Plains! Does your group have plans for any of these events or something else? Encourage women to think of how they can be part of these things or start a new event for yourselves. June will be here before we know it and then NCCW Convention in August. Hope to see you at a CCW event soon!

Prayer to Saint Joseph, Spouse

This prayer to Saint Joseph—spouse of the Virgin Mary, foster father of Jesus, and patron saint of the universal Church is a fitting prayer this month and anytime with the Rosary.

St. Joseph Prayer

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our tribulation, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ;

O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence;

O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven.

Amen.

Composed by Pope Leo XIII in his 1889 encyclical, Quamquam Pluries...He asked that it be added to the end of the Rosary, especially during the month of October, which is dedicated to the Rosary. The prayer is enriched with a partial indulgence (Handbook of Indulgences, conc. 19), and may be said after the customary Salve Regina and concluding prayer. It may also be used to conclude other Marian devotions.

LEADERSHIP

News from NCCW

As members, we are aware and try to prioritize the personal development of our fellow Council Sisters. As we begin with our new year, I ask that you focus on developing each other and to see your full potential. As we encourage each other to have strategic thinking, with innovative actions and activities, let us remember to be hopeful, loving and kind to each other. As we are in the **Jubilee Year of Hope** – please reflect on scripture passage: Jeremiah 29:11

For I know well the plans I have in mind for you— oracle of the LORD—plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope.

By Laurie Ulseth

NCCW's Leadership Commission Chair as published in the February issue of NCCW's President's Pen email to members.



SPIRITUALITY

Faith Finds a Home at Home

When my oldest daughter was very young, I gave her the makings for a sunshine craft: a large yellow circle, a handful of orange triangles, markers to make a smiley face and eyes. I set her loose, and when I came back, she had not used the supplies to make a sunshine. She used them to make a dragon instead. Pleased with her unique thinking, I hung her dragon on the fridge for a long time. Our children can surprise us sometimes with their wit and perspective, which sends them on journeys we might never have imagined. How Our Lord must sometimes think the same of each of us! As we prepare for Lent this year, let's use whatever Our Lord has given us in our lives -- to surprise Him, with new efforts toward virtue.

By Julianne Nornberg

Contributor to the Catholic Herald and member of Holy Cross Pastorate.

THE PEN CONTINUED

Planning your Pilgrimage in advance will give deeper meaning to your journey. Here are a few ideas on how to get ready for your sacred journey:

1. Study biblical, historical, and theological significance of the Jubilee Year.
2. Choose your Jubilee site and learn why it may have been chosen.
3. Pray for graces that you may receive during this special pilgrimage.
4. Invite others to accompany you.
5. Reflect on areas of your life that need restoration or healing.
6. Go to the Sacrament of Confession before, during, or after your pilgrimage.
7. Dedicate plenty of time to enter into the spirit of prayer during your visit.
8. Intentionally fulfill the conditions to receive the Jubilee Indulgence.
9. Gather God's Blessings in key takeaways following your visit.

All are encouraged to make every effort to visit the Jubilee pilgrimage sites within the Diocese of Madison sometime during this year to seek the grace of transformation.

Jubilee Passports are available to record the visit and receive a special stamp at the pilgrimage site which entitles pilgrims who visit all the various sites to receive a frameable certificate upon completion. For more information on the Jubilee Year in the Diocese of Madison, go to madisondiocese.org/jubilee Also, see page 5 for Pilgrimage sites across the 5 Diocese of Wisconsin!

Please plan for one Pastorate representative to attend our very important MDCCW Board Meeting on March 15th. Three Board positions remain open. May the Holy Spirit call three of you women to each take one. Please call me at 608-391-2564.

Membership Committee Chair - Encourage CCW membership.

Legislative Committee Chair - Share info that is pertinent to Catholics from two websites.

Historian - Collect articles for a scrapbook of MDCCW events and activities.

Continue to share the joy of being Catholic! Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pray for us.

In His Mercy and Her Love,

Carol Rogers

Madison Diocesan Council of Catholic Women President

AROUND THE DIOCESE



Uncle Phil's mustard is the official fundraiser for MDCCW's operating expenses for the duration of President Carol Rogers' term of office (2024-2026).

4 delicious varieties are available for your CCW to sell at bake sales, Catholic school events, pancake breakfasts, etc. Help raise funds for MDCCW with the sale of mustard, please contact me at kochspeech@gmail.com or 920-361-0853, and the Ways and Means committee will get the mustard to you. Thank you in advance! Sue Koch

Prayer Intentions

Pope Francis' monthly prayer intention this MARCH is for:

Families in Crisis:

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

DID YOU KNOW?

Immigration is a concern for all of humanity with complex and divisive solutions. Catholic Extension's Missions include ministering to these 'invisible' families including the huge number of agricultural farm workers in California. Read about these efforts by Catholic Extension to bring the love of Christ to the whole Body of Christ - our brothers and sisters worldwide.

www.catholicextension.org

SERVICE: Pick-A-THEME

THEME for a PASTORAL CALENDAR:

ASH WEDNESDAY Adopt a Challenge of Prayer, Fasting or Almsgiving as a group of Catholic Women. Offer a gathering to introduce the theme and celebrate after Easter!

THEME for the MARCH:

St. Patrick's Day offers many fun gathering ideas!

THEME Based on 'BE-ATTITUDES':

Feed the Hungry via CRS's Operation Rice Bowl

THEME Based on NCCW-Endorsed Projects:

Give Drink to the Thirsty on World Water Day such as NCCW's Water for Life Program through Cross Catholic International.

Mark Your Calendars!

March 15

MDCCW Board Meeting at St. Andrew Church, Verona, Divine Mercy Pastorate. 9-noon

Sat., June 28th

MDCCW Convention at St. Francis Xavier Church, Holy Cross Pastorate, Cross Plains

Sat. July 19th

NCCW's Leadership Training Workshop at St. Bronislava Parish, Plover, WI. Learn leadership skills for all Council women! Coreen Marklein & Jody Watermann will lead this LTD Program. See page 5!

Aug 19-23, NCCW Convention 2025

BELIEVE IN THE EUCHARIST
Orlando, FL

Have an EVENT or ACTIVITY that you wish to see in The Pen?

Forward request 3 weeks before the first of the month you wish to see your listing to:

Carol Rogers

carrogmdccw@gmail.com

with subject line: **'Newsletter Event'**

EVENTS IN & AROUND THE DIOCESE

Act Fast!

Saturday, March 8, 2025 EMBRACING YOUR CALL TO

HOLINESS, Living our Journey of Lent through the eyes of Women. An uplifting retreat for women includes featured speakers Beth Mahoney, NCCW's President, Marge Fenelon, speaker and journalist and Christine Wartoski, Pastoral Associate at St. James the Greater Parish. Held 8am-4pm at St. James the Greater Parish, 2502 11th St., Eau Claire, WI. Reserve your spot now for \$35 with check written to Eau Claire DCCW and mailed to Deb Sundblad, 1040 Violet Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54701. Breakfast, lunch, Holy Mass, Confessions and Adoration complete the day!

Sat. & Sun., March 15-16: Spring Craft & Bake Sale, held after all masses at St. Andrew Church, St. Christopher Parish in Verona. A huge selection of handmade crafts and a bountiful bake sale is one of St. Andrew's CCW signature events! Make plans to pop in.

Friday, March 21: COME & BE LOVED, a high school ladies discernment evening. All high school ladies in the Diocese are invited to an evening with religious sisters and consecrated women for vespers, talks, discussion, pizza and adoration! Held at St. Peter's historic church in Ashton 6-9pm, 7121 County Road K, Middleton. Contact Theresa at theresa.klinkhammer@gmail.com. Next date is April 25.

'NCCW's Spiritual Advisor's Message' Continued from Page 1

The Jubilee reminds us that our lives, at their very core, are a pilgrimage—one of faith, perseverance, and love. To be a pilgrim is to embrace the call to walk with God, trusting in His providence as we move toward our ultimate home in Him.

A pilgrim's heart is one of openness, willing to leave behind the familiar and step into the unknown with courage. It is a heart that seeks Christ in every step, in every challenge, and in every encounter with others. Like Mary, our Blessed Mother, we are called to walk in faith, pondering God's work in our lives and saying "yes" to His will, even when the path is uncertain.

As Catholic women, your pilgrimage is lived out in the everyday moments—caring for your families, serving your communities, nurturing the faith in your parishes, and standing as witnesses to the love of Christ in the world. Each sacrifice, each prayer, and each act of kindness is a step forward on this sacred journey. In this Jubilee of Hope, let us walk together in faith, lifting one another up, embracing the graces of this holy time, and deepening our trust in the One who leads us. May we be pilgrims of hope, shining Christ's light in the world and drawing ever closer to the fullness of His promise.

Peace, love, and prayers,

Fr. Tom Washburn- National Spiritual Advisor

Fr. Tom writes a reflection for the President's Pen in the monthly noteworthy communication from the National Council of Catholic Women. As an Independent Member, you also can receive this vital national Council news. See page 1 for membership opportunities!



EVENTS BEYOND THE DIOCESE

Saturday, July 19th

NCCW's Leadership Training Workshop at St. Bronislava Parish, Plover, WI. Sponsored by the Province of Milwaukee to enhance leadership skills for all Council women! Coreen Marklein & Jody Watermann will lead this LTD Program. Details will be in future newsletters!



MAKE A PILGRIMAGE

See details for a pious visit and pilgrimage on the Madison Diocesan website

madisondiocese.org/jubilee

PILGRIMAGE SITES! Pope Francis has declared and granted indulgences to the faithful who complete pilgrimages in the holy JUBILEE YEAR! Here are some designated places of pilgrimage for 2025 in the 5 Diocese in Wisconsin:

Diocese of Madison:

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Monona
St. Cecilia Church, Wisconsin Dells
St. Bernard Church, Watertown,
Nativity of Mary Church, Janesville
St. Mary Church, Fennimore
Schoenstatt Shrine, Madison

Diocese of Milwaukee:

Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, Milwaukee
Basilica of St. Josephat, Milwaukee
Holy Hill Basilica and National Shrine of Mary, Hubertus
Schoenstatt Shrine, Waukesha

Diocese of La Crosse:

The Cathedral of Saint Joseph the Workman, La Crosse
The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, La Crosse
Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Eau Claire
Church of the Resurrection Catholic Church, Wausau
Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, Nekoosa

Diocese of Green Bay:

National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion, Champion
St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Green Bay
St. Pius X Parish, Appleton

Diocese of Superior:

Cathedral of Christ the King, Superior
St. Joseph, La Pointe on Madeline Island



You're Invited!
Join us in Champion, WI, for the
National Shrine's
2025 Marian Conference
May 16-17, 2025



Join pilgrims from around the country for The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion's fourth-annual Marian Conference!

Focused on Mary as "Mother of Hope," attendees will embrace the Marian themes of the Church's Jubilee Year of Hope, in addition to finding time for prayer, spiritual growth, and peace on Our Lady's grounds.

Speakers include Bishop of Green Bay Diocese David L. Ricken, Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle, Fr. Anthony Stephens, CPM, and Very Rev. John Girotti, JCL.

RESERVE your spot for this official Jubilee Event at Champion Shrine!

The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion, 4047 Chapel Drive, Champion, WI
championshrine.org

Thus says the Lord: Stand beside the earliest roads, ask the pathways of old which is the way to good, and walk it; thus you will find rest for your souls. Jeremiah 6:16