

**APRIL
2025**

In This Issue:

Page 1

The Pen
MDCCW & NCCW

Page 2

Leadership
Spirituality & Prayer
Voice of the Saints

Page 3 The Pen Cont.

Around the Diocese
Service

Page 4 **EVENTS:**

DIOCESAN

Page 5 **EVENTS:**

CONVENTION NEWS
BEYOND the Diocese



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

Each month is dedicated to a particular Catholic devotion, based on the liturgical calendar or historical events. **April is the Month of the Holy Spirit!** To believe in the Holy Spirit is to profess that the Holy Spirit is one of the persons of the Blessed Trinity, consubstantial with the Father and the Son. The word consubstantial comes from two Latin words: com meaning with and substantia meaning substance. The Holy Spirit is the same substance as the Father and the Son. The great Mystery of the Blessed Trinity is that three persons are one God at the same time that each of the three Persons is a distinct Being.

The Holy Spirit is the Person of Love in the life of God. He is the perfect image of the Father and the Son; He is co-eternal, co-equal in Being, power, and majesty. He is like a breath, an aspiration of infinite Love, from Whom the breath of life originates for all creation. He is also like a burning fire because of the intense Love of the Holy Trinity. We can all be intentional about growing closer to the Holy Spirit by making the Sign of the Cross reverently; saying the Glory Be often to honor the mystery of the Holy Trinity,

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

United Across the Diocese

RENEWING HOPE IN CHRIST

MDCCW CONVENTION - June 28th

8:30am-2pm at St. Francis Xavier Church,
Holy Cross Parish, Cross Plains, WI

Plan NOW to attend the MDCCW Convention with ladies across the Diocese—your sisters of hope, your sisters of Catholic voice, your sisters in faith! The full day includes Continental Breakfast, Mass with Bishop Hying and Spiritual Advisor Monsignor Duane Mollenberndt, lunch, silent auction, basket raffle and our nationally acclaimed speaker, and singer Vallimar Jansen! www.vallimar.com Experience the Power, Passion & Presence of the Holy Spirit in this uplifting day! See page 5 for more!



United in Voice with NCCW

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

Spiritual Renewal This Lent

Dear Sisters in Christ,

As we step into this sacred season of Lent, we are invited to journey together in faith, hope, and renewal. I always think of the hymn "Ashes" which many of us will sing on Ash Wednesday. It begins with the line, "We rise again from ashes to create ourselves anew." Lent is such a powerful reminder that even in our brokenness, God is at work, bringing forth new life.

The ashes we receive on our foreheads are not just a sign of our mortality but also a symbol of transformation. They call us to humility, repentance, and surrender—to let

Continue 'Spiritual Advisor' on Page 4

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
CATHOLIC WOMEN

CAROL ROGERS

President, Madison Diocesan
Council of Catholic Women

CONTACT ME:

PHONE: (608) 391-2564

carrogmdccw@gmail.com

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:

3211 4th St. NE, Suite #338

Washington, DC 20017

www.nccw.org

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. Francis of Paola, 4-2
St. Isidore, 4-4
St. Vincent Ferrer, 4-5
Fifth Sunday of Lent 4-6
St. Stanislaus, 4-11
Palm Sunday, 4-13
Holy Week 4-21-17
Holy Thursday, 4-17
Good Friday, 4-18
Holy Saturday, 4-19
Easter Sunday, 4-20
Divine Mercy Sunday, 4-27
St. Catherine of Siena, 4-29
St. Pius V, Pope, 4-20



LEADERSHIP BEGINS WITH PRAYER !

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of the faithful;
and enkindle in them the fire of Thy love.
Send forth Thy Spirit
and they shall be created
and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.
Let us pray.
Oh, God, Who by the light of the Holy Spirit,
did instruct the hearts of the faithful,
grant that by the same Holy Spirit,
we may be truly wise
and ever enjoy His consolations
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The EASTER TRIDUUM 3 DAYS

The Triduum are the holy three days leading up to Easter.

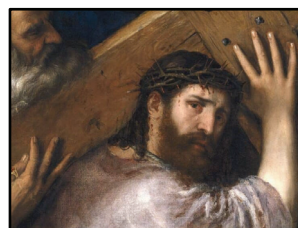
Holy Thursday or Maundy Thursday, commemorates the Last Supper and the washing of the Disciples feet as His commandment to serve in humility.

Good Friday, the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ marks the day reflecting upon the crucifixion of Christ on the Cross. It is a day of fasting, prayer and reverence. All 4 Gospels describe this event.

Holy Saturday, the Easter Vigil, commemorates the final day of Christ's death and descent into hell prior to His Resurrection. This ends the Lenten Season.

Easter is the Great Sunday, the Feast of Feasts! Beginning with the Easter Triduum as its source of light, the new age of the Resurrection fills the whole liturgical year with its brilliance.

Catechism of the Catholic Church 1168



LEADERSHIP News from NCCW

The National Council of Catholic Women is represented at the United Nations in New York! Having a seat at the table to collaborate in solving global hunger, access to clean water, promotion of health throughout the world is representing YOU- living out the Gospel message as the VOICE of Catholic Women!

Brave UN peacekeepers in over 120 countries serve in operations directed by the United Nations which receive its information from the many contributors like NCCW with feet on the ground in the heat of the brutal realities of world issues.



Summarized through an article contributed by **Stewart Blogoslawski** NCCW's Representative at the United Nations as published in the March issue of NCCW's President's Pen email to members.

SPIRITUALITY

Faith Finds a Home at Home

In the Stations of the Cross, I am always especially struck by the image of Jesus carrying His cross. He leans into it, shouldering its crushing weight patiently while looking at us with such tender love. We each are meant to follow His example, bearing our crosses while gazing with such love at Our Lord, who knows each cross will draw us closer to Himself. No matter what your cross is this Lent, offer it with all the love in your heart that you can humanly muster. It is a specific cross Jesus has picked out especially for you, for good reason. Allow Him to teach you how to carry it, offer it, and love it because it ultimately will drive you toward humility and bring you to love Him even more.

By Julianne Nornberg

Contributor to the Catholic Herald and member of Holy Cross Parish (formerly Pastorate 19)

THE PEN CONTINUED

Prayer Intentions

Pope Francis' monthly prayer intention for APRIL is for:

The Use of New Technologies

"Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person and will help us face the crises of our times."

and learning or relearning the traditional Prayer to the Holy Spirit (See page 2 for this Prayer).

The MDCCW Convention planned for June 28th was discussed at our March 15th Board meeting and we are honored to have Bishop Hying with us! Registration forms will be available soon. Register early to be included in this invigorating day of spiritual renewal in hope and faith...with plenty of love and music and fun! Check out ValLimar Jansen's website to get a foretaste of the dynamism of our keynote speaker's talents. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. SEE PAGE 5 for more exciting information!

Also, Mark Your Calendars and to attend and participate in vicariate meetings, parish events, etc., that are listed in this issue of The Pen. Please keep up-to-date on your events to be included in future issues by contacting me.

SHARE your copy of The Pen with friends and other parish members. Have them send me their e-mail address so I can get their personal copy sent each month!

Though we are still fasting and praying our way through Lent, Palm Sunday, the Easter Triduum and Easter Sunday are just around the corner! Wishing you a fruitful, bang-up ending to your best Lent ever...followed by a joyous Easter and Holy Divine Mercy Sunday!

Join me in prayer as we submit all preparations for the June 28 Convention to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. May He manifest Himself greatly, filling our hearts as we Renew Our Hope in Christ on that Saturday!

Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pray for us.

In His Mercy and Her Love,
Carol Rogers

Madison Diocesan Council of Catholic Women President



PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

MDCCW has distributed postcards with every Diocesan Priest's name and address to alert them to an entire Year of Prayer for them by a Diocesan woman!

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

SERVICE: Pick-A-THEME

THEME for a PASTORAL CALENDAR:

HOLY WEEK 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 APRIL:

EGGSTRA-Ordinary.

THEME Based on 'BE-ATTITUDES':

Feed the souls on the street with a generous heart - a soul-satisfying lunch bag with Easter message and treat.

THEME Based on NCCW-Endorsed Projects:

Mary's Mantle Prayer ministry

Mark Your Calendars!

Fri., May 30th

Priesthood Ordination.
Reception Hosted by MDCCW. Help us welcome our 4 new Priests! St. Maria Goretti Church, Madison.

Sat., June 28th

MDCCW Convention RENEWING HOPE IN CHRIST to be held 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 pg 5!

Aug 19-23,

NCCW Convention
BELIEVE IN THE EUCHARIST
Orlando, FL
www.nccw.org

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'.

Act Fast!

EVENTS IN THE DIOCESE

Friday, April 4, Sauk Vicariate will meet at St. Norbert in Roxbury to hear Paul Morline give an update on the Diocese of Madison. The day starts at 8:30am and includes lunch. Then join the Sauk Vicariate at St. Luke's in Plain, WI for their fabulous Fish Fry! Contact Jo Heath at (608) 963-8290 for details.

Tuesday, April 29th Columbia North Vicariate CCW Spring Vicariate Meeting will be hosted by St. Mary Help of Christians. **Together in Hope** is the theme for this gathering which includes Mass, speaker Bishop Hying, Teresa Romain on "With Joyful Hearts", lunch and raffle! Held at St. Mary Help of Christians Church, N565 Cty Road A, Briggsville from 9am-2pm. Day includes a Walking Rosary and visit to Shrine of St. Philomena! Send Registration with \$20 check by April 17th to 'Spring Vicariate', Diana LaPointe, P.O. Box 116, Briggsville, WI 53920.

Wednesday, May 7th Grant Vicariate will hold its Spring Meeting at St. Mary's in Fennimore with a Kentucky Derby Theme: **"Disciples Wear Many Hats"**. Contact Kathy Loy at (608) 778-8411 for details and registration deadline.

Friday, May 30th Priesthood Ordination and Reception Hosted by MDCCW! Four Priesthood Ordinations will be held at St. Maria Goretti Church in Madison 7pm-8:30pm and the reception afterward is expected to be HUGE! MDCCW is again honored to be the Host! Coordinated by Linda Ripp, she will need a small army of women - this means 'YOU'! Contact her for details at linmdccw@gmail.com or (608) 849-7643. Details about the Ordination are on diocesan website: www.madisondiocese.org.

LOTS OF
HELPING
HANDS
NEEDED!

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

go of the things that weigh us down and embrace the grace that lifts us up. No matter our struggles, our wounds, or the burdens we carry, we are never beyond God's mercy. Like the phoenix that rises from the ashes, we, too, are called to rise—renewed, strengthened, and filled with the fire of God's love.

Lent is not just a season of sacrifice but a time of deepening our relationship with Christ. Through prayer, we open our hearts to His voice. Through fasting, we detach from the distractions that pull us away from Him. Through almsgiving, we extend His love to those in need. In each of these practices, we find healing and renewal, allowing us to rise from the ashes of our past into the light of His grace. As Catholic women, we are called to be bearers of hope. Whether in our families, our workplaces, or our communities, we can be instruments of God's love. This Lent, let us walk together, encouraging one another in faith. Be women who rise—women who lift each other up, women who reflect Christ's light, and women who prepare our hearts for the glory of Easter. May this Lenten journey be one of transformation, drawing us closer to the One who makes all things new.

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!

*"Be women who rise
- women who lift
each other up,
women who reflect
Christ's light, and
women who
prepare our hearts
for the glory of
Easter."*

Convention Committee

CHAIRS

Carol Rogers
carrogmdccw@gmail.com
Kathy Roelke
roelke@tds.net

HOLY CROSS

PARISH HOST and BEVERAGE TEAM

Joan Pregler
joanpregler@gmail.com
Judy Williams
jwilli5041@aol.com

HOSPITALITY

VENDOR & DISPLAY

Sue Barker
suehurleysue@tds.net

DECORATIONS

Sue Koch
kochspeech@gmail.com

PROGRAM EDITOR

Joan Pregler
joanpregler@gmail.com

REGISTRATION

Coreen Marklein
csmarklein@gmail.com

FOOD TEAM

St. Maximilian Kolbe
Pastorate 18 and
Rosa Ropers
rosa.m.ropers@gmail.com
Linda Ripp
linmdccw@gmail.com

ADVERTISING

Jane Grinde
janegrinde@gmail.com

SILENT AUCTION and RAFFLE TEAM

Kathy Loy jkloy@tds.net
Sue Barker

suehurleysue@tds.net

FINANCES Patty Spragg
pattyspragg@gmail.com

MDCCW 2025 CONVENTION NEWS!

To UNITE all Catholic Women at this Convention, we are engaging you at every possible opportunity! Immerse yourself, your friends, your parish, your pastorate in a most profound way to build the Kingdom of God. Registration is limited.... **REGISTER EARLY!**

DONATE: Gift Baskets for the Silent Auction and/or prizes for the Raffle. Please contact Kathy Loy or Sue Barker so they can prepare enough space to display the items.

Bud vases (about 30) are needed for table settings. Please contact Sue Koch, Decorations Team Leader.

VOLUNTEER: Greeters, Registration Assistants, Raffle and Silent Auction Helpers are all needed. Get to know a handful of new faces this day!

Pastorates, parishes, vicariates, and individuals are invited to donate gift baskets for the Silent Auction and/or prizes for the Raffle. Please contact Kathy Loy or Sue Barker so they can prepare enough space to display the items. When preparing these items, include a note that describes the items and total value of the basket or prize. Patty Spragg has extra baskets - call her to get a free basket to fill. Baskets and prizes may be given to one of the Planning Committee members prior to the event or can be brought to the event on June 28.

The Offertory collection at Mass will be given to the Cathedral of St. Bernard of Clairvaux in the name of the women of the diocese. For women considering significant donations to the Cathedral, place an envelope with the amount, your name, and contact information into the collection basket, and Paul Merline from the diocese will contact you about how to finalize the transaction.

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!

Diocesan Conventions around Wisconsin

Green Bay Diocese: April 12 at St. John the Baptist in Howard, WI

Superior Diocese: July 31-Aug.1 at Holy Family Parish, in Woodruff, WI

Friday-Saturday May 16-17

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.



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

championshrine.org

MAKE A PILGRIMAGE

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

madisondiocese.org/jubilee