

APRIL

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In This Issue:

Page 1

President's Pen News  
Voice of the Saints  
MDCCW & NCCW Focus

Page 2

SPIRITUALITY, SERVICE  
And LEADERSHIP

# Connecting Catholic Women! Throughout the Diocese of Madison

A Monthly Newsletter of the Madison Diocesan Council  
of Catholic Women (MDCCW)

Affiliated with the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW)



Connecting Catholic Women throughout the Catholic Diocese of Madison

## President's Pen News

**Alleluia, Jesus is Risen!** What a great gift of Hope Jesus' Resurrection has given us. We have the gift of Eternal Life! What more can we ask for? Several of the homilies I heard this weekend focus on that gift of Hope. Today's world doesn't allow for God to bring happiness into our lives, it tends to deny the existence of God. It's all about us finding the right car, vacation, job/money... that will bring us happiness. We search for meaning in our lives.

God loves us so much that he gives us what we need to be happy. All we have to do is follow Him, listen to His word and we can have Eternal Happiness. Holy Thursday's message was "Love/serve others, as I have Loved/served you". The Council of Catholic Women tries to carry out that message in their mission statement: "NCCW acts through its members to support, empower and all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. NCCW programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world". Become an active CCW member and help us fulfill our Mission!

There are opportunities to be involved with our Diocesan Gathering on June 18th, 2024 at St James in Madison. "Our Theme is "The Eucharist: God's Gift of Unending Love"". We could use YOUR TALENTS! Would you like to be on our Planning Committee?

\*Could you help plan some type of social/fundraiser on Monday night?

\*Design posters, program or booklet? \*contact vendors? \*make up silent auction baskets or raffle items? Columbia North will be working on gift bags, Waunakee will do table decorations, Sauk is working on registrations.

Let me know of how you can help!

See President's Pen News continued on Page Two!



FROM THE PEN  
OF LINDA RIPP

President of the Madison  
Diocesan Council of  
Catholic Women

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## VOICE of the SAINTS

Feasts, Memorials and  
Solemnities in this Season  
of Easter!

Divine Mercy Sunday, 4-7  
Annunciation of the Lord, 4-8  
St. Stanislaus, 4-11  
St. Martin I, 4-13  
St. George, 4-23  
St. Mark, 4-25  
St. Catherine of Siena, 4-28  
St. Pius V, 4-40

"The soul is in God and  
God in the soul,  
just as the fish is in the sea  
and the sea in the fish"  
St. Catherine of Siena

## United across the Diocese Project Rachel

A chance to heal in Rachel's Vineyard.

Project Rachel is an outreach ministry of the Catholic church offering care and compassion for women and men hurting from abortion. Here in the Diocese of Madison, a team of specially trained caregivers (including priests, deacons, sisters, lay staff, volunteers and health professionals) offer direct help or may assist with healing programs such as Rachel's Vineyard.

On May 16th 6-7pm, a learning session for all will be held at St. Bernard Church, 2015 Parmenter St., Middleton. This Hope & Healing from Abortion event will be led by Mary Mead, who coordinates the diocesan Project Rachel and Rachel's Vineyard Retreats. Armed with a full understanding of the love and compassion offered by this care ministry, you will gain confidence in referring others to learn more as well.

RSVP Josephine: [josephine.cowen@pastorate19.org](mailto:josephine.cowen@pastorate19.org) for us to set sufficient chairs and refreshments.

See: <https://madisondiocese.org/rachel> and  
<https://madisondiocese.org/projectrachel>

## United in Voice

within the Diocese of Madison

## Regional and Vicariate Gatherings

Of the Council of Catholic Women



**Sauk Vicariate** will hold its Spring Meeting on Saturday, May 4th at Sacred Heart Parish in Reedsburg. With the theme 'Raise Our Voices in Praise', the program begins at 8:30am with Continental Breakfast. Sharon Hilliard will share the story and history of the Shrine of St. Philomena in Briggsville. Deadline for registration is April 27th. Send \$15 payable to 'Sauk Vicariate MCCW' to Deb Stieve, 820 4th St. Baraboo, WI 53913

**Grant Vicariate** will host their Spring Meeting on Wednesday, May 15th at Holy Ghost Church in Dickeyville.

**Columbia North Vicariate** will hold their Spring Gathering on Thursday, May 16th at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Poynette.

Contact Linda Ripp for details on all registrations!

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

MDCCW is 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](http://www.mdccw.com) and [www.nccw.org](http://www.nccw.org)

## Mark Your Calendars!

**May 4, 15 and 16**

3 separate Vicariate CCW Spring Meetings are being held. See page 1!

**May 16th**

Hope & Healing from Abortion. A learning session about Project Rachel and Rachel's Vineyard. See article page 1.

**June 7th** Priest Ordination followed by Reception hosted by MDCCW!

**June 18th** MDCCW Convention!



### Madison Diocesan Council BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President:** Linda Ripp  
*From Pastorate 19 - Now Holy Cross!*
- President Elect:** Carol Rogers  
*From Pastorate 4 - Now*
- Secretary:** Coreen Marklein  
*From Pastorate 7*
- Treasurer:** Patty Spragg  
*From Pastorate 7*
- Leadership Commission:**  
Sue Barker *From Pastorate 20*
- Spirituality Commission:**  
Judy Lyons *From Pastorate 14*
- Service Commission:** VACANT  
*From YOUR Pastorate ?*

### DIVINE MERCY

*"...Divine Mercy - that love which is benevolent, which is compassionate, which raises man above his weakness to the infinite heights of the holiness of God".*

*Pope John Paul II at the Shrine of Divine Mercy in Cracow, Poland, June 7, 1997*

## President's Pen News Continued from Page One!

The Madison Diocesan Council did the "Pray for Priests for a Year" cards again this year. They were handed out at Holy Thursday/Holy Week (The Sacrament of Holy Orders was instituted at the Last Supper-- "Do this in remembrance of Me). Cards were made up for all the Priests and Seminarians in our Diocese, including retired priests who may be living out of state. There are still some available, contact Linda if you would like one.

The Bible says "I call you by Name". Now that our Pastorates have names, I will try to make up a new Directory (I will keep the Pastorate #'s). If you would like to be the contact for your pastorate, please send me your email and phone so I can include it in the Directory! Happy Easter Season!

*Linda Ripp*

President of the Madison Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

## SPIRITUALITY

### Faith Finds a Home at Home

I remember the first time my youngest son stayed awake all the way through the Easter Vigil. He was two years old and it was way past his bedtime, but the joy on his face was unmistakable, emphasized by the frosting from the Easter cookie he enjoyed after Mass. "Happy Easter!" he exclaimed, beaming. That's exactly what we should be shouting out loud and in our hearts for the next 50 days. With childlike joy we can cling to the reality that Jesus conquered death for us. No matter the crosses we shoulder, this unshakable truth can help us carry them with hope -- and even childlike joy.

*By Julianne Nornberg*  
*Contributor to the Catholic Herald and member of Pastorate 19 (now Holy Cross Pastorate)*

## SPIRITUALITY RESOURCES

### PRACTICE MERCY

*By offering Compassionate Love*

<b>CORPORAL WORKS of MERCY</b>	<b>SPIRITUAL WORKS of MERCY</b>
--------------------------------	---------------------------------

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feed the Hungry</li> <li>Give Drink to the Thirsty</li> <li>Shelter the Homeless</li> <li>Visit the Sick</li> <li>Visit the Prisoners</li> <li>Bury the Dead</li> <li>Give Alms to the Poor</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Counsel the Doubtful</li> <li>Instruct the Ignorant</li> <li>Admonish the Sinner</li> <li>Comfort the Sorrowful</li> <li>Forgive Injuries</li> <li>Bear Wrongs Patiently</li> <li>Pray for the Living and the Dead</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

*Lord, Forgive us our trespasses*

----- AS -----

*We forgive those who trespass against us...*

## PASTORATE UPDATES:

Pastorate names have been selected! See the March 14th edition of the Catholic Herald for a complete list! Also, monitor the Diocese of Madison website for updates to numbered Pastorates.

<https://madisondiocese.org>



## SERVICE

### Diocesan Focus on Catholic Charities

#### *Caring in faith for the human family throughout Southern Wisconsin*

The Diocese of Madison includes Catholic Charities in its mission to help support people in their many challenges. Here are just a few:

- AGING: Adult Day Center, Care Team Ministry & All Saints Senior Living and Care Center
- CHILDREN & FAMILIES: Mental Health support, Mobile Food Pantries
- INTELLECTUAL & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY PROGRAMS,
- HOMELESSNESS: The Beacon Day Shelter
- SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT: 5 Door Recovery

Find out more on how you can volunteer at [catholiccharitiesofmadison.org](http://catholiccharitiesofmadison.org)

## LEADERSHIP

### NCCW Resolutions!

In March we talked about the importance of devotion to the Blessed Mother Mary and a daily rosary. This was a resolution passed by NCCW in August 2023. A second resolution was "Belief in the Real Presence", to foster increased understanding of the Church's teaching on Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist. The Bishops of the United States have called for a three-year Eucharistic Revival. The Diocese of Madison's part of this plan is the "Into the Deep" program. In addition to changes in our parishes and priests, it is hoped a personal encounter with Jesus will be found, with many returning to the church.

Don't forget the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis this July. It would be great to have a large Wisconsin CCW representation!

Have a Blessed Easter Season!

**Submitted by Sue Barker,**  
MDCCW Leadership Commission Chair