



NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2024 | ISSUE 2



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The Madison Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (MDCCW) consists of affiliated Catholic women's organizations in parishes throughout the diocese of Madison, Wisconsin. We are a member of the National Council of Catholic Women and are recognized by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).



Message from Our President

Carol Rogers

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

Building the Body of Christ

Being installed as MDCCW president on June 18 is one of the highlights of my life. In these next two years, I invite everyone to work together to *Build the Body of Christ*.

Because many have neglected to pray and have consciously turned their backs on God, we see the need to engage in prayer to beg the Lord to build the house. More on that later...

Introducing myself to you sisters in Council, I live in Fennimore and attend St. Mary Church in Pastorate #4. Our parish is blessed to have had a Perpetual Adoration Chapel operating for the past 29½ years. Next year, on the Feast of the Assumption, we expect to dedicate a new chapel building now under construction.

I look forward to the next two years shared with a great MDCCW Executive Committee.

Co-Presidents Elect **Jane Grinde**, Madison, and **Carolyn Zentner**, Princeton; Secretary **Marie Fleisner**, Watertown; Treasurer **Patty Spragg**, Baraboo; Immediate Past President **Linda Ripp**, Martinsville; and Past President and NCCW Leadership, Training and Development Team (LTD) Member **Coreen Marklein**, Baraboo. Coreen is also co-chair of the NCCW By-Laws Committee.



Standing from left: President Carol Rogers, Co-President-Elects Jane Grinde and Carolyn Zentner; Secretary Marie Fleisner. Sitting is Treasurer Patty Spragg.

Rounding out the leadership team are commission chairs who share ideas with affiliate CCWs as they provide leadership to their parishes/pastorates.

Leadership **Sue Barker**, Verona; Service **Linda Ripp**; Spirituality **Judy Lyons**, also a past president, Fort Atkinson.

Praise God, and I mean that as a prayer! Msgr. Duane Moellenberndt remains our Spiritual Advisor even in his retirement years.

Several Board positions remain vacant. Is the Holy Spirit calling you to take one?

Membership Committee Chair. Encourage CCW membership, local and national.

Legislative Committee Chair. Share information pertinent to Catholics concerning government in Wisconsin and the country.

Ways and Means Committee Chair. Plan fundraising activities for MDCCW.

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President's Message

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Historian.

Collect info and keep a scrapbook of MDCCW events and activities.

I have found in surrendering to Jesus and entrusting tasks to our Blessed Mother that the work gets done in the time available. Call me, send an email or text to 608-391-2564 or carrogmdccw@gmail.com to volunteer or suggest another woman.

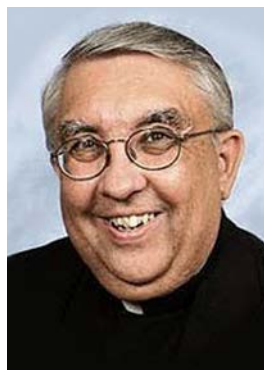
Back to *Building the Body of Christ*. I know that the best building blocks are spiritual: prayer, meditation, holy hour, Mass, Rosary, novena; however, in these two years, we have an opportunity to help in the more physical aspects of Building the Body of Christ in two churches in the diocese.

First, wouldn't it be great for us women to band together to help decorate the new **Cathedral of St. Bernard of Clairvaux**. Aligned with Bishop Hying's fundraising effort, "Together We Will Open the Doors," MDCCW will accept donations from women with the intent to provide a dollar-for-dollar match to double donations. Read *The Pen* for more details.

Second, a new church is being planned for St. Augustine University Parish in Platteville. The current church is running out of space and structurally in need of replacement.

My recent bout with Covid prevented my attending several events in October. I am sorry to have missed meeting many of you in Madison (at St. James and St. Thomas), Berlin, and Spring Green. I am grateful to Linda Ripp and Kathy Loy for being my "stand in."

Wishing you all growth in health, hope, and holiness.



From Our Spiritual Advisor

Msgr. Duane Moellenberndt

Dear Members of the Madison Diocesan Council of Catholic Women,

In the Letter to the Ephesians, St. Paul wrote, "You also are being built together into a dwelling place

of God in the Spirit." What a powerful thought upon which to reflect. Almighty God is dwelling within us. We know that is true through our baptism when we became a daughter of God.

We know God dwells within us in a special way when we receive Holy Communion. At that point, the Divine and the human are united. We become in the Eucharist one with God. That means if God is dwelling within us, our lives should reflect God. When people see us, they should see Christ.

As we prepare to celebrate the great Solemnity of the Incarnation when "God became man," this is a good reflection. We know that the world and our individual lives were changed forever when the Nativity took place on that first Christmas 2,000 years ago.

Jesus Christ took on our human nature. He is truly God and truly man. We are called to become more like God in our individual lives through our speech and actions.

One of the tasks of the Council of Catholic Women is to support one another to live as the Lord wants us to live. Through our prayer for one another, when we come together to participate in the Mass, and in the service projects that we work on as a Council, we are helping one another to show God dwelling within us.

God bless you for all you do!



From Our Province Director

Jane Schiszik

*Milwaukee Province Director
(representing the Dioceses of Green Bay, La Crosse, Madison, Superior and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee)*

Greetings to my sisters in Council! As your representative on the NCCW Board, I want to share with you information about practical ways the recently adopted 2024 NCCW Resolutions can be implemented in your Councils.

Each month, NCCW offers a member call focusing on a different topic. October's call was on those resolutions. (Members can access this call as well as past calls and other resources on the website nccw.org.)

Resolutions are important and, therefore, need to be reviewed, discussed, and acted upon. They reflect topics the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops want addressed and/or topics impacting the dignity and rights of others.

Resolutions empower Councils to bring about change. In this article, I will cover two Resolutions. The 2024 Resolu-

Continued on next page.

tions in their entirety can be viewed on the NCCW website [2024-Resolutions.pdf](#).

Supporting and Praying for Priest

Resolved, that NCCW members foster a culture of respect for priesthood.

- Discuss opportunities to support, encourage, and pray for your priests. Create Spiritual bouquets to remember their birthdays, Christmas, and ordination anniversaries.
- Start a Seven-Sister Apostolate in your parish for your priest and bishop.
- Prepare a meal for them or take them to dinner.
- Be mindful of the challenges priests are going through and pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Stations of the Cross for Priests, and the Rosary for them.
- Involve your priest in the Good Sheperd Project.

Mental Health Illness and Challenges Awareness

Resolved, that NCCW members and affiliates heed the USCCB's call to pray as outlined in their National Catholic Mental Health Campaign, for the individuals and families of those experiencing mental health illness and challenges; encourage our government leaders to enact effective legislation that will expand mental health resources; and support our public officials as they seek justice for the marginalized individuals and families facing mental health crises.

Check out resources from the USCCB [Resources | USCCB](#) and Catholic Charities [Programs – CMMB](#) on topics such as depression, suicide, and other mental health topics.

- Form a prayer group for support.
- Send cards to the people in recovery.
- Provide them with gas cards so they can attend follow-up meetings or drive them to appointments.
- Be supportive. Let them know they are not alone in dealing with their illness.



Leadership Commission

Sue Barker

Leadership Commission Chair

Fall is a busy season for CCWs. After returning from our national convention in Oklahoma City, we all had many ideas to share and put into use. Hopefully, we each had the opportunity to do that.

Through the Box of Joy project, MDCCW collected over one thousand boxes to be sent to children in Latin America. If you participated for the first time this year, you found what an enjoyable and enriching event this is. Let us aim for even more boxes next year!

Many parishes hold their fall/Christmas/holiday bazaars and sales during this time. Some were held as early as October and others in November and December.

Visiting an event other than your own gives you a chance to see new craft ideas, meet other CCW members, and enjoy great food!

Have you planned any special event for this holy season of Advent and the birth of our Savior?

We look forward to 2025 and growing our groups and services!



Spirituality Commission

Judy Lyons

Spirituality Commission Chair

My acquaintance with St. Teresa of Avila began when I was a first-year student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, taking a

Spanish honors course.

The professor, who was from Spain, gave us a saying from St. Teresa of Avila in Spanish with the English translation. Known as her bookmark. I kept it for years; but because I was not Catholic at the time, I didn't catch the significance of it until years later as I learned more about her. I came to appreciate who she was, what she did, what she said, and why she was important.

Carmelite Order

Despite poor health during her early years and continuing into adult, St. Teresa joined the Carmelite Order. As she advanced in the order, she saw how it had strayed from its original charter and set about to reform its twelve convents and two male monasteries. At first, her efforts led to opposition. Later, a young Carmelite friar and mystic, St. John of the Cross, joined her, and she established the Discalced Carmelites.

The fact that she took on this task was extraordinary, especially since she was a woman. What sustained her through all these difficulties was prayer. A simple answer!!

Prayer

St. Teresa went to prayer when the task seemed impossible, to prayer when others did everything to dissuade her and try to shake her confidence, to prayer when she was not sure whether she was being led by God or the devil.

Her spiritual teaching was based on the idea of the interior castle in each of us. She compared the soul to a castle with seven interior courts or anterooms with the Trinity at

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Spirituality Commission

Continued from page 3.

the very center. It is our journey through the various rooms from outermost to innermost that helps bring us to God.

We need to make this journey, and I suspect many of you are already on it. As Jesus said so many times, "Do not be afraid."

The Prayer of St. Teresa of Avila (below) is nothing else than being on terms of friendship with God. Trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

Let nothing disturb you; let nothing frighten you; all things will pass away. God never changes; patience obtains all things; whoever has God lacks nothing. God alone suffices. Amen.

One last thought: we are living in turbulent and frightening times as did St. Teresa. She proceeded to address the issues of the day with prayer and perseverance and prayer. St. Teresa of Avila, pray for us.



Service Commission

Linda Ripp

Service Commission Chair

Thank you to everyone who packed boxes or donated to the cause for the Box of Joy project. Several parishes participated for the first time!

From our "packing party" on Saturday, November 2, in Martinsville, we sent 766 boxes to Cross Catholic. The next Monday, I delivered 30 more to Montello for them to take



From left: Diane Pillsbury, Sue Gabel, Coreen Marklein, and Linda Ripp.

to Berlin and then to Oshkosh where more were collected for a total of more than one thousand boxes.

Thank you to everyone who helped pack boxes on the weekend and to Diane Pillsbury, Baraboo, St. Joseph CCW president, and Becky Fredrick, Martinsville, who helped pack the stragglers on Tuesday and Wednesday before we shipped the boxes.

Fundraiser Opportunity

The Ways and Means committee and executive board of MDCCW unanimously voted to sell varieties of Uncle Phil's mustard as a fundraiser during President Carol Rodgers' term of office.

Uncle Phil's mustard is part of Wisconsin Spice, Inc., founded in 1973 by Phillip J. Sass. The company has grown to become "a global power in the mustard industry," according to its website [Our History — Wisconsin Spice](#). Wisconsin Spice, Inc. also markets spices and spice blends.

Beth and Phil Sass, members of All Saints Parish in the Mater Dei pastorate, are philanthropists in their community. As their children assume the reins of the business, they now are dealing solely with Uncle Phil's mustard which is being sold on fewer local grocery shelves since business is branching out nationally and internationally.

Whenever you have an event planned, such as bake sales, Catholic school events, pancake breakfasts, and vicariate meetings and you would like to help raise funds for MDCCW with the sale of mustard, contact Sue Koch at 920-229-4150 or kochspech@gmail.com. The Ways and Means committee will work to get the mustard to you.

Special Learning Opportunity

Plans are in the works for a field trip to the Black Holocaust Museum in Milwaukee on Saturday, March 29. Bishop Donald J. Hying will join the group.

Fr. Jim Murphy, parochial vicar, Queen of Martyrs Pastorate, Beloit and Clinton, suggested the trip to the unique historical and memorial museum about the Black Holocaust in America. The website [Welcome to ABHM! — America's Black Holocaust Museum](#) provides information on the museum as well as virtual tours.

The planning committee is considering pre- and post-activities to tie into the field trip. More details will be available in January.

2024 NCCW Convention

August 13-17 • Oklahoma City

Called to an Encounter with Jesus

We are women on a journey – sharing our stories with an emphasis on the Eucharist.

MDCCW President Carol Rogers, Fennimore, led the Madison diocesan delegation to the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) convention in Oklahoma City, August 24-26. Attending with her were Coreen Marklein, Baraboo, NCCW LTD and bylaws member; Sue Barker, Verona, leadership chair; Linda Ripp, Martinsville, service chair and past MDCCW president; and Kathy Roelke, Pastorate 18 CCW president; Sue Barker and Lori Ziemann, Waunakee.

NCCW Secretary Amy Kennedy reported for the credentials committee: 312 preregistered, 312 voting members, 470 delegates present including 36 diocesan presidents, 21 province directors, 4 national officers, 20 Spiritual advisors, 125 first time attendees, and 60 one-day registrations.

Voting delegates approved three resolutions which are described by Province Director Jane Schiszik in her column on page 2. Below are in-person reports from MDCCW leaders.

By Sue Barker

The diocese is home to the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine which was the site of a short pilgrimage on the first day of the convention.

Upon entering the Pilgrim Center, we viewed a short movie about Stanley Rother's life. Born in 1935, he grew up a farm boy in a small Oklahoma community with a strong Catholic family. On discerning a vocation in high school, he entered seminary where he struggled academically especially with learning Latin. A sympathetic bishop helped him find another seminary, and he was ordained in 1963.

Five years into his priesthood, Stanley volunteered to go to Guatemala, where he fell in love with the people and his mission. Growing up on the farm had taught him perseverance and love for people and the land, values he used daily with his Mayan parishioners. Despite past difficulty learning Latin, he became fluent in Spanish and mastered the challenging Tz'utujil language of the area. He established the first farmers' coop, a school, the first hospital clinic, and the first Catholic radio station, used for catechesis.

All his good works made him an enemy of the state, as Guatemala was experiencing a civil war. The war finally got to Blessed Stanley's village, and he was put on an enemies list. As his friends and co-workers started disappearing, he was encouraged to go back to the United

States. After a short visit home, he returned only to be killed in his rectory in 1981. He was beatified in Oklahoma City in 2017. Blessed Stanley has the honor of being the first U.S.-born martyr and the first U.S.-born priest to be declared Blessed.

The church is built in the Spanish style, airy with many windows for light, painted white both inside and out. Designed to seat almost 2,000. Blessed Stanley's body is entombed in the altar.

The chapel mural depicts Jesus welcoming Blessed Stanley into Heaven, surrounded by the Holy Innocents and saints. The Pilgrim Center also has re-created part of the home he grew up in.

By Carol Rogers

Oklahoma City 2024 was my third National Convention. While each convention has been unique, all offered time to increase knowledge, renew focus, and build friendships with sisters in Council. Think now about attending the next one in Orlando, August 19-23, 2025!

Daily Liturgies

Very Rev. Miguel Gonzalez, Orlando, was the main celebrant and homilist at Mass on August 14, the feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe. Fr. Miguel completed his two-year term as NCCW Spiritual Advisor at this convention.

Fr. Gonzalez noted that St. Maximilian is a model of encounter with Jesus in his exercise of the virtues of faith, patience, charity, and humility.

His **faith** showed complete trust in God, allowing his life to change as he developed a print ministry to defend Catholic truth in war-torn Poland, then Japan, and back to Europe. His publications revealed Christ to the world through word and action.

Patience ruled as he endured insults, hatred, agony, and pain in Auschwitz Prison Camp. He followed God's plan for his life without fear, loving all, even the abusive prison guards.

Charity was his pathway. He sought unity in love. He shared his food with other prisoners, found ways to hold secret Masses, and hear confessions. His life ended in total self-giving, by stepping forward to take the place of

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NCCW Convention

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another prisoner who was to be killed in the starvation bunker...no greater love.

Humility led him to embrace martyrdom without hatred, or even resentment. In prayer and gratitude, he led the others in the bunker to sing hymns on their way to death. St. Maximilian knew God was with him.

God is with us as well. Our encounters with Jesus will be an encouragement to our companions on the way. Pray with gratitude at Mass that Jesus shed his blood on the cross for our salvation, remains with us in the Eucharist, and gives us grace to live in faith, patience, charity, and humility.

Bishop David Konderla, Tulsa, was the main celebrant and homilist at Mass August 15, the Feast of the Assumption.

The Blessed Virgin Mary had the supreme encounter with Jesus. Her “yes” to the Archangel Gabriel made her a willing participant in His life and death.

“Yes” does not occur once and done. Just as in marriage, our “yes” to love must continue through the years. Sometimes it is easy and sometimes it’s not, especially when circumstances blur the loving part of the relationship. Our “yes” is perfected at Mass. Each “yes” conveys acceptance of death to self, death to this earthly life and “yes” after a time to Resurrection.

Ask Mary to pray for us. She will always help us. God will not say “no” to her. She walked to Calvary behind Him, stood by the cross, and placed His lifeless body in the tomb. Worship God. Honor Mary.

Most Rev. William Wack, bishop of Pensacola/Tallahassee diocese, was the main celebrant and homilist at Mass August 16. Bishop Wack is the NCCW Episcopal Liaison.

In his homily, Bishop Wack reminded everyone that encounter with Jesus is encounter with a friend. Jesus cares about all the details of our lives. He loves us and wants us to not just tell Him our problems, but also to give them to Him. In love He answers our prayers with what we need at that very time for that very situation.

Bishop Wack ended in prayer: I place all my needs, all my wants at Thy feet, O Christ.

Archbishop Paul Coakley, Oklahoma City, was the main celebrant and homilist at Mass on August 17. He is currently Secretary of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

John 6 was the focus of the Sunday Gospel. Jesus fed thousands with bread and fish and collected twelve baskets of fragments. The Archbishop challenged us, upon returning home, to reflect on our time at the convention and the words of Jesus, “The bread is my flesh...I am the Bread of Life...you will live forever.”

An encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist means we become part of the Body of Christ. We become knitted into the Mystery of God. As Christ yearns to share the Eucharist with us, we in turn must share His Presence with others.

Ask the Holy Spirit, “Who do You want me to invite to attend Mass with me? How can I evangelize the ‘fragments’ who remain outside the Body of Christ? How can I invite the timid, the fearful, the hurt, the lost? Help me reinvest myself in rebuilding my own parish. Jesus, show me how to share You with others, please.”

Speaker Katie McGrady



A wife, mother, award-winning author, international speaker, podcaster, and daily radio show host, Katie McGrady kept the audience entertained with her family vignettes and humorous approach to the foibles of daily life. Interwoven between the stories was common sense spirituality about *encountering Jesus daily*.

Usefulness does not determine a person’s value. Each person is a beloved creation of God, created out of pure love. God does not need us, but He does look at each creation with delight!

Each of us will one day experience suffering, loss, and brokenness. Those times are made for us to seek even more sincerely an *encounter with Jesus*.

Think about the story of Martha and Mary. Martha was working to prepare food for the many guests who showed up when Jesus arrived. Mary sat at Jesus feet and listened. It’s easy to see why Martha was a bit miffed. In Katie’s imagined conversation:

Jesus’ answer, “Mary has chosen the better part” was an invitation from Jesus to Martha. “Sit with me too. Have an encounter with Me. I do not want something from you. I have something for you here.”

Be still and know that I am God. We do this in the Holy Hour before the tabernacle or in an adoration chapel. We sit and look at Jesus. We take a break from Rosary, prayers, novenas, daily devotions — all good things — but

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at this moment just be with Jesus. If we did this, our children, spouses, friends, colleagues would benefit.

Just as in Martha's case, an "I'll-just-do-it-myself attitude," is not good. Let others share the burden with you. Ask Jesus to help carry the burden. He wants to be with you at work and in adoration.

By Kathy Roelke

In her two presentations, Dr. ValLimar Jansen, an accomplished singer, composer, and storyteller, shared her perspective of *encounters with Jesus* through joyful music and magical story telling. She challenged us to join in singing and to "be part of the primary choir," no matter our ability.

With ValLimar's encouragement, the room was filled with Catholic women and men "lifted up" in voice and movement. Dr. Jansen spoke of the "Nature of Encounter," asking us to consider encountering Jesus in profound silence each day — one minute each for the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.

She discussed the importance of being grateful by counting our blessings and thanking God. She noted that Jesus desires a personal relationship with each of us.

Jesus has a purpose and plan for every living being and was willing to empty Himself and become human in an expression of his desire for intimacy with us.

Jesus reveals God's love, mercy, and justice to us. Jesus challenged social norms, for example, by turning the other cheek. ValLimar asks that we work to encounter Jesus in the people we meet.

During her two presentations, I felt on fire with the presence of the Holy Spirit in my heart. It is with great joy and excitement that I can share that ValLimar will be the keynote speaker of the 2025 MDCCW Conference scheduled June 28 at Saint Francis Xavier Parish in Cross Plains. Please save this date. You will not want to miss an awe-inspiring, life-changing day with this talented sister in Christ

By Linda Ripp

This was one of the best NCCW conventions I have attended, mainly because of the theme. Our whole Catholic faith is based on an *encounter with Jesus* through his Life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension — through the Sacraments he instituted — especially the Eucharist in which we receive His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity!

We had so many great talks and liturgies that helped me deepen that encounter in my own life.

Movie

We watched the movie, "He Thirsts — The Miracles of the Eucharist." As Catholics we learned from an early age that Jesus used the basic elements of bread and wine to make

Himself present to us in the Eucharist; but according to a 2019 Pew study, only one-third of Catholics believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

God created us to love and serve Him. We are thirsting, and only God can quench that thirst. We are children of God. As He walked unrecognized with the Disciples on the road to Emmaus, Jesus walks with us through our sorrows and joys.

The Gospels tell us that Jesus disappeared after He revealed himself in the breaking of the bread. Then the Disciples rushed to bring the Good News back to Jerusalem. They shared their story! God lowered Himself to take on human form to be with us.

The ordained priest is the visible sign of the Person of Christ on earth. The priest represents Jesus for me today, bringing eternity into the present. At Mass, heaven and earth are united.

I hope I will have the courage to share the story of Jesus with others and to "spread the good news."

By Coreen Marklein

Since 2009, I have been fortunate to attend thirteen annual NCCW conventions. All conventions have been great, but this convention was "WOW"!

The theme, *Called to an Encounter with Jesus*, carried through from beginning to end. The speakers, the liturgies, the business meeting, the presentations, and the attendees provided us with our Encounter with Jesus.

Debbie Keller, Spirituality Commission chair, began her remarks saying, "God is good all the time" and "All the time God is good." We were reminded of these words throughout the convention.

We learned more about saints and their impact in our daily lives: St. Catherine of Siena, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Francis, and St. Claire of Assisi. We are called to dream, renew the church, and build the cathedral.

Keller told about the movie "For Love Alone" which opens its audience to the lives of modern women who have been called to follow Jesus Christ with the gift of their own lives through religious life. The Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR) offers the film for purchase through Vianney Vocations and Amazon [Home — Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious](#).

Convention Sponsors

At the Wednesday evening dinner, we learned about the convention sponsors.

Executive Director Phil Loftus spoke on behalf of the [National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations](#) (NFCRV.org). The National Religious Vocation Conference

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NCCW Convention

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established NFCRV in 2014, through an initial grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation to help NRVC member religious communities in welcoming candidates with educational debt

As a result of a 2015 convention resolution, the NCCCW started the Vocation Purse Club to donate to NFCRV. The process for fund disbursement begins with a request to NFCRV from the institution on behalf of the candidate. With an average student loan debt of \$37,584, a candidate can get up to \$35,000 in quarterly payments over five to seven years. NCCW has donated a total of \$173,967 to NFCRV, including \$23,000 this past June.

Vivi Iglesias, national advisor for partnerships, and Jacklyn Ireland, communications specialist, spoke on behalf of [Catholic Relief Services](#) (CRS). NCCW's partnership with CRS began in 1943.

In 2023, CRS helped 200 million people through its humanitarian efforts. Among its projects are Water for Life and the Madonna Plan. CRS teaches self-sustainability with a comprehensive approach, offering emotional and psychological, nourishment and nutrition resources, and health, education and financial security.

The Water for Life project has provided more than 3.5 million people with access to safe drinking. The Madonna Plan's donations help fund projects to improve and empower the well-being of mothers and expectant mothers in the areas of health, education, and financial security.

Cross Catholic Outreach (CCO) launched its ministry in 2001 to provide material and spiritual blessings to those in need around the world, transforming thousands of lives and communities through its mission of mercy.

CCO serves the poor in more than 30 countries around the world through partnerships with bishops, priests, and religious and lay workers. Last year CCO provided thirty million meals.

MDCCW partners with NCCW to participate in the CCO-sponsored Box of Joy project, which has collected 646,163 boxes since the project began.

CCO hosts food packing events through Vita Food, resulting in 37 million meals in the United States.

Since September 2023, I have been a member of the Leadership, Training and Development Team. Our team provided information to first-time attendees on how to navigate the convention. We talked about the "Power of

Yes" and shared our favorite saints who said "yes" to an encounter with Jesus.

Mark your calendars now to attend the 2025 NCCW Convention in Orlando from August 19 to 23.



Left to Right: Linda Ripp, Kathy Roelke, Sue Barker, Coreen Marklein, Sue Barker, Carol Rogers, and Lori Ziemann

SAVE THE DATE!

June 28, 2025

MDCCW Conference

Saint Francis Xavier Church Cross Plains

Please save the date and tell your friends about next year's MDCCW conference that will feature Bishop Donald J. Hying and ValLimar Jansen, the keynote speaker from the 2024 NCCW convention.

The women who attended the National Council of Catholic Women convention from our diocese heard ValLimar Jansen and are excited for the rest of us to hear "an amazing speaker, singer, songwriter, storyteller, performer, educator who is thoroughly Catholic. We can hardly wait to see her again."



For more on the speaker, visit her website [ValLimar Jansen](#) and read Kathy Roelke's review of her presentation (page 7).

Watch for opportunities to volunteer for the conference.

For a review of the 2024 conference, see the August 1 *Catholic Herald*.