



New Feature

Please check out the newest addition of the newsletter: ***A Model of His Servant Heart.*** This article will feature and share the story of a specific ladies' group or CCW group within the Superior Diocese.

2021 Fall Newsletter

Superior Diocese

Council of Catholic Women

A Model of His Servant Heart

The Ladies Guild of St. John's Parish, Clear Lake
The SDCCW Board experienced the hospitality of the Ladies Guild of St. John's Parish in Clear Lake, Wi., at their recent Board Meeting on October 21st. This group of 5 – 6 women refer to themselves as "The Coffee and Kindness" ladies of St. John's! When talking with member, Rosemary Koenig, and asking her what makes this group so unique, she remarks, "The best thing is the fellowship we share with each other." We work together as a small group, open the doors, and invite others to come and share their talents.

These ladies gather weekly for fellowship and activities and are sometimes joined by Fr. Jim Brinkman and a few Knights of Columbus members. This group persevered and continues to be welcoming and friendly despite the aftermath of the Covid pandemic.

St. John's Parish is a parish of about 50 – 60 families and the women of this parish are all about charitable works, service, and fellowship. These ladies serve funeral dinners, take care of the sanctuary and the hall, and keep the church's seasonal décor up to date. Other activities include sewing quilts, which are donated to Grace's Place (Women's Shelter), hosting spring plant sales and Christmas bazaars with the funds used to help students attend the March for Life in Washington D.C. and Extreme Faith Camp. They have even provided monetary donations for counselors to attend camp. Rosemary tells of their recent Fall Dinner which she describes as a success with serving 250 people.

It is a pleasure to meet women who are following the path of Jesus and lighting the way for others!

Jane Schiszik, SDCCW President



The ladies of St. John's Parish Guild

Front row: left to right: Rosemary Koenig and Maria Bliese

Back row: Rita Andersen, Fr. Jim Brinkman, Sue Cress, and Bonnie Thelen.



Jane Schiszik
President

President's Message

Greetings to My Sisters in Council,

Looking back on the past few months gives me great joy and reason to celebrate! We had an awesome, "Knock Your Socks Off" 71st Annual SDCCW Convention, August 5th, 2021, at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Medford. Attendees were happy to be able to gather and socialize. The camaraderie was contagious. Bishop Powers and our Spiritual Advisor Fr. Jim Brinkman did much to set the tone. The Mass, concelebrated by Bishop Powers, Fr. James Brinkman, and Fr. Patrick McConnel was the highlight of the morning. For information on the Pax Christi Award Winner and Finalists, and the Scholarship recipients, please read the articles included in this newsletter.

Every organization needs members - let's face it without members, there is no organization! 'Outreach' and 'Reaching Out' to our current members is vital. Many parish ladies' groups are still dealing with the aftermath of Covid. Covid plus, the difficulties in retaining members, attracting younger members, and finding women to serve as officers are still issues councils are facing. Do not lose faith – there is a solution! ***A Zoom LTD Program (Leadership Training Development) is scheduled Saturday, January 15, 2022, from 9 – 12 p.m.*** This LTD will provide answers for those issues that continue to plague our councils. The registration cost is \$10.00 and information about connecting via zoom will be provided, for those wanting to gather as a group or attend this training using their home computer. The presenter is a member of the NCCW Leadership Training Development Team and will design her presentation around the troublesome areas in our councils. For more information, please keep posted to the <http://sdccw-wisconsin.weebly.com> contact your deanery president or see information in the Catholic Herald.

Calling all Council Women to join in the fun and come to ***the 72nd Annual SDCCW Convention!*** Mark your calendars now and make plans to attend this 2-day event, slated ***June 28th and 29th, 2022!*** Some of the details are still in the planning stages, but the SDCCW Board is proud to announce Elizabeth Kelly, and Christopher Hurtubise, as the keynote speakers for each day of the convention.

Jane Schiszik, SDCCW President

Rekindling the Flame by Reuniting Women for Christ



Fr. Jim Brinkman
Spiritual Advisor

Spiritual Advisor's Message

We Pause In Gratitude

As Jesus moved from place to place during his public ministry, he was confronted by believers and non-believers alike. People came out of curiosity, others seeking in faith the answers to the life that Jesus was proposing. They saw the power of God at work in his words and in his actions. Surely many came as non-believers, but left as faithful followers of this man from Galilee. Many left, grateful for the privilege of seeing and hearing him speak. And others were even more grateful because Jesus had cured them both physically and spiritually.

This reminds me of the gospel where Jesus is healing the ten lepers (Luke 17:11-19). Soon all over our land, in all kinds of places, people will gather as family for the holidays. Some will be aware of the importance of these days, while others will use them for other reasons. These are days for giving thanks to the Creator for the many blessings received during the past year and beyond - from the first Christmas to Thanksgiving day and into the New Year. Many will do that and others will not. In the story of the ten lepers, St. Luke points out that only one returned to give thanks, even though all ten were healed. The interesting point was raised by Jesus himself, when he recognized the one who returned as a foreigner. The one who came back in faith to thank Jesus was not accepted by the company of believers. But Jesus blessed him and sent him on his way, stating that his faith had brought him back to give thanks.

How often we forget also to include in our prayer life words of thanks for blessings received. At times in our busy lives maybe we are not aware of God's presence and blessing on our everyday life of faith. To be grateful seems so easy, but many of us seem more caught up in what we did not receive, rather than how good we have been blessed. We live in a land so richly blessed by the Divine Creator. Every day these blessings should so overwhelm us that prayers of thanksgiving would be automatic. On a day like this one, we pause from the busy routine of life and gather to give thanks to our divine maker and sustainer. May each of us try to let God know in our own individual way of our gratitude for life, our daily bread, and the right to pursue happiness in this great land of ours. Holiday blessings to all.

Fr. Jim Brinkman
Moderator of the SDCCW

Who's Who Amongst Priests in the Diocese of Superior?

To 'get to know' the Indian Priests in our diocese, the Superior Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (SDCCW) occasionally will be featuring a few of the Indian priests in the bi-annual SDCCW Newsletter and the majority of Indian priests on the SDCCW website:

<http://sdccw-wisconsin.weebly.com>

The first priest being featured in the Fall Newsletter is from Our Lady of the Lakes Parish in Ashland which is clustered with parishes in Dauby, Ino, Moquah, and Odanah.



Rev. Jerome D'Souza

Fr. Jerome moved from the Southern part of India (Bangalore, Karnataka State). He formerly belonged to the religious order (Claretian Missionaries), was ordained in 2000, and spent 17 years in India, having been exposed to various realities of mission and formation.

Holy Week of 2017 marked the beginning of his pastoral ministry in the United States. He was first assigned to St. Peter's Parish in Winter and Sacred Heart in Radisson. In 2019, he was reassigned to the Chequamegon Bay area of Ashland.

Fr. Jerome is the oldest sibling in his family, followed by a sister and three brothers. His parents are still active and in their seventies.

In December of 2020, Bishop Powers incardinated him to our diocese as a permanent member. This means Fr. Jerome will spend many years in active ministry in the diocese. Fr. Jerome describes it as "a great blessing" to be part of our diocese!

When asked how he enjoys our weather, he remarks the weather is not a challenge but, there is still a long way to go. He enjoys the four seasons, although summer could be a little longer and the winter shorter.

His favorite foods: although he misses some of the home dishes, he is getting more familiar with local food habits – bland fish, fries, venison chilies, pots of soups, salads, and pulled meat. He just laughs when commenting on so many varieties of deserts and jellies and cheese, bars, soda etc. When describing his diet, he gives a great laugh while expressing, "I carry a missionary stomach!"

He feels welcome and enjoys the friendliness of the northern communities. His parishioners appreciate him and are thankful that he is their priest. Fr. Jerome is well pleased with his missionary destination of Ashland and the other four clustered parishes.

When asked if he is looking forward to 'day light savings time', for Fr. Jerome, it remains a puzzle to figure out day light savings time is it to sleep longer, and what really is it!

He surprises himself from being a motorcycle priest to becoming a four-wheeler priest (driving a car); because motorcycles were his missionary wagon back in India.

I was honored to interview Fr. Jerome for this article. He is laughing and having a great time during the interview. Fr. Jerome is full of many pleasant surprises. He has a great caring spirit. He is so active and dynamic. Fr. Jerome feels blessed to be among the people in our diocese as we deepen our faith journey, marching together in and with Christ, and Mary, also as our companion.

Jane Schiszik, SDCCW President

Commissions and Committees



Lucille Brandner
Co-Leadership Commission

Leadership – Lucille Brandner, Jan Jubert

As you read this the leaves will all have left the trees and there are hints of the upcoming winter showing up. In this unusual year, it is really difficult to predict future weather. There seems to be a warming trend coming, not sure how long it will last. My prayers are that you have remained well.

The Leadership commission is all about bringing us together as members in our parish, deanery, and diocesan groups. We then can all join as part of the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW). It is important for leaders communicate with members of their groups. Presidents, and Leadership Chairs need to keep the women in our parishes informed of the great things you do as a group. Invite more women to attend your meetings, be it in person or zoom, or conference call.

The focus of NCCW is the same today as it was 101 years ago when women first gathered to begin to form what we know today as the National Council of Catholic Women. The Bishops gave the unified group of nearly two hundred women a threefold purpose: First, it would give a common voice to all Catholic Women in the United States; Second, a large unified national group would ensure that national committees and movements would recognize our Catholic values and principles, especially in the areas of religious, moral, and general welfare across the country; Third, they felt that uniting the work of existing Catholic women's organizations would enable greater service and have a greater impact in meeting the needs of our times. With the trying times today, these three points are more important than ever.

I cannot write an article without stressing Individual Membership in NCCW. Parish women are already working diligently for their parishes on many projects; how great it would be if this could all be under the umbrella of NCCW. We can become Individual Members (IM) of NCCW and receive the benefits of being represented at the USCCB, the United Nations, Religious Alliance Against Pornography and others.

Membership is only \$50.00 annually, much less than we pay for our cell service or tv. With membership we receive a monthly “president’s pen” message and a quarterly Catholic Woman magazine filled with information about the three commissions: spirituality, leadership, and service. There is also a message from our national President and other officers keeping us updated on current happenings. Currently membership of women in the diocese of Superior is 47, down from almost 140 several years ago. If you were a member previously and your membership has lapsed, or if you have never been a member, please say a prayer to our Lady of Good Counsel and consider joining. Contact me at ltbccw@gmail.com or 715-965-5534 and I will send you a membership form that can be forwarded to our national office. ‘



Patti McCormick
Respect Life

Respect Life – Patti McCormick

A Prayer

The same Holy Spirit who created the universe, descended upon the womb of Mary, came as tongues of fire at Pentecost, and leads the church on her mission, is the one who calls and equips us for our pro-life work. Let us not lack for a moment, the confidence and joy that comes from Him and impels us to build a Culture of Life. Come Holy Spirit and equip us, just as you equipped the disciples of every century, to advance the Gospel of Life for all human life.

Pax Christi



Pax Christi – Katie Zenner

PAX CHRISTI NOMINATIONS - DUE MAY 1ST 2021

Do you know a woman in your parish who is an active member of your parish community? Either lay or religious, single or married. A woman who uses her talents in a prayerful Christian way.

Superior Diocese Council of Catholic Women is accepting nominations for the Pax Christi Award. Please look to the Superior Diocese website

for the guidelines which include the nomination form. For more information or questions contact Katie Zenner/Superior Diocese Pax Christi Chair at kzenner@hrmedford.org or 715-965-8736

Scholarship



Mary Werner
Secretary, Scholarship Chair

Sisters' Council



Sr. Cecelia Fandel, OSM
Liaison

Mary Werner - Scholarship Chair

Mary Jane Morancyk Hennessy Scholarship

This award is presented by the Bishop of the Diocese of Superior to recognize and honor catholic women with remarkable dedication and contributions in their respective parishes.

Mr. John Hennessy has generously donated another \$6,000 to our scholarship fund. This year we will be selecting another 4 recipients. The deadline for applying for the scholarship is April 30th which is soon approaching. The committee will be meeting in May for the selections. Stay tuned!

Sisters Forum Report

The Mexican Sisters are beginning to do sacramental preparations working with the entire family. Ana Cristina Marquez, who is the link between the sisters and the diocese, recently made a video explaining the program. While it is in Spanish, the captions are in English. Here is the link. Please enjoy. Copy to your browser. <https://youtu.be/ongPoilyLT9A>

Sr. Cecilia

Deaneries



Bridgette Adler
SWDCCW President

Meet our New NCCW President



Pat Voorhes
NCCW President

South Central Deanery – Lenore Krajewski

Not much happening in SCDCCW these last several months! Only a few of the PCCWs have been able to meet and some have even held successful events and fund-raisers. Unfortunately, our Fall Open Meeting also got lost in the CoVid shuffle. I'm still trying for a Winter Open Meeting. Stay tuned!

Southwest Deanery – Bridgette Adler

The Southwest Deanery of the Superior Diocese CCW has been working to present a mini-retreat on mindfulness for Catholic women in preparation for the season of Advent. It is scheduled for Saturday November 13 at St Anne Catholic School in Somerset, beginning at 9am. Mass will be held afterwards, along with lunch and fellowship. It will be a wonderful opportunity to reconnect and prepare ourselves for a fruitful Advent season.

Pat Voorhes, NCCW President

Patricia "Pat" Voorhes was born and raised in California and moved to Salt Lake City, Utah in 1980. She has served on every level of Council: Parish, Deanery, Diocesan and National. Pat and her husband, Wayne, have been married for 51 years. They have two grown daughters, two sons-in-laws, 5 living grand-daughters, and 1 deceased grandson who died by suicide in January of 2017. Pat is a retired Licensed Clinical Social Worker who enjoys sewing, quilting, cross-stitch, and other crafts.

'Views' from the 2021 NCCW Convention

From **Jane Schiszik, SDCCW President**

Report from the NCCW Leadership Commission 8/26/2021

"Mentoring Begins With ME!"

By Ruth Warren, Chair of the NCCW Leadership Commission

Attendees were challenged to go home and mentor one person! A Mentor should be knowledgeable, able to ask for help, encouraged to ask past presidents for guidance, and be open to meeting at different times.

Mentoring Makes A Difference!

- Set Goals
- Recruit mentors
- Take new members under your wing
- Connect a mentee with a mentor
- Check out the Mentee Questionnaire on the NCCW website
- Become a Friend
- As you mentor someone, provide them opportunities to do a small job or plan a small part of an event.
- Learn the talents of your members and have them utilize those talents
- Develop your members and encourage their mentoring
- Groom your members to take leadership roles
- Ask newer members what their ideas are!
- Be POSITIVE!
- Encourage Spiritual Advisors to mentor other priests about your Council
- Utilize a brochure about your Council and distribute to new priests in the diocese
- Provide the necessary materials: a Newsletter about your organization, a Business card, Membership affiliation materials or a calendar of events
- Find out what younger women are interested in – you need to make those connections and meet the women where they exist: after school activities
- Look for opportunities for mentoring and serving - Co-presidents, Co-Commission Chairs
- Be OPEN to new ideas
- Be OPEN to CHANGE
- Approach mentoring from a multi-task perspective
- DON'T BE A MISSED OPPORTUNITY

Jane Schiszik, SDCCW President

From **Bridgette Adler, SWDCCW President**

Keynote Speaker: Elizabeth Tomlin, “Growing in Faith with a Small Group”

Elizabeth Tomlin’s keynote address, “Growing in Faith with a Small Group”, highlighted the importance of small groups and outlined key elements to building functional small groups. Small groups can connect, unite and inspire women while also providing substance in terms of formation and growth in one’s faith.

Building a Small Group

1. This work is a **vocation**
2. Making the **invitation** (again and again)
3. Cultivate **spiritual friendships**
4. Practicing within the **sacramental life**

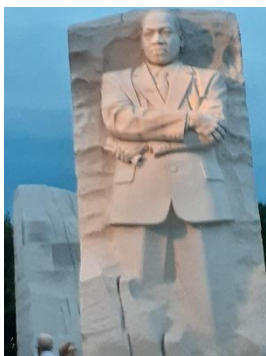
Vocation: What is it? A Christian’s call is to love and be loved, and to be a catechist within what we do. We need to approach our women’s ministry as an act of love for each other, then we move out of volunteerism and into vocation. This allows us to grow in faith together, engaging and inviting in the spirit of a disciple

Invitation: location is key. We have to be willing to live our faith out loud and bring in people from our non-parish life so that they may encounter the church/Christ. Accompaniment, shared experiences and sympathy opens the road back to the sacramental life. Ask God daily to help you find other Catholics in your community. The invitation is not hard, getting out of our own way is.

Spiritual friendships: The relationships we are forming aren’t just mere friendships, they are grounded in Christ. In a women’s group, we’re called to move beyond “utility” friendships into spiritual friendships: people who challenge you in virtues and correct you along the way. Involvement in organizations begins in developing personal relationships. Consider quality over quantity with relationships and invest in the few that feed your virtue, and not your vanity. Approach all things in charity when navigating conflicts.

Sacraments: we need our priests and the graces of the sacraments for our small groups to flourish. We can’t do it alone, we need the sacramental graces in our walk with Christ and in our love of others. **Theology of the body reminder:** your sister is made in the image and likeness of God, a beloved daughter with inherent dignity. Consider a time when someone in your community made you feel loved, accepted and joyful. How can you do this for another woman?

I don't have any pictures from during the Convention, but here are a few from our 'DC After Dark' tour.



From **Lenore Krajewski, SCDCCW President**

A "First-Timer" 's View

I can sum it up in one word – *AMAZING!*

- To see 500 ladies from all over the U.S., all dedicated to their parishes, deaneries, and dioceses with one purpose was *amazing*.
- To feel the warmth and friendship of all these ladies was *amazing*.
- To experience the diversity and the acceptance of that diversity – in ideas, feelings, sharing stories – was *amazing*.
- To participate in Mass each day with a different Bishop- and even a Cardinal! – was *amazing*.

There was so much going on – breakouts, reports, keynotes – that it was hard to choose where to go! And there wasn't time to do it all.

I would definitely go again – and the 2022 Convention is right next door in the Twin Cities! It would be *AMAZING* to see a good number of our Superior Diocese ladies attend to support our neighbors to the west.