



# 2022 Fall Newsletter

## Superior Diocese

### Council of Catholic Women



Gail Helmert – President



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*Thanksgiving Blessings to you and your families!*

### *Past President's Message*

#### *Greetings from the Immediate Past President*

Fall greetings! My name is Jane Schizik, a resident of Medford, WI. and a member of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish. I was installed in June at the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual SDCCW (Superior Diocesan Council of Catholic Women) Convention in Trego, WI. as your Immediate Past President. It is an honor serving the many women in the diocese and getting to know the women in the parishes and the priests in the Diocese of Superior! My role on the Board of Directors is to serve as a consultant to the members of the Board. I like to refer to that part of my job description as 'Mentoring'! I also advise and assist our new SDCCW President in her role as President of the diocesan council.

Another part of my role is 'Membership'! Working on membership will give me the opportunity to meet more Council women throughout the diocese to increase the awareness of the SDCCW and the NCCW (National Council of Catholic Women). I will be promoting Council membership at the parish, deanery, and diocesan level. Currently there are 47 Individual Members of the NCCW in the Diocese of Superior.



Jane Schizik – Past President

On a personal note: my husband and I just celebrated our 46<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in October! We have 3 adult married children, and 5 grandchildren ranging in age from 2 years to 13 years!

I keep myself involved with Homebound ministry, serving as a Eucharistic Minister, helping with the projects of the Holy Rosary CCW, and various other volunteer activities. I enjoy cooking, serving others and meeting people! Everyone has a story to share, and I would like to hear yours!  
*Jane Schiszik, Immediate Past President*



**Fr. Jim Brinkman - Moderator**

## ***Spiritual Advisor's Message***

### **YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT**

Those of you who have lived for a rather long time may remember some “fad diets” that have come and gone and some discoveries about nutrition that have continued to be regarded as valid. We read about certain kinds of foods that can lessen the chance of getting some types of cancer or that some foods can help the athlete to increase his or her performance. Then there is that age old fear of gaining weight over the holidays. There is some truth in the old saying that “you are what you eat.” Our God and Father is inviting us through his Son and Holy Spirit to feed ourselves and fill up with Him. As Jesus said, “...the person who feeds on Me will have life because of Me.”

What happens when we eat our food? Mysteriously and amazingly, the different parts of our body set to work, processing and changing within us what we have eaten, drawing for the vitamins, minerals, and the many other substances which our body needs and sending that nourishment on to all parts of ourselves. What we eat becomes what we are, what our body is. Jesus invites us to come to His bountiful table to eat and drink to feed on the “real food” which will give us life, life eternal. We become a part of him as He becomes a part of us.

We are quite naturally concerned about eating regularly and healthy because we want to live and to have strength, alertness and good health. We need a complete diet, though, because there is more to us than a body, because there is more food available and needed than meat, grain, dairy food, fruit and vegetables. There is also the food from Heaven; we can and must have that food too.

Having heard this invitation to share in spiritual food, we should consider if we are really getting a healthy, well-balanced and regular spiritual diet. Preparing and eating the food on our tables takes a sizable part of our working hours; we give the time, make our plans, and establish our habits regarding our spiritual food as well. We need to take the time to prepare. The Eucharist, prayer, reading and reflecting on God's word, examination of conscience, sharing ourselves with others, sacrificing, serving and learning about our faith are all ways we will be open for the nourishment and development that our God wishes us to receive.

Prayers and blessings to all.

Fr. Jim Brinkman – Moderator of the SDCCW



Bridgette Adler – President-Elect

## Commissions and Committees

Rosalie Bryan - Spirituality

### President-Elect's Message

Greetings!

I am Bridgette Adler of Saint Patrick Parish in Hudson, Wisconsin, and I am excited to begin my term as President-Elect for the SDCCW. I'm also currently serving as Leadership Commissioner for the St. Patrick's CCW, and as Immediate Past President of the Southwest Deanery CCW. Thank you for the opportunity to serve our Council and community of faith in these capacities.

### Spirituality

Rosee (Rosalie) Bryan

Who I am is reflected in my life verse, Micah 6:8 (what does the Lord ask of us, but to LOVE MERCY, ACT JUSTLY AND WALK HUMBLY WITH OUR GOD) Married to Jim (James) for 53 years; grew up on a dairy farm near Thorp; been blessed with good jobs (in Houston, TX and Chicago, IL). We retired to Thorp eight years ago; members of St Stanislaus in Lublin. I am of Benedictine Spirituality and Jim is of Carmelite Spirituality; as a result we have a very rich reflective home.

My interests are varied: reading, crafting, cooking (we are "foodie family") and visiting with people (I love to hear the stories of their lives).

Now, the other stuff: I have taught catechism and confirmation classes, Eucharist minister offered to lead a "Catholic readers" book club. Currently, do a crafting program for Morgan Plaza (Thorp) residents.

### HONESTY...BEING HONEST

During my weekly adoration, I read and reflect on inspirational books. Currently I am using; *CLAIMING YOUR VOICE-SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER*, by Norvene Vest, Obl OSB. Her book reflects Benedictine Spirituality and Sensibility.

In the first chapter we are called to Honesty, "let us be honest with self". As I gazed upon Christ on the Altar it occurred to me how difficult it is to be honest (with self and the world). Jesus asked *Who do you say that I am?* We know from Scripture the quick correct answer. Jesus is Lord and Savior. Now, the honesty part:

What is your reply, and where did this reply come from. My first reply came from learning and reading the Bible. Then I was moved to be honest with myself, asked myself what does this mean, the real meaning of my answer? I see this truth (being honest) as a reciprocal responsibility. If Jesus is Lord of our lives, who sees how we example Jesus as Lord? How do we show it? I believe the Two Great Commandments are the honesty challenge Jesus gave us.

Can we be honest with ourselves? (don't use honesty with yourself as a

means to a put yourself down, but as a challenge). Advent is right around the corner. This could be our time to begin an “honesty challenge”. I believe our worship, relationships, singing and speaking voice, quiet times and our reflections on scripture will be richer.

Take the challenge with me one word, one thought, at a time.

[2 Corinthians 8:21](#) - Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

Rosee Bryan. Nov 2022

## Leadership

If someone asked “*What s NCCW do for you? What benefits do you receive and how would I as a non-member benefit by joining?*” would we be able to answer?

The national Leadership Commission has developed a guide called ‘**REGAIN, RETAIN, AND GROW**’. This guide reflects the mission of retaining, regaining, and growing membership. It contains information on each of these subjects. We need to grow membership in our own Superior Diocesan Council as well as NCCW. It would be a benefit to have a Membership Committee on the Diocesan level. This committee could provide membership packets that include The Introduction to NCCW, the History of NCCW, membership applications, business cards, brochures and fliers to be used by parish councils. Building membership is an important role of the leadership commission. All of us are part of the membership committee; we interact with women in our parishes and belong to parish work groups. Personal contact is the best way to explain the importance of our organization. An important goal would be to have all board members take part in membership by personally joining the National Council of Catholic Women with an active membership. Deanery presidents are members of the SDCCW board, they are the immediate contact with and the ones that especially need to keep in touch with the parishes in their deanery. One focus of the Leadership Commission of the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) continues to be on mentoring. Once again, NCCW has an information pamphlet titled “**Women Embracing Women**”. We realize the importance of assisting all our members in who we are and what we are about. Mentoring is not a scary thing. It does not require any special skills. It is simply that those of us who have more experience in council be willing to share that experience and knowledge with another person who is willing to learn. One challenge is to find that new person.

## Service

Keep making the sleeping bags out of potato chip bags. The shelter would like more of them. They also want the mats out of plastic bags.

Keep your eyes on all the young girls in the area for the sex trafficking. More and more of it is getting close to our area. Don’t let these girls walk the streets by themselves, or go anywhere by themselves.

Karen Firnstahl



Lucille Brandner -Leadership



Karen Firnstahl - Service

Evie Clarkson – Respect Life

## Respect Life

My name is Evelyn (Evie) Clarkson. I grew up in the Medford area and am a life-long member of Holy Rosary Parish in Medford, WI. I am married and have 5 boys. I worked at Memorial Nursing Home for 35 years and now I am retired.

I am Respect Life chairperson.

I believe that life should be respected from Womb-to-Tomb. Respect is a virtue, a habit which is central to human happiness. Respect is one of the Core Moral Values. Respect life is not just about abortion; although that is an important problem in our world today; respecting life means seeing the body as a temple of GOD and treating it as such, in all phases of life and in all of God's creation.

Love and Prayers, Evie



Sr. Cecelia Fandel, OSM - Sisters Liaison

## Sisters Forum

The Sisters' Forum has not met since Co-Vid closed everything down in 2020.

During this interim, our president, Sr. Phyllis Wilhelm OSF, retired and left the diocese, to return to her community, the Franciscan Sisters, in Joliet, IL. Sister Elizabeth Amman, OP, who works for the Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center in Woodruff, is our interim leader. She has been in contact with the diocesan office and has submitted a request for a new directory of Religious Women in the diocese, so that we know which sisters are currently in the diocese, where they live, and what ministry they are doing.

At that point, all sisters will be contacted. We may have a Sisters' Zoom conference, as it will be winter by then, and the ground snow-covered.

Sr. Cecilia

## Pax Christi

PAX CHRISTI NOMINATIONS can be submitted starting January 1, 2023. All NOMINATIONS are Due by May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023. This award has the endorsement of Bishop Powers, the Bishop of the Diocese of Superior. This award encompasses all parishes in the Diocese of Superior and is a way your parish community can recognize and honor the devout, hardworking Christian women within your parishes. Women who live their faith as an example for us all. Nominees may be either lay or religious, single, or married women. Each parish is encouraged to nominate one woman for this award annually. Please check the Superior Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's website: <http://Golden//sdccw-wisconsin.weebly.com> **for information on the Guidelines and Nomination Form. For more information or questions please contact SDCCW Pax Christi Co-Chairs Jane Schizik [janeschis@hotmail.com](mailto:janeschis@hotmail.com) or call 715-748-5240 and/or Rosalie Bryan at [rosalie4519thrp@aol.com](mailto:rosalie4519thrp@aol.com) or call 281-923-6124.**

**Rosalie Bryan and Jane Schizik  
Co-Chairs – Pax Christi**



**Bridgette Adler - Chair**

## **Golden Rose Award**

We received seven nominations for the 2022 Golden Rose Award from six parishes throughout the diocese:

|                   |                                |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Victoria Burger   | St. Patrick – Hudson           |
| Jordan Downey     | St. Anthony – Superior         |
| Emily Ann Geisler | St. Mary – Bruce               |
| Anneke Hoegen     | St. Anthony – Nebagamom        |
| Hannah Houck      | Our Lady of the Lake – Ashland |
| Lahaela Mika      | Our Lady of the Lake – Ashland |
| Martha Miller     | Holy Rosary – Meford           |

We gratefully recognized these inspiring young women together with their families at the June 2022 SDCCW Convention at a luncheon with Bishop Powers.

**Please note that the NCCW is planning to award a national Golden Rose recipient in 2023! Details will be forthcoming on the NCCW.org website.**

Major Take-away from the first year of the Golden Rose Award: Consider asking for nominations to be due earlier next year to avoid Holy Week, which tends to be very busy for Youth Ministers and parish volunteers (who would typically be submitting our nomination form)

## **Scholarship**



**Mary Werner - Scholarship**

### **2022 SDCCW Mary Jane Morancyk Hennessy Scholarship Recipients**



**Morgen Severt** is a 2016 graduate of Merrill High School and attends UW Steven Point. Morgen is a full time student and wants to pursue a career in Elementary Education. She plans to graduate in the spring of 2023 with a goal to teach grades K- 9<sup>th</sup>.

She attends St Francis Xavier Catholic Church.

Morgen is employed part time as a CNA at the Benedictine Living Community. She also finds time to volunteer at the Pine Crest Nursing

Home and Thomas Jefferson Elementary School.

Her letters of recommendation state she “works hard, is “polite and respectful” and “always maintains a positive attitude and is a strong student and leader.”



**Olivia Ohnstad** is from Cushing WI and was awarded one of the 2022 Mary Jane Morancyk Hennessy Scholarships offered through the SDCCW. Her home Parish is Immaculate Conception in Grantsburg.

Olivia attends the University of St. Thomas and is working towards

a degree in Civil Engineering. Her goal is to be hired to construct or be part of a team that incorporates sustainable living into their plans. She has been on the Dean's list the past 3 semesters and finds time to be active as a member on the Tommie Catholic Planning Committee, where weekly events are planned to help students deepen their understanding and appreciation of the Catholic Faith.

Her letters of recommendation remark on her leadership qualities and strong Catholic Faith.



**Savannah Brandt's** hometown is Medford and she is a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help which is part of the Medford Catholic Community. She was awarded one of the Mary Jane Morancyk Hennessy Scholarships for 2022.

Savannah attends UW River Falls as a full-time student pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Agriculture Education. She plans to graduate in the fall of 2024. She holds a full-time job as a Driver's Education Instructor while maintaining status on the Dean's list.

Savannah volunteers weekly at a local food pantry in River Falls and attends St Bridget Catholic Community Church.

Her Professor of Horticulture notes that she works well with others and loves to share her knowledge with young people.

**The Scholarship has been increased to Four \$1000.00 Recipients for 2023 as voted upon at the last Board meeting.**

**The committee will start accepting applications starting in February and ending April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Notices will be placed in all bulletins throughout the Diocese and the Catholic Herald.**

**I am resuming the Chair of this committee but would welcome anyone to lead this role for the following year. I would be at your side to mentor.**

**Mary Shafer - Historian**

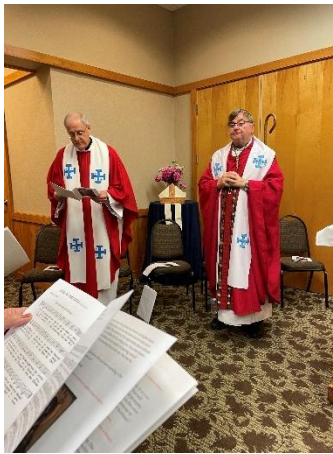
## **Historian**

Hi, my name is Mary Shafer and I will be the Historian for the SDCCW. I have been very involved with our local CCW here at St. Patrick's in Hudson forever. I have also been on the board of the SDCCW before. In 2010-2012 I was the Treasurer and then from 2013-2014 I was the Pax Christi Chair.

It is interesting keeping the history books but mostly interesting looking back over the years there is a lot of history there and I hope I can continue and do a good job with that. I have a couple pictures I'd like to share that I took from our convention this year that I have in the book.

I have been married to my husband Tim for 40 years, we have 3 sons and 7 grandchildren. I am retired and am busier now than I think I was when I was working with 3 young boys. I do a lot of volunteering along with being a backup babysitter for the grandchildren.

I am looking forward to being part of the SDCCW Board again.



## **Deaneries**

**Katie Waldal – SWDCCW President**

### **Southwest Deanery**

My name is Katie Waldal from Hudson WI - I am married and have seven children ranging from age 5 to 20. Our Deanery will be having a special board meeting in the next few weeks, with our new board. In January we plan to have an open meeting in our Deanery. I am excited and look forward to serving the next two years as the president for the South West Deanery.

**Lenore Krajewski – SCDCCW President**

### **South Central Deanery**

We haven't yet had our Fall Deanery Meetings – and now with Thanksgiving and Christmas activities, it's looking like maybe January! I will keep everyone posted as soon as I know – and please help us pray for favorable travel weather.



# Reports from the NCCW 2022 Convention

## **Featured Speakers** – Bridgette Adler

The annual NCCW Convention is always an enriching and uplifting opportunity to reunite with our council sisters from throughout our state and country. The theme for this year's gathering in Minneapolis, MN was "WIDE OPEN HEARTS ABIDING IN FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE."

To learn more about the speakers featured at the 2022 Convention, please see the links I've attached below.

**Sister Xavier, Sharing and Caring Hands** [www.sharingandcainghands.org](http://www.sharingandcainghands.org)

**Cross Catholic Outreach** [www.crosscatholicoutreach.org](http://www.crosscatholicoutreach.org)

**Elizabeth Kelly** [www.lizk.org](http://www.lizk.org)

**Therese Coons** [www.archdioceseofsaintpaulandminneapolis](http://www.archdioceseofsaintpaulandminneapolis)

Prayer Resources For Your "Fiat":

[Lectio Divina: A Beginner's Guide](http://www.bustedhalo.com) – [www.bustedhalo.com](http://www.bustedhalo.com)

[The Daily Examen](http://www.lgnatianspirituality.com) - [www.lgnatianspirituality.com](http://www.lgnatianspirituality.com)

[Discernment of Spirits](http://www.lgnatianspirituality.com) - [www.lgnatianspirituality.com](http://www.lgnatianspirituality.com)

**Kristen Molitor** - [www.kristenmoiter@WINE](mailto:kristenmoiter@WINE)

**Susan Stabile** - [www.susanstabile.org](http://www.susanstabile.org)

**Yen Fasano** - [www.thelitanioftrust.org](http://www.thelitanioftrust.org)

## **NCCW Business Meeting** – Bridgette Adler

446 were in attendance.

Overview of NCCW Membership:

|                 |                                       |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1098 Individual | 1016 Parish affiliates                |
| 366 Supporting  | 124 Subdivisions/Deaneries Affiliates |
| 28 High School  | 76 Diocesan Affiliates                |
| 11 College      | 4 National Affiliates                 |

International: World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations

[www.wucuwo.org](http://www.wucuwo.org)

*Please note the website to view our North American Region to WUCWO, including conference summaries and videos.*

Current initiatives of NCCW's supporting group, Friends of NCCW for WUCWO, includes a 3-year \$1000 commitment to World Women's Observatory in Africa.

**National Golden Rose Award:** Applications will be accepted 4/1/2023-4/30/2023. Information will be on the Members Only section of the NCCW website in 2023. A special email has been set up: [awards@nccw.org](mailto:awards@nccw.org)

The following resolution was passed:

### **Daily Rosary and First Saturday Devotions**

*Purpose:* To encourage and promote the practices of praying the daily Rosary and the First Saturday Devotion.

*Whereas*, Our Lady has led nations repeatedly out of situations of pestilence, violence, spiritual and moral decline; and

*Whereas*, In Pope Francis's New Year 2022 homily he states, " At the beginning of the New Year, then, let us place ourselves under the protection of this woman, the Mother of God, who is also our mother. May she help us to keep and ponder all things, unafraid of trials and with joyful certainty that the Lord is faithful and can transform every cross into a resurrection,"

*Resolved*, that at this critical time for our Church and our nation, it is vital for NCCW members to pray the daily Rosary and practice the First Saturday Devotion, that were requested by Our Lady of Fatima; and

*Resolved*, That NCCW members recognize this urgent need and, with pastoral coordination, engage others in these devotions and form cenacles of prayer before Masses, on First Saturday, or at times of Eucharistic Adoration, and request that each province director make every effort to disseminate this resolution with their provinces.

Please note that there is a wonderful Rosary resource book available on the NCCW website for \$10 that may be of interest for your groups. It includes a variety of beautiful meditations that are geared to our ladies and their families. I highly recommend it!

I also add my voice to those of our current and past board members: belonging to NCCW as an individual member is definitely worth the membership cost! Please feel free to contact me if you want to chat about what the membership entails or what NCCW resources can do for your CCW.

### ***Native Pride Dancers*** — Lenore Krajewski

On Friday evening, NCCW welcomed the Native Pride Dancers for a lively presentation of Ojibwe and Lakota culture. We heard the stories of how the culture is passed on from one generation to the next and listened to the music of the native flute and drum. Three dances were performed – Flattening of the Grass (for the campsite), The Story of the Battle, and The Winged Crow – with movements that clearly depicted the differences in the themes. Audience members were invited to join in The Snake Dance that wound its way around the entire room. I have photos and videos of most of it, but unfortunately have run out of room to share all of them.

