



2023 Fall Newsletter

Superior Diocese

Council of Catholic Women

Wishing all a Blessed Thanksgiving!



Bridgette Adler

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EARLY CHILDHOOD FAITH
FORMATION COORDINATOR
ST ROSE OF LIMA

President's Message

The past several months have been filled with rewarding moments of connection with Catholic women across the Diocese and the nation. We were blessed with a wonderful and inspiring Superior Diocese Convention and board meeting in June. Thank you again to all who attended and for the hard work and effort of those who helped plan and implement the event! The feedback from our evaluation form was overall very positive. I'm glad for the opportunity to learn and grow as we embark on planning next year's 74th annual convention.

I attended the 2023 NCCW Convention in Salt Lake City, August 23-26. An amendment to support the USCCB's Eucharistic Revival through the promotion of Eucharistic adoration was passed and information about starting a Junior Council was shared. Please contact me directly for further information if you are interested in pursuing either endeavors on the parish or deanery level (bridgetteadler@gmail.com, 612-396-4574).

Please "Save the Date" for our next convention: Thursday June 27 and June 28, 2024. Our theme will be "Sewing Abundant Seeds". I'm gathering information on potential locations and speakers for our event. I'm so excited to prepare an enriching and worthwhile gathering for the Catholic women of our diocese!

My prayers go out to each of you for a fruitful Advent and a wonderful upcoming holiday season. May God continue to bless our efforts to transform the world through prayer, leadership and service.



Fr. Jim Brinkman
SDCCW Moderator

Spiritual Advisor's Message

Not Hidden From Us

So many of the most important things in our lives are often hidden from view, but so very present. In the darkest night, the sun continues to shine brightly and provides an atmosphere in which we can live and flourish. How often Christ is hidden, but more real than the sun itself, which would not exist were it not for Him.

St. John says, "Through him, all things came to be, not one thing had it's being but through Him." Thomas Merton, in one of his poems, cries out to Christ, "Oh hidden beauty who speaks everywhere."

St. Paul says, "In Him we live and move and have our being."

Christ surrounds us like the air we breath. His presence is in the beauty of a shinning Christmas tree. He is present in the words and melody of a beautiful Christmas carol.

He is even more present in the loving heart of every person we see and meet and with whom we live.

Each of us, in his or her own way, can help make Christ visible to others. It may be the effective way of good example in the Christmas gift we purchase or in the card we send. We need to recognize the good God placed in us - our gifts, our talents and the good we have accomplished as God's instruments. During this coming season of Advent and Christmas, let us in a special way seek to find Christ as we look into our hearts, we begin there and move out into the hidden mysteries of each others' lives.



Jane Schiszik
Province Director



Province Director's Message

*Dear Council Sisters of the Superior Diocesan
Council of Catholic Women,*

Fall greetings to all of you. Hopefully, many of you were able to enjoy the beautiful fall colors and landscapes. God creates beautiful masterpieces every day!

Now is the time for many ladies 'groups to gather and plan their activities for the year. One of the plans should include the NCCW Resolution(s) voted upon at the NCCW Convention. These Resolutions are timely and address issues that are important to Catholic women in the parishes, and deaneries in the Diocese of Superior.

The following is the NCCW Resolution adopted on August 25, 2023, at the Convention Business Meeting of the National Council of Catholic Women.

Title: Belief in the Real Presence

Purpose: To foster increased understanding of the Church's teaching on Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist:

Whereas, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, "The Eucharist is the 'source and summit of the Christian life,'" (CCC1324)

Whereas, the Bishops of the United States are calling for a three-year Eucharistic Revival, *My Flesh for the Life of the World*, at all levels of the Church in our country, and

Whereas, a personal encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist brings healing, grace, and strength for us as missionary disciples,

Resolved, that members reflect on Church teaching by utilizing the NCCW Spirituality Commission study guide "Woman of the Eucharist" and promote this study which corresponds to the 6th chapter of the Encyclical letter *On the Eucharist in Its Relationship to the Church* and sponsor this study at the parish level.

Resolved, that NCCW affiliates would supplement this study by encouraging member-led participation in frequent and regular Eucharistic Adoration that may include reciting the Rosary, Chaplet, or other devotions.

Resolved, that each NCCW Province be encouraged to and make every effort to send a representative to the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, July 2024.

Ideas for including this Resolution in your Council's activities:

- Support your Priest and assist with your parish's initiative on helping others understand the Church's teachings on Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist.
- Read and study Bishop Power's Pastoral Letter on Evangelization.
- Present and promote the NCCW Spirituality Study Guide to your ladies' group.
- Encourage frequent and regular Eucharist Adoration, praying the Rosary, Chaplet, or other devotions.
- Check the website for the Diocese of Superior – there are many resources listed on the Eucharistic Revival.

By the time many of you receive this newsletter it will be closer to Thanksgiving. May you take time to reflect on the many good things God has brought into your lives. May you be surrounded with God's love and healing graces. May this season be a time to share our love and share our stories of the good news of our Councils and remember the many friendships we have made along the way.

I am thankful for the women in the Diocese of Superior and the Province of Milwaukee for their many wonderful acts of service and kindness done for others in their homes, schools, parishes, and communities!

*May the Lord Bless You and Keep You!
Numbers 6:24*

NOTES FROM THE SDCCW TREASURER

Greetings and blessings to all of you. Is it really November already? My summer and fall all blended into one and here we are in the month of All Saints, All Souls, and Thanksgiving. I hope you had a great summer.

We want to let all of you know that now that it is November, it is again time to renew affiliations with deaneries and the Superior Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. This past year the SDCCW board reinstated the Diocesan affiliation dues of \$20.00. We encourage all parish to submit dues by December 15, 2023. Forms will be sent to as many parishes as we have in our contact list. We ask that you complete the form with current information and return by the due date.

Paying dues in an organization establishes ownership; we want you to know you have a voice in our SDCCW. It is especially important that we have your parish/cluster contact information in order for us to keep you informed of the activities and send information on our annual convention in a timely manner.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and thank you for being part of SDCCW.

Lucille Brandner, SDCCW Treasurer

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Spirituality

I have a reading recommendation as my report. The book, THIS IS MY BODY by Bishop Robert Barron.

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I am using this book as my Adoration spiritual reading every Wednesday. Coming to understand all relationships need refreshing, and that goes for the Eucharist. Over the years relationships take on their own identity, understanding and may become stagnant, commonplace, or ordinary.

Our understanding and appreciation of the Eucharist relationship needs emotional and spiritual refreshing and updating. As I read the book, THIS IS MY BODY by Bishop Robert Barron, I have come to a new understanding of the dynamics of the Eucharist and the power contained for my everyday journey.



Lucille Brandner
Treasurer

Commissions

Rosalie Bryan
Spirituality Commission

Committees

Evie Clarkson
Respect Life Chair



Mary Werner
Scholarship Chair

This Jesus is no ordinary man, this Communion is no ordinary meal, and this Eucharistic Feast is no ordinary feast. I urge you to read this book during the Advent season. Read it not as any book, but slowly and reflectively. Open yourself to the refreshed relationship with the Eucharist.

Respect Life

To respect life is to love. If we love, we will continue to pray for all life at all stages. A human person cannot be reduced to a problem to be "solved" or "explained". What matters is how we live our lives and how that points to love.

John Paul II called us to be a "people of life and for life". At the PRO-LIFE Action Campaign of the Catholic Church in the U.S., People of Life serve the church's mission to proclaim that each human life is a precious gift from God and works to build a culture that respects and protects all human life, especially unborn children and their mothers. We are the people of life because God, in His unconditional love has given us the Gospel of Life, and we are called to act accordingly.

PRAYER FOR REVERENCE OF LIFE EXPRESSES THE CORE VALUES OF RESPECT LIFE OFFICE

For life in the womb, coming from YOUR creative power,
For life of children, making us glad with their freshness and promise,
For the life of young people, hoping for a better world,
For the life of people who are disabled, teaching us that every life has value,
For the life of the elderly, witnessing to the ageless, value of patience and wisdom,
Like Blessed Mary, may we always say "yes" to YOUR gift. May we defend it and promote it from conception to its natural end, and bring us at last "O Father" to the fullness of eternal life in Jesus Christ or Lord. Amen

Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee received 6 applications for the 2023 Mary Jane Morancyk Hennessy Scholarship for \$1000.00.

The Committee selected the following:

Sarah Faude, Holy Rosary, Medford

Rachel Mazourek, St Joseph, Rice Lake

Sophie Hauser, St. Anthony de Padua, Tony

Elly Bjork, St. Bridget, River Falls

Deaneries

Pam Cira
East Deanery Contact

Therese Detmer
North Deanery Contact

Lenore Krajewski
Immediate Past President

Katie Wadal
Southwest Deanery President

All Scholarship funds have been allocated to the recipients' Universities. The scholarship application will be updated with the 2024 deadline of April 15 and the new letterhead.

Eastern Deanery

I have not had a chance to contact most of the Eastern Deanery parishes but will be getting on top of this before late November. I am going to get an email list of contacts for any women's groups in those parishes since I don't know which ones have women's councils or altar societies or whatever. Hopefully we can establish a communication system and I can fill them in on what the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women is involved in. I do know the parishes that I need to contact but have been on a pilgrimage since mid-September so I am sorry that I have so little to report.

North Deanery

I sent thank you notes to all groups from all deaneries who contributed baskets to the annual SDCCW convention. I expressed our gratitude for their efforts and indicated that the significant amount of money raised was earmarked for important and worthwhile causes and projects.

South Central Deanery

Our South Central Deanery installed new Officers last Spring. Our Fall Board and Open Meetings were held last week at St. Stanislaus in Lublin, with Fr. Patrick McConnell as the featured speaker. His topic was Eucharistic Revival and the events coming up, with study guides and suggestions available to take with us.

Southwest Deanery

We planned and gathered for a wonderful half-day retreat in May entitled "Feasting with the Saints." Many ladies from around the diocese attended and brought a potluck item to share for lunch, along with providing the recipe which was then shared with the attendees via email in ebook form. We had discussions about the many Saints centered around food, drink or helping us around the kitchen; and also discussed who our Confirmation Saints was or what Saints we connect with and why. We ended our gathering with Mass. Thank you to all the CCW ladies in Balsam Lake and the Deanery Board that assisted with the prep, planning, setup and cleanup of our half day retreat last May. We are very thankful, grateful, and blessed. We are currently in the early planning stages for another gathering late this year.

