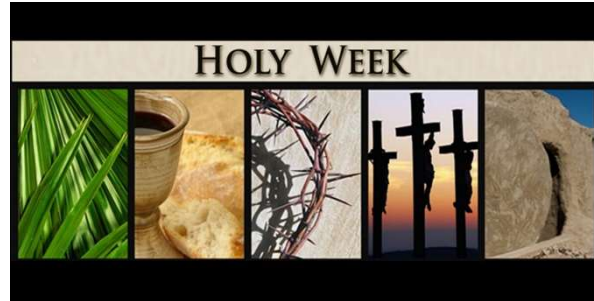




2023 Spring Newsletter

Superior Diocese

Council of Catholic Women



Holy Week and EASTER Blessings!



Gail Helmert – President

President's Message

Welcome to Spring!

Spring tends to awaken newness all around us with the Season of Lent offering a new awakening to our spirit and it's growth. Let us thank our priests for the many opportunities for us to be washed clean through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. For the forgiveness that only our Lord can give. Lenten sacrifices and goals can be sustained, as well as an ongoing transformation into devoted disciples.

Our council has many challenges and tasks before us for the year of 2022-2023. We held the election for the office of Province Director consisting of three candidates considered and admired for lives given to serving in ways that conform with the council mission statement and guidelines of the Church.

It took time to fill each of the offices for the SDCCW Board, Committees and Commissions. Our roster of contacts including the national, province, diocesan, deanery and parish levels is just one of needed changes. We are revising the Guidance and Resource Manual to make the wording more understandable and clarify intended meaning to the many sections that lay out the rules, procedures and descriptions that formulate our councils. Our commissioners and committee chairs provide pertinent input for our knowledge and spiritual growth.

We learned from our Respect Life Commissioner that an open hand with thumb folded across the palm alerts you that the individual is in trouble, needing help.

We will continue to sponsor some charities with monetary contributions to help meet their needs. One woman will be honored as the recipient of the Pax Christi Award from a group of five finalists. For the second year, ten young women of our diocese will be recognized for their committed faith

with the Golden Rose Award.

Mr. Hennessy makes it possible with his contribution for four post high school scholars to continue their education.

The June 19 and 20, 2023 convention theme is "Preparing for the Journey Home." This may seem unusual for a convention but are we not here "to know him, love him and serve Him in this life and be happy with Him in the next?" Every minute, every breath needs to have that goal, that theme in our minds and hearts lived out in our daily lives. We can become holy as He is holy, "for nothing is impossible with God."

The love, generosity and kindness at the heart of our women is proved out in the reception we received from the ladies of Ss. Peter & Paul Parish in Weyerhaeuser with the beautiful reception at our deanery meeting in February. St. Joseph's CCW stepped up to host and assist us in the many duties necessary to plan the 2023 convention and St. Peter's CCW of Winter hosted our diocesan board Feb. 14, 2023 at Radisson. These parish women are what epitomizes women of God, living out their lives in His service. They have learned the value of "treating others as you would like to be treated." May the giving of self, which is evident, in the women of CCW throughout Wisconsin continue to help us grow in virtue and increase our membership.

Love & Prayers,

Gail Helmert, SDCCW President

Immediate Past-President's Message

SDCCW Board Members Elect Province Director – Elect

Every ten years members of the SDCCW (Superior Diocesan Council of Catholic Women) Board have an election of qualified candidates vying for the position of Province Director – Elect of the Province of Milwaukee.

This year's nominees included Past SDCCW Presidents Barbara Gagliardi, Karen Firnstahl, and Jane Schiszik.

Dossiers of each nominee's qualifications were distributed to the Board and an election was held at the Winter SDCCW Board Meeting Feb. 14, 2023, at Radisson, WI. Jane Schiszik was elected to represent the SDCCW.

Jane is a member of the Holy Rosary Parish in Medford and active both in the parish and in the Holy Rosary Council of Catholic Women. She is somewhat familiar with the duties of the Province Director as she has served both on the Province Board and the National Council of Catholic Women's Board of Directors. Jane will be attending the Province Meeting in Plover, WI, in July 2023, and will be starting her orientation to learn all this position encompasses. She will be installed as the 2023 - 2025 Province Director of the Province of Milwaukee at the NCCW (National Council of Catholic Women) Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, August 24 – 26, 2023.

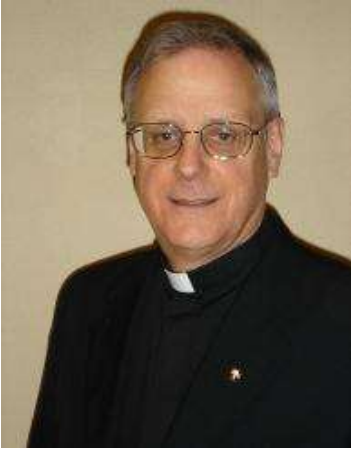
She welcomes the challenges and opportunities of this new position and is looking forward to working more closely with her Council Sisters in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, and Diocesan Councils of Green Bay, La Crosse, and Madison.

- Jane Schiszik, Immediate Past SDCCW President & Province Director-Elect



Jane Schiszik – Immediate Past-President
Province Director-Elect

Spiritual Advisor's Message



Fr. Jim Brinkman - Moderator

Not Of This World

Isn't it amazing? "What?", you ask. Isn't it amazing that we are called to be Catholic Christians in this day and age? Look around you. Consumerism, "me-ism", "this-ism", or "that-ism" - all around us we are confronted with challenges to our faith and the way we live.

Yet, Jesus, in St. John's gospel, tells his disciples - and us, that we should be in the world, but not of the world. What could that mean? Jesus tells us that we are to be "consecrated by means of truth." (John 17:17) In St. John's gospel "truth" is equated with divinity. In other words, we are "made holy by God's design" or God's way. If we are to be holy, we are to be set apart and keep Jesus' message alive in our hearts.

There was a poor man who complained loudly that the world had been unfair. "Most of those who are rich did nothing to gain their wealth," he cried to anyone who would listen. "They inherit their money from their parents." One day as the man walked home after expressing his bitter feelings to a crowd at the town square, Fortune appeared before him and said, "I have decided to provide you with wealth. Hold out your purse, and I will fill it with gold coins. There is one condition. If any of the gold falls out of the purse onto the ground, everything I gave you will become dust. Be careful. I see that your purse is old; do not overload it. The poor man was overjoyed. He opened the strings of his purse and watched as Fortune began to pour a stream of golden coins into it. The wallet soon became heavy. "Is that enough?" Fortune asked. "Not yet," the man cried. Fortune poured several more coins, so that the purse was filled. "Shall I stop?" "Not yet, just a few more." But at that moment the purse split apart, the gold coins fell to the ground, and the treasure turned to dust. Fortune disappeared and the man was left with an empty torn wallet.

As we journey this day in the world, may each of us truly seek to know and serve the Lord. May we know that to be "in the world" means living through the power of the Holy Spirit and spreading the kingdom of the risen Jesus. Jesus has risen, he has risen indeed!

Prayers and blessings to all in this Easter season.

Fr. Jim Brinkman, Spiritual Advisor

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.



Bridgette Adler – President-Elect

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 Take the challenge with me one word, one thought, at a time. Can we be honest with ourselves? (don’t use honesty with yourself as a means to put yourself down, but as a challenge).

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? This could be our time to begin an “honesty challenge”.

I believe our worship, relationships, singing and speaking voice, quiet times and our 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. Our reflections on scripture will be richer. I see this truth (being honest) as a reciprocal responsibility.

[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



Jane Schiszik - Leadership



Karen Firnstahl - Service

Committees

Leadership

ATTENTION INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS: Voting Begins April 3, 2023

Hopefully by now, many of you have received and read the March issue of the Catholic Woman magazine. Several articles in the magazine introduce the candidates running for the National Council of Catholic Women officer positions of president-elect and secretary and candidates seeking a position on the Nominating Committee.

Individual Members need to educate themselves about the candidate's and their positions for those seeking an office. Whether the election involves an organization such as the National Council of Catholic Women or the election of the next judge to serve on the Supreme Court. The fact remains the same – voters need to become informed! Knowing the candidate's views and what they represent is important because your vote will help determine the focus and direction of the organization you're voting for.

The Leadership Commission has an important role to encourage and help you understand the importance of becoming an informed voter and educating yourself about the candidates running for office. As a reminder, voting begins Monday, April 3, 2023, and closes Monday, May 1st, 2023. Individual Members are eligible to vote if their membership is current, that is not expired. Voting will be done by electronic voting and Individual Members will be contacted by NCCW via email and given a link for voting. If the Individual Members do not have email access, a ballot will be mailed to the member. *Remember To **Vote Because Your Vote Counts!***

-Leadership Commission Chair Jane Schiszik

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.

Respect Life - Evie Clarkson

Another season has gone and Spring has arrived. Leave behind the old and welcome the "Spring of Life", to enjoy our lives every day. Thank God for the beauty of nature.

As a gift from God, every human life is sacred from conception to natural death. The life and dignity of every person must be respected and protected at every stage and in every condition. The "Right to Life" is the first and foremost fundamental principle of human rights that leads Catholics to actively work for a world of greater respect for human life and a greater commitment to justice and peace. Every person has an inherent and immeasurable worth and dignity.

LIFE ISSUES -- ABORTION - ASSISTED SUICIDE AND EUTHANASIA - BIOETHICAL ISSUES - CAPITAL PUNISHMENT - END OF LIFE - HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND RACISM!!!

Heavenly Father, the beauty and dignity of human life was the crowning of Your creation.

Pax Christi - Rosalie Bryan and Jane Schiszik, Co-Chairs

UPDATE ON THE PAX CHRISTI AWARD

Pax Christi Co-chairs Rosalie Bryan and Jane Schiszik are pleased to announce 14 nominations have been received for the 2023 Pax Christi Award. Nominations have been received from parishes in the East, North Central, South Central and Southwest Deaneries. This is very exciting because nominations have been received from several parishes submitting a nominee for the first time. Fourteen nominations are the most nominations submitted for this award in the last five years!

The Pax Christi Award recognizes and honors Catholic Women who are dedicated to service in their respective parishes and community. The award recipient will be announced by Bishop Powers at the **73rd SDCCW Annual Convention in Rice Lake, WI., June 20th, 2023.**

Golden Rose Award – Bridgette Adler

Scholarship – Mary Werner

2022 Mary Jane Moranczyk Hennessy Scholarship Recipients' Updates



Mary Werner - Scholarship

Olivia Ohnstad

This year has been going well in regards to academics, working for Campus Ministry, and in my social life too. I had tough fall semester due to my course load and expected 15hrs a week for Peer Ministry, but I came out with being on the Dean's List again and make some really awesome connections with my peers and newcomers to campus.

In the Spring semester, I am still working as a Peer Minister. A glimpse of that is this week is: I hosted a Bible study **Monday** with a group of upperclassmen woman, had an event called Triple G with snacks and just social time for residents in a freshman dorm hall, and then **Thursday**, a couple of the Peer ministers are teaming up to have a game night for freshman! Always busy doing something to make intentional encounters with people. It was fun this past week too with Tommie Catholic (an event that is student run on campus) that I organized and emceed for Valentines Day topic with a Theology Professor on the topic of God's love for us! Around 60 students attended which is about an average attendance for Tommie Catholic events.

In regards to this coming summer, I will be working for a company called TKDA in St.Paul as an intern in the facilities section of the company working on designs. I hope this gives me a better view into where I am supposed to go with the Civil Engineering degree I am working towards.

Morgan Severt

I am student teaching 4th grade at Mountain Bay Elementary School in Weston. I am proud to say that I made the Dean's list for the Fall Semester.

Savannah Brandt

Things are going great! I just finished up last semester with a GPA of 3.76 and made the Dean's List. I am about 3 weeks into the new semester. I'm taking 6 new classes (Curriculum design in career and Technical Education, Environmental Education, Introduction to Horticulture, Supervision of work experience and youth organizations, Welding and Metal Manufacturing, and Woodworking, Electrical and Plumbing).

My favorite class so far this semester would be Welding and Metal Manufacturing, and Woodworking, Electrical and Plumbing. These two classes are very hands-on and I've learned so much. Before going into my welding class, I had no idea how to do it but now I'm successfully making beads, butt, lap and T-welds. In the woodworking class I am currently building a bird house and am having a lot of fun. I am still a part of the Inspiring Educators Club and Alpha Tau Alpha, and am working at Safety and Respect Driving School 4-5 days a week.



Sr. Cecelia Fandel, OSM - Sisters Liaison

Legislative

From Gayle Johnson –

Deaneries



Karen Firstahl – President SCDCCW

Sisters Forum

The sisters held their first meeting since before co-vid. It was done via ZOOM. There are 52 sisters, from ten different congregations, living and serving in the Superior Diocese. Most are retired, and active.

The next gathering will be in person, held at St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Kennan. We hope to meet with Bishop Powers, and also celebrate some of the sisters' anniversaries. We are grateful that the CCW ladies will serve the meal.

Please click this link, then enlarge to read the document.

file:///C:/Users/kraje/OneDrive/Documents/Documents/Document_2023-04-06_150621%20farm%20bill.pdf

South Central - Karen Firstahl, President

As president of the Deanery, we are not having a spring meeting because Lenore had one in February. If you would like a workshop at the fall meeting let me know. We could make sleeping bags for the homeless out of potato chip bags, so save them, and bring shipping tape along. If not, I will do a craft or a speaker. Let me know what you want to do.

We still have to be on the look-out for sex trafficking. It is in this area, as well as in the big cities.

Please try and send ladies from your parish to the convention in Rice Lake Please try to send a new lady that has never been to one. Maybe your parish can pay her way. Also to National Convention. Sorry I can't go to National this year - I have something going on that weekend. I hope everyone that goes enjoys and has a good time.

Superior Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

73rd Annual Convention

“Preparing for the Journey Home”

June 19 & 20, 2023

St. Joseph Parish, 111 W. Marshall St., Rice Lake, WI

June 19 Agenda - Open Board Meeting

- 2:00 Call to Order, Gail Helmert
Opening Prayer, OLG, Pledge: Rosalie Bryan: Roll Call: Jane Schizik
- 3:00 Golden Rose Award Program Description: Bridgette Adler
Golden Rose Recipient Introductions & Awards
Recipients' Sharing
- 3:30 Mary Jane Moranczyk Hennessy Scholarship Program Description: Mary Werner
Scholarship Award Presentations
Scholarship Recipients' Sharing
- 4:00 Break
- 5:00 Banquet**
- 6:30 Social

June 20 Agenda – Open Meeting

- 8:00 Registration & Hospitality
- 8:45 Welcome & Introductions, Opening Prayer: Rosalee Bryan
President's Message: Gail Helmert
- 9:00 Keynote Speaker:** Marge Fenelon
- 10:00 Break, Visit Displays, Silent Auction & Basket Raffle
- 10:30 NCCW President's Message: Patricia Voorhes
- 10:45 Province Director's Message: Lu Miller
- 11:00 Mass:** Bishop Powers, Fr. Jim Brinkman, Fr. Ed Anderson, Fr. Adam Laski
Music Ministry: Diocesan Chorale
Pax Christi Finalists & Award Presentation
Installation of Treasurer & Secretary
- 12:30 Lunch**
- 1:30 Bishop James Powers' Message
- 2:00 Spiritual Advisor Fr. Jim Brickman's Message
- 2:15 Closing Auction Bids & Basket Raffle
- 2:30 Winners Announced
- 2:40 Closing Remarks, Invitation to Join CCW Councils & 2024 Convention: Pres. Gail Helmert
Closing Prayer: Rosalie Bryan

