



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 Spring Newsletter

Superior Diocese

Council of Catholic Women

A Model of His Servant Heart

St. Rita's Altar Society

A dedicated group of 10 - 12 women, comprising the St. Rita's Altar Society, at St. Rita's Parish in Presque Isle, have been gathering to keep the spirit of fellowship and community service alive amidst a year of change and challenges. Mary Werner, SDCCW secretary, and I had the privilege of meeting three members of this group in December of 2020.

Nellie Hemming, the current president of St. Rita's Altar Society, credits the success of their ladies' group to the Marge Thoma family, who family has served in many capacities in the church along with the leadership of Past President Denise Jirikowicz.

This group focuses on community, service, and love. They add their own personal touches as a way of 'giving back' and 'making sure everyone is taken care of and staying healthy' in the parish and surrounding community. These ladies are a faith-based group whose goal is to reach out to and comfort those who are lonely or who do not have anyone.

These ladies meet monthly and keep themselves busy with varied activities: Easter activities usually equate with hosting a free meal for the community, but due to COVID this event will not be happening this year. They help with 3 blood drives a year at their parish and sponsor a child from India through the Unbound Program. They share their hospitality by furnishing coffee and donuts the 1st Sunday of every month and on holiday weekends. Their largest fund raiser is their Annual Spaghetti Dinner the second Saturday in August. This event has been happening for the past 20 years which includes a raffle and many donations from the community. They participate in the Baby Bottle Campaign along with having a baby shower to collect baby items in October, for the New Beginnings Crisis Pregnancy Center. At Halloween, these ladies can be found 'trick or treating' in their

neighborhoods collecting food for the food pantry, after which they treat the community to a meal. In December, you can hear these women along with a few male voices Christmas caroling and not only sharing their music, but distributing cookies to the elderly and shut-ins, on their Cookie Walk.

The funds raised from their activities has helped them complete one of their largest projects, to have the interior of their church repainted and to have new carpeting installed, which is to be happening in May of 2021.

So, if you are ever in the Presque Isle area, do stop at St. Rita's Parish and meet these women, doing what Jesus has asked us to do, sharing their time and talents out of love for God and others.



A few members of St. Rita's Altar Society, pictured from left to right: Colleen Gorrilla, Nellie Hemming - President of St. Rita's Altar Society and Judy Hagen.

President's Message –

Greetings from your SDCCW President

May God bless you as you continue your Lenten journey. My hope is that you all develop a deeper and renewed personal relationship with God – much like a sunrise and the dawning of a new day, which brings the chance to witness and experience the love God has for us.

The SDCCW (Superior Diocesan Council of Catholic Women) Board Meeting was held in-person and virtually on Feb. 23, 2021, highlights included: preceding the meeting, the Board, united in



Jane Schiszik
SDCCW President

praying A Rosary for Priests – the Sorrowful Mysteries; Fr. Jim Brinkman, Spiritual Advisor, was honored and presented with a NCCW Spiritual Advisor’s Pin; a 3 year budget was approved; the SDCCW Guidance and Resource Manual is being updated to include the Pax Christi and Scholarship Guidelines; more outreach is planned with the Catholic schools in the diocese; the SDCCW brochure is being updated to reflect NCCW’s address change and 100 brochures are being printed; a subcommittee was formed to develop plans to promote Prayer for Priests and the Nominating Committee will be seeking qualified individuals to serve as Diocesan Treasurer.

More exciting news: **SAVE THE DATE: *The SDCCW Annual Convention is scheduled Thursday, August 5, 2021! More details will be forth coming.*** The SDCCW website will be getting a new face lift! The Board approved a service project with the Glenmary Sisters, Catholic missionaries. The project involves outreach to the poor and less fortunate people in the Appalachia mountains and rural areas of Eastern and Western Kentucky and the bootheel of Missouri. 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.

Alleluia, Alleluia! May your Easter Joy Awaken New Beginnings in You!

Jane Schiszik, SDCCW President

SDCCW Annual Convention



We are planning the 2021 convention to be in-person with a virtual option.

On **Thursday, August 5**, we’ll gather at Holy Rosary in Medford for a day of renewal and to catch up with our CCW sisters! Speaker and author Rose Folsom will help us discover “How to Harvest to Garden of Your Soul” in her lively keynote (you’ll go home with tips that will increase your gratitude, prayer, and

patience). After Holy Mass and lunch, we'll have the pleasure of hearing from Most Reverend James Patrick Powers.



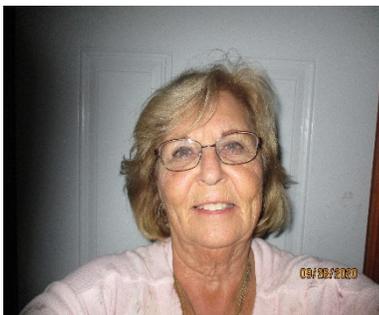
Depending on the situation, in-person seating may be limited, so to make sure your place is saved. More details to follow!

President - Elect's Message

Jane Schiszik, President, has set a list of goals for us to which I am offering input to see them through. One of interest to me is to develop the tri-level poster board that lays out who we are, how we serve and how we help women to grow in their journey as we become more Christ like. In the area of growth, I have begun to reach out to ladies from area parishes to establish women's councils within their parishes who at this point do not have active councils. The council will submit the birthdates and ordination dates for all priests and seminarians of the diocese as a way to acknowledge their service in ministry. It is my hope to have these dates appear in the printing of the Catholic Herald as it corresponds with the dates of the priest's birth date and ordination.

I would like to offer my reflection on becoming part of SDCCW. I call it, **"What Have I Done?"**

I have been pondering on all officers and commissioners present and past who have gone before me in service to SDCCW. In the position of president-elect, I admit I find myself asking, "What have I done?" "The expanse of the outreach of the president's ministry, the responsibility upon the president's shoulders to be a spiritual example of faith and leadership looms heavy. She is the one who must look at the needs of her own deanery as well as those throughout the diocese. Whatever made me think I could



Gail Helmert
President-Elect

fulfill all the requirements and requests of the president's office even with those who encouraged me to step forward and say "Yes?"

Did Mary ever ask herself, "What have I done?" The "yes" is significant of total surrender to the will of God. Just as Samuel said, "Here I am, Lord. I have come to do your will," not knowing fully what he had committed himself to. That brings me to the free will God gives us to choose whether or not to follow him as we confess, "Jesus, I trust in you."

Let this time of Lent be a time of reflection on where we have been and where is God asking us to go. Where have we been neglectful, lax or who have we overlooked in their need? Let this Lenten season be our opportunity to recommit ourselves fully to the Lord, our God. Let us rejoice in the chance we have to serve in ways only known to God. May we look for new ways to praise and worship our Savior? This year let us be open to getting to know St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus.

I may not lead in the way or style of those before me, but with the support and help of my Christian sisters, my personal patron St. Therese of Lisieux, who made great strides in her "Little Way," and having been installed under the protection and guidance of Our Lady of Grace, I hope in two years to meet the challenge.

Padre Pio offers his favorite prayer to Our Lady of Grace. It is as follows:

O my mother, refuge of poor sinners, consolation of the afflicted, hope of those who despair and most powerful help of Christians, I place all my confidence in you, being sure that you will obtain for me from Jesus, the grace which I so much desire, if it is for the good of my soul. Hail Mary...

Be women of strength and steadfast faith!

Love & Prayers,

Gail Helmert, President-Elect

Spiritual Advisor's Message

Fr. Jim Brinkman
Spiritual Advisor



Commissions and Committees



Lucille Brandner
Co-Leadership Commission

The Resurrection is God's Seal of Authenticity of the Truth of Jesus Christ.

There is something in our human nature which seeks truth. We want what we are taught to be valid; we want our beliefs affirmed. We want to be able to believe in something and someone. They must be solid, dependable and trustworthy. Truth is so important to us because with a lie there is nothing genuine, nothing sincere, and nothing believable. Lies destroy. But truth becomes ultimately important when we are talking about God, about salvation and about faith. We are dealing with our very spirits. There can be no taking a chance on following a lie, for that would cost us the ultimate destruction of who we are as a person. The glory of today is that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the seal of authenticity of the truth of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Son of God who is now raised in glory from death.

A blessed Easter to you and your families.

Leadership – Lucille Brandner, Jan Jubert

The inability to meet due to precautions of the pandemic has made it difficult to stay in touch. It is so important for all of us to keep contact with our parish Council of Catholic Women groups. Zoom has been a way for us to keep in contact but nothing can replace the personal interaction.

It is essential that we on the diocesan board keep all members updated on current issues and programs of our National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW). The NCCW Leadership Commission is currently updating a Leadership Commission Manual that will soon be available.

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. Ideally we belong to NCCW as Individual members thereby receiving frequent updates from the NCCW president, participate in the monthly rosary call, and receive the quarterly Catholic Woman magazine.

As of now things are looking good for having our SDCCW convention as well as the NCCW's convention to celebrate the 101st birthday. More news will follow.

Remember Earth Day April 22nd, reuse and recycle. Caring for our creation is for all of us. Consider having your parish CCW group adopt a section of highway and have a cleaning 'work bee'.

Respect Life



Patti McCormick
Respect Life

WHAT IS PERSONHOOD?

Personhood is legally defining all human beings as "persons." A "person" is a human being who is fully protected under the law; and the legal term "personhood" describes this condition. Once a human being is declared a person, that individual is guaranteed legal protection of endowed rights.

To better understand personhood, we ask the fundamental question of when human life begins. Embryological science is clear that in human sexual reproduction, human life begins at fertilization: the union of an egg and sperm resulting in a unique, genetically distinct human being.

Biology answers the simple question. **Human life begins at conception.**

The follow-up questions: "Is this tiny embryonic human being a 'person' who is guaranteed the right to life?" "Should human beings be protected in law as persons; as citizens with full constitutional protection.

The answer to the question of personhood is a political and legal one.

Once a human being is declared to be a legal person, there can be no exceptions to his or her inalienable right to life; just as there are no exceptions to your right to life. PRO-LIFE Wisconsin (out of Brookdale ,WI) has been working on a Personhood Amendment for several years.

WHY PERSONHOOD?

After forty years of abortion on demand in America, the pro-life movement is losing patience with an incremental legislative approach that simply *manages* the slaughter of our preborn brothers and sisters. Restoring personhood to the preborn child, with respect to the right to life and without exception, is an effort that is gaining momentum across the country.

PERSONHOOD AND SCIENCE?

Human embryologists, the real scientific experts in the area of human development, authoritatively conclude that in sexual reproduction, a human embryo is a human being immediately beginning at fertilization - the fusion of an egg and sperm immediately resulting in a new, genetically distinct human being (zygote). At no other logical or scientifically sound point can we say that human life begins.

PURCHASE YOUR CHOOSE LIFE WISCONSIN PLATE, AND SAVE LIVES FROM ABORTION!

Choose Life license plates have been available to Wisconsin motorists since late October 2017. Pro-Life Wisconsin and Wisconsin Family Council partnered to underwrite all the administrative costs of Choose Life Wisconsin, which allows us to give every penny that comes from the sale of the plates to Wisconsin's incredible pregnancy care centers!

With over 1,500 of these plates on cars in the Badger State, sales have resulted in a total of nearly \$100,000 which has been granted to over twenty-five Wisconsin pregnancy resource centers in a little over two years.

Pax Christi



Katie Zenner

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.

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.

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
Scholarship Chair

Mary Jane Morancyk Hennessy Scholarship

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!

Let's see what last year's recipients are doing:

Saxony Schmittle is employed full-time for the Butternut School District so she is taking one class per semester and has completed 9 out of the 14 that are required. Her current class is on the Psalms and Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament. She plans to complete her studies by the fall of 2022 and I am proud to report she has received "A's" in all her classes. She also hopes to receive an honors award from the Augustine Institute at the completion of her studies.

Jennifer Hill transferred her studies to the University of Mary and has been challenged to read more about the foundations of our faith and the Church. Classes in Philosophy and Theology have been her focus this year, which center on the human person. These classes dive deep into what makes us human, how we relate to one another and why the Church stands by what it teaches. Highlights for Jenny this year include in person classes, studying and relaxing with friends at a new coffee shop in town and discerning more intentionally on her future vocation.

Rachel Halberg also attends University of Mary and reports she is having "a great year." This is her final year and she will continue on with the Doctorate of Physical Therapy program which is offered at the University of Mary. She continues to make the Dean's List and is involved with FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students). Rachel is employed part-time at a nursing home.

Victoria Drost is in her third year at UW – Eau Claire and reports her Professors have been very accommodating with the transition to hybrid classes. Victoria continues to pursue her Marketing major and her courses have covered a variety of topics such as consumer behavior, digital marketing, marketing research, analytic and technology. She thanks the SDCCW for the scholarship and is excited for her future.



Karen Firnstahl
Past-President

Past-President's Message

I have been busy crocheting plastic bags together for sleeping matts for the homeless to sleep on. I have also been putting potato chip bags together for sleeping bags for the homeless. I have been busy this winter doing other projects that I started over the years and never got done.

Hope everyone is staying safe and well from the CoVid. We have gotten both our shots.

Meet Our New Board Members

Hello, I am Lynn Neeck the "soon-to-be-webmaster" for SDCCW.

There have been some glitches with the web page software, which is why I say "soon-to-be". Because of the difficulties encountered while trying to switch administrators on the current website, I have been asked to set up a new SDCCW webpage on Weebly.com . I hope to start putting the web page together by the end of March.

Now a little about myself. I am a member of St Therese of Lisieux in Phillips. My name may sound familiar because I was the SDCCW Treasurer for a few years. Pre-CoVid I was involved in my parish as an Eucharistic Minister, Lay Leader of Prayer for the nursing home, Sacristan, and Confirmation teacher. I also maintain our parish cluster website and Facebook page. I serve as secretary for the parish CCW and had served as treasurer for the South Central Deanery.

I have been married to my husband Howard for 34 years. We have two children, who both serve God. Daughter Chelsea who is an angel and a son Fr. Jordan who was ordained a Norbertine priest 2 years ago.

I am on my 32nd year of being the Price County Treasurer a/k/a "evil tax collector".

Once the new SDCCW website is up and running, I encourage anyone who has information they would like posted to email me at howard@pctcnet.net

Blessings & Peace,

Lynn



Lynn Neeck
Webmaster



Jan Jubert
Co-Leadership Commission

Hi, I'm Jan Jubert from Holy Family Catholic Church in Woodruff WI. I am very interested in serving in the SDCCW and helping women become more interested and active in their roles within the faith, their church, the Diocese, and at regional and national levels. I was born and raised in the area, attending St. Patrick's, Our Lady Queen of the Universe, St. Anthony's and now Holy Family Catholic Church. I have taught religious education at all four parishes. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Stevens Point and my Masters from Superior. I've taught in the Public School System for the 46 years; spending 24 years at various grade levels, 1st through 5th grades; 14 years developing a pre-school program and implementing it, and 8 years being Federal Programs Administrator and Elementary Reading and Curriculum Supervisor. Ralph, my late husband, and I were very involved in Girl Scouting for 32 years in Lac du Flambeau and throughout the northern region of the state within the Birch Trails Girl Scout Council. We also provided a Vacation Bible School Program for Holy Family for six summers. I am currently serving as Secretary on the Parish Council and currently teaching Catechesis of the Good Shepherd to 3-5 year-olds. I have taught Faith Formation at various grade levels at St. Anthony's in Lac du Flambeau, St. Patrick's in Minocqua, and Our Lady Queen of the Universe and now Holy Family in Woodruff. I am active in the OLQU Secular Franciscans, presently serving as Secretary. I regularly attend Catechist trainings and participate in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd training every summer.



Mary Shafer
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 for over 30 years. I am currently the Treasurer of our CCW. 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. I have been married to my husband Tim for 38 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.

Mary Shafer

Deaneries



Ellen Saari
North-Central Deanery
Contact

My name is Ellen Saari and I live in Marengo, WI with my husband. Marengo is about 12 miles south of Ashland, WI. My husband and I are retired and have lived in Marengo for 52 years. We have four adult children and seven grandchildren.

We belong to the St. Anthony church in Highbridge, WI. Our Priest is Father Aloysius Royan Anthony. Father Aloysius has three other parishes that he serves in our cluster, Most Precious Blood in Glidden, Most Holy Rosary in Mellen and St. Anne in Sanborn. Our parish is very small with approximately 40 parishioners. I have been a Eucharist Minister and a Reader. I belong to our St. Anthony Altar Society for 52 years.

My hobbies include sewing, card making knitting, and belong to a quilters group and enjoying my family and camping.

My Faith filled experiences are attending the Koinonia Retreats. My first retreat was in 2000 in Ashland, WI and have attended many over the past 20 years.

South Central Deanery – Lenore Krajewski

SCDCCW has been able to have 2 Board meetings, but we haven't held an Open Meeting all year. I tried to follow Jane's lead and use ZOOM, but we had 'technical difficulties' both times. Be assured that I haven't forgotten all you hard-working members out there! Hopefully we can return to in-person meetings soon. Needless to say, there hasn't been a lot going on in our deanery – many Parishes have been unable to meet.

Stay safe and healthy, and pray for those who are NOT!

Southwest Deanery – Bridgette Adler

Editor's note - I did not receive a report from SWDCCW, but I know they held a successful prayer event in January. Also, congratulations to Bridgette for being the subject of the cover story in the winter issue of NCCW's Catholic Woman.



Bridgette Adler
Southwest Deanery

