

JANUARY

2024

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And LEADERSHIP



Connecting Catholic Women!

Throughout the Diocese of Madison

**A Monthly Newsletter of the Madison Diocesan Council
of Catholic Women (MDCCW)**

Affiliated with the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW)

Connecting Catholic Women throughout the Catholic Diocese of Madison

President's Pen News

Happy New Year to everyone. I hope the Joy of Christmas and the Light of Christ will be with you all year long! As we begin the new year, I hope we resolve to become better Catholics focusing on God's will and not our own (especially me). I look forward to connecting with women across the Diocese as we continue with the "Into the Deep" and how that will play out with CCW's. I hope the current CCW's will reach out to their fellow Pastorate parishes inviting women to join in the Mission of CCW.

In this coming year, I hope women will join me on the MDCCW Convention planning committee (June 18, 2024 at St James Parish in Madison). We will need help with registration, refreshments, decorations, welcoming, liturgy, etc. Please offer your skills to make this a great convention for many who might never have attended a convention!

I hope this coming year, we will focus on the dignity of all people and try to solve issues like human trafficking and more respect for human life at all stages. I just saw commercials giving "red flags" that might be signs of human trafficking to make people more aware. This is all a good start. NCCW, Sisters Against Trafficking are good resources.

As you plan your CCW activity calendars this year, you might look at a plan that Pastorate 19 is doing focusing on 3 women (the Woman at the Well—John 4: 1-31; Mary & Martha—Luke 10: 38-42). I will send you a sample calendar available upon request, but see the descriptions on page two!

See President's Pen News continued on Page Two!



FROM THE PEN
OF LINDA RIPP

President of the Madison
Diocesan Council of
Catholic Women

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VOICE of the SAINTS

Feasts, Memorials and
Solemnities this month!

- Solemnity of Mary,
the Holy Mother of God - 1-1
- St. Basil the Great - 1-2
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton - 1-4
- Epiphany of the Lord - 1-7
- The Baptism of the Lord - 1-8
- St. Anthony, Abbot - 1-17
- Day of Prayer for Legal Protection
of Unborn Children - 1-22
- St. Francis de Sales - 1-24
- The Conversion of St. Paul - 1-25
- Sts Timothy & Titus - 1-26
- St. Angela Marici - 1-27
- St. John Bosco - 1-31

**"Blessed a thousand,
thousand times be God who
governs all and will bring
light out of darkness"**

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

United across the Diocese



A non-profit organization
established to raise awareness
about the sex trafficking in
Wisconsin.

Sex Trafficking is defined as: *"the use of tricks, manipulation or physical force to make a person provide sex in exchange for shelter, protection, money, food, basic needs, love, adventure, gifts and love of family"*.

Sex Trafficking is on the rise right here in Wisconsin, and horrifyingly, our state has become a trafficking 'Corridor'.

5-Stones provides educational training, awareness and prevention handouts, presentations and tangible answers as to what to do for adults and children. They even have billboards along the heavily trafficked highways! Their website offers videos and art geared toward teens that help them see the dangers lurking right in their back yards.

See: www.5-stones.org or Contact 5-Stones-
Fox Valley, P.O. Box 2163, Appleton, WI 54912

United across the Nation



HUMAN TRAFFICKING: Stop Slavery-Become a SHEPHERD

The Catholic Church helps prevent modern-day slavery. You can too with the SHEPHERD program. (SHEPHERD): **Stop Human Trafficking and Exploitation. Protect, Help, Empower, and Restore Dignity.** educates lay and religious leaders about human trafficking from a Catholic perspective, equipping them with needed knowledge and skills to combat forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation at the local level. If you want to respond against modern-day slavery, then SHEPHERD is for you.

Request your online SHEPHERD leader guide or use the SHEPHERD engagement resources found at www.usccb.org/stopslavery or tab to Issues and Action, Topics, Human Trafficking.

The Mission of the NCCW is to Support, Empower, and Educate all Catholic women in Spirituality, Leadership and Service

MDCCW is affiliate of the National Council of Catholic Women which acts through its membership to respond with Gospel values to the needs of the church and society in the modern world. Learn more at www.mdccw.com and www.nccw.org

Mark Your Calendars!

June 7th Priest Ordination & Reception

June 18th MDCCW Convention!

Madison Diocesan Council BOARD of DIRECTORS

President: Linda Ripp

From Pastorate 19

President Elect: Carol Rogers

From Pastorate 4

Secretary: Coreen Marklein

From Pastorate 7

Treasurer: Patty Spragg

From Pastorate 7

Leadership Commission:

Sue Barker From Pastorate 20

Spirituality Commission:

Judy Lyons From Pastorate 14

Service Commission: VACANT

From YOUR Pastorate ?



LEGAL PROTECTION of UNBORN CHILDREN

“A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. Through special initiatives and in daily prayer, may an impassioned plea rise to God, the Creator and lover of life, from every Christian community, from every group and association, from every family and from the heart of every believer.”

Pope Saint John Paul II
Evangelium vitae

President’s Pen News Continued from Page One!

SAMPLE THEME: Dedicate the Year to meet:

1. The WOMAN AT THE WELL: Discover and share the Good News --Leadership
2. MARTHA: Put our faith put into action--Service
3. MARY: Take opportunities to hear the Good News—Spirituality

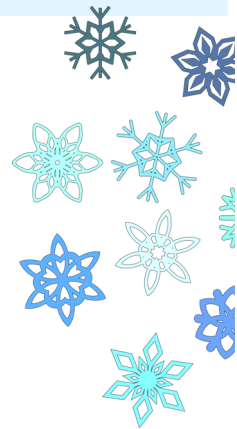
Linda Ripp

President of the Madison Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Jesus is the Light of the World; May We Become a Light of Hope

As Catholic women, we are the light of hope with our local parish efforts to uplift the initiatives of the National Council of Catholic Women.

We are the voice of Catholic women.



SPIRITUALITY Faith Finds a Home at Home

Family life is generally anything but peaceful, and not in a bad way. We are blessed to have our lives full of children's activities, schooling, and responsibilities in the Church and community. With so much happening, it is easy to fall into a frenetic pace that has little to do with a peaceful heart. In this time of making resolutions for the new year, let "praying for peace" be one of them...peace in ourselves, peace in the lives of those around us, peace in the world where violence reigns. Striving to be a peacemaker begins with our own hearts.

By **Julianne Nornberg**
Contributor to the Catholic Herald and member of Pastorate 19

SERVICE Diocesan Focus

PLAN YOUR YEAR OF SERVICE!



LEADERSHIP A New Year to Unify Parish Women

A chance for new ideas.
A time for a change in the direction of your group.
An invitation to women who want to find a group united in making their parish/pastorate better.
2024 gives us the opportunity to do all of these things, and January is a great month to start! If your CCW is active, it may be time to try something different. Invite your pastor to a meeting and ask him what you can do to help. This month you might consider collecting blankets and bedding with your local St. Vincent de Paul Society. If you don't have a CCW, and several women helped with a project, try starting a group with these women. When asked why they have not joined a group, most people will tell you they have never been asked. Don't be afraid to be a Leader!

Submitted by **Sue Barker**,
MDCCW Leadership Commission Chair

SPIRITUALITY RESOURCES

January 22nd: A DAY of PRAYER for the LEGAL PROTECTION of UNBORN CHILDREN A Day of Prayer and Penance

The USCCB has a multitude of resources to help build a Culture of Life.

For more information on Action, Prayer, and Mass, see www.usccb.org/january-22

PASTORATE UPDATES:

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (MDCCW) follows the Diocese to determine how regional boundaries will be made. Please continue to network and reach out to parishes and Pastorates near you to build community for your region.

