

### In This Issue:

#### Page 1

President's Pen News  
Voice of the Saints  
MDCCW & NCCW Focus

#### Page 2

SPIRITUALITY, SERVICE  
And LEADERSHIP

#### Page 3

PASTORATE'S EVENTS!



FROM THE PEN  
OF LINDA RIPP

President of the Madison  
Diocesan Council of  
Catholic Women

CONTACT ME:

PHONE:

(608) 849-7643

EMAIL:

linmdccw@gmail.com

## VOICE of the SAINTS

Feasts, Memorials and  
Solemnities this month!

First Sunday of Advent 12-3  
St. Nicholas, Bishop 12-6  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of  
the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 12-8  
OUR LADY of GUADALUPE 12-12  
ST. LUCY 12-13  
ST. JOHN of the CROSS 12-14  
The NATIVITY of the LORD 12-25  
ST. STEPHEN 12-26  
ST. JOHN 12-27  
The HOLY INNOCENTS 12-28  
The HOLY FAMILY 12-31

**"Those whose hearts are  
pure are temples of the  
Holy Spirit!"**

St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr  
Patroness of the Blind

# Connecting Catholic Women!

Throughout the Diocese of Madison



## President's Pen News

I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving with family and/or friends and that everyone also took time to thank God for all the blessing he has given us. Last Sunday, we celebrated the Feast of Christ the King which focused on the end days and God's Kingdom will come. We need to focus on preparing ourselves even through our struggles and all we see going on in the world.

This Sunday, Dec 3 we start the first Sunday in Advent (This Advent will be the shortest since the 4th Sunday is Dec 24 and Christmas is the next day. Last year was the longest, because Christmas was on a Sunday, so we had 4 complete weeks of Advent). I hope you will take some time to reflect on preparing for God's Kingdom and for the celebration of God's greatest gift to us—His own Son, Jesus Christ who came to die on a cross so we can go to Heaven! May you have a Happy & Joyous Christmas!

See President's Pen News continued on Page Three!

## United across the Diocese Women Helping Women

A Cross Catholic Outreach Mission

The mission is to mobilize the global Catholic Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ.

MDCCW endorses the mission by raising funds to support three projects benefitting children:

- 1) St. Joseph's Nutrition Center in Guatemala;
- 2) Marie Louise Bayle Center in Haiti; and
- 3) Sisters of St. Jean Evangeliste in Haiti.

In Haiti, 40% of all Haitians rely on agriculture - primarily subsistence farming to feed their families. In a difficult political and natural environment, their efforts struggle. With proper tools and training, they are able to adopt methods to increase harvests and better protect their land.

Your gift empowers us to serve the poorest of the poor by channeling life-changing aid through

an international network of dioceses, parishes and Catholic missionaries. This cost-effective approach helps break the cycle of poverty and advance Catholic evangelization.



See [Crosscatholic.org](http://Crosscatholic.org)

## United across the Nation

with the

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF  
CATHOLIC WOMEN.



**LAUDATO SI'  
MOVEMENT**

Catholics for Our Common Home

### Pray and Act:

An Advent in Action for Our Common Home!

Advent is a **time of active waiting**, mobilized by the Word of God, that breaks into the history of men and women of all times. Therefore, it is a **time of conversion and change of mindset**, which allows us to cherish **hope** in the coordinates of space and time.

Download your Advent Calendar to find a weekly liturgical guide to prepare your heart to receive the Christ Child at Christmas.

- Key liturgical dates of Advent and the most important events
- A reflection for each Sunday of Advent
- A weekly question to reflect on
- An action to carry out each week of Advent
- A song to pray at Christmas time

"Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead" James 2:17

<https://laudatosimovement.org/advent2023/>

**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](http://www.mdccw.com) and [www.nccw.org](http://www.nccw.org)

**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 ?

**SPIRITUALITY**

**Faith Finds a Home at Home**

Before every evening meal during Advent, my family gathers around the Advent wreath on our dining room table and sings "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." With all lights off save for the flickering Advent wreath candles, the words in the winter darkness remind us to cling to the hope of the coming of Our Savior. Hope is palpable and all is simplified as we focus intently as a family on the true meaning of this season of preparation. Amid the busy month of December, it's an easy way for us to pause together as a family and pray in a special way for the grace to prepare our hearts for Jesus.

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

**SPIRITUALITY RESOURCES**

*From the National Council of Catholic Women*  
**Prayer of Adoration** Available to print at home  
**Our Eucharistic Journey** A new downloadable E-Book  
**On the Eucharist and its Relationship to the Church** An encyclical study guide companion to Pope Saint John Paul II Encyclical.  
**My Faith Journey**, reflection on discipleship  
**Becoming Peacemakers**, a questionnaire to recognize how we can bring the peace of Jesus into our communities.

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

**NCCW UPDATE  
 FROM OUTGOING PRESIDENT  
 PATRICIA VOORHES**

*Patricia states:*  
 "These Resources, Projects and Programs are only a smidgeon of what you have accomplished in your parishes, deaneries, dioceses and provinces. Your dedication to the NCCW mission and your good works towards accomplishing the mission is inspiring.  
 After two years of leading the National Council of Catholic Women, I turn the gavel to Beth Mahoney for her to lead and forge bonds of unity, common projects and shared dreams. May Our Lady of Good Counsel ask her Divine Son to bless the NCCW and our new leaders. May we recognize the goodness and beauty in each other.

*From the CATHOLIC WOMAN Magazine, vol. 49, 2023 issue*

**SERVICE**

**Diocesan Focus  
 BOX of JOY**

**A BIG Success!**

Cross Catholic Outreach's BOX of JOY project held its final Diocesan-wide collection at St. Martin of Tours in November. Over 684 Boxes were shipped to children in developing countries. Thank you to all the participants and the numerous donations from our parish CCW's! Mark your calendars for next year and obtain your pre-printed boxes in advance!

**LEADERSHIP**

**Unifying Parish Women With Prayer**

Incorporating prayer and prayer groups with the women of your Pastorate gives Leadership a deeper and richer purpose and meaning. Last month I covered the *Seven Sisters Apostolate*, this month I focus on **Widows of Prayer**. Both groups pray for our priests, which can be done at any time or in any place.

The mission of the **Widows of Prayer** is

*"To serve Christ through His Church by praying for priests and others in Church leadership, to be devoted to the Blessed Sacrament and to promote adoration of Christ in the Eucharist."*

The mission of the *Widows of Prayer* began when a group of Catholic women made a decision to devote themselves to a ministry of prayer for priests and others in Church leadership. There is a period of one year to decide if you want to be a part of the group. An application is required, along with a 3-step process, before you profess a private Vow of Consecration.

Women who are not widows may join the group in prayer, but do not go through the official application. Members are expected to spend time each day in some formal prayer and any number of women can belong to the group.

View their website - [www.widowsofprayer.org](http://www.widowsofprayer.org) for more information.

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



**JESUS,  
 THE BREAD OF  
 LIFE**

"May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide us to be Eucharist for one another"

*Father Miguel González,  
 Chairman of the NCCW  
 Spiritual Advisors*

Mark Your Calendars!



UPCOMING EVENTS

FAIRS & FESTIVALS!

Christmas Market, Blessed Sacrament, 2121 Rowley Ave. Madison (PASTORATE 27) Saturday, Dec 2 (9am-4pm) Mound Bread, Handcrafted gifts, local artisans, vendors and luncheon

Cookie Walk, St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish, 608 College St. Lake Mills Saturday, Dec 2 (7am-10am)

Cookie Walk and Snowflake Café, Blessed Trinity/St. Patrick Hall, 521 Fair St. Lodi (Pastorate 18)

BREAKFAST, LUNCH or DINNER!

Breakfast With Santa, St. Aloysius School Gymnasium, 608 Oak Street, Sauk City (PASTORATE 8)

Sunday, Dec. 3, 8am-noon. Breakfast with Santa, sales of Sinsinawa bread, a cookie walk, raffle and book fair.

Your event listing should be here too! Send info to Linda Ripp!

President's Pen News Continued from Page One!

Please save the date for our MDCCW convention which will be June 18, 2024. The location hasn't been finalized yet, but we are looking at a more central site in the Diocese (Madison, Middleton, Cross Plains?). Bishop Hying will be there!

Boxes of Joy: Thank you to everyone who helped make this project a success! 38 cartons with 18 Boxes of Joy each were picked up on Friday, Nov 17 ( 681 filled boxes + 3 with supplies, extras to fill the cartons)!

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.

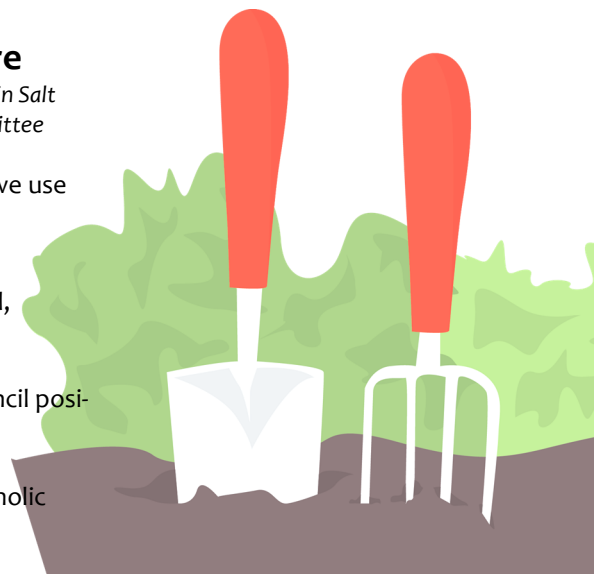
Cultivating Our (CCW) Future

An abbreviated excerpt from the NCCW Convention in Salt Lake City, by Ellen Bachman, NCCW Education Committee Chair.

When our leaders go out of office, how do we use their experience and knowledge?

Ask the outgoing leader:

- 1. for how she would like to remain involved,
2. To mentor a new-comer
3. To start or chair a Past President's group
4. To advance to a diocesan or national council position
5. To accept your gratitude for her service
6. To assist or create a Junior Council of Catholic Women to build the future of CCW!



DIOCESE OF MADISON
Eucharistic Adoration For Vocations
M-F 9-11:45am
Holy Name Heights Oratory Madison
MDCCW CONVENTION !
DIOCESAN-WIDE GATHERING FOR THE COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN
Tuesday, June 18, 2024
Location T.B.D.
Save the Date !

ANNOUNCE

Your Pastorate's News!

This page is dedicated to sharing news from your women's groups, parish, and pastorate for monthly events, activities, special gatherings etc.

Send your news by the 15th of the prior month of your event(s)

To:

Linda Ripp

(608) 849-7643

linmdccw@gmail.com