

MARCH

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SPIRITUALITY, SERVICE
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

With Lent almost 1/2 way over, I hope you are drawing closer to God with a deeper prayer life, almsgiving and reconciliation. I was reading a reflection from Venerable Mary Magdalen of Jesus in the Eucharist in which she said "it isn't necessary for us to be extraordinary to be saints, but the practice of virtue we can all achieve with the help and grace of the Lord". The saints lived ordinary lives in God's ways!

I would like to encourage everyone to support MDCCW by becoming individual members for only \$10 per year. Contact me for more information.

MDCCW is in the process of planning our MDCCW convention. It will be held Tues, June 18th at St James in Madison. If you would like to help on the committee, please contact Linda. We are looking for people to help with fundraising (maybe getting raffle prizes or donations, planning a fund-raising event like a wine-tasting); welcoming committee; committee chair to help with vendors; registration table, etc. We will be electing a President-elect and a Secretary. Please pray over running for one of these rewarding positions.

In the past few weeks, I have received very good information on the opioid/fentanyl epidemic; Walking with Moms and since the Spring Forty Days for Life campaign is now going on, I would like to remind everyone about the humanfromdayone.com website. Please view the great 30-second videos: "I was created..."; "Whales are protected, owls are protected, white tigers are protected, How come **humans aren't** protected?" "Which of these is more precious—a diamond or an unborn human baby?" Don't all children deserve the chance for LIFE? What if your Mother had made **you** one of the

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!

Mar. 7, Sts Perpetua & Felicity

Mar. 17, St. Patrick

Mar. 18, St Cyril of Jerusalem

Mar. 19, St. Joseph



"As I arise today, may the
strength of God pilot me,
the power of God uphold
me, the wisdom of God
guide me"

Saint Patrick:
from the Breastplate

United across the Diocese

Catholic women's voice can be heard in
the Church and the world

United in Purpose

As Catholic Women, united by a common faith and solidarity with the Universal Catholic Church, we are called to be Disciples. Endorsed and encouraged by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, our Diocesan Bishop and guided by the leadership of the National Council of Catholic Women, we share common goals and beliefs.

United in Voice

Inspired by a great multitude of people, organizations, resources and above all, God the Father, His Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit with the Patronage of Our Lady The Blessed Virgin Mary, we speak the same language of love.

How do we get a Council started?

When your Pastorate transitions to a single (larger) parish with various church campuses, it will be considered a single parish. If a Council of Catholic Women affiliation exists or begins, all women in their new (larger) parish are automatically members. See www.mdccw.com

United across the Nation

with the
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
CATHOLIC WOMEN.

NCCW'S RESOLUTIONS

Following the US Bishops' 3 year Eucharistic Revival, NCCW has resolved to promote Belief in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist as 'My Flesh for the Life of the World'. To accomplish this NCCW's Spirituality Commission has prepared a study guide on 'Women of the Eucharist', encourages frequent Eucharistic Adoration, reciting the Rosary, chaplet or other devotions and encourages parishes to send a representative to the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis in July, 2024.

www.NCCW.org



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 will be held at St. James in Madison!

Madison Diocesan Council BOARD of DIRECTORS

President: Linda Ripp
From Pastorate 19
President Elect: Carol Rogers
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From YOUR Pastorate ?



"O righteous Father, the world has not known you, but I have known you; and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Jesus' prayer on the Mount of Olives - John 17: 25-26



President's Pen News Continued from Page One!

62 Million unborn babies since 1972? The **WORLD** would be missing a **UNIQUE** person! If you would like me to forward any information to you, let me know.

MDCCW is planning on doing the "Prayers for Priests" again this year. Since this will be the last newsletter before Easter, May you have a Joyous Easter!

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

SPIRITUALITY Faith Finds a Home at Home

At some point during Lent, our family usually makes an effort to pray St. Josemaria Escriva's Way of the Cross alongside the life-sized Stations of the Cross at Holy Hill, basilica and National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians in Hubertus. As if frozen in time, the cement figures forever depict the earthly agony Our Lord suffered. But as we trudge through the melting snow and ice along the path, my own heart begins to thaw with the realization of how much Our Lord endured... just because He loves me. It's a realization that stays long after the snow melts.

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

SPIRITUALITY RESOURCES HOLY WEEK

The most sacred week in the liturgical year commemorates the last days of Jesus Christ, his death and his resurrection. It begins on Palm Sunday; a day to remember Jesus' triumphant entrance into the city of Jerusalem to shouts of Hosanna! As the week unfolds, the faithful observe Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday in deep reflection on the Last Supper and the Passion of Jesus to emerge Easter Sunday in celebration of the resurrection. Identify when your mass times are held, establish your prayer time and dive deep into the mystery of this most Holy Week!

PASTORATE UPDATES:

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (MDCCW) is awaiting announcements of the chosen parish names of the current numbered pastorates. Make your new connections at the MDCCW Convention in June!



SERVICE Diocesan Focus

LENTEN SERVICE IDEAS

Feed the hungry - Donate to your local food pantry
Clothe the naked - Donate to a clothing center
Shelter the homeless - Help at the Beacon in Madison
Care for the poor - Contribute to Catholic Relief Services or Catholic Charities

LEADERSHIP LENTEN ACTIVITIES

The month of March finds us in the middle of Lent, with Easter celebrated on Sunday the 31st. Are you making this your best Lent ever? Prayer, Fasting and Alms Giving are the rules established by the church to help us get ready for the greatest feast day in the Catholic Church - Easter Sunday. Praying the rosary may be one of the things you are doing; if not, you may want to start now and continue after this season is done. A rosary takes 15 minutes to say and honors our Blessed Mother. Mary told the children at Fatima that a daily rosary will bring peace to the world. Many battles have been won due to the recitation of the rosary. There are also 15 promises to those who say the rosary daily. The Rosary can be part of the First Saturday devotion too.

In November 2022, the National Council of Catholic Women passed a resolution to say a daily rosary and to encourage the First Saturday devotion. Both of these are practices that can be done individually or with your group. If your parish does not have First Saturday devotion, discuss it with your pastor. Organize a group of CCW women to be a part of this and invite all parish women. Hopefully a new member or two may be found, in addition to spending time in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

Submitted by Sue Barker,
MDCCW Leadership Commission Chair