

Message from Our President

Judy Lyons

My Dear Sisters in Christ,

At this moment, I am grateful for

- Your presence and commitment to CCW,
- Hope for moderation of COVID 19,
- Healing for our country after the election,
- Coming of spring,
- Lent, and the approach of Easter.

The past year has been a struggle for each of us, but I am amazed how well folks have adapted and moved forward. You have to love human fortitude and perseverance for which I thank God.

Convention

Thanks to the West Dane Vicariate CCW, plans for the 2021 convention are coming together for June 12. While it will be virtual this year due to the pandemic, we are hopeful that small groups of women can gather in their church or in homes to safely participate in this event.

Please mark your calendar and encourage your affiliate members and nonmembers to attend. It will be worth your while, I guarantee it!!

Membership

One of our ongoing concerns is our membership. The MDCCW Board is the aging and not all memberships are being renewed.

We want to know how we can better serve our Catholic women. I appointed a committee to work on ways to invite more women in our parishes to participate in CCW. The committee will email a short survey to all the women in your parish, members or not. Please encourage them to complete it. Those without internet access will be given another option to complete the

survey. We want to include every woman in the diocese. Your pastors will receive a special letter about this.

Serving with me on the committee are Rosa Ropers, Sue Hurley, Linda Ripp, Carol Brennan, Peggy Huckabee (consultant), Coreen Marklein, Mona Matijevich, and Msg. Duane Moellenberndt. We ask for your encouragement and prayers for the success of this project.

I hope that you are having a meaningful Lent as you make the journey to Easter and the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. I leave you with a short scripture verse.

I have set before you life and death, the blessing, and the curse. Choose life, then, that you may live.

Deuteronomy 30:19

Our Lady of Counsel pray for us.

From Our Spiritual Advisor

Msgr. Duane Moellenberndt

Dear Members of the Madison Diocesan Council of Catholic Women,

You will be receiving this newsletter as we are celebrating the greatest event of the entire year and that is, of course, Easter. Easter reminds us of the hope, joy, and peace that only God can give us.

Jesus' Resurrection and victory over even death itself assures us that despite the uncertainty, confusion, and challenges of life, today we are already victorious. Through Jesus we have conquered all because we know that Almighty God suffered, died, and rose that we might one day share eternal life with Him.

What greater gift, hope, and joy could we possibly receive? Jesus endured all simply because He wants us to be with Him forever. What peace this brings us even

amidst the tumult of our contemporary world.

Celebration of Easter

Perhaps, because of what our lives have experienced these past several months, we need the celebration of Easter even more this year. Let us rejoice in all Easter offers us especially the gifts of hope and peace.

As one spiritual writer has reminded us, Easter is an explosion and an earthquake, and our lives are transformed because we believe in the power of the Risen Lord.

One of the ways we can grow as disciples of the Risen Lord is through our diocesan women's convention. Read about how you can be a part of this special opportunity in this issue of the newsletter.

From Our Province Director

Paula Freimuth

H.O.P.E. (Have Only Positive Expectations)

My dear sisters in Christ,

Our long-awaited vaccine for COVID-19 is here, and we are seeing a light at the end of the tunnel. With each step we make forward during this pandemic, we encounter more rays of HOPE: Have Only Positive Expectations.

As Christians, we are completing our 40 days of Lent. We encounter the number 40 in the Bible numerous times.

- The 40 days and nights that rain fell, flooding the earth, while Noah, his family, and many animals took refuge on the ark.
- The 40 years that the Israelites spent in the wilderness after fleeing from Egypt.
- The 40 days Jesus spent in the desert being tempted by Satan.

What do these periods of time have in common with our current pandemic? All of these periods are of uncertainty. All of these are plagued with fear and anxiety.

Another common thread that runs through these stories and our world today is that Noah was crammed into a small space with his family, the Israelites wandered through the unknown, and Jesus was all alone. Many people were floundering then as we are now, but they continued to persist by trusting and having faith in God.

Today, we are not any different. God is our sure and steadfast anchor of the soul. These stories offer us hope

- in the way that each group made it through.
- in the way that the Israelites leaned on each other as a community, something that we have been invited to do as we learn to love each other well from a distance.
- in Jesus whose beginning of his ministry was marked by this time of trial and isolation.

We can experience hope as women in Christ by the numerous emerging dates of rescheduled events or events taking place outside of the normal within our councils.

NCCW

The rescheduled NCCW Convention is planned for August 25-28. New roll outs of NCCW fundraisers and programs include Walk to Convention 2020ne, NCCW President-Elect Quilt Raffle, 101 Ways NCCW is great, and the virtual LTD programs.

So today, let us HOPE. Let us see how biblical history repeats itself. Do not let it daunt us but create HOPE as we hold tight to our faith, as we continue through the tunnel until we get to the other side.

Leadership Commission

Sue Barker

Leadership Commission Chair

When I started thinking about what I would write for this newsletter, I came across an article written for our 2020 cancelled convention. That writing was a summary of the annual events we weren't able to hold last year in our parishes. Here we are almost a year later and still having to re-arrange things that we do.

When we are not able to get together, whether it be cancelation because of snow and ice, illness, or unforeseen acts of God, we need to consider things we will focus on when we are together again. This may be a great time to re-vamp our entire year!

Convention

Coming up on June 12 will be the 66th Annual MDCCW Convention, to be held virtually. There is still hope that the NCCW 101st Anniversary Convention will be held in Alexandria, VA, in August. If it is decided that convention will be virtual only, anyone should be able to be a part of three days of education and fun with women from all over the country: attending a convention from the comfort of your own home!

How do we stay in touch and keep our members upbeat when we can't get together? A phone call, Email or text helps to make sure everyone is staying healthy and positive. Possibly you share a prayer or a special message. It is most important that we know our group members are staying upbeat, as we figure out ways to stay social when we can't see each other.

Stay positive and your enthusiasm will rub off on other people. Share ideas and smiles when you are together, and you just may get a few new members!

Service Commission

Coreen Marklein

Service Commission Chair

During this season of Lent and beyond, we are reminded of the three pillars of Lent: Almsgiving, Prayer and Fasting. Two of those three pillars — almsgiving and prayer — tie into our newest project: Walking with Moms in Need.

The United States Council of Catholic Bishops selected this project to be of utmost importance in our parishes and communities. Archbishop Naumann asked the bishops in November 2019 to invite their parishes to join a nationwide effort from March 25, 2020, to March 25, 2021 entitled: "Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service."

While the date may be beyond March 25, 2021, this service project has a great need throughout the US as well as in the Diocese of Madison.

What ways can you help in this project?

1. Support pregnant mothers in your parish or community and share the Gospel of Life — Baby Shower, Baby Day, Diaper Collections, etc.
2. Pray!
3. Donate to area homeless shelters or to mothers in need, the Women's Care Center in Madison, or women in need in your community and surrounding areas.

For further information, visit the website: <http://www.usccb.org/prolife/walking-moms-need> OR walkingwithmoms.com.

Other Service Projects.

- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle — Plastic bags, plastic bottles vs. cans.
- Pick up Garbage . Adopt a Highway.
- Hold a Baby Jesus Shower.
- Organize a Back-to-School Backpack project

- Participate in Boxes of Joy, which will continue as service project for 2021

O Blessed Mother, you received the good news of the incarnation of Christ, your Son, with faith and trust. Grant your protection to all pregnant mothers facing difficulties.

Guide us as we strive to make our parish communities places of welcome and assistance for mothers in need. Help us become instruments of God's love and compassion.

Mary, Mother of the Church, graciously help us build a culture of life and a civilization of love, together with all people of good will, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life. Amen.

*Cf. Evangelium vitae 105 All rights reserved. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C.

Spirituality Commission

Mona Matijevich

Spirituality Commission Chair

I Need a Heart Transplant

As I write this article, we are two weeks into Lent 2021. This year I am asking the Holy Spirit to change my heart. I want to see people as my Jesus sees them, with his eyes.

It is so very easy to judge others and overlook our many flaws. I want Jesus to share his heart with me, to melt my stubbornness and blindness to the world around me. Satan has a way to give us prejudice, to sneak into our thoughts, and lead us astray. So, this year I am going to read some healthy books to get me on the right path.

I am reading *Sober Intoxication of the Holy Spirit* by Raniero Cantalamessa, O.F.M. Cap., and *Mary at the Crossroads History* by Rev. Francis J. Hoffman, J.C.D.

So far so good. I am the oldest of 11, and I have the tendency to try to run my siblings' lives. Yes, I am Miss Bossy Pants. I once read that you can't change others; you can only change yourself. This is why I need a heart transplant. I always find a way to run my brother and sisters lives. Now I must tell you our parents are no longer living, so I use that as an excuse.

Saying the Rosary

I enjoy saying the Rosary daily and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. My heart is starting to melt my stubbornness and blindness away, and by Easter morning my heart transplant should be complete. God willing.

I hope you have been reading Bishop Hying's "Go Make Disciples" articles in the *Catholic Herald*. They take us back to our Catholic faith. It is so easy to forget that we are to be evangelizing others. Sometimes we take our faith for granted.

On a different note, the MDCCW will be handing out postcards to pray for a priest. We all can use more prayers, especially our beloved priests. On Holy Thursday the priesthood was established, and that is when the postcards will be distributed.

From the Editor

Jane Lepaska Grinde

Thank you, Lynn Geitz, for your email in response to my question about identifying women in old photos printed in the last newsletter.

Lynn chaired the 2014 MDCCW convention in Baraboo. I remember the 2014 convention well since it was the last convention that I attended with my mother who passed away a few months later.

Lynn's leadership was evident, and she was poised to assume an office for MDCCW, until she moved to Wild Rose in the Green Bay diocese.

Email to the Editor

Hi Jane. I love receiving these newsletters so I can stay connected with all the rewarding and beautiful things the Madison Diocese of CCW is doing. I'm reaching out to let you know that I know one of the women in the photos. Top row, 2nd woman to the left of Monsignor is Nora Durst from Sauk CCW. She sadly has passed away. What a joy she was. She was from Holy Family in LaValle.

I now live in Wild Rose and belong to the Green Bay diocese. I do miss the Madison diocese (and) . . . all the wonderful women I had the pleasure of meeting within the Madison Diocese. I had so much fun and miss being part of an active group. — Lynn

Carol Brennan

MDCCW is losing another leader to the Green Bay diocese. Carol Brennan joined CCW 20 years ago when she moved to Berlin. She has served in positions at all levels of council, including Milwaukee Province director and MDCCW president. After ending her role as province director, she volunteered to be a candidate for MDCCW board as secretary and was elected to a two-year term last year.

I first met her at the MDCCW convention at the Baptist Assembly in Green Lake, which is the first convention I covered for the Catholic Herald. I remember her inspiring story about volunteering in Panama with Fr. Wally's dam project.

She told me that she is more of a Martha than a Mary. I think she is both. Thank you, Carol, for serving.

MDCCW website

Please check the MDCCW website (mdccw.com) regularly for calendar events and updates on the convention. Special thanks to Karen Gramann for her service with the website and for the design and distribution of the newsletter.

Vicariate Activities

Sauk Vicariate

Ellen Dargel, president

Although not able to gather as a group in 2020, the Sauk Vicariate parishes continued their works of mercy.

St. Norbert Parish in Roxbury donated to the Women's Care Center and the Sauk Prairie Food Pantry. CCW members drove for Meals on Wheels and are working on a parish drive-thru pork chop dinner and plans to celebrate the 175th parish anniversary.

St. Joseph Parish in Baraboo held a drive-thru bake sale in November and a drive-thru pie sale to celebrate National pi day in March. They held a parish drive in January to collect items for the Women's Care Center. They continue to hold monthly meetings.

Holy Angels Parish CCW members in LaValle have been contacting parishioners by phone, card, a visit, or providing a meal throughout this pandemic.

St. Luke Parish in Plain donated to their local Food Pantry.

While all the councils participated in the Boxes of Joy project, St. John Parish in Spring Green was the largest donor.

Madison Catholic Woman's Club

Kathy Wall and Kathryn Maas, co-chairs

The Madison Catholic Woman's Club (MCWC) sponsored a Mass to commemorate deceased members and their families at St. John the Baptist Church, Waunakee. The Mass was also livestreamed. Members gathered via Zoom in December for prayers and to exchange Christmas traditions.

In February, Gail Yellen-Shiring, MCWC spiritual director, led a three-day mini

retreat. Members collected donations to help Pregnancy Helpline and the Women's Care Center.

In March, MCWC invited priests from the area parishes to join Bishop Hying in celebrating Mass at Blessed Sacrament at its annual priest appreciation event. The Mass was also livestreamed. Instead of lunch, MCWC offered gift bags to the priests.

Columbia North

Mona Matijevich, president

All Saints Council of Catholic Women (CCW) held a "Baby Jesus Shower" in January and collected diapers, wipes, sleepers, onesies, blankets, hand-made baby quilts, bath towels with hoods, baby wash, toys, booties, and various other items.

Receiving more baby items than ever before, the council was able to help the Christine Ann Center in Oshkosh, Green Lake Social Services, Head Start families from All Saints School, Berlin Child Care, the Berlin Hospital, and the Berlin Food Pantry.

West Dane

Rosa Ropers, president

The convention committee of the West Dane Vicariate has been meeting by Zoom to plan the MDCCW annual convention. Registration and details are included in this newsletter.

St. Andrew Church, Verona (St. Christopher parish), hosted the spring vicariate meeting virtually and in person (social distancing and masks) on a Tuesday morning in March. Kathy Schneider, a retired pastoral associate and faith formation director, spoke on "Giving Thanks for All We Have Been Given." The meeting concluded with Mass.

To stay in touch with its members, West Dane started a monthly newsletter. Editor

Joan Pregler includes information about MDCCW and NCCW projects as well as local happenings, highlighting a local council in each issue.

NCCW

Plans for the 2020ne Convention, August 25-28, at the Marriott Crystal Gateway in Arlington, VA, are underway. Registration will begin in late spring, with the expectation that by then most will have had an opportunity to be vaccinated. Masks, social distancing, and good hand hygiene will still be in effect at the convention. While some parts of the program have changed, Gloria Purvis, Abby Johnson, Elizabeth Tomlin, and the Jersey Tenors will be there as planned for the 2020 convention.

Walk or pray 101 miles to the NCCW Convention! Raise funds as an individual or team and be eligible to win prizes! Individual registration is \$25 and team registration is \$110. For questions, contact Tracy Janis at 1thess517@cableone.net.

Walk to Convention 2020ne FAQs and Participant Log/Sponsorship Pledge Form (<http://www.nccw.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Walk-to-Convention-2020ne-Packet-Updated.pdf>)

NCCW is again participating in the Mother's Day Mass remembrances at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. For more information and to enroll your mother or other special women in your life, go to the NCCW website (nccw.org). Deadline for sign-up is April 30.

Madison Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Virtual Convention

Celebrating 100 one years of NCCW

Reflecting on the Past, Celebrating the Future!

Saturday, June 12, 2021 • 10:00 am to 12:30 pm

Call to 2021 MDCCW Convention

10 a.m. to Noon, June 12

Dear Members,

On behalf of the West Dane Vicariate Council of Catholic Women and with much pleasure, we invite all Catholic women to the MDCCW Annual Convention on Saturday morning, June 12, from 10 to noon.

You are invited to take a few hours to join in the virtual gathering which will feature both live and recorded elements to create a celebratory spirit of enthusiasm and faith.

Attendees will be able to enjoy our keynote speaker Bishop Hying and participate with music, prayer, and meditation. Our guest speaker, a renowned Catholic spirituality writer, Jeanne Ewing, will bring an uplifting perspective in her message of “Finding Joy in Chaos,” a perfect theme for all of us.

Internationally acclaimed Catholic singer and songwriter Anna Nuzzo will provide a musical Divine Mercy reflection.

Our technology team is developing a clear and simple way for all women to participate. A unique hybrid approach will make this convention special so we all can come together and share opportunities for fellowship, spiritual growth, and to celebrate 101 years of the NCCW mission.

We encourage each parish CCW to host a small group gathering (per health recommendations) for those wishing to gather in person to discuss, pray and celebrate and perhaps share birthday cake or cupcakes for the 101st birthday of our national council.

A few items of note:

- Please register by May 29. Registration information can be found in this newsletter and on the MDCCW website (mdccw.com).
- There is no cost for the convention, but donations will be accepted to offset our costs or to go to charities.
- Late registration will be accommodated if possible, but not recommended.

Please invite someone from your past, someone who is a not member now, and someone who would make a good future member.

Sincerely and with much enthusiasm,
Rosa Ropers and Joan Pregler,
Co-Chairs

IMPORTANT! Registration is required to receive the log-in information for the convention. Please register with your Council or individually.

Convention Committee and Host Councils

Members of the planning committee include:

Rosa Ropers (co-chair), Joan Pregler (co-chair), Sue Barker, Linda Ripp, Barb Unger, Angie Sailing, Coreen Marklein, Kelly Huntington, Jane Grinde, Becky Frederick, Alice Bannier, Ann Wagner, Kelly Huntington, Laura Petranek Arneson, and Kathy Wall

The West Dane Vicariate Council of Catholic Women include the following parishes:

Ashton – St. Peter Parish

Cross Plains – St. Francis Xavier Church

Martinsville – St. Martin of Tours

Mt. Horeb – St. Ignatius Church (St. Michael the Archangel Parish)

Paoli – St. William Church (St. Christopher Parish)

Perry – Holy Redeemer Church (St. Michael the Archangel Parish)

Pine Bluff – St. Mary of Pine Bluff Church

Verona – St. Andrew Church (St. Christopher Parish)

Waunakee – St. John the Baptist Parish

Westport – St. Mary of the Lake Church

Convention Agenda

June 12, 2021 | 10 a.m. to Noon

- **Welcome** – Judy Lyons, MDCCW President
- **Words of Wisdom** – Monsignor Duane Moellenberndt, Spiritual Advisor
- **Prayer Service** – MDCCW Board
- **Keynote Speaker** – Bishop Donald J. Hying, Bishop of the Diocese of Madison
- **Prayer and Meditation**
- **Guest Speaker** – Jeannie Ewing, “Finding Joy in Chaos”

- **Prayer and Meditation**
- **Divine Mercy Chaplet**, Anna Nuzzo
- **Trip Down Memory Lane**
- **NCCW 100one Birthday Celebration**
- **Hail Mary in Song**
- **Closing**

About the Speakers

Each of the three presenters scheduled for the 2020 MDCCW convention, cancelled due to the pandemic, will participate virtually in this year’s convention.

Bishop Donald Hying will keynote the convention and participate in a question-and-answer time after his presentation.

The youngest of six sons, Bishop Donald Joseph Hying was born in West Allis to parents Albert and Catherine Hying.

Bishop Hying received his bachelor’s degree from Marquette University and his master’s degree from St. Francis Seminary.

On May 20, 1989, Bishop Hying was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. After five years as a parochial vicar, he served three years in the Dominican Republic as a team member for La Sagrada Familia Parroquia in the Dominican Republic.

Bishop since 2011

Upon return to the U.S., he served several parishes until being appointed rector of St. Francis de Sales Seminary in 2007. He was named an auxiliary bishop for the Milwaukee Archdiocese in 2011. Three years later, Pope Francis appointed Bishop Hying the Bishop of Gary (Indiana) where he served until his installation as Bishop in the Diocese of Madison on June 25, 2019.

The bishop has traveled widely in the diocese, in which he has many relatives. His father grew up on a farm near Highland.

Bishop Hying offers regular video messages available through the diocesan website and YouTube. During this the 75th anniversary of the diocese, the bishop launched “a bold, robust evangelizing initiative.” In the announcement, he wrote, “When we ponder the mission of the Church, it’s clear that Jesus commands us to proclaim the Gospel to every creature—to be disciples ourselves and to make disciples of others.”

Jeanne Ewing

A renowned Catholic spirituality writer, Jeanne Ewing focuses on the topics of grief, redemptive suffering, and waiting. She will speak on “Finding Joy in Chaos.”

Believing that the world ignores and rejects the value of the Cross, Jeannie writes about the hidden value of suffering and discovering joy in the midst of grief. Building on the meaning of encounter, encourage and engage, Jeannie evokes introspection and action for an understanding of personal appreciation, value and importance.

Learn more about Jeanne at <http://www.jeannieewing.com>.

Anna Nuzzo

Anna Nuzzo is an acclaimed international Catholic singer, songwriter, recording artist, TV host and Pilgrimage leader.

Frequently paired with Jeanne Ewing, Anna Nuzzo was scheduled to spend the day at the 2020 cancelled MDCCW convention. At this year’s abbreviated convention, Anna will virtually sing the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Since her Marian Consecration in 2012, she has felt called to write and share songs of prayer, hope, God’s love and mercy.

Learn more about Anna at <http://www.annanuzzo.com/>.

Madison Diocesan Council of Catholic Women
Celebrating 100 one years of NCCW
Reflecting on the Past, Celebrating the Future!



Saturday, June 12, 2021

10:00 am to 12:30 pm

Virtual Convention

Convention Highlights

Keynote Speaker is His Excellency, The Most Reverend Donald Hying, Bishop of Madison

This special day also includes:

Anna Nuzzo, an acclaimed international Catholic singer, songwriter and recording artist

Guest Speaker Jeanne Ewing – “Finding Joy in the Chaos”, Catholic spiritual writer

100 one NCCW Birthday Celebration, Organizational Updates

⇨ **Registration Deadline is May 28, 2021** ⇩

Clip along blue line and Send Registration Form

(Return one form per registrant and/or location.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ (WI) Zip _____

Phone: _____ Home Cell

Email: _____

Parish: _____

Vicariate: _____ Donation: _____

REGISTRATION REQUIRED for this free event. Donations graciously appreciated, payable to MDCCW.

Mail this registration form and donation to:

Coreen S Marklein
1307 Crawford Street
Baraboo, WI. 53913

or email to:
csmarklein@gmail.com
Questions: call (608) 393-0880

LOGIN and LINK for Conference materials will be sent out approximately 2 weeks prior to June 12, 2021.

Please Check all that apply to YOU:

- Parish CCW Member
- Parish CCW President/ parish primary contact
- MDCCW Board Member
- MDCCW Past President
- MDCCW Individual Member
- Priest or other Religious