

Message from Our President

Judy Lyons

My Dear Sisters in Christ,

As I write this, we are approaching Holy Week, the apex of our liturgical year. It is my hope, considering world conditions and particularly in our own country, that it will bring peace, sanity, and freedom from fear to our world.

We live in unprecedented times where Christianity and particularly Catholicism are under attack as we have not known in our lifetime. Pandemic and other dangers have loomed. It is frightening on so many levels. What are we to do?

However, I would like to share the other side of the coin. First, we are a people of hope and trust in God. Here is a brief list of what we can consider and do.

1. God is not dead.

We wonder why God allows all this horrible stuff to happen. The answer is that God gave us free will. And if you look at it, 99 percent of the problems existent now we created ourselves as a people. We have let other gods influence our lives: quest for power, quest for money, and quest for me — I want what I want regardless of its effect on others. He is still loving us and supporting our efforts.

2. CCW lives.

Yes, we do! Our service makes a difference, our prayer makes a difference, and our leadership makes a difference. Every time we reach out to other Catholic women in person or in programs, we are reaching out in the love of Christ and strengthening the body of Christ. The time you spend matters!

3. Christ's sacrifice was not in vain.

We are living proof that that is truth. Because of His sacrifice, we do the things we do for His greater glory and in thanksgiving for His gift to us. In thanksgiving for that gift, we live and act as

women following Christ. It is truly an act of thanksgiving.

4. We have choices.

We can continue the work of thousands of women that came before us and pass on the legacy we inherited, or NOT....

We can continue searching for ways to support, encourage, and invite women to serve and love the Lord, or NOT....

We can continue to challenge ourselves to grow, or NOT....

We can realize that the work we do is necessary and the time we spend important, or NOT....

And so, I invite you to personally invite and walk with another Catholic woman to the CCW path with you. Pray for them. I know we can only do what we can do, but I challenge you to look at your own CCW journey. Can you do it differently? Can you do more? Are you sharing your gifts and ideas? Maybe, a different role is waiting for you.

Remember that God has gifted us each in our own unique way. None of us can do everything. But we can do something. Treasure and affirm the gifts in your group and use them appropriately. As an example, I can run a meeting, but do not elect me treasurer or secretary. We can each use our gifts to reach out to others and use our gifts to include, welcome, and share.

So, as the Pascal Mystery unfolds this Easter, do not take it for granted. It is our heritage, our strength, and our joy.

Blessings in this Easter Season and beyond.

Christ has risen and lives, Alleluia!!

This is my last article for the newsletter since my term as president is finished in June. I know you will welcome our new

president, Linda Ripp. It has been my pleasure to serve as your president. Thanks for your patience with me.

From Our Province Director

Lu Ann Miller

Milwaukee Province Director

At the time of this writing, we are entering Holy Week. Helping with the 5th grade Religious Education class one Wednesday evening, we took part in the Stations of the Cross. At the sixth station, Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus. The youth book to the Stations of the Cross said that Jesus said, “Thank you” to Veronica. That caught me — Jesus saying thank you as he was suffering.

“Thank you” are such powerful words — given at a person’s most difficult times to a person’s most cherished times and so many times in between. I want to say my “thank you” to all you ladies for doing so much throughout your diocese, not just in your parishes but in your homes, as a neighbor, as a friend and as a co-worker. With the possible change of officers at specific council levels, a special added thank you to those who have served during those times and those who are stepping forward to serve.

As a former diocesan president, I made it a priority to be as much hands-on as time allowed. I worked one time putting together a newsletter from the graphics to the articles to the formatting, etc. It ended up being quite the job, but I learned so much in constructing that piece of communication.

Now, as province director, I have been involved with membership and have learned to read a spreadsheet. I learned more about the different memberships, and I learned membership names and parishes. It has

been such a wonderful learning experience for me.

If you are currently a member, thank-you. If you have let your membership lapse, please take out an individual membership or a supporting membership. It is never ever too late to reconnect to council. Each membership helps to strengthen our councils at every level.

National Council of Catholic Women Convention in Minneapolis

Please plan to set aside November 2-5 to attend our national convention in Minneapolis. Registration opens July 1. Let us show Wisconsin support at its best. Check the NCCW website (nccw.org) for more information.

NCCW Website

Also check the NCCW website for resources on topics and issues that NCCW is working on, including domestic violence, human trafficking, homelessness, and racism. The information/resources within each topic get updated as new material is added. That is why it is so important to continue accessing and familiarizing yourself with what the NCCW website has to offer.

From Our Spiritual Advisor

Msgr. Duane Moellenberndt

Mother Teresa, who is one of the newest canonized saints of our Church, once said, “I am only a pencil in the hands of God.”

I want to invite each of you to our Madison Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Convention on Tuesday, June 7, at All Saints Parish in Berlin.

Our convention is always a wonderful day to grow in our relationship with the Lord, our commitment to the Church, and our sense

of community with one another. The theme of the convention this year reflects on God's chosen treasure.

God chose you

As the quote from Mother Teresa reminds us, we are each in the hands of God. Individually God works through us.

God uses us to accomplish His tasks and what He wants us to do in our own corner of the world. Isn't it a wonderful gift that Almighty God has chosen us to be a worker with Him in spreading the message of the Gospel?

As our "Go Make Disciples" initiative in our Diocese reminds us, our goal in life to be the Lord's disciples sharing the good news of our faith through our Catholic Church.

So please plan to join us in Berlin on June 7. It will be a day that you will truly enjoy and will find beneficial. God bless you for all that you do for the glory of God and for other people who journey with us in life. You are a treasure. God has chosen you!

Leadership Commission

Sue Barker

Leadership Commission Chair

During this past Lenten Season, we had time to renew ourselves by giving up something or doing something extra. Now may be a good time to review your CCW group and decide what changes you might make.

Spring is the time of renewal and re-birth. Find a theme that will incorporate this idea and go with it. Is there someone you have wanted to invite to a meeting as a speaker? I am sure they have ideas on how to include looking forward and projects that may go along with it.

How about the person you hope will join but just hasn't done it yet? When you invite them to your meeting, you might say, "Just come and see what we are about." That gives them the choice of attending, and you have done your part in encouraging them. You might mention doing something new at this time in their life, which would fit in nicely with this theme. Decide when these things would work with your monthly meetings and do it!

Vicariate Meeting

Do you have your Spring Vicariate meeting coming soon? That would be a wonderful way to encourage that special person to see what CCW has to offer. Don't forget about our Convention June 7 in Berlin, another great event where we can show ourselves off!

Be sure to talk up our NCCW Convention in Minneapolis in November. It's not too early to start planning and saving. Think about an event your group can do to raise funds that will help a member or two with the cost. West Dane is considering a bake sale with all our CCWs. What ideas and activities will you come up with?

Service Commission

Coreen Marklein

Service Commission Chair

As we continue with our 2021-2022 MDCCW year, I hope that you include one or more service projects in your council's activities. If you have not already done so, plan your meetings throughout the year to a particular theme and then plan your service projects as well.

Boxes of Joy. In 2020, we sent 750 Boxes of Joy to children in Latin American countries. In 2021, we had a 20 percent increase in boxes sent to Cross Catholic Outreach for a total of 896. All Saints Parish, Berlin, sent

200 boxes, and 696 were sent from St. Peter Church, Ashton. Thank you to volunteers Ellen Dargel, Pam Putman, Audrey McKnight, Linda Ripp, Diane Pillsbury, Sue Barker, Michelle LeVeque, and another unidentified helper from Madison who helped pack the boxes at St. Peter. Thanks also to All Saints volunteers.

Walking With Moms in Need (WWMiN): The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) selected this project to serve pregnant and parenting women. Everyone should know how to help moms in difficult circumstances. While not trying to turn Catholic parishes into pregnancy centers, we can support local pregnancy centers where they exist, and we can also find and share other resources with pregnant and parenting women.

The Diocese of Madison introduced this project last October at Holy Name Heights to representatives from more than 17 diocesan parishes. Bishop Donald J. Hying participated in the meeting and celebrated Mass.

Following that initial meeting and training session, the Diocese has offered more training opportunities to provide parishes with “the tools to become reliable connectors to local resources and partners in filling service gaps.”

I attended a training in February conducted by Julie Bennett and Katherine Higgins, St. Vincent de Paul employees. Our MDCCW supports the project and heard from Katherine Higgins at our March meeting.

Parishes have been asked to complete surveys about what resources are available in their parish or community. Information from the surveys will be put on a Diocesan. The website will be available to all as a resource for Walking With Moms in Need. The link to the national website is: Walkingwithmoms.com.

For more information about WWMiN in our diocese, contact wminmadison.wisc@gmail.com or khiggins.wisc@gmail.com.

Watch for Service Commission updates on the MDCCW website.

Volunteers Needed May 27

Ordination Reception St. Maria Goretti Church, Madison

One of MDCCW's signature service projects is hosting the reception following ordination. This year, Matthew Pearson will be ordained to the priesthood on May 27 at St. Maria Goretti Church at 7 p.m.

MDCCW presents a gift of \$50 to the new priest and hosts the reception following ordination. Coreen Marklein again is chairing the reception and asks for volunteers to help set up, serve, and clean up. Contact her at csmarklein@gmail.com.

Spirituality Commission

Mona Matijevich

Spirituality Commission Chair

I pray you had a wonderful Easter filled with God's greatest gifts.

Was this year different for you? It surely was for me and my husband. Each year we try to do a few things extra. For Lent, our church handed out “The Little Black Book” that had six-minute meditations on the parables of Jesus. We continued with the daily study guide from the “Word Among Us,” and added the “Surrender” novena by Fr. Dolindo Ruotolo which we are continuing to say even after Lent.

Since we have said this novena, I have been able to sleep through the night after not having been able to the last four years because of back pain. I hadn't even thought of praying for that, but I surrendered myself

to Jesus, and he helped me. If you try this novena, you too will be touched.

During Lent, we also joined our church's Bible Study, "The Bible and the Virgin Mary," narrated by Matthew Leonard and written by Dr. Scott Hahn. We have learned how to use our Bible more effectively.

During Lent, our church also did a three-day mission put on conducted by Deacon Ralph Poyo, founder of New Evangelization Ministries. He opened the truths of the Scriptures and the beauty of our Catholic faith. His message was well received, and we look forward to the many fruits that will come out of the mission.

<https://nem.training/about/>

On Good Friday, our church started the Divine Mercy Chaplet and will end it on Divine Mercy Sunday. Actually, we have said the Chaplet for years as well as the Rosary.

How can we go wrong with prayer? We can't; we just have to believe. Believe that the Holy Spirit will touch us and guide us. It is up to each one of us to find Jesus in our everyday life. Seek and you will find just what you need daily to live the life God wants you to. May the Holy Spirit touch you and give you the Wisdom needed to get closer to our Lord.

Editor's note. *Having never heard of this Novena, I searched for it and found many sites promoting the Novena. The following one tells about Fr. Dolina Ruotolo. Thanks, Mona, for bringing this to our attention.*
www.fatherdolindoruotolo.com.

NCCW Convention

November 3-5, 2022

Wide Open Hearts: Abiding in Faith, Hope, and Love

Minneapolis Marriott City Centre

*As we advance into our 102nd year
of celebrating our mission and vision as*

Catholic Women, we are reminded that when we gather at convention, we are doing so with an enormous history that dwells behind us and an exciting future waiting to be explored.

(From Catholic Women magazine,
Vol. 48, No. 1, 2022)

NCCW President Patricia Voorhes selected "Wide Open Hearts Abiding in Faith, Hope and Love" as the theme for her presidency and for this year's convention set for Nov. 2-5 in Minneapolis. The theme comes from the papal document, Fratelli Tutti, written by Pope Francis.

Women from across the country will share their faith, learn about NCCW programs, hear from inspiring speakers, and socialize together at the annual gathering.

Among the special guests and speakers scheduled so far are

- **The Very Reverend Miguel Gonzalez**, Rector, St. James Cathedral, Orlando.
- **Sister Xavier Mary Ezeokoli**, sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
- **Elizabeth Kelly**, speaker and author
- **Archbishop Bernard Hebda**, Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.
- **Bishop Willian Wack**, CSC, Diocese of Pensacola/Tallahassee.
- **Yen Fasano**, Associate director of Catholic Schools, Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.
- **Bishop Joseph A. Williams**, Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

The convention charity is Sharing and Caring Hands, www.sharingandcaring.org. Attendees are asked to bring towels, diapers, baby wipes and various hygiene items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant).

Registration starts July 1 on the NCCW website (nccw.org).

67th Annual MDCCW Convention

June 7, 2022

God's Chosen Treasures

All Saints Parish, Berlin

N8566 Hwy. 49

Registration 8:30-9:30 a.m. • Convention ends at 3 p.m.

Columbia North Vicariate CCW President Mona Matijevich and All Saints Parish CCW President Jane Munro invite women of the diocese to attend the 67th annual convention June 7 at All Saints Parish, Berlin.

The Columbia North Vicariate parish CCW presidents unanimously approved the theme, "God's Chosen Treasures," said Mona. "We thought and prayed about Bishop Hying's 'Go Make Disciples' initiative and how we could incorporate it into our convention. God uses all of us to welcome others into our Catholic Church, to be the hands and feet of our dear mother, Mary."

Mona added, "We are honored that Bishop Hying will be attending our convention and be the homilist for Mass." The Mass will be at 11, following the business meeting, which will include the election of officers. See page six to learn about the nominees. Msgr. Duane Moellenberndt, MDCCW spiritual advisor, will install the officers after Mass. The offertory collection will go for humanitarian needs of the Ukrainian people

Lunch will be served at 12:30. After lunch, Susan Hilliard, volunteer caretaker of The National Shrine of St. Philomena, Briggsville, will speak about the little-known saint who was martyred as a teenager.

The MDCCW commission chairs, representing leadership, spiritually, and service, will have tables at the convention. There will also be tables for St Philomena and the Right to Life and the baskets for the raffle.

Registration

Registration fee that includes lunch is \$15 and due by May 21. Make checks payable to St. James CCW and send registration (included in the newsletter and on the website) to St. James CCW Treasurer, 315 N. Main St., Neshkoro, WI 54960.

For questions, contact Mona Matijevich at 1inamelon@maps.net or 608-547-5260. Parishes are responsible for registering and paying for their priest. Fee must accompany registration form. Registrations are transferrable but not refundable.

Officer Nominees

MDCCW delegates will elect officers at the morning business meeting. Candidates are Carol Rogers for president-elect; Coreen Marklein for secretary, and Julie Zenz for treasurer. Other candidates can be nominated from the floor. President-Elect Linda Ripp automatically moves into the position of president.

President

As president-elect, **Linda Ripp** automatically assumes the presidency. A life-long member of St. Martin of Tours Parish in Martinsville, Linda has been an active member of CCW for over 30 years and has served as CCW president in her parish and the West Dane Vicariate. She is current CCW leadership chair for West Dane Vicariate.

Linda has attended three national conventions, including the 101st convention last year in Washington, D.C.

Linda is married with two sons and a daughter-in-law. Her older son died in his sleep of an undiagnosed heart condition in November 2018. She works as a preschool teacher in Middleton.

President-Elect

Carol Rogers is the candidate for president-elect. Last spring, President Judy Lyons appointed her to complete the term of secretary left vacant by the resignation of Carol Brennan. Carol previously served on the board from 2010-14, holding the positions of secretary and then parliamentary advisor.

Originally from Marshfield, Carol attended 12 years of Catholic school, earned an associate degree from the UW Marshfield-Wood County Center, a bachelor's degree from UW-Stevens Point, and a master's degree from UW-Platteville. She taught 38 years in public and Catholic elementary schools and at Southwest Technical College, retiring in 2008.

Carol and her husband Dick are members of Queen of All Saints Parish, Fennimore, and the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and as such have pledged to support the sacred sites in the Holy Land. Carol serves on her parish council, is a sacristan, and chairs the evangelism team. She holds leadership positions with the Grant Vicariate CCW. Carol's blended family includes eight adult children, thirteen grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Secretary

Coreen Marklein is the candidate for secretary. A member of St. Joseph Parish in Baraboo, she has been involved in all levels of council, starting in 1997. She currently

serves as secretary for St. Joseph CCW and as MDCCW service commissioner.

A past president of MDCCW, she has attended many national conventions. She served on the NCCW Bylaws committee from 2019-21.

Recent projects include leading the Boxes of Joy Project for 2020 and 2021 and heading the Madison Diocesan priest ordination reception.

Coreen is a member of a payroll and benefits' team for the UW-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health.

She considers herself fortunate to be a part of two faith-filled families. Her family includes her parents and four sisters and son Douglas who lives in Green Bay. The second family is her faith family of St. Joseph's Parish and members of the Council of Catholic Women.

Treasurer

Julie Zenz is the candidate for treasurer. She has lived in Lancaster the past 15 years and is a member of St. Clements Parish.

In 2020, she retired as principal of St. Mary School in Bloomington and St. Charles School in Cassville.

Julie spent most of her career as an artist and teacher in Florida schools before moving back home to Wisconsin. She has served on many boards and leadership positions over the years, but this is her first time as a treasurer. She learned a long time ago, that "when the Church asks of me, it's easy to say, yes."

2022 Convention Speaker

Susan Hilliard, the volunteer caretaker of the National Shrine of St. Philomena, in Briggsville, will speak after lunch at the convention. She will talk about the life of St. Philomena and her work as the caretaker of the shrine.

Pleased to be asked to speak at the convention, Susan said, "Many people have no knowledge of this little teenage saint who had much faith and was tragically murdered. I will also share my life experiences taking care of her. Remember, she is always listening."

For the last 24 years, Susan has taken care of everything that has to do with the outdoor shrine. She sends sacramentals all over the

United States, greets visitors to the shrine, give talks on St. Philomena, maintains the shrine, and takes all the prayer requests that come from all around the world. She also sets up the Mass schedule for the three feast days celebrated on January 10, May 25, and August 10.

Susan also holds a position on the executive board of the Universal Archconfraternity of St. Philomena in Mugnano del Cardinale, Italy, where the saint's remains are. She works with centers in the United States and in some English-speaking parts of Canada.

The Briggsville shrine to St. Philomena was started in 1949 and includes a first-class relic of the "Little Virgin Ma



Madison Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

67th Annual MDCCW Convention— June 7, 2022

“God’s Chosen Treasures “

Registration 8:30-9:30 AM Convention ends 3PM

All Saints Parish

N8566 State Road 49, Berlin WI 54923 (920)361-5252

Please indicate **only one person** per Registration form, make copies as needed.

Name _____ PHONE _____

Address _____

E-MAIL _____

Parish Name/LOCATION _____ VICARIATE _____

Please Check if any apply:

I am member of current MDCCW Board

Regular Attendee

I am a Parish CCW President

Past President of MDCCW

I am a first time convention attendee

Registration Deadline is : May 21, 2022

Make Checks Payable to: St. James CCW AMOUNT: \$15 (Lunch Included)

Send Registration/Payment to: St. James CCW Treasurer

315 N. Main St. Neshkoro, WI 54960

If any Questions Mona Matijevich e-mail 1inamelon@maqs.net 608-547-5260

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Fee must accompany registration form. Registrations are transferrable but not refundable.