

Message from Our President

Linda Ripp

With the start of the new year, I am looking forward to meeting more women across our diocese before my term ends June 18 at our MDCCW gathering. I hope my theme of “Jesus is the Light of the World; May We Become a Light of Hope” will continue to connect us.

MDCCW is undergoing many changes with the new Pastorate format. Currently, the Madison Diocese doesn't have vicariates — the middleman between the diocese and parishes. We have heard of the possibility of having five, rather than nine, vicariates. They would be North, East, West, South, and Central/Madison.

As far as MDCCW is concerned, we are continuing with the three active vicariates of Columbia North (Pastorates 9,10,17,18), Grant (Pastorates 1-5), and Sauk (6-8). They have most of their old parishes with a few additions, and they all have active boards; and all held fall vicariate meetings.

I attended all the vicariate gatherings and experienced wonderful liturgies, great speakers, and delicious meals along with being able to share fellowship with women across the diocese!

Columbia North

Columbia North's theme was “The Month of the Rosary.” Their spirituality chair gave a nice history of the Rosary; and their speaker, Anne Auger, gave an encouraging talk on “Living our Faith — Go Make Disciples.” The world needs our prayers, and our Blessed Mother encourages us to especially pray the Rosary (miracle of Fatima).

Grant Vicariate

Grant's theme was “Seek and you will Find...”

Seek and you will find...will you open the door? Knock and the door will be opened is a great

reminder to seek and learn more about God and look for God in others.

God never forces us to go to Him, but He is always ready to open the door to us! God created us in His own Image and, just like our own parents, always looks forward to our visits.

A painting by William Holman Hunt shows Jesus at the door, but there isn't any doorknob — it can only be opened from the inside.

Give Jesus a WIDE, OPEN DOOR! Jesus won't ever bang on our door, but he aches to be invited in.

Two sisters from Sinsinawa told us about the changes that are taking place at the Mound.

Sauk Vicariate

Sauk's theme was “Walk with Faith.” With any journey, we need to know where we want to go. As Catholics, we have faith that our destination will be eternal life in heaven. So then, we need to plan how we will get there!

First, we need a relationship with God our Father. Relationships are a two-way street. God wants to be with us on our journey. The way we develop a relationship with God is through prayer, reading Scripture, and participating in the Sacraments.

God gives us signs to point the way — Commandments, Sacraments, Beatitudes, Works of Mercy, etc.; but when we do go the wrong way through sin, it isn't a dead end. We can always get back on the right path by going to Reconciliation. I hope that all of us will continue following the Way to heaven, and we will see each other there!

Diane Pillsbury told about how hiking has helped her on her faith journey. She has hiked the 2100-mile Appalachian trail and spent three months in Alaska.

2024 MDCCW Gathering

We have started planning for the 2024 MDCCW annual gathering scheduled for June 18 in the Madison area. Bishop Hying put us on his schedule. We will be looking for women to use their talents to help on committees (registrations,

entertainment, decorations, etc). Please volunteer by emailing me (linmdccw@gmail.com).

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 and carry out its mission “to Support, Empower, and Educate all Catholic women in Spirituality, Leadership, and Service.”

MDCCW is an NCCW affiliate and “acts through its membership to respond with Gospel values to the needs of the church and society in the modern world.”

From Our Spiritual Advisor

Msgr. Duane Moellenberndt

This time of year, we see flocks of geese flying overhead. The sound the birds make invites us to look up at the sky. I am told that when geese fly in a formation, the goose flying behind is lifted by the goose that is flying in front of it. Also, if a goose drops down to the ground, other geese will stay with the injured one. The geese are teaching us the importance of community and sticking together for the good of all.

Community is a vital part of living happy lives. Geese know this, and so do we. Community is what Church is all about. The first thing our Lord did when He began His public ministry was to gather the Twelve Apostles together. Jesus knew He wanted others to be with Him as He began preaching and sharing the Good News of the Gospel. In fact, Jesus entrusted His earthly work to the community He formed when He ascended to heaven.

Importance of CCW

Why should a person and a parish be active in the Madison Diocesan Council of Catholic Women? It is because we need other like-minded committed Catholics with whom we can share our lives. We have a considerable number of challenges we face as faithful Catholics today.

This is especially true as our nation and the world become more secular. It is a great gift to gather with others who are committed to the teachings of Jesus. people striving to be faithful to the Gospel.

We can gain tremendous support from one another. Together we can gain the strength and wisdom to witness to the teachings of Jesus and to share the message of the Lord with other people. Certainly, there are so many in our world today who are searching for direction in their lives.

We can bring the positive message of Jesus to them. We do that better when we do so as a united body of believers. This is the reason Jesus began His ministry, not alone but with those Apostles who in turn were the foundation of the Catholic Church which is now spread to every corner of our world.

In the spirit of the season, thank you for all you do as loyal and active members of the MDCCW.

From Our Province Director

Jane Schiszik

Milwaukee Province Director
(representing the Dioceses of Green Bay, La Crosse, Madison, Superior and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee)

Editor's note. Every two years, the NCCW installs new province directors. Our five Wisconsin arch/diocesan councils of Catholic women take turns nominating a director. This term, the director is from the Superior Diocese. Jane Schiszik, a member of Holy Rosary Parish, Medford, will represent Wisconsin Catholic women on the NCCW board. Below is Jane's introductory message.

Greetings Dear Sisters in Council!

I am looking forward to meeting and collaborating with the women in each of the dioceses across Wisconsin and sharing my love of council with all of you.

My council story starts in 1984 when I attended my first parish CCW meeting! My experiences with the CCW have given me a way to live my faith, serve others, and have influence in the lives of others.

The past 39 years have been a faith-filled and joyful journey and have given me a good understanding of all levels of CCW. I have served in all officer positions except treasurer. I have also served on various committees and commissions: Spirituality, Service, and Leadership.

I have a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing and retired after 41 years as a nurse. My husband Vic and I have been married 47 years. We have three married children and five grandchildren ranging in age from 3 to 14 years of age!

I enjoy cooking, baking, and spending time with our grandchildren. I enjoy meeting people, volunteering, and keeping busy with activities at my local parish and with the many activities of the Holy Rosary CCW. I will share this enthusiasm with all of you and will work together with you to build our membership and strengthen our councils.

Please keep me posted on the activities happening in your councils. My contact information is phone: (H) 715-748-5240, (C) 715-965-8237; email: janeschis@gmail.com. Our Lady of Good Counsel Pray for us.

Leadership Commission

Sue Barker

Leadership Commission Chair

“Building Junior Councils” was a session held at the NCCW Convention in Salt Lake City. The NCCW Education Committee encouraged our parish groups to promote high school girls to form their own groups.

Some councils already have junior councils. These girls continue in their association with the CCW. This is where our future leaders will come from! They will need a solid foundation so they can pass on their skills to the girls who will follow

them. How do they do that? What do we do to help them in this process?

Many activities can bring the girls closer and teach them how to become good servants.

Projects you might want to encourage include:

- making birthday cards for CCW members;
- visiting nursing home/assisted living residents;
- teaching younger children how to pray the Rosary;
- acting out the lives of saints and writing music for these presentations;
- teaching dances from their own countries; and
- speaking at CCD classes.

We can share projects with the junior councils such as bringing in successful career women to talk at their meetings and adopting a homeless family.

Invite junior girls to your meetings and convention and acknowledge and encourage them to give back to their church and community.

As a result of their participation in junior CCW, young women are eligible for the Golden Rose Award. One girl may be chosen from each parish in the diocese, based on what she has done in Spirituality, Leadership, and Service. She will receive a certificate along with a yellow rose at a lunch, brunch, or dinner with the bishop. The recipient will also receive a membership in NCCW and receive the Catholic Women Magazine.

Spirituality Commission

Judy Lyons

Spirituality Commission Chair

We are in one of the busiest months of the year — December, or as I like to call it Advent.

December always brings with it a long to-do list with a relatively short time to get it done. Advent brings to mind other kinds of things. Prayer, contemplation of the miraculous event of Jesus birth, reaching out to others, and still getting ready for a family celebration.

I can recall one Christmas where everything had to be “perfect.” Well, it was. Presents selected

and wrapped, decorating, Christmas cards sent, expectations to the 9th degree all around. Guess what, it was a perfect Christmas celebration, but I was a wreck by Christmas night, having a major crying jag and completely spent.

After that, I figured out that this was not how to feel at the birth of our Lord. So, I did some rethinking for next year. I figured out what was more important and worked to accentuate those things: time with family and friends; reasonable, thoughtfully selected gifts; reaching out to those far away; and helping where I might, so someone else might have a better Christmas.

It is so easy to get caught up in the furor of the season that we forget what we are celebrating. So, I ask, how are the plans for your Advent and Christmas coming along. Take time to breathe and settle into these wonderful events. My sincerest wishes for a good Advent and a Merry Christmas! In Christ's love!

Service Commission

Volunteer needed! Contact MDCCW President Linda Ripp if you are interested
linmdccw@gmail.com

Duties include:

- coordinating the Priest Ordination reception;
- promoting and organizing MDCCW service project(s); and
- offering suggestions on service projects to vicariate and parish CCWs.

Coreen Marklein, who previously served in the position and is now secretary, will help and mentor the new chair. Contact President Linda Ripp at linmdccw@gmail.com.

Box of Joy:

1008 Boxes of Joy Collected

Coreen Marklein and a crew of at least a dozen volunteers packed 681 Boxes of Joy at St. Martin Church, Martinsville the second week of November. Another 327 boxes were collected and packed by the Columbia North Vicariate

CCW for a total of 1008 sent to Cross Catholic Outreach to be distributed to children in Central America.

Volunteers helping Coreen pack the boxes were:

Linda Ripp, Alice Banner, and Becky Frederick, St. Martin of Tours, Martinsville; Joan Pregler and Elizabeth Bellissimo, St. Peter's, Ashton; Diane Pillsbury and Nancy and John Rego, St. Joseph, Baraboo; Kathy. Loy, All Saints Parish, Fennimore; Barbara Unger, Queen of Peace, Madison; Nicole Borelli-O'Connell and Shawn O'Connell, St. John the Baptist, Waunakee.

Coreen Marklein Earns NCCW Leadership Role

Coreen Marklein, MDCCW past president and current secretary, has been appointed to the prestigious Leadership Training and Development (LTD) team of the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW).

In her letter of appointment, NCCW President Beth Mahony wrote, "Congratulation on this important responsibility that has been entrusted to you. After much dialogue and review of your application, it is clear to us that you will be an excellent addition to the team. Your experience, knowledge, and witness to NCCW will be an awesome contribution to the already dynamic LTD Team."

Coreen joins a team of trainers described by past NCCW President Patty Johnson, as "NCCW members who know the graces and challenges of active participation and leadership on all rings of Council. They speak your language. They have walked paths like your own. They have met and mastered the frustrations and have found joy in leadership."

Team members offer one- or two-day training sessions for CCWs. LTD sessions address challenges, educate, and empower members and leaders through training exercises, group discussions and handouts.

The LTD team meets via ZOOM on the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the late afternoon.

After the first meeting, Coreen said, "We have hit the ground running and are developing a commercial to advertise our LTD team. In addition, we will be making a presentation at the NCCW Convention in Oklahoma City."

By-Laws Co-Chair

Coreen was also appointed co-chair of the NCCW By-laws committee with Lucy Johnson. She will attend the NCCW Board Meeting January 18-21 in Washington, D.C.

Participants will stay at the Retreat House in northwest D.C., a few blocks from the Basilica. They plan to march in the March for Life on Friday afternoon, January 19.

A member of St. Joseph's Parish, Baraboo, Coreen has been involved in all levels of Council for more than 25 years and regularly presents at CCW meetings.

In addition to her elected officer roles, Coreen served as service commission chair and continues to oversee MDCCW projects, including the ordination reception for new priests and its participation in Boxes of Joy.

NCCW Experience

Coreen has attended 10 NCCW conventions and was a nominee for NCCW secretary this past year. She served on the by-laws committee last term and now is co-chair of the committee.

In her work as a member of the payroll and benefits' team for the UW-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health (UWSMPH), she is responsible for meeting with and processing life events for employees from hire through retirement and regularly does presentations to staff.

In her free time, Coreen enjoys spending time with her family, playing double deck euchre with her card club, going to craft fairs, exploring new places on the weekend, and supporting the Green Bay Packers and Wisconsin Badgers.

Looking forward to her new duties, Coreen voiced gratitude for her families, "I am fortunate

to be a part of two faith-filled families. The first is my family — my parents (father deceased) and four sisters and son Douglas who lives in Green Bay. The second family is my faith family of St. Joseph Parish and members of the Council of Catholic Women on all levels.

MDCCW honors Mary Uhler

MDCCW honored Mary Uhler with an honorary membership. As editor of the Catholic Herald for 34 years, Mary Uhler was always receptive to publishing MDCCW articles and photos.. She joined the Catholic Herald in 1973 and named editor in 1986. Under her leadership the publication won numerous awards.

In her retirement, Mary took on the role of co-president of the Madison Catholic Women's Club, an affiliate of MDCCW.

The presentation was made at Holy Name Heights following a noon Mass at which Mary served as lector and Msgr. Duane Moellenberndt, MDCCW spiritual advisor, presided.

Mary and her husband John are members of Our Lady Queen of Peace, Madison, and recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They have two married children and three granddaughters and are big fans of Wisconsin sports.

SAVE THE DATE!

June 18 • MDCCW Gathering St. James Church, Madison

Plan now to attend the 2024 MDCCW annual gathering June 18 at St. James Church (Pastorate XXII) in Madison. Bishop Hying has put the date on his calendar, as has Anne Auger who will be the keynote speaker.

To help with the gathering, please contact Linda Ripp at (linmdccw@gmail.com).

NCCW CONVENTION REVIEW

SALT LAKE CITY

AUGUST 23 – 26, 2023

Path of Renewed Encounter

Convention Overview

(Thanks to Coreen Marklein and Kathy Loy for their reporting.)

MDCCW President Linda Ripp, Martinsville, led the Madison diocesan delegation to the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) convention in Salt Lake City, Aug. 24-26. Attending with Linda were Coreen Marklein, Baraboo, secretary; Carol Rogers, Fennimore, president-elect; Sue Barker, Verona, leadership chair; and Kathy Loy, Fennimore, Grant Vicariate president.

The five women arrived in Salt Lake before the convention so that we that they could take in some of the sights of the city. They took a musical Trolley Tour of Salt Lake City where they learned about the history of the city. Later, they took a bus tour that included the State Capitol, the Cathedral of Madeline, and the conference center which hosts the Mormon Tabernacle Christmas concert. At the conference center, they heard a half-hour organ recital.

With the theme, "Path of Renewed Encounter," Coreen said, "The convention was a time of prayer, listening to great speakers and renewing friendships."

NCCW President Patricia Voorhies, Salt Lake City, welcomed the 436 attendees from across the country. She completed her two-year term; and Beth Mahoney, a member of the Fall River, MA, Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, was installed as president. She announced her theme of Women on a Journey — Sharing Our Stories.

Jane Schiszik, Medford, Diocese of Superior, was installed as Milwaukee Province Director (see her message in this newsletter).

Charitable Giving

The NCCW sent Catholic Relief Services \$34,238.59 in 2022 for the Madonna Plan and Water for Life programs. The amount raised in 2023 will be sent to CRS in December of 2023.

The purse auction, which support women entering religious life, raised \$22,600, an increase of \$6,300 from the 2022 convention.

Each of the NCCW three commissions reported to the delegates.

Spirituality. Chair Kim Padan spoke on "The Eucharist, Our Life and Our Peace." She advised the women to go to Mass early or stay late to meditate on the Eucharist and then journal on their thoughts and reflections. "By journaling, you may find that you have enough inspirational quotes to use for the entire year."

Women shared their ideas on growing their faith, including by reading their diocesan website, parish bulletin, and CCW Facebook page and website. Questions raised include:

- Why am I here?
- How does Christ help us find the answer?
- How does the Eucharist help us to see we are not alone, especially in our suffering?
- How can we help those who are lonely?

The spirituality commission suggested that CCWs sponsor a day of reflection or prayer or hold a 72-hour Rosary vigil with members signing up for time slots.

Leadership Commission. The commission focused on the right to vote and provided a recap on the Women's right to vote. First proposed in Congress in 1878, the amendment passed the House and Senate in 1919 and required three-fourths of the states (36 at the

time) to ratify it before it would be law which happened August 18, 1920. The 19th amendment enfranchised all American women, declaring for the first time that women, like men, deserve all the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

Throughout history, women played a significant role in this fight. Native Americans were given the right to vote in 1924, followed by Puerto Rico in 1935. In 1975, bilingual ballots were introduced. Wisconsin was the first state to ratify the amendment on June 10, 1919, followed by Michigan.

The commission encouraged the women to exercise their right to vote. Commission member Diane Tugander said, "Vote as you please but please vote".

Service Commission. The commission held short skits with different examples of service, focusing on the Walking with Moms in Need project. In addition to ideas for collecting diapers, clothing, and other baby needs, the commission suggested holding mentoring classes for moms and panel discussions around prayer, love, and sharing. The women were told, "We are not social workers; we are to walk along side of others. We are called to the joy of love and called to witness."

Convention Gold Sponsors

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) — Beth Knobbe

Answer the Call: Moving from Encounter to Action (<https://www.crs.org/>)

CRS serves over one hundred countries with faith, action, and results. CRS has been a partner with NCCW since 1946. It works with organizations around the world to help poor and vulnerable people overcome emergencies, earn a living through agriculture, and access affordable health care.

Cross Catholic Outreach (CCO) — Tesse O'Dea

An Encounter with Christ among the Poor (<https://crosscatholic.org/>)

CCO is a Catholic ministry that partners with bishops, priests, sisters, religious and lay workers to provide food, water, housing, education and support for orphans and vulnerable children, health care, disaster relief, and the love of our Lord Jesus Christ to the poorest of the poor in over 30 countries around the world.

MDCCW's participation in the Box of Joy project is through Cross Catholic Outreach.

Holy Cross Family Ministries — Reverend Fred Jenga, CSC

The Family that Prays Together Stays Together!
(<https://www.hcfm.org/>)

Holy Cross Family Ministries is a family of Catholic ministries that inspires, promotes, and fosters the prayer life and spiritual well-being of families throughout the world.

We Teach Think — Angela Copenhaver

Human from Day One
(<https://www.humanfromdayone.com/>)

WeTeachThink is a not-for-profit marketing organization designing multimedia campaigns to directly influence public education, awareness, and perception of human dignity and rights."

Selected Convention Sessions

Leadership, Training, and Development (LTD)

By Kathy Loy

The LTD team used a back-to-school theme to promote leadership and learning. Never stop learning!

Religion. Set goals and begin conversations. "I love my faith because...." We must be the ones to talk about our faith and spread the good news

on a one-to-one basis. Share your faith journey with others. It can be a simple story of how God gives you the grace to power through difficult situations.

Tell others about a book you have read or a movie that you have seen about faith. Talk about your favorite picture of Jesus or about your favorite saint.

Math. What are you doing to increase your CCW numbers? Invite diverse groups to attend your CCW meetings and make everyone feel welcome. Rather than a formal meeting, gather in small groups to encourage everyone to get to know each other.

Food and fellowship always go together. Plant the seed with a co-worker, neighbor, or friend. We never know when that seed will grow. Talk the talk and walk the walk.

History. Do you know who the Council of Catholic Women is? When did it start and why? Who is the LTD Team? The LTD team is different than the leadership team. It is our job to keep history going forward even if in a unique way.

Physical Education. Start by making the world a better place. “You put your whole self in and become a member of the CCW team.” Be aware that we are not alone, but we are mentors. We are inclusive of all Catholic women.

Science. A catalyst speeds things up a bit. We went backwards during Covid but now need to get back in action. Did you find new ways to do things during Covid? What worked? What didn't? Use your imagination to develop new ideas.

Add new leaders and develop new ideas at a board meeting, and take the ideas back to your councils to develop in their own ways. Prepare a yearly calendar. Fill in what activities you have planned for the next year as each month can be a new idea. Without planning, you won't get anything done.

The LTD team meets every month by zoom. What is God calling us to do???

Legislation and Education

By Kathy Loy

The legislative committee says a big problem is child pornography and trafficking, and we need to get the legislature to pass new laws to address these problems. The trafficking of kids is big business. They lure them in with accessibility, suggestibility, and vulnerability. They do this online, through family members and friends.

The committee promoted a farm bill that provides training for farmers to grow their own food. Another area of concern is advocating against the death penalty.

The education committee encouraged the women to start junior councils within their CCWs to grow and build future generations.

We were reminded how many times Jesus was on the road to teach. We need to reach out to bring others to Jesus.

We are women of faith, hope, love, and joy. Be kind and nurture new members. Show compassion for all members.

Be open to new ideas. Encourage outgoing officers to continue to be active. Keep things simple and let the past presidents act as mentors. Remember that the former officers are members of the “OWLS Club – Old – Wise – Leaders” and can assist councils when needed.

Encountering Forgiveness

By Kathy Loy

Jean Welch Hill, director of the Salt Lake County Office of Criminal Justice Initiatives, spoke on restorative justice as Catholic justice.

We must understand why the person committed a crime. It could be due to homelessness, a physical or mental condition, employment issues, food issues. We must try to find out why the crime was committed and how we as a community can help them.

Without a permanent address and lacking access to transportation and decent sanitary conditions, homeless people have a harder time securing employment. While stealing is a crime, was the stolen item a necessity? Was someone harmed by the theft?

Poverty is not a reason to treat someone as a criminal. Whose obligation is it to help correct the criminal? We are all God's creation and must care for God's creation. There is no easy solution, but we must work to bring peace to the victim as well as help for the criminal.

Mother Teresa showed us all how to help the poor. She was a voice for the voiceless. We should contact our public officials to help identify what can be done to prevent the crime.

Restorative Justice

By Coreen Marklein

Krisanne Vaillancourt Murphy, executive director of Catholic Mobilizing Network (CMN), the national organization working to end the death penalty and promote restorative justice, spoke on the value of restorative justice.

Murphy told of Sr. Helen Prejean's efforts to abolish the death penalty. The 1995 movie, "Dead Man Walking," is the story of Sister Helen's relationship with a man convicted of murder and sentenced to death. She accompanied the man in the days leading to execution.

Murphy said her interest in the death penalty was sparked when Pope Francis visited the United States in 2015 and pleaded with Congress to end the death penalty.

Renewed Encounter

Chapter 7 of the Encyclical Fratelli Tutti is about a Path of Renewed Encounter. It reminds us to have courage and proposes fraternity and social friendship as the way to build a better, more just, and peaceful world, with the commitment of all people and institutions.

The encyclical was released in October 2020 during Covid when people were experiencing a

time of immense uncertainty, loss, isolation, and an increase of federally sanctioned death penalties.

According to Pope Francis, it is not enough to recognize harm, but there is a need for paths of peace to heal open wounds. He asks each of us to be peacemakers to initiate processes of healing and encounter. We must resist revenge because nothing is gained, and everything is lost.

Forgiveness

Forgiveness must never be demanded, and it is not a sign of weakness, nor is it forgetting, ignoring past harms, nor always possible. Restorative justice is transformative. It is possible without begging pardon and enables the pursuit of justice.

Revenge is contrary to our faith. People who don't forgive carry a heavy burden in their hearts.

In 2018, the Congregation of Doctrine of Faith updated the Catholic catechism on capital punishment to say that the death penalty is unacceptable in all circumstances.

The speaker shared videos of individuals who went through traumatic life events in their families; rather than seeking revenge, they forgave.

*When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we say:
Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those.*

With traditional justice, we ask: What was the crime? Who is guilty? What should the punishment be?

With Restorative Justice, we ask: What was the harm? Who is impacted? How and what needs to be done to make it right.

Murphy reported that 2400 people are on death row, and she asked that we pray for them and their families. The Catholic Mobilizing Network (CMN) | (catholicmobilizing.org) has a link on the Mercy and Action project where we can sign up for a monthly Mercy in Action Alert and instructions on how to write governor or board of pardons to say life.

Awards Banquet

By Linda Ripp

I was the only one from Madison to attend the awards banquet at which Bonnie Workman who began support for the NCCW Water for Life charity was awarded the Our Lady of Good Counsel award.

Our program was Donna Stoering, a pianist and mezzo-soprano, who spoke on "Prayer as Music, Music as Prayer: Living a Eucharistic Life in Today's World." She told us that playing music is her prayer and encouraged us to use our gifts to serve others.

Listen for Life

Stoering is the founder and artistic ambassador of Listen for Life, a global music and media organization that is creating a worldwide alternative to MTV and helping performers in many musical styles and genres in some 40 countries (<https://www.listenforlife.org/>).

Stoering told us that people frequently approached her after her concerts to tell her that was what they needed to hear and that her music healed their spirit/soul. God's Love should lead us to action and prompt us to ask ourselves: What can I do now to repay God's love?

Stoering performed some of her favorite songs that express her gratitude and thanksgiving: "Follow me to the Sea" by Ray Repp; "Here I Am" (Psalm 40) by Rory Cooney; "Here I Am Lord" by Dan Schuette; "Holy Is His Name" by John Michael Talbot; and "How Great Thou Art." She ended with "Now Thank We All our God."

'Human from Day One'

By Linda Ripp

The other speaker who impressed me is Angela Copenhaver, director of WeTeachThink, a not-for-profit marketing organization designing multimedia campaigns to directly influence public education, awareness, and perception of human dignity and rights. She spoke about her marketing campaign, "Human from Day One."

Her goal is to make abortion socially unacceptable.

Years ago, no one used seatbelts but with marketing we changed our minds and now know how important they are in saving lives in car accidents. Copenhaver aims to reach the 59 percent of the population who aren't in the 22 percent pro-choice and 19 percent pro-life groups.

Copenhaver has designed four commercials and billboards that she says, "take the heat out of the argument." They can be viewed on the website <https://www.humanfromdayone.com/>. Her tax-deductible charity raises money for commercials and billboards. All monies raised for a specific area stay in that area.

I started an account for the Madison Diocese. Go to the website and click donate and then click Madison WI. I think we can reach more people for less money by having yard signs and bumper stickers and postcards. I contacted her about doing that, and she sent me 50 bumper stickers and postcards to get started. Contact me if you would like more info (linmdccw@gmail.com).

At the closing banquet, we were entertained by unexpected musicians: Salt Lake Bishop Oscar A Solis; Fr Miguel Gonzalez, chair of the NCCW spiritual advisors; and a delegate from Minneapolis who played the guitar and led us in folk singing. They did a great job, filling in for the jazz group that had been scheduled but had the wrong date.

Holy Cross Family Ministries

By Carol Rogers

One of the Gold sponsors of the convention, Holy Cross Family Ministries (HCFM), touched memories from my childhood and addressed the Resolution passed at the 2022 Convention in Minneapolis to promote First Saturday Devotions in each parish.

Fr. Fred Jenga, born in Uganda now stationed in Salt Lake City, appealed to everyone to pray the Rosary, specifically the family Rosary. HCFM

has taken up the message of Venerable Fr. Patrick Peyton (1909-1992), who promoted the family Rosary across this nation and worldwide when I was a child.

Two quotes from Fr. Peyton are apropos for today:

“The family that prays together, stays together.”

“A world at prayer is a world at peace.”

Spirituality, an authentic encounter with God, is the foundation for all successful social programs. Today’s world, beginning with the family unit, needs healing. People require more than food to heal their souls. Fr. Jenga noted, “The Rosary is a good spiritual shock absorber.”

If a family invites God into their homes through praying the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, God will change the atmosphere in the family, the home, and the world. The Rosary can reunite families in crisis. Faith provides structure for a family to function properly in society.

The core prayer to provide this structure is the Rosary. The heart of the Rosary is the Mysteries because they relate the Gospel and speak to every season of life. Through them we encounter Jesus, Mary, Joseph, angels, Apostles, and other people with needs like our own. We observe the working of grace in those holy souls and apply the lessons learned to our own lives.

Visit <http://familyrosary.org/> to learn how to begin a family rosary habit. Visit <https://www.fatherpeyton.org/> to assist with the canonization effort for Fr. Peyton.

Opening Mass

By Carol Rogers

The Most Reverend Oscar Solis, Bishop of the Salt Lake Diocese, was the main celebrant and homilist at the opening Mass. (Each daily Mass at NCCW Conventions features a bishop as the main celebrant.)

He noted that only 8 percent of the population of Utah is Catholic; the state has more deer than Catholics. Bishop Solis reflected that Faith

requires a personal encounter with Jesus. St. Bartholomew heard about Jesus from his friend Phillip, who said “Come and see” when Bartholomew wondered how anything good could come from Nazareth. God employs human instruments to do His work. The Bishop challenged us to be used by God to assist others to Faith in Jesus.

To do so, we must be mindful of our role as missionary disciples, not just Christians happily centered on our own private Faith. We are called to proclaim the Gospel, to share the love of God with Joy, with excitement. Jesus Christ lives! He exists to save the world!

The Convention called us to renew our Faith; now back at home we must share this Joy in our Catholic Faith with family, parish, and beyond. Love of God and love of others must be at the center of our hearts.

Bishop Solis challenged us to pray to be filled with grace, to invite the Holy Spirit to empower us to recognize the paths of encounter with souls placed before us. Our words and actions must entice others to “come and see” Christ in our midst.

Now we share this challenge with you, all our sisters in CCW

Resolution on Eucharist

The 338 voting delegates approved one resolution, Belief in the Real Presence. The purpose of the resolution is “To foster increased understanding of the Church’s teaching on Jesus’ Real Presence in the Eucharist.”

Resolved, that members reflect on Church teaching by utilizing the NCCW Spirituality Commission study guide “Woman of the Eucharist” and promote this study which corresponds to the 6th chapter of the Encyclical letter On the Eucharist in Its Relationship to the Church and sponsor this study at the parish level.

Resolved, that NCCW affiliates would supplement this study by encouraging member-led participation in frequent and regular

Eucharistic Adoration that may include reciting the rosary, chaplet, or other devotions.

Resolved, that each NCCW Province be encouraged to and make every effort to send a representative to the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, July 2024.

The 2024 NCCW Convention

will be August 13-17 in Oklahoma City. The theme is Called to an Encounter with Jesus. The focus of the convention will be on how we are women on a journey — sharing our stories with an emphasis on the Eucharist.