

President's Report

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MDCCW President

Upon arriving at our national convention in Atlanta last August, I had a strong sense that this would be an exciting, interesting, and informative gathering. That was followed immediately by a wish that I had brought a busload of MDCCW members with me.

As I walked into the atrium of the hotel, I saw the convention emblem with the words "NCCW Caring for God's Creation" on the outside of the elevator and on the floor leading to the meeting rooms. Amazing! We were gathered in a large public building in the city of Atlanta, and our emblem was visible to everyone present! I felt a surge of pride in being a member of MDCCW and NCCW!

Mary, Model and Protector

During his homily at the convention, Bishop Joel M. Konzen, S.M., Auxiliary Bishop of Atlanta, remarked that for 99 years the NCCW has brought abundant joy to many people. He told us that we are entitled to rejoice in the joy of our harvest. On the feast of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, he reminded us that she is the perfect model and protector. Her influence is over the heart; her power is to turn our hearts to the merciful heart of Jesus. Her statement of trust, "Do whatever he tells you," should guide our decisions and actions. We can pray with confidence to Mary because Jesus listens to his mother. We pray that her qualities will increase in us and that she will assist us in our ministry of joyful service.

Let's also ask Mary to help and guide us as we prepare to celebrate 100 years at our MDCCW convention next June. Bishop Hying has agreed to be our keynote speaker and principal celebrant at the Mass. Several meetings of the planning committee from the West Dane Vicariate have taken place. They are looking into many suggestions to make the day interesting, uplifting, fun, and memorable. Plan to bring friends with you to this historic celebration of 100 years of joyful service.

Banner Available

Our 100-year birthday banner with the beautiful image of Our Lady of Good Counsel and the names of our three commissions can be purchased for \$150. That price includes two dowels, a cord, and shipping. If you prefer, the name of your parish or vicariate CCW can be printed at the bottom instead of Madison Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. An order form is available on the MDCCW website, or you may contact me at <mailto:bschaefer2020@outlook.com>.

As I write this, I am in the midst of attending fall vicariate meetings. I feel blessed to meet you and hear about the joyful service you are doing in your parishes. I think of you as dear friends and remember you in my prayers.

May God's peace and joy be in your hearts and homes during the holy seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas. May the Holy Family bless you and your family.

**"He is the vine;
we are the branches."**

John 15:4-5:

"Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."