

**AUGUST
2025**

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Connecting Catholic Women!

A Monthly Newsletter of the Madison Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (MDCCW)

Affiliated with the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) and your local parish Council (CCW)

Uniting Catholic Women throughout the Catholic Diocese of Madison, Wisconsin

THE PEN

"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain." Psalm 127:1

Building the Body of Christ

August is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

See page 5 for its history, the Fatima apparitions and First Saturdays!

My 2nd Year as MDCCW President: I welcome this next year to continue to "Build the Body of Christ" along with you, my sisters in Council. Our next MDCCW Board Meeting is Saturday, August 16th, 9am-noon at St. Andrew Church, 301 N. Main St. Verona. Paul Merline, who has been spearheading fundraising efforts for St. Bernard of Clairvaux Cathedral, spoke at the Convention on June 28 about completed and planned renovations (see p. 4). No completion date has yet been set for the rededication of the church. Women generously contributed \$1,874 in the Offertory collection toward the Cathedral project.

This year we turn to the 2nd church in the diocese that is being planned for a complete rebuild, St. Augustine University Parish in Platteville. Fr. Eric Neilsen was recently named as pastor at St. Augustine. (Fr. John Del Priori, a member of the Order of Jesus Christ the Priest and pastor at St. Augustine for the last 14 years, was transferred to Guayaquil, Ecuador, to pastor a very large parish there.)

Throughout this year I would like us, as women of the diocese, to focus efforts on the St. Augustine Building Fund. This fund needs our assistance. College students, who make up almost the entire congregation at St. Augustine, are not financially able to contribute great amounts of money to the parish. I am calling on your generous hearts to become donors to this cause this year. The building that now houses the church and the Newman Center is literally falling apart. It was not built for permanence...but the new church and Newman Center will be.

See **THE PEN** continued on **Page Three**

United Across the Diocese FUNDRAISER NEEDED!

Wanted: New Fundraiser Ideas

We are looking for a diocesan-wide fundraiser to embark on for President Rogers' second year in office. If you, or others you know, have been part of a successful fundraiser in the past please call or email me. All ideas will be considered! It takes all CCW ladies throughout the diocese to share in fundraising. Thank you!!

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Koch

kochspeech@gmail.com; 920 229 4150

United in Voice with NCCW

Updates from the National Council of Catholic Women.

NCCW Bylaws update

At the NCCW Convention, the official Bylaws of the National Council will be changing by vote. Revisions to these Bylaws help to set the framework for both Diocesan and local council's operations.

If your CCW is changing its name or adapting to a new parish structure, now is the time to fully adapt your Bylaws! A full document on these changes is available on line at nccw.org.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
CATHOLIC WOMEN.

**NCCW
RESOURCES
NCCW RESOURCE
& GUIDANCE
MANUAL**

A MUST-HAVE for each Council is the reference information you need to guide all your Council's activities. Topics include: Operating Dynamic Councils, Building and Maintaining Membership, Public Relations, Leadership, Commissions and more! Get your copy today for \$25 + shipping at the NCCW Store online at nccw.org

**ROSARY
MEDITATION
BOOKLET**

Council women are women of prayer. This special booklet helps fulfill that calling! Get your copy today on sale for \$12 + shipping at the NCCW Store online at nccw.org

**MEMBERSHIP
AFFILIATIONS:**

ALL PARISH women are council women if your pastorate CCW pays dues.

**INDIVIDUAL
MEMBERSHIPS:**

Available to individual Catholic women in parishes without MDCCW & NCCW affiliation to receive full benefits and resources.

CONTACT MDCCW:

www.mdccw.com

CONTACT NCCW:

3211 4th St. NE, Suite #338
Washington, DC 20017
www.nccw.org

LEADERSHIP

Inspiration for Local Councils by Sue Barker,
MDCCW Leadership Commission Chair

As we start a new meeting year, are you wondering what you will do to re-invigorate your CCW? Has your "Planning Team" turned into just you? Are you tired of every meeting being the same? These seem to be problems with many of our groups, so what is the answer? Let's refer to the NCCW Guidance and Resource Manual to help us set up an active, vibrant Council. Starting next month we will use this guide to help us. September will be "Team Building"; October, "Plan Well"; November, "Goals"; December, "Value Members"; January, "The Program Committee"; February, "The Board"; March, "The Committees"; April, "Value Members"; May, "Reports and Progress"; June, "Gather with Peers & Mentors"; July, "Evaluate". This manual and information from the LTD Team, (Learning, Training and Development), should help get us back on track and hopefully seeing new and returning members.

SPIRITUALITY

**The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
August 22**

The Blessed Virgin Mary's Queenship is intrinsically tied to her Assumption into Heaven: *"Finally, the Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into havenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, so that she might be the more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords and conqueror of sin and death."* CCC 966

For us, the concept and understanding of the role of kings and queens in modern society is based on historical facts, legends and evidence. With the Queenship of Mary: *"Her role in relation to the Church and to all humanity goes still further. In a wholly singular way she cooperated by her obedience, faith, hope and burning charity in the Savior's work of restoring supernatural life to souls."* CCC 968

LEADERSHIP

CALLING ALL WOMEN

Last month's NCCW's Leadership Training hosted by the Province of Milwaukee was an extraordinary day for 76 women eager to build their councils with joy and wisdom. The day began with the opening prayer of Our Lady of Good Council and reflected on 'KNOTS, NOTS and PROBLEMS'. Topics included: Rings of a CCW Council, establishing identity, keeping volunteers, sharing a vision, and so much more! For the next few months, this corner on Leadership will be dedicated to each of the presentations. NCCW resources were available and the group had opportunity to share ideas to fulfill their mission at their home parishes. In closing with Mother Teresa's quote: *"Christ has no body now but yours."* stay tuned for how you can apply these leadership ideas!

by Coreen Marklein of NCCW's Leadership Team

SPIRITUALITY

Faith Finds a Home at Home

In the golden days of August, our family time is usually a combination of shopping for school supplies and squeezing in final days of family time before the new school year begins. For me, August has always been a hectic month pregnant with an "oh-no-summer-is-almost-over" feeling. This year, I'm striving to be different: calmer, more easy-going, even nonchalant about the upcoming looming schedules. Living in the present moment is what Our Lord calls us to do, not worrying about the past or future, but enjoying this moment, this minute, this hour, and giving Him all the glory in it. My prayer for August is: *Help me, Lord, to give You glory always, starting with this moment.*



By Julianne Nornberg

Contributor to the Catholic Herald and member of Holy Cross Parish (formerly Pastorate 19)

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How can you help? First, we can pray that God will touch many hearts to contribute to the St. Augustine Building Fund. CCWs could designate profits from one or more events for St. Augustine. We could personally or as families set aside money each month for this cause. The Offertory collection at the MDCCW Convention in June 2026 will be given to St. Augustine in the name of the women of the diocese.

MDCCW Commissions: Three Commissions form the structure of our programs and projects. The [Spirituality](#) Chair, Judy Lyons, brings a prayer focus to each of the MDCCW Board meetings to be shared with parish CCWs. The [Leadership](#) Chair, Sue Barker, shares information from NCCW to develop strong leaders in our parishes. The [Service](#) Chair, Linda Ripp, provides information about NCCW projects (Box of Joy, Water for Life, the Madonna Plan, the Vocation Purse Club) and manages diocesan events such as the Ordination Reception.

In everything be mindful that God placed us each here for a reason. In prayer we need to seek divine assistance to accomplish the work that we are to do for God. The little things done with great love may be influencing others in ways we cannot see...we don't know, but God knows. Daily search out times of silence so that we can connect with Jesus in our hearts. *"Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."*

Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pray for us.

In His Mercy and Her Love,

Carol Rogers

Madison Diocesan Council of Catholic Women President

See **THE PEN** continued on **DEVOTIONS** on Page Five



The ASSUMPTION of THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

HOLY DAY: Friday, August 15th

In the treasury of the truths understood by the Roman Catholic Church, the Blessed Virgin was assumed into Heaven body and soul. It is also understood to mean that Our Lady was 'asleep' and not deceased. This message of hope (*our Jubilee Year theme*), reminds us that we are pilgrims on this earth with a destination of Divine Purpose. While archaeology has unveiled two separate tombs of Mary (in Jerusalem & Ephesus), no relics have been found despite the great clamor for relics of all Disciples and Holy Saints throughout history.

SERVICE: Pick-A-THEME

THEME for a PASTORAL CALENDAR:

The Assumption of Our Lady can inspire women to be a Mother-to-Others: become a tutor at a school, set up story-time at your library or charity center.

THEME for AUGUST:

Defend the Children: Work with your parish Religious Education programs to incorporate safety for children from internet dangers, trafficking and personal safety. Engage your community professionals to assist.

THEME Based on 'BE-ATTITUDES':

Focusing on the TEN COMMANDMENTS offers opportunities to assemble parent packages on back-to-school resources, & projects on kindness.

THEME Based on NCCW-Endorsed Projects:

It's a W.R.A.P.: **W**hite **R**ibbon **A**gainst **P**ornography is NCCW's partner Religious Alliance against Pornography whose activities and projects are found on NCCW's website: nccw.org

Prayer Intentions

for the Month of August

by Pope Francis **'For Mutual Coexistence'**

"Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons."

VOICE of the SAINTS

Feasts, Memorials and Solemnities

- St. ALPHONSUS LIGUORI, 8-1
- St. JOHN VIANNEY 8-4
- The TRANSFIGURATION of the LORD, 8-6
- St. Sixtus II, 8-7
- St. Dominic, 8-8
- St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, 8-9
- St. Clare, 8-11
- St. Jane Frances the Chantal, 8-12
- ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE, 8-14
- THE ASSUMPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, 8-15
- ST. BERNARD, Abbot, 8-20
- St. PIUS X, 8-21
- The QUEENSHIP of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, 8-22
- St. Rose of Lima, 8-23
- ST. MONICA, 8-27
- ST. AUGUSTINE, 8-28
- THE PASSION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, 8-29

EVENTS IN THE DIOCESE

Epiphany Parish Mega Rummage Sale at Sacred Hearts School & Garage,

Thursday - Saturday, July 31-Aug. 2. Held at 219 & 221 Columbus Street, Sun Prairie. Three days of treasure hunting at this enormous Rummage Sale. See epiphanyparishwi.org/rummage-sale. Call (608) 837-7381 for more information.

Holy Cross Parish Picnic, Sunday August 10, 11:30am-2:30pm, Food, pies, games, bounce house, bingo and more! Held at St. Francis Xavier Church, 2947 Thinnes St. Cross Plains.

St. James Church Picnic, Sunday August 10, 11am-4pm. Held at 315 N. Main Street, Neshkoro. Picnic food, games, raffles, pull tabs & more.

QP in the Park (Our Lady Queen of Peace), Wednesday, August 13, 6-8pm. bring your own picnic to celebrate with games, activities and community. Held at Westmorland Park, 4114 Tokay Blvd, Madison.

St. John Picnic & Car Show, Sunday, August 17, 11am- 3pm. Held at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 125 Church St., Princeton. Chicken dinner, corn hole tournament, online auction, raffles, music, petting zoo, games & more!

Parish Picnic, Sunday, August 17, 11am-5pm. St. Therese of Lisieux Parish at St. Henry Church, 300 E. Cady St., Watertown. Food, live music, Bingo, raffles & more.

Mary, Mother of Mercy Pastorate Festival, Sunday, August 24, 11am-5pm. Kids' games, food, bingo, silent auction, raffle drawing. At St. Aloysius Church, 115 Madison St. Sauk City.

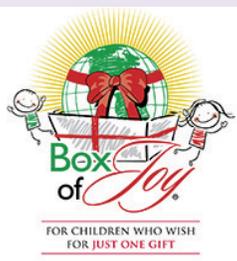
Parish Picnic, Sunday, August 31, 11am. Chicken & Ham Dinner and Picnic at Holy Ghost Parish, 305 W. Main, Dickeyville.

BOX of JOY project will be held throughout the Diocese of Madison and all parishes are invited to participate! Plan now to stock up on items so precious to children in Central American countries. Information is online at crosscatholic.org. Boxes will be available by the end of August from Linda Ripp linmdccw@gmail.com. See side panel for more information.

Saturday, Aug 16
MDCCW BOARD Meeting
for All Parish Representatives & Board Members!
St. Andrew Church
301 N. Main St., Verona
9:00am- Noon

Aug. 19-23

NCCW Convention
BELIEVE IN THE EUCHARIST BLESSED, BROKEN, SHARED
Orlando, FL
www.nccw.org



Drop-Off site will be St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church, 5959 St. Martin Circle, Cross Plains (Martinsville) the weekends of Oct. 25 & 26 and Nov. 1 & 2.

Have an EVENT or ACTIVITY that you wish to see in The Pen?
Forward request 3 weeks before the first of the month you wish to see your listing to:
Carol Rogers
carrogmdccw@gmail.com
with subject line: 'Newsletter Event'.

Progress on The Cathedral of St. Bernard of Clairvaux

Construction continues on the Cathedral for the Diocese of Madison.

Here is a list of all the changes focused on making St. Bernard Church a CATHEDRAL:

- New altar, altar furnishings, and altar woodwork
- New stunning interior paint scheme, statues and ornamental fixtures
- New subfloor and beautiful terrazzo main floor
- Updated and upgraded sound system, HVAC, electrical and infrastructure
- New and expanded choir loft with a spectacular refurbished organ and new organ pipes
- New pews
- New tile roof
- Renovated rectory
- New and expanded parking lot and new concrete walkways
- Eventual addition of a new parish center and administration building
- Planned addition of a new steeple to sit atop current church tower
- Planned addition of a mausoleum (working on city approvals)
- You can learn more about renovation efforts by visiting the "Design" page of the Diocesan website: madisoncathedral.org !



THE PEN CONTINUED from Page Three

August is the month dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary. As Catholics we include in our personal prayer the particular devotion that is identified by the Church based on the liturgical calendar and/or historical events.

History: Since the 11th century, the Immaculate Heart of Mary was venerated in various countries of the world on different days. In 1944 Pope Pius XII moved the feast to August 22 for the universal church. In 1969 Pope Paul VI paired the feasts of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, moving them to the Friday and Saturday following Corpus Christi Sunday, this year on June 27 and 28.

This month has its own days dedicated to the Blessed Mother. August 15, the feast of the Assumption of Our Blessed Mother into Heaven, is a Holy Day of Obligation. August 22, is now the feast of the Queenship of Mary.

Fatima Follow-up: Remember that during her 3rd Fatima apparition (July 13, 1917), Our Lady revealed that she would come to ask for the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart and for the Communion of Reparation of the Five 1st Saturdays. Consequently, after Lucia, the oldest of the three children, had become a Dorothean sister, Our Lady appeared to her in the convent at Pontevedra, Spain, on Dec. 10, 1925, and again in 1929 asking Sr. Lucia to establish devotion to the Immaculate Heart.

The Blessed Mother appeared alongside a Boy who stood over a luminous cloud. Our Lady rested one hand on the Boy's shoulder while she held on the other hand a heart pierced with thorns around it. Sister Lucia heard the Boy say, *"Have pity on the Heart of your Most Holy Mother, which is covered with thorns with which ingrate men pierce it at every moment with no one to make an act of reparation to pull them out."*

Our Lady then expressed her request in the following words, *"See, my daughter, My Heart surrounded with thorns with which ingrates pierce me at every moment with blasphemies and ingratitude. You, at least, make sure to console me and announce that all those who for five consecutive months on the 1st Saturdays go to confession, receive Communion, say five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for 15 minutes meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary with the purpose of making reparation to Me, I promise to assist at the hour of death with all the graces necessary for the salvation of their souls."*

Why Five Saturdays? Sister Lucia wrote of a vision she had of Our Lord in the convent chapel on May 30, 1930. Our Lord gave 5 reasons corresponding to 5 kinds of offenses committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary:

1. Blasphemies against the Immaculate Conception
2. Blasphemies against her virginity
3. Blasphemies against her divine maternity, at the same time the refusal to accept her as the Mother of all mankind
4. Instilling indifference, scorn, and even hatred towards this Immaculate Mother in the hearts of children
5. Direct insults against Her sacred images

Keep one of the above reasons in mind on each of the five 1st Saturdays. Plan now to begin this powerful devotion in private or with a group. Attend Mass, receive Holy Communion, and say the Rosary on the 1st Sat., August 2; or start on September 6. At some time during the day spend 15 minutes of meditation on the Mysteries of the Rosary. Your Confession may occur 20 days before or after the 1st Saturday to count.

NCCW urges women to appeal to their pastors to schedule 1st Saturday devotions every month. Fatima occurred over 100 years ago. How long will it take for us to heed the words of our Blessed Mother and claim her promise? *"I promise to assist at the hour of death with all the graces necessary for the salvation of their souls."*

In His Mercy and Her Love,

Carol Rogers

