

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

In This Issue:

Page 1

THE PEN
MDCCW & NCCW

Page 2

Leadership
Spirituality

Page 3

THE PEN Continued
Prayer
Service
Voice of the Saints

Page 4

DIOCESAN EVENTS
Progress on the Cathedral

Page 5

THE PEN Continued

Page 6

PILGRIMAGE Continued

THE PEN

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

Building the Body of Christ

The Seven Sorrows of Mary is the Catholic devotion for September.

This month has three important feasts of Our Blessed Mother:

Sept. 8 The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sept. 12 The Most Holy Name of Mary

Sept. 15 Our Lady of Sorrows

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin: Mary's parents, Joachim and Anne, had desired to have a child for years. They prayed if only God would grant them a child, the child would be

See **THE PEN** continued on Page Three

United Across the Diocese FUNDRAISER THANK YOU!

Dear Ladies of the Diocese of Madison,

It is with much gratitude that I write this final message about this past year's mustard sale fundraiser. I would especially like to thank the women who approached me for selling mustard at their events after the fundraiser was first announced in Nov. 2025: Jo Heath, Barbara Mehling, Carol Eberhardy, Kathy Roelke, Audrey Priebe, Julianne Bricki, Carolyn Zentner, Sharlene Parsons and Christine Del Priori - many thanks go out to you and the ladies who helped you sell at your events. I apologize if anyone was left out of this lineup.

Thank You also to those who purchased cases to donate to food pantries and senior citizen centers. MDCCW netted over \$2,600.00 on this fundraiser and we couldn't have done this without so many embracing this effort. Thanks to the Ways and Means Committee for all the help they provided.

Another fundraiser will be coming for the final year of President Roger's term. Stay tuned!!!

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Koch

kochspeech@gmail.com; 920 229 4150



CAROL ROGERS

President, Madison Diocesan
Council of Catholic Women

CONTACT ME:

PHONE: (608) 391-2564

carrogmdccw@gmail.com

United in Voice with NCCW

From Fr. Tom Washburn, Spiritual Advisor to the
National Council of Catholic Women.



A PILGRIMAGE of the HEART

Dear Sisters in Christ,

As some of you may know, in June I spent a few weeks walking on pilgrimage along the Camino de Santiago, one of the oldest pilgrimages in the world. People have been prayerfully walking these routes to the grave of the Apostle St. James for more than 1,000 years. I wanted to share a bit of that experience with you. I can talk about the physical challenges of walking so many miles. I think my final mile count was 117 miles and I could talk about the strategies to pace ourselves and take care of our feet so there would be no blisters. I can talk about the food and the culture of the Galician countryside we walked through. I could share about the many people – fellow pilgrims – that I met along the way. But, somehow none of that quite captures what the experience was truly like. Instead, to get at the heart of this journey, let me share with you how I framed things for our group of 27 at the start of our trek – two simple but profound questions I posed at the very beginning of our journey: What will you

Continue '**PILGRIMAGE**' on Page 6

SPIRITUALITY

Our Lady of Sorrows

September 15

The Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows established by Pope Pius VII for the universal church in 1817 commemorates the intense unity of heart that existed between the Mother of the Redeemer and the Savior of the World. Seven Sorrows are identified as excruciatingly painful for Our Lady as she endured them with strength.

This title acknowledges the spiritual martyrdom of Mary and her compassion with the sufferings of her Divine Son. The Mother of God revealed to St. Bridget of Sweden that whoever prays seven Hail Marys daily, meditating upon her tears and sorrows, will receive the following graces:

- a. I will grant peace to their families.
- b. They will be enlightened about the Divine mysteries.
- c. I will console them in their pains, and I will accompany them in their work.
- d. I will give them as much as they ask for as long as it does not oppose the adorable will of my Divine Son or the sanctification of their souls.
- e. I will defend them in their spiritual battles with the infernal enemy, and I will protect them at every instant of their lives.
- f. I will visibly help them at the moment of their death; they will see the face of their Mother.
- g. I have obtained from my Divine Son that those who propagate this devotion to my tears and Dolours, will be taken directly from this earthly life to eternal happiness since all their sins will be forgiven; and my Son and I will be their eternal consolation and joy.

The Seven Sorrows of Our Lady are:

1. Prophecy of Simeon *Luke 2:25-35*
2. Flight Into Egypt *Matthew 2:13-15*
3. Loss of the Child Jesus in the Temple *Luke 2:41-50*
4. Meeting of Jesus and Mary on the Way of the Cross *Luke 23:27-31; John 19:17*
5. Crucifixion and Death of Jesus *John 19:25-30*
6. Body of Jesus Taken from the Cross and Placed in Mary's Arms *Psalms 130, Luke 23:50-54, John 19:31-37*
7. Burial of Jesus *Isaiah 53:8; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42; Mark 15:40-47*

LEADERSHIP

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

Keeping our Councils active with new members is something we all face. How do we set up or re-energize our current group? Following some simple steps will make things easier. Before your meeting, advertise when and where they will be in your church bulletin, by word of mouth and in the church narthex. Your current officers can start the meeting by introducing any guests. If you are just starting a group, a leader may introduce everyone present. Discuss meeting dates and what you would like to do this session, setting goals. You may want to set a theme for the year. Encourage all women to participate so no one feels left out. Invite everyone back to the next meeting, encouraging them to bring a friend. Don't forget to start your meetings with prayer!

SPIRITUALITY

Faith Finds a Home at Home

Sometimes I notice a particular young woman at Mass, a beautiful mother always with a small, content, almost playful smile. I remember my own days of young motherhood, and I'm pretty sure in those days my face often held the opposite of that beautiful smile. "What is her secret?" I wondered the first time I saw her. Afterward I realized I always noticed her radiant smile on her way back from Communion. "She's in love with Our Lord!" Her secret dawned on me finally as one day, upon receiving Him in the Eucharist, my own heart was swept away by His immeasurable love.

By Julianne Nornberg

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

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

Prayer Intentions

for the Month of
September
by Pope Francis
**'For Our
Relationship
with all of
Creation'**

"Let us pray that,
inspired by Saint
Francis, we might
experience our
interdependence with
all creatures who are
loved by God and
worthy of love and
respect."

VOICE of the SAINTS

Feasts, Memorials and
Solemnities

Labor Day, 9-1
ST. GREGORY the
GREAT 9-3
St. Teresa of Calcutta, 9-5
THE NATIVITY of the
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY,
9-8
ST. PETER CLAVER, 9-9
The Most Holy Name of
Mary, 9-12
ST. JOHN
CHRYSOSTOM, 9-13
EXHALTATION of the
HOLY CROSS, 9-14
OUR LADY OF
SORROWS, 9-15
STS. CORNELIUS and
CYPRIAN, 9-16
St. Robert Bellarmine and
St. Hildegard of Bingen,
9-17
St. Januarius, 9-19
STS. ANDREW KIM TAE-
GON & Companions, 9-20
ST. PIUS of PIETRELCINA
9-23
Sts. Cosmas and Damian,
9-26
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL,
9-27
STS. MICHAEL, GABRIEL
& RAPHAEL, 9-29
ST. JEROME, 9-30

THE PEN CONTINUED from Page One

dedicated to God from birth. As a sacrifice, they planned to present the child to the Temple to be educated and raised there, not in their home. When Anne was past the normal years of childbearing, God miraculously allowed them to conceive a child. We celebrate two Holy Days, Dec. 8, the Immaculate Conception, and nine months later, Sept. 8, Mary's birth. Joachim and Anne did not just conceive any child; they were granted the favor of conceiving the one chosen from all eternity to become the Mother of the Savior, the Mother of God.

Joachim and Anne kept their promise. They reared their daughter in their own home until she was just past three years old. Mary was such a delightful child that, had her parents not vowed to present her to the Temple, they would have found it impossible to do so. Neither Joachim nor Anne nor Mary herself had any idea that Mary was to become the mother of the Savior. (Adapted from *The City of God*, by Mary of Agreda)

The Feast of **The Most Holy Name of Mary** originated in Spain in the 1500s and became part of the Church calendar in 1683. The name Mary in ancient languages means "beautiful, well-beloved, lofty, exalted," all eminently true of the Blessed Virgin. She is our Mother, given to us by her Son, the mother who responds to all our needs, protects us from

See **THE PEN** continued on Page Five



Pregnancy Center of Dane County

Serving South Central Wisconsin is an oasis of love which helps women and men facing an unexpected pregnancy. As a faith-based charitable organization, their mission is to share the love of Christ, affirm the sanctity of life and walk alongside those who are impacted by pregnancy with physical, emotional and spiritual support.
* Medical Services are offered in their free clinic as well as the FirstCare mobile clinic.
* Maternity homes (Elizabeth House) provide goal-oriented programs to assist women to be self sufficient by building skill sets to achieve success while providing a safe home for them and their baby.
* Educational programs offered cover a wide range of parenting issues vital to a life time.

Take a Tour of CareNet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (noon-1pm) at 1350 MacArthur Road, Madison (Call ahead: 608-259-1606) to learn first-hand the resource right in the heart of the Diocese of Madison! See www.carenetdane.org

SERVICE: Pick-A-THEME

THEME for a PASTORAL CALENDAR:

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Sunday, Sept 14th) is followed by Monday's Our Lady of Sorrows. It is a perfect time to focus on the Rosary or Crucifixes as gifts to those in need or fundraise to purchase religious art for your church.

THEME for SEPTEMBER:

Sept. 15-21 is National Diaper Need Awareness Week! Host a Diaper Drive along with your social gathering or participate in the DiaperDash 5K on September 20th!

THEME Based on 'BE-ATTITUDES':

Shelter the Homeless: Tour a resource center with your group to gain insight into their needs and wrap a warm blanket around this with your service project!

THEME Based on NCCW-Endorsed Projects:

Walking with Moms In Need is an initiative by the USCCB and is embraced by councils across the nation. Learn how you can tap into this resource: www.walkingwithmoms.com



Mark Your
Calendars!

DiaperDash Bash
Sat., Sept. 20th
5K Run, 2 Mile
Walk



EVENTS IN THE DIOCESE

BARN TALK WITH THE BISHOP Saturday, September 13. Cookout 5:30-7pm, Talk by Bishop Hying 7-8pm. Registration required at martindula8@gmail.com. W8525 Finch Brothers Road, Lake Mills.

FALL FESTIVAL Saturday, September 20 to Sunday, September 21. St. Joseph East Bristol Fall Festival includes Saturday 6pm mass, entertainment follows with music by 'The Decades' until 11pm. Sunday's Festival includes 10am mass, followed by chicken & ham dinner, bake sale, games, progressive bidding farm market, and music until 4pm. 1935 County Road V, Sun Prairie. Raffles and Fun! 1935 County Road V, Sun Prairie.

DIAPER DASH (Babies & Beyond) Saturday, September 20th

Runners, Walkers and Race Helpers are needed for the annual DIAPER DASH to raise awareness, collect diapers and funds for the diaper bank! Register NOW online at <https://babiesandbeyondwi.org>

FALL FESTIVAL Sunday, September 21 11am - afternoon. St. Charles Festival features buffet style BBQ chicken lunch - dine in or carry out, Bingo, games silent auction, farmers market, and raffles. 605 E. Dewey Street, Cassville, WI

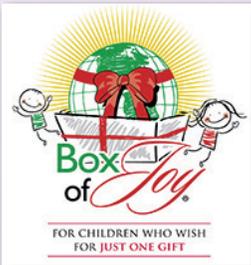
CHICKEN BBQ Sunday, September 21. Dine-In or Carry-Out (10:30am-1:30pm) Raffle, Games, Petting Zoo, Bingo and much more at Immaculate Conception Church, Boscobel.

ANNUAL SWISS STEAK & HAM DINNER, Sunday September 28

11:30am-3:30pm. Dinner with all the fixin's, raffle and more at St. Maximilian Kolbe Pastorate's St. Patrick Church 521 Fair Street, Lodi

COMING UP SOON - BOX of JOY Project: Prepare for October & November!

The 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 are now available for your packing pleasure! Drop-Off site will be at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church, 5959 St. Martin Circle, Cross Plains (Martinsville) the weekends of Oct. 25 & 26 and Nov. 1 & 2. Contact Linda Ripp linmdccw@gmail.com



The Cathedral of St. Bernard of Clairvaux

Why does the Diocese of Madison need a cathedral?

The word "cathedral" comes from the Latin "cathedra," meaning "chair." A cathedral is the bishop's church, housing his episcopal chair as a symbol of his authority, leadership, and service as chief shepherd of the diocese and successor of the Apostles.

Each Catholic diocese has a cathedral which serves as the "mother church" of the diocese. As such, it is a most fitting location for the faithful to come together for diocesan events and celebrations with the bishop, such as ordinations, the Chrism Mass, and the liturgies of the Triduum. Often built in or near the center of a city, cathedrals stand as a reminder of the primacy of God in our lives, pointing the human heart to the centrality of God amid worldly concerns.

The Diocese of Madison has been without such an important church for almost 20 years after an arson fire destroyed St. Raphael Cathedral in downtown Madison in 2005. While we have made do by using other churches for diocesan events, this was never meant to be a permanent solution. It is time to once again give Catholics in our diocese a place to call home, a central church symbolic of God's abiding presence in and care for our diocese and of our commitment to making Him the center of our lives.

Excerpt from the FAQ section of the Cathedral Project on www.madisoncathedral.org



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'.

THE PEN CONTINUED from Page Three

Resources
announced at the
NCCW
CONVENTION!

The Spirituality Commission in keeping with Beth Mahoney's theme as NCCW President for the past two years, "Women on a Journey - Sharing Our Stories," published a book that includes life stories of 19 American women who are on the path to canonization.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Resolutions published a book that includes all the resolutions passed by NCCW since 2000. Resolutions might have addressed an issue that has since been resolved; others are timeless in nature. We need to revisit them and renew our commitment to them. With this book, now we can do that.

The Leadership Commission published an updated Strategic Plan for NCCW that can be used to guide diocesan and local CCWs.

A Handbook for Spiritual Advisors was published to inform the priests who guide our councils of what are their duties and responsibilities. As Spiritual Advisors change or retire, this booklet will provide information to the newly appointed priests.

evil, and prays "for us sinners now and at the hour of our death."

The feast of **Our Lady of Sorrows** is covered in detail on page two of this newsletter.

NCCW 2025 in Orlando: Six MDCCW members (Sue Barker, Kathy Loy, Coreen Marklein, Philomena Rieder-Endres, Linda Ripp, and Carol Rogers) were blessed to attend the Convention last week, August 19-23. So much occurred in that one week making it a real challenge to condense it into a single issue of The Pen. After reading these snippets of my memories, you will be gratified to know that more extensive coverage of the Convention will be sent to you in the next MDCCW Newsletter. All six of us who attended will write articles to provide in-depth reports and reflections of the Convention.

A highlight was daily Mass and Holy Communion with 500 Catholic women all in love with Jesus Christ, made even more poignant by the Convention theme, "Believe in the Eucharist - Blessed, Broken and Shared." We said the Rosary on the bus Tuesday morning and on Friday morning before meetings resumed. Meetings began and ended with prayer, and Eucharistic adoration was available each day. With all these opportunities for prayer, you'd think that little time was available for meetings...not so...we had plenty of time for meetings.

New this year was an entire day devoted to a spiritual retreat. On Thursday we took a short bus ride to Mary, Queen of the Universe Basilica and National Shrine. A brief introduction apprised us of what was available to see in the vast church; then we had an hour for self-conducted tours of church, side chapels, adoration chapel, works of art, stations, stained glass windows, gift shop, etc. The retreat began as we gathered for remarks from Fr. Michael MacInnis. He wove parts of his personal story into his teaching and challenges for us to remain in the "Sonshine," letting Jesus gaze on us as we gaze on Him in adoration.

After lunch, Sister Pamela Smith kept the audience entertained with gentle humor throughout her presentation. One particular line that stuck with me was, "Don't be a grumbleberry. The Lord is Risen!"

Meetings, yes, we actually had presentations that informed us of NCCW initiatives to share with members in our own diocese and parishes.

At the Milwaukee Province Dinner, we celebrated Jane Schiszik as our Province Director until August 23 when she was installed as NCCW President Elect! We welcomed Diane Oakland from Milwaukee as our new Province Director, 2025- 2027...and (drumroll)...we announced and congratulated our own Coreen Marklein from Baraboo as Province Director Elect for these next two years. Coreen was elected at our MDCCW Board meeting on August 16.

There's more to say, but no space to print it. We had fun! We learned! We found chocolate on our tables every day! We ate excellent food at wonderful breakfasts, lunches, and dinners. We renewed acquaintances with old friends. We made new friends. Did I say that chocolate appeared on our tables every morning?!?!?

Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pray for us.

In His Mercy and Her Love,

Carol Rogers

Madison Diocesan Council of Catholic Women President

PILGRIMAGE CONTINUED from Page One

leave on the Camino? What do you hope to gain? A true pilgrimage should cost you something. Not merely in money or time or physical exhaustion, but in effort, surrender, and heart. It should stretch you beyond what is comfortable, asking you to leave behind something—whether pride, control, old wounds, or fears you have clung to for too long. A pilgrimage demands sacrifice—aching muscles, weary feet, missed conveniences—but in that sacrifice, something far greater is revealed. You begin to understand that the cost is part of the grace. The letting go is part of the healing. Without some personal cost, a pilgrimage risks becoming just another trip, but with it, it becomes a journey of transformation, a holy exchange between what we release and what God longs to give. One of the prayers I gave to our group contained the daily refrain, “May I remember that I am a pilgrim and not a tourist.” Our two questions seemed abstract when we first set out, our backpacks still heavy, our legs still fresh, our hearts full of excitement and perhaps a little apprehension. But somewhere between the first steps out of the town of Sarria and the final steps into the grand cathedral of Santiago, these questions became real. They took shape in the quiet hours of walking, in the laughter shared over café con leche, and in the aching muscles at the end of the day. We each left something on the Camino—worries, fears, regrets, grief, or burdens we had been carrying. And we each gained something—perhaps a clearer heart, a deeper peace, new friendships, or simply the freedom to be ourselves before God.

But how can I truly describe what it felt like to walk this path? How do I describe seeing eagles and hawks soaring above me, sharing in their freedom for just a moment? Or looking out to the far horizon beneath a vast, endless sky—and then walking toward it, step after step? Or standing before the many hills before us, only to climb and cross them, with nothing but our own determination and God’s steady grace? How do I explain the silence—those stretches when the only sound was the rhythm of our footsteps, echoing like a prayer? To sit in an ancient stone church, built over a thousand years ago, and sense the peace of those who walked this path before—pilgrims whose names are long forgotten, but whose faith still lingers in the stillness.

How do I explain the beauty? The countless streams and rivers, their waters clear and alive, singing their own hymn to the heavens. The breathtaking vistas that unfolded around every bend, every hill, every turn of the trail. The forests that seemed to embrace us in quiet glades, offering shelter from sun and wind. The hundreds of “Buen Camino” greetings exchanged each day—sometimes just a passing smile, sometimes leading to long, deep conversations that seemed to stretch and shrink time all at once.

How do I explain the overwhelming feeling of entering the plaza in front of the Cathedral at last; of sitting shoulder-to-shoulder in packed pews with fellow arriving pilgrims and the breathtaking wonder as the 8-foot-high botafumiero (incensor) swung in majesty above our heads without emotion welling up in my heart? Honestly, I do not know. But I do know this: with God’s grace, I will return again one day. Because the Camino never truly ends in Compostela. It continues—in our hearts, in the friendships forged, in the lessons learned, in prayers answered, in truths revealed, and in the way we now walk through the world.

We leave something behind, we gain something new—and we keep walking.

Buen Camino.

Peace, love, and prayers,

Fr. Tom Washburn. National Spiritual Advisor

