

**OCTOBER
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

October is dedicated to **The Holy Rosary** and has three feasts of Our Blessed Mother:

- | | |
|---------|----------------------------------|
| Oct. 7 | Our Lady of the Rosary |
| Oct. 8 | Our Lady of the Pillar |
| Oct. 13 | The Miracle of the Sun at Fatima |

Rosary Miracles. In addition to well-known events of St. Dominic's overcoming the Albigensian heresy in the 1200s and the Catholic victory at the Battle of Lepanto on Oct. 7, 1571, many other rosary miracles have been recorded.

See **THE PEN** continued on Page Three

United Across the Diocese BOX of JOY Unites us all!

By Linda Ripp, Service Commission Chair

Boxes of Joy are here! Across the Diocese, women and entire parishes are participating in this Cross Catholic Outreach project to bring a Christmas gift to children in most need of a gift!

Specific BOXES are used for this project and Linda can deliver them to you or your parish or school. See Page 4 for contact information.

We have screened these boxes so well in the past, that this year we will provide the final inspection and insert a Rosary and a Jesus coloring book! Shipping is \$9/box which should be paid either to your parish/school organizer or to 'MDCCW'. We will write one check for the total shipment (over 1000 boxes!).

St Martin's Catholic Church in Cross Plains (Martinsville) is our Drop-Off location again. See dates and time as well as specific contact information on EVENTS page 4.

We also accept donated items (school supplies, kid's t-shirts, shorts, washcloths, small non-weapon toys, balls, little dolls, comb, non-liquid or gel or toothpaste, etc.) See a complete list online at www.crosscatholic.org.

See also page 3 and 4 for more information.

United in Voice with NCCW

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
CATHOLIC WOMEN.

REFLECTIONS FROM CONVENTION

By Convention attendee Philomena Rieder-Endres
of St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish CCW

The best part of attending the NCCW Convention for me was spent listening, learning and taking it all in. To have 500 beautiful Christian women under one roof, was totally amazing! It was suggested that you sit with the group that you came with. We always had time to run into a stranger and become friends.

The Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe, was breathtaking. We had mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Back at the Convention, there was mass that was said on-stage, in the same room where we sat at our tables. A room was set up for meditating. Fr. Mike, one of the speakers, said to us, "Be like Mary, when Her child

Continue 'REFLECTIONS' on Page 5



CAROL ROGERS

President, Madison Diocesan
Council of Catholic Women

CONTACT ME:

PHONE: (608) 391-2564

carrogmdccw@gmail.com

LEADERSHIP

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

TOURS of the CONVENTION

One of the many benefits of arriving on Monday of NCCW Convention week is being able to enjoy the scheduled event on Tuesday. This always give us an idea of what the host city has to offer, especially if you've never been there before. As someone who visited Florida for the first time (can you believe it?), this years' tour was especially enjoyable. Bok Tower Gardens, established in 1929 by Edward Bok, is 80 acres, an hour away from Orlando, in Lake Wales.

"El Retiro", set on 8 acres of the land, is a 20 room, 1932 Mediterranean style home, listed on the National Register of Historic

TOURS of the CONVENTION
continued on Page 5!

SPIRITUALITY

Faith Finds a Home at Home

One can learn a lot from preschoolers. Some of them are ready for school the moment they walk into the classroom. Others need a bit of comfort or encouragement in the first few days. The ones who shed tears typically do so because they are a little afraid of change, of trusting someone new. But their fears are allayed once the teacher confidently shows them that, although they are sad, they are safe. That's what Our Lord does with us, over and over in His own way: He shows us that He is in control, that we can trust Him, that with Him we are safe. These are important facts to remember, whether we are age three or 103.

By Julianne Nornberg

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

LEADERSHIP

'CHRIST HAS NO BODY NOW BUT YOURS'



Mother Teresa's quote above was the closing message in the July NCCW's Leadership Training hosted by the Province of Milwaukee and with one of our Diocesan women Coreen Marklein who recently joined the NCCW's Leadership Team!

Did you know you are a leader? We are all leaders, whether we are a leader for our children, spouse, families, etc. It's important for us to show a positive and can-do attitude. If we do not believe in ourselves, how will others believe in us? We must have self-confidence. What is self-confidence? Self confidence is the belief in your own abilities, qualities, and judgment, and feeling capable of meeting life's challenges. It's a trusting inner conviction that you can rely on yourself to achieve your goals and handle situations.

"Did you know you are a LEADER?"

As a member of the Council of Catholic Woman, you ARE a leader whether you believe it or not. You share your Catholic faith with others by example, encouragement, and effective communication. Listen to what members say - don't be distracted by outside distractions. Truly LISTEN. Be an active listener. You will find out what motivates members, their likes and dislikes, and then use this information to inspire them, set and achieve goals, and challenge them to be better Catholic Christian women. After all, not only are each of us leaders . . . but we are your next Volunteer!!!

by Coreen Marklein of NCCW's Leadership Team

If your Council would like to host a Leadership Training Day, contact www.nccw.org

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
October

by Pope Francis

**'For
Collaboration
Between
Different
Religious
Traditions'**

"Let us pray that, believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice and human fraternity."

**VOICE of the
SAINTS**

Feasts, Memorials and
Solemnities

- ST. THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS 10-1
- HOLY GUEARIAN ANGELS, 10-2
- First Friday, 10-3
- ST. FRANCIS of ASSISI, 10-4
- 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 10-5
- OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY, 10-7
- St. Denis, 10-9
- St. John XXIII, Pope, 10-11
- 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 10-12
- St. Callistus I, Pope, 10-14
- ST. TERESA OF JESUS, 10-15
- St. Hedwig & St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, 10-16
- ST. IGNATIUS of ANTIOCH, 10-17
- ST. LUKE, 10-18
- 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 10-19
- St. Paul of the Cross, 10-20
- St. John Paul II, Pope, 10-22
- St. John of Capistrano, 10-23
- St. Anthony Mary Claret, 10-24
- 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 10-26
- STS. SIMON & JUDE, 10-28

THE PEN CONTINUED from Page One

Salvation of a King. Alphonsus (1171-1230), King of Leon and Galicia (in Spain), constantly wore a large Rosary on his belt to inspire others to pray it and honor the Blessed Mother, even though he didn't pray it. Becoming ill onto death, he had a vision...He was being judged and was about to be cast into hell, when Mary interceded for him. As described by St. Louis De Montfort in The Secret of the Rosary, "The Blessed Mother called for scales and had his sins placed in one of the balances; she put the Rosary that he had always worn on the other scale, together with all the Rosaries that had been said because of his example. The Rosaries weighed more than his sins."

Looking at him with great kindness Our Lady said, "As a reward for this little honor that you paid me in wearing my Rosary, I have obtained a great grace for you from my Son. Your life will be spared for a few more years. Spend these years wisely and do penance." When the King regained consciousness, he cried out, "Blessed be the Rosary of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, by which I have been delivered from eternal damnation!" After recovering, he spread devotion to the Rosary, saying it daily.

See **THE PEN** continued on Page Five

**SERVICE: Box of Joy
Diocesan-Wide
Service PROJECT!**

Once again the Diocese of Madison is teaming up to provide a loving gift at Christmas time to children in Central America. Cross Catholic Outreach organizes this international effort and our diocesan women and families have contributed nearly 1000 boxes a year!

Linda Ripp, MDCCW's Service Chair is organizing our efforts here!

#1: Get your official Box from Linda or your parish coordinator.

#2: Fill the box with the most delightful gifts from the suggested list.

(see www.crosscatholic.org).

#3: Deliver your box on these dates and time to St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church (school building), 5959 St. Martin Circle, Cross Plains (Martinsville):

Oct. 25 & 26: (9am-3pm)

Nov. 1 & 2 (9am-3pm)

Contact Linda Ripp linmdccw@gmail.com



**SERVICE:
Pick-A-THEME**

**THEME for a PASTORAL
CALENDAR:**

Our Lady of the Rosary inspires many Rosary-central activities. Gather weekly or impromptu with many of the Pro-Life Rosaries on the USCCB website.

THEME for OCTOBER:

Host a Pumpkin Queen themed tea with pumpkin desserts - let your guests bring food for your local pantry!

THEME Based on 'BE-ATTITUDES':

Comfort the Sorrowful: invite a Pro-Life speaker to present advance directives that honor your life. Reach out to those grieving, or write letters to the housebound.

THEME Based on NCCW-Endorsed Projects:

It is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Find great resources on www.nccw.org. Distribute flyers, post in public spaces, or hold a gathering in acknowledgement of this like Green Lake Vicariate CCW (see page 4)

Or take part in the exciting Box of Joy project!

**OCTOBER
2025**

**Mark Your
Calendars!**

**St. Dymphna
Mass and
Reception
Sunday,
October 19**

10am Mass is for mental health awareness and healing with an opportunity to venerate a first class relic of St. Dymphna and receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. Held at Holy Name Heights, Madison

**St. Terese of
Liseux Lecture
Series:**

Dr. Edward Sri
at the Diocese of
Madison
Wednesday,
October 15th, 7pm.
With a talk entitled,
"The Good, the
Messy, and the
Beautiful: The Joys
and Struggles of
Real Married Life".

Reservations
requested online.

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'.

Act Fast!

Connecting Catholic Women with EVENTS !

Throughout the Catholic Diocese of Madison, Wisconsin

EVENTS IN THE DIOCESE

TWO SPIRITUAL RENEWAL EVENTS hosted by the Madison

Catholic Woman's Club, Wednesday, October 8 Morning: Mass at 8:30am-1pm, or Evening: 6pm-8:30pm. Both events include a light meal and presentation by Deacon Dick Martin, Spiritual Advisor of the Madison District of St. Vincent de Paul and are held at Blessed Sacrament Church, 2121 Rowley Ave, Madison. **RSVP by Oct. 1**, \$20 for the morning program payable to MCWC, c/o Jeanette Head, 7871 Cobblestone Court, Verona, 53593, (608) 255-2020.

St. Olaf FALL FESTIVAL Sunday, October 5 11am - 3pm. Dine-in, carry-out Chicken and Ham Dinner, bake sale, craft/jewelry sale, silent auction and raffle! St. Olaf, 615 Jefferson Street, DeForest, WI. See nativitylord.org for details.

St. Faustina FALL DINNER & RAFFLE Sunday, October 5 11am - 2pm. St Mary Church, 312 South Main Stree, Pardeeville, WI

ROAST BEEF & CHICKEN DINNER Sunday, October 5 11:30am - 1:30pm. St. Francis of Assisi Parish, St. Mary Hall, Belleville, WI

FALL FESTIVAL at the FAIRGROUNDS Sunday, October 12 11am - 3pm
Chicken Dinner, raffle, bake sale, games & family fun! Sponsored by St. Joseph Church - held at 700 Washington Ave., Baraboo WI

St. John's FALL DINNER & RAFFLE Sunday, October 12 11am - 1pm. Turkey and Ham Dinner, raffle for handmade quilt. St. John's, 129 Daley Street, Spring Green, WI

CHICKEN & BISCUIT SUPPER Tuesday October 14 4:00-7:00pm. Dine-In or Carry-Out at Holy Family Church, 310 Bluff Street, La Valle, WI

CRAFT SALE Saturday, October 18 8:30am - 2pm. Bake sale, and lunch available. St. Olaf, 615 Jefferson Street, DeForest, WI. See nativitylord.org for details.

FALL BAZAAR & CRAFT FAIR Saturday, October 18 8:30am-4pm & **Sunday October 19** 9:30am-12:30pm. Crafters, books, jewelry, food, cookies, basket raffle, bakery and candies at St. Peter, 5001 North Sherman Avenue, Madison

ANNUAL ROAST BEEF DINNER Sunday October 19 Dine-In or Carry-Out 10:30am-3pm Roast Beef Dinner at Mary of the Lake Church in Westport along with sales of their World Famous Fruitcakes!



St. STEPHEN PORK CHOP DINNER Sunday October 19 11am-2pm Hot dog option available. Bake sale, meat raffle and dinner. 716 Shu-Lar Lane, Clinton, WI

Green Lake VICARIATE CCW FALL MEETING Thursday, October 23 11:30am-4:30pm at St. John Henry Newman Parish, St. John the Baptist Church, 277 E. Montello St., Montello. Themed "Life's Journey-God's Will", program includes lunch, speakers from Hope House and Mass. **RSVP by Oct. 9th:** \$20/person to: "St. Ann's CCW" sent to Sandra Beahm, N3392 14th Dr., Montello. Wear purple to acknowledge Domestic Abuse Awareness.

BOX of JOY Project: DROP OFF DATES: Oct. 25 & 26 and Nov. 1 & 2 (all 9am-3pm)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 on packing your box is online at crosscatholic.org. **Boxes are now available** from Linda Ripp! Drop-Off site will be at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church, 5959 St. Martin Circle, Cross Plains (Martinsville) Contact Linda Ripp linmdccw@gmail.com, voice: (608) 849-7643 or text (608) 609-8917



"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever."

Psalm 136:1

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.

THE PEN CONTINUED from Page Three

Safety From Nuclear Blast in Hiroshima. During WWII (1945) eight Jesuit priests were living in a parish house in Hiroshima, Japan, less than one mile from where the atomic bomb was dropped. While the church next to the parish house was completely destroyed and thousands of people were killed and thousands of others suffered tremendously from radiation exposure, the house remained standing; and the eight missionary priests miraculously survived. Inexplicably, none of the priests ever suffered from radiation exposure. During interviews they said they believed they survived because of living the message of Fatima, praying the Rosary every day.



The Rosary is a Weapon. In Nigerian Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme's own words (2014), "I was in my chapel before the Blessed Sacrament... praying the rosary, and suddenly the Lord appeared." In the vision Jesus didn't say anything at first, but extended a sword toward him; the bishop reached out for it. "As soon as I received the sword, it turned into a Rosary." This aligns with the words of St. Padre Pio (1887-1968) who often spoke of the Rosary as his weapon against Satan.

Take some time this month to rediscover the power of the Rosary!

Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pray for us.

In His Mercy and Her Love,

Carol Rogers

Madison Diocesan Council of Catholic Women President



REFLECTIONS CONTINUED from Page 1

Jesus was born, there were no words spoken. Spend time with Jesus in silence."

Bishop Bill Wack, another speaker, talked on the topic of Hope. "Fear is useless, Doubt is not of God, Fear is not of God. Be Hope! Read and re-read the Gospel. Your Father is pleased to give you the Kingdom." Pope Leo's first words... "Peace be with you!"

The next Convention in 2026 will be in Grand rapids, MI, with more to follow.

TOURS of the CONVENTION CONTINUED from Page 2

Places. The house was built with the idea that the garden designs should guide the architecture of the house. Inside the house are many original furnishings along with replicas of others, in a carved, wood style. Rooms include the Butler's Pantry and kitchen, dining and round room, living room, loggia, 4 bedrooms and office. Charles Austin Buck built and used this as his winter residence from 1932 until 1945. The landscaping includes walking paths, many different types of trees and vegetation, all beautifully maintained.

In another part of the area, which is tied together by the Historic Olmsted Gardens, you can find the Singing Tower and Carillon. Inside the 206 foot tall structure made of marble and coquina, this instrument is comprised of 60 bells which are rung by a clapper inside, using your fists! We were privileged to enjoy a concert by the carillonneur in residence. What a great way to spend the day in the warm Florida outdoors.

CONVENTION KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Inspiration from NCCW's Convention
by MDCCW Service Commission Chair Linda Ripp

Marie Miller, the keynote speaker on Saturday, also sang & shared stories at the Awards banquet. She is one of 9 siblings. She grew up in the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia. Her job has been a singer/songwriter for the past 16 years. She sang her song: 6'2"—praying to God about future husband, 6'2", eyes of blue, etc, "but I'm not picky". She got married 3 years ago. Her husband is 6'4" —she got more than she prayed for. She sang that for Pope Francis during the Festival of Families in 2017.

Her talk Saturday was on how St Therese of Lisieux's life has influenced her own life. Pope Benedict XVI wrote that "St Therese made Jesus in the Eucharist, the center of her life". In March of 2020 she released her first album. With Co-vid, all events and Mass were cancelled, but Marie could still go into Churches and pray. She realized God is always with us and was inspired to write a song.

She shared several songs from her 2024 Christian album "the Way of Love", which focuses on how St Therese of Lisieux's life has influenced her own life. Pope Benedict XVI wrote that "St Therese made Jesus in the Eucharist, the center of her life". Marie said even St Therese had doubts of faith. God sends his own Mother who stood at the foot of the Cross to be with us in our darkness and depression. (song: "I will be with you, help you figure things out, you're not alone, listen to me". Marie said the "Way of Love is a way of surrender to Divine Mercy, total trust. St Ignatius had the perfect prayer of surrender. St Therese wanted to preach the Gospel in 5 continents. She didn't get to do that, but she influenced St Mother Theresa to do that. (Song: Take Lord, receive and do with it according to your will. Give me your love & grace. I have all I need). Mercy isn't about how good you are, but how good God is. St Therese wanted to quench the thirst of God. Marie compares her to woman at the well. God thirsts for all of us. (Song about 3 women—woman at the well, and woman caught in adultery "Woman don't you know you're loved?" "Woman don't you know your worth? This is who you are! Mary Magdalene/at tomb & resurrection—went to the tomb, sees, tells everyone). She asked us "What is Our destination? Where are we going on our journey? Heaven should be our eternal homeland. She wrote a song for Pier Giorgio Frassati's canonization (Are you calling my name? It sounds like Love). St Therese wrote autobiography "The Little Way--The Way of Love", take opportunities to refrain from acting on little annoyances. Song "The Way of Love" the humble heart of love. Love will be the way back home).

Last year, she started solely writing music for Jesus. "I choose this road and I'm never turning back". She closed with the "King of Love" from Adoration.