

NOVEMBER 2025

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NCCW's HISTORY from
1920 - 1969



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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

November is dedicated to **The Holy Souls in Purgatory**. As Catholics, we say prayers, offer sacrifices, and give alms to benefit the Holy Souls throughout the entire month of November. Pray tirelessly for the souls in Purgatory throughout the year. Knowing that they cannot help themselves, we have a duty to help them as they suffer the purification of their souls from venial sins and temporal punishment due to sin. Souls who have been helped by us gratefully place our petitions before God and intercede for our needs even while they remain in Purgatory and thereafter in Heaven.

Various souls have revealed to many saints that Purgatory has many levels. Souls in purgatory receive a two-fold grace when we pray for them. First, they receive a *decrease of the time* they were assigned to be in purgatory (similar to shortening the sentence of a prisoner here on earth). Second, they *receive a certain relief from the pain of the purification* that they are experiencing (similar to giving a glass of water to someone who is very thirsty). According to at least one mystic, the souls in the lowest level of purgatory do not receive the second grace, only the first. Once they elevate to the next higher regions of purgatory, they begin to receive both graces from our prayers.

Visits From the Holy Souls in Purgatory - During her life Austrian Mystic, Maria Simma (1915-2004) received many visits from Holy Souls who asked for her help. She was allowed by God to see these souls and converse with them. Maria willingly suffered and sacrificed for them, prayed, and offered many Masses for them.

See **THE PEN** continued on Page Three

United Across the Diocese

BOX of JOY Final Collection!

November 1 & 2 (9am-3pm)

Boxes of Joy are in their final days of collection. We are uniquely granted the ability to screen the boxes and insert a Rosary along with a Jesus coloring book! This TAKES TIME and a small army of helpers. Please deliver your boxes ASAP for us to accomplish this mission! Shipping is \$9/box which should be paid either to your parish/school organizer or '**MDCCW**'.

Deliver boxes to St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church (school building), 5959 St. Martin Circle, Cross Plains (Martinsville). Contact Linda Ripp linmdccw@gmail.com, voice: (608) 849-7643 or text (608) 609-8917.

United in Voice with NCCW



A Long History of NCCW

By Carol Rogers, President MDCCW

The National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) is the parent organization of MDCCW founded by the US Bishops on March 4, 1920. Purposes of **NCCW** were and still are consistent. See page 6 for NCCW's History from 1920 to 1969. I will cover the period of time from 1970 to the present in December's Pen.

Continue '**NCCW's HISTORY**' on Page 6

LEADERSHIP

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

Build your Leadership LIBRARY! 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.

Also, Council women are women of prayer. The **Rosary Meditation Booklet** helps fulfill that calling! Get your copy today on sale for \$12 + shipping.

Find these resources at the NCCW Store online at nccw.org.



SPIRITUALITY

Faith Finds a Home at Home

My son is a musician. As he learns a piece at the piano or organ, he plays chords section by section until, after much practice, he melds the sections together into a melodious masterpiece. In the same way, just like a musician, Our Lord works on us, little by little. When we are open to His will and whatever He wants to teach us, He can string together chords of our lives and create, in the end, a beautiful masterpiece. The key is submission to His will while He develops, with great love, the sometimes dissonant chords of our lives.

By Julianne Nornberg

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

LEADERSHIP

By Coreen S. Marlein of NCCW's LTD Team



Greetings fellow CCW members!

My October Leadership article indicated that we are all leaders - whether we know it or not. However, leadership development is a strategic process that improves current and future leaders through learning! The first step is that we need to know ourselves better: our strengths, our faults, and areas for improvement. Make a list of each of these attributes and then determine what you can do to grow and improve.

To be the best kind of leader, we must be positive and constantly keep improving our leadership skills, cultivate our relationships with our members, and be able to share information about our organization. The best kind of leaders know that all of these are ongoing . . . we are ever "finished" learning and being our best. We are always growing and growing means change! Do you always cringe when someone mentions change?

Homework:

1. Make a list of your own strengths, faults and opportunities for improvement.
2. Make a list of areas where you have been affected by change. What resulted from the changes? Were they good, poor, or not noticeable? What worked with these changes and what did not work? Question why?

Homework:
Make a list...

by Coreen S. Marklein, NCCW's LTD Team Member
If your Council would like to host a Leadership Training Day, contact www.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

**Papal Prayer
Intentions**

for the Month of
November

**'For the
Prevention
of Suicide'**

"Let us pray that,
those who are
struggling with suicidal
thoughts might find the
support, care, and love
they need in their
community, and be
open to the beauty of
life."

**VOICE of the
SAINTS**

Feasts, Memorials and
Solemnities

ALL SAINTS, 11-1
ALL SOULS' DAY, 11-2
St. Martin de Porres, 11-3
ST. CHARLES
BORROMEIO, 11-4
DEDICATION of the
LATERAN BASILICA, 11-9
ST. LEO THE GREAT,
11-10
ST. MARTIN of TOURS,
11-11
ST. JOSAPHAT, BISHOP,
11-12
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
CABRINI, 11-13
St. Albert the Great, 11-15
33rd Sunday, 11-16
ST. ELIZABETH of
HUNGARY, 11-17
The Dedication of the
Basilicas of Sts. Peter and
Paul, 11-18
THE PRESENTATION of
the BLESSED VIRGIN
MARY, 11-21
ST. CECILIA, 11-22
OUR LORD JESUS
CHRIST, KING of the
UNIVERSE, 11-23
ST. ANDREW DUNG-
LAC, 11-24
St. Catherine of
Alexandria, 11-25
Thanksgiving Day, 11-27
FIRST SUNDAY of
ADVENT, 11-30

THE PEN CONTINUED from Page One

Greatest Complaint From Souls In Purgatory - According to Maria, the greatest "complaint" of the souls in Purgatory is how they are almost completely forgotten by their families and loved ones. They receive no spiritual help from ones they themselves helped so much during life! How few prayers are ever offered for them--even at their funerals! Yet prayer is precisely what they need the most! All the beautiful memorials, celebrations, etc., done in their honor, while they may be good intentioned, in reality do nothing for them and in no way help to relieve them during their souls' cleansing.

Prayers for the Holy Souls:

(Traditional Prayer of the Church)

Eternal rest grant onto them, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon them.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Prayer of St. Gertrude the Great:

(dictated by Our Lord to release 1,000 souls each time it is said)

Eternal Father, I offer Thee the most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son Jesus in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the Universal Church, those in my own home, and within my family.

See **THE PEN** continued on Page Five

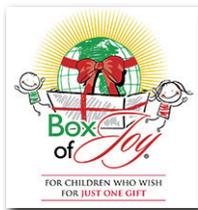


SERVICE:

Diocesan-Wide

Box of Joy PROJECT!

DROP-OFF DATES for Box of Joy are managed by Linda Ripp, MDCCW's Service Chair. If you can offer your assistance, please contact her!



Deliver your boxes 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:

SAINTS & SOULS: host a reception after a Holy Mass commemorating these.

SAINTLY, NOT FAINTLY: Host a presentation on the courage of Saints.

THEME for NOVEMBER:

VOTE Your Faith: Put the truth in the hands of your Catholic voters. Offer rides to the poles.

THEME Based on 'BE-ATTITUDES:

Blessed are They Who Mourn, For They Shall be Comforted: Arrange visits to the grieving.

THEME Based on NCCW-Endorsed

Projects: Explore Catholic Extension for the many missions they support as they endorse the entire human race as our 'family' and worthy of our care and support.

**Mark Your
Calendars!**

**MDCCW
BOARD
MEETING**

Sat. November 15 at St. Andrew Church in Verona. 8:30-12:30 Bring list of deceased CCW members (since Nov. 2024) to remember at Mass.

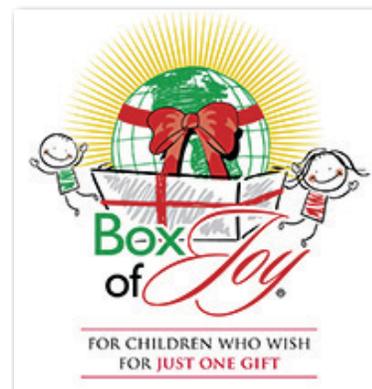
**MDCCW's NEW
FUNDRAISING
FOCUS**

**Dollar for
Dollar MATCH
CHALLENGE!**

From now until June 2026, MDCCW will focus on building the body of Christ by donating to the new church (construction to begin soon) at St. Augustine University Parish in Platteville, WI. This Newman parish prepares college students to become active members while there and wherever they go following graduation. Be enthusiastic in your planning to give to this cause. A dollar-for-dollar match up to \$10,000 has been promised in the name of the women of the Diocese. Fr. Eric Nielsen, as new pastor, is prepared to receive the benefits of your generosity.

EVENTS IN THE DIOCESE

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 still 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



CareNet's Annual Fundraising Banquet will feature Abby Johnson on November 6 at Monona Terrace, Madison.

Sponsor a table as an Ambassador for Life and learn about the mission and passion of CareNet's service to pregnant women facing difficult situations. To register, contact Alexc@carenetdane.org

St. Ann School's 16th Annual Holiday Gift Fair, St Cletus Pastorate, Saturday, November 8, from 9am until 2pm, and again on Sunday, November 9, from 9am until Noon. 324 N. Harris Street, Stoughton, WI. 30-35 vendors. There will be a small cafeteria area for cinnamon rolls, lunch or a drink.

Christmas/Holiday Bazaar, Saturday November 8 at St. Andrew Church, 301 N. Main Street, Verona, will be held on Saturday, November 8, from 8:30am to 2pm. Featured will be a Craft Room, Bake Sale, Children's Shop for those 12 and under, Lunch from 10:30 to 1:30pm, Sweepstakes Prizes, and KC woodcrafts. Please join us and start off your holiday season!

CareNet Ministry Tour & Briefing, Tuesday, Nov. 11, noon -1pm. Join the care-givers at CareNet's Pregnancy Center on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for a tour, a brief snapshot of their ministry and care given to pregnant and new mothers. Call ahead (608) 259-1606. Tours are at 1350 MacArthur Road, Madison.

MDCCW BOARD MEETING with PARISH REPRESENTATIVES, Saturday, November 15, 8:30-12:30pm at St. Andrew Church, Divine Mercy Parish, 201 N. Main Street, Verona. This gathering of Catholic women representing parishes from across the Madison Diocese, will include Holy Mass with petitions for deceased members of your parish CCW's, a general Board Meeting and networking to accomplish the good works planned for the upcoming year.

Holy Mother of Consolation Craft Fair, St Cletus Pastorate, Saturday Nov 22, 8:30-1:30. 651 N. Main Street Oregon, WI. Lots of great vendors for this fundraiser.

Advent by Candlelight, Saturday, December 6, 12:00pm - 3:30pm hosted by the Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish CCW and held at Saint John the Baptist School Cafeteria, 114 East Third Street, Waunakee. Join us for an afternoon of prayer, fellowship, music and a light lunch. Kris Kranenburg (Director of Communications at the Diocese of Madison) will speak to us about "Lessons In Yes; What Mary Teaches Us About Advent". Join us for this free event by registering with Kathy Roelke @ roelke@tds.net or (608) 469-8698. Deadline to register is Wednesday, December 3rd.

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'.

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

The next MDCCW Board meeting is November 15. Please send a list of CCW members (deceased since Nov. 1, 2024) to your Board representative or to me. We will remember our sisters at Mass and place their names on the altar.

Remember the mustard! Last year your fundraising efforts to buy and sell Uncle Phil's Mustard was a great success. Thanks to all for your enthusiasm and effort. Watch for a new MDCCW fundraiser next month. Dollars raised help to keep the MDCCW treasury in the black. The challenges of the last few years have decreased dues from parishes and vicariates that had been the main source of money used for operating expenses. In these articles for The Pen, I get to do all the talking...but that's not how good communication works. I really want to hear from you, your ideas, your questions, your concerns, etc. The members of your parish and vicariate CCWs need a forum to voice their opinions too. You and I can both use the following tips from the NCCW Resource Manual to refresh listening skills that encourage conversation. First of all, I need to...

- Stop talking.
 - Concentrate on your message.
 - Show that I want to listen.
 - Listen for the content (not the delivery).
 - Listen for ideas (hear more than facts).
 - Hear you out (not jump to conclusions.)
 - Be patient.
 - Keep an open mind (check emotions).
 - Take notes.
 - Ask questions.
 - Work at listening (keep my mind from wandering into what I might say next).
- And above all...Stop talking.

All these tips serve to protect the speaker's dignity and show respect for the other person's point of view. They show your authenticity and care for the speaker. Especially when hearing complaints, making an effort to clearly understand the other person's point of view can open doors to finding solutions to a problem. Hearing another point of view, even an opposite one, is to be expected between people. Sharpen your awareness of all sides of a problem by hearing more about the issue. Above all, remember that we are all God's beloved children. We must not let differences of opinion keep one or the other, speaker or listener, from showing our love for Christ and moving toward eternal life in Heaven.

Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pray for us.

In His Mercy and Her Love,

Carol Rogers

Madison Diocesan Council of Catholic Women President

PS: See a snapshot of NCCW's HISTORY
1920 -1969 on page 6



**NCCW Offers
Its Members:**

MDCCW encourages its members to join NCCW as Individual members to receive the following benefits and the rewards gained from networking with women within our own Madison Diocese.

- Spirituality, Leadership, and Service opportunities, programs and resources
- Annual subscription to the quarterly Catholic Woman magazine,
- Annual subscription to the monthly NCCW President's Pen e-newsletter,
- Eligibility to vote in NCCW Elections and at the Annual Business meeting,
- Annual Convention,
- Avenue to network with Catholic women all over the USA,
- Service on NCCW Commissions, Teams, and Committees,
- Access to resources of the Center of Concern's Education for Justice,
- Opportunities to enhance personal faith formation and address current social issues with prayer and programs.

NCCW's HISTORY 1920-1969

by MDCCW President Carol Rogers

The National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) is the parent organization of MDCCW founded by the US Bishops on March 4, 1920. Purposes of NCCW were and still:

1. To give US Catholic women a common voice and an instrument for unified action in matters affecting Catholic or national welfare.
2. To ensure Catholic representation and the recognition of Catholic principles on national committees and movements affecting religious, moral, and material well-being.
3. To stimulate the work of existing Catholic women's organizations to greater service and usefulness in meeting the needs of our times.

The list of historical initiatives below are listed in present tense because, though they were begun in the past, many of them remain endemic to CCW work today.



NCCW Convention 1934
The White House, Washington, D.C.

1925 - 1944

- Educate Catholic Women to vote granted as the "Right to Suffrage" in 1920.
- Participate in Immigrant Aid to assist Catholic immigrants with relocation.
- Promote Catholic education by establishing Parent Teacher Associations, catechetical instruction, and university Newman Clubs.
- Create and fund the National Catholic School of Social Services in Washington D.C., now housed at Catholic University of America.
- Endorse the work and actions of the Children's Bureau and the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor.
- Promote social justice and world peace and the diminution of armaments among governments of the world.
- Promote the sanctity of marriage and family structure threatened by divorce and birth control.
- Affiliate with the International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues now known as World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO).

1945 - 1969

- Pledge support for the United Nations and its affiliated international organizations.
- Focus on international relations, just peace treaties, human rights, and the opposition of genocide.
- Start an International Affairs program and collaborate with the National Catholic Welfare Council's War Relief Services now known at Catholic Relief Services (CRS).
- Endorse minimum wage, social security, and health insurance legislation.
- Promote the Catholic Press and "healthy reading habits" through the establishment of parish libraries and subscription to diocesan newspapers.
- Establish training programs and resources to help women assume lay ministry roles in the Church as a result of Vatican II.
- Launch the Military Council of Catholic Women.
- Develop a formal leadership training program known as the Leadership Institute: Fashion Me A Person.

"For freedom Christ set us free; so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery"

Galatians 5: 1