

## La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

# NEWS AND VIEWS

A bi-annual newsletter sharing the thoughts of our Council

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### IMPORTANT NOTICE:

**Our EMBRACING YOUR CALL TO HOLINESS Conference has been cancelled for 2021. Please continue to pray for an end to our pandemic!**



### From your President, Melanie Frei

A great big thank you and shout out to all members who participated in our Leadership Training Workshop Zoom series. Over 70 ladies signed on to one or more of the hour-long training meetings. As I said to the ladies who participated, some using Zoom for the first time, just getting on to the meeting was a big step of training! As we move to a paperless organization, we will be using our website as an essential point of contact, so becoming familiar with its information and resources will make all your jobs easier! Thank you to all our presenters and participants for making the training so successful!

### MY FAVORITE LITURGICAL DAY OF THE YEAR

I think many people would choose Christmas or Easter as their favorite Liturgical time of the year with its theological significance, its beauties of traditions and music. But the day that I love the most is Christ the King Sunday. Not an ancient day in the Church calendar, the celebration of Christ the King was added to our liturgy only after World War I. Pope Pius XI wrote that while hostilities had ended, there was no true peace. True peace can only be found under the Kingship of Christ, the Prince of Peace.

My husband says that I have an allergy to an unhappy ending. He is right. I only like books and movies

that end happily—even reading the end pages to make sure I will be satisfied! When I celebrate Christ the King Sunday, for me the day shouts: “And they lived happily ever after.” This is day we recognize that Christ wins. He is on the throne. Every knee shall bow and ever tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. It is the end of the story and it is the celebration of victory.

So, no matter how beaten down we may feel, no matter how many disappointments come our way, no matter how many defeats we experience, remember Christ the King Sunday. God wins—completely and for all eternity.

***Have a wonderful Thanksgiving, Christ the King, Advent and Christmas! Love, Melanie Frei***



## Who do people say that the Councils of Catholic Women are?

Some might say the funeral lunch ladies or the donut Sunday ladies. Some might say that group that raises money for stuff for the parish, and some might even say the parish council of crabby women, or the female version of the Knights of Columbus.



## Who do you say that we are?

Do you know? Are you prepared to give an answer to the question “Who are the Councils of Catholic Women?” We are a vibrant, relevant group of women who support each other, learn from each other, pray for each other, and using Gospel values, try to make our parishes, our communities and our world a better place by being lights in this present darkness.

We are not a fraternal organization, like the Knights of Columbus, existing outside the structure of the Church. The Councils of Catholic Women were formed by the Church and are inherently part of her structure and an integral part of parish life. By virtue of this, we are to have an advisory seat at each parish pastoral council (just as we have an advisory seat at the USCCB, the Vatican and the United Nations!) If your PCCW does not serve as an advisor on the parish pastoral council, ask your pastor.

## Nunc Coepi – Now I begin Again

Each parish council of Catholic Women, each deanery, needs to always begin anew, again. We need to re-learn why we exist. Learn our mission statement. Review how we accomplish it in our bylaws. Review whom we serve in our budgets and our annual plans.

THEN, we can be prepared to give a logical answer to the question, “Who are the Council of Catholic Women?”

## Go and proclaim the Gospel!

- ✚ Ask to give a short presentation to your parish, or at least your parish pastoral council
- ✚ Write a bulletin article
- ✚ Invite your parish women to an informational meeting (or a ZOOM meeting) to learn how to become more involved.
- ✚ Remember, you are not alone. The LDCCW has resources and a Renaissance Team to help.

*Today, if we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten  
that we belong to each other*

*~ St. Teresa of Calcutta*

Remember, we don't exist to simply have meetings. We exist *for* each other: To build each other up spiritually. To support each other. To learn from each other. To serve one another

May God's gift of peace and living hope be with you all!

*Lorraine Riedl – Immediate Past President*

# Finding a Unicorn in Sacred Scripture

by Candace V. McGrath, Secretary

As a Consecrated Marian Catechist, who has completed the Master's Course, I am required to take part in several Spiritual Practices. I go to Mass and take Communion whenever I can, in person or Spiritual. I am in constant prayer. Also, I study my Scriptures for 15 minutes a day. All this devotion has helped me to be closer to Jesus, Mary, and the Saints.

When I first started lessons to become a Marian Catechist, I purchased a Catholic Bible from the Internet. Fifteen minutes a day, I read almost the whole thing. There were some verses in Jeremiah which spoke poorly about women, so I skipped the section and moved on. After I read the Bible, I started reading the Magnificat magazine, which has the readings for the Daily Mass. This gave me a deeper understanding of the Word of God, because of course, the priest explained what the Scriptures meant.

Shopping with my sister, Chrystine, in Pennsylvania, I found a Wonder Bible. It was a little gadget, about the size of a cellphone, which proclaimed scriptures from the Bible. The Old Testament and the New Testament were separate. One could listen to any Book or chapter they desired. For example, let us say you wanted to hear the passage of when the Angels spoke to the Shepherds about the birth of Jesus. Enter 2 for the New Testament, 03 for the Book of Luke, and 002 for the chapter about the Angels and the Shepherds. The code would be 203002. Then you would be at your story. There is a book which gives you the codes of all the books and chapters.

Of course, unfortunately, the Wonder Bible I purchased was a Protestant Wonder Bible. It was the King James Version (KJV). Sometimes I would hear something and then look it up in my Catholic NRSV, (New Revised Standard Version), Bible. The words would be a little different, but it would have the same message. I would listen to the Word of the Lord while I was getting ready for bed.

I listened to the four Gospels, and I had almost finished listening to the Torah, when the Wonder Bible said, "His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns." The phrase was from Deuteronomy 33:17 (KJV).

This was not the first time I could swear they said unicorns. A unicorn is a fantasy horse with one horn, usually white, and sometimes with a rainbow mane. The King James Version, of the Bible, refers to unicorns nine times. I paused to wonder if these mythical creatures did one day exist. The NRSV does not bring up unicorns.

The next day I went to Amazon and purchased a Catholic, NRSV, Wonder Bible. Now I am studying Maccabees, Wisdom, and Sirach.

If you really want to get into the heart of the Bible, and skip all the make believe, get a good Catholic Scriptures to guide you, even if all you do is listen.



*What a great title!*



## Learning to Lead

## Leading to Learn

When installed as Leadership Commission Chair last spring, I was given Saint Joan of Arc as my patron saint. Outgoing president Lorraine gave all of us on the Executive Board and Commissions a saint that she knew we admired or one that represented our office or Commission. Young Joan was given the grace to lead, the courage to face her foes, paid the ultimate price, and received the ultimate reward! Lorraine felt she was a perfect example for a Leadership Chair.

By the time a woman becomes the La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Leadership Chair she has gone through 4 other positions: vice president, president elect, president and immediate past president. By now she will have had lots of experience with the LDCCW and the deaneries within. Often she was been active at the parish and deanery levels first, but that's not always the case. Sometimes all it takes is for someone to encourage or invite you to participate. You might say "why me", "I can't do that", or "I don't have time", but I encourage you to give it a try. President Melanie is an example of this very thing! Ask and she will share her story. Another recent quote from Melanie is "the leader learns the most". How true!

***Kathy Herfel    Leadership Commission (2020-2022)***

***La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women***

Follow the Lord's leading: Walking with God requires an intimate, prayer-filled reliance upon him. Christian leadership is truly impossible if you haven't prioritized fostering a deep spiritual sensitivity.

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;*

*I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.—Psalm 32:8*



(And just for fun...)

Be a real (cheer) leader! Speak up! Defend your faith! Set an example in your CCWs!



# Serving For Advent

## Natalie Goeden—Service Commission

So, here we are at Advent and we are still wondering just what is going on and when will it end? Truth be told, those are things we cannot control and our worrying about them should only be enough to take care of ourselves and families. The hands of God will hold us near and dear to Him. With this special season of the liturgical year approaching rapidly, let's do what we can and NOT be upset about the NOTs.

Many people who would normally volunteer at Churches and within your Communities are not doing so. Step up! Be of service to at least one event. If YOU were the one needing assistance and realized that no one was there, just how terrible would you feel? But how wonderful will you feel when you get that "Thank you" for something that was so very easy and not very time consuming either. Or maybe it's that glowing smile that is your return gift. Oh how kindness and goodwill are generously perceived, extolled, and gratifying to both parties: giver and receiver.

What's there to do? Cleaning in the Churches; or surprise treats to staffs of nurses, fire and police personnel, EMTs, librarians, those cleaning or repairing your streets, the garbage and recycling centers, the shelters for the homeless, your neighbor with the new baby, your elderly friend (if not a friend now, make it so NOW). The list could go on for any length, but you get the idea. Don't judge...just do it. Jesus will judge us on the last day, so make it count all the days that you have left here on earth.

This is an opportune time to be your best. Hard to get started? Ask yourself why you would do anything like this. Perhaps you have no money to give to help out, but you have the time. You will not be alone in your helping. Maybe you need to contact your Parish Office for their connections in order to pool resources and maximize potential. When you shop for your own groceries, one item extra to give away is better than none. If you have a way with children, perhaps aiding someone who is home schooling would be a relief for both teacher and student. Give the gift that distinguishes a Christ follower: love. Remember that Christ chose to be born into a struggling family. Many times in the Bible we see that Jesus is on the side of the impoverished. We would want to be Christ-like, yes? If you show up, Jesus shows up.

Could it be more perfect??? And YOU helped!

## Diocese of La Crosse Virtual Advent Mission

The focus of the Advent Mission will be "Preparing for the Birth of the Christ Child through the Eyes of St. Joseph." There will be four presentations, one for each week of Advent. The length of the talks will be roughly 30-40 minutes with discussion questions available at the end of each presentation and available to print from the website.

The purpose of this mission is to bring people together to prepare for Christmas and strengthen the community in light of so much isolation. Parishioners may participate by gathering at the parish or by watching at home. Each presentation will be available at [diolc.org/advent](http://diolc.org/advent)

The link to each presentation will be available on the Friday before the corresponding Sunday of Advent, and will be available throughout the rest of Advent.

The Presenters and Titles of the Presentations for each of the Four Weeks of Advent

**Week 1) St. Joseph: The Man Selected by God to be Closest to Mary and to Jesus. – Msgr. Joseph Diermeier**

**Week 2) Joseph and Mary: A Holy Love Story – Msgr. Joseph Hirsch**

**Week 3) That Holy Night, through Joseph's Eyes—Father Woodrow Pace**

**Week 4) "Joseph, Son of David...You are to Give Him the Name Jesus" – Bishop William Patrick Callahan**



## SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION by Ann Walgenbach

It doesn't seem possible that we are approaching the Advent Season already. Advent is the time of making ourselves ready for the birth of Christ. It is a new start and a time of anticipation in our faith journey. I want to recommend a great program from the Dynamic Catholic Institute with Matthew Kelly.



This year, Matthew Kelly will be giving powerful daily reflections on the Gospel readings all through Advent. It will help us prepare for Christmas like never before, establish a habit of daily prayer and reflection and rediscover the beauty and depth of the Gospels! The program is *"Let Your Soul Shine"* because that is what the world needs from all of us more than ever.

Do you want to have an incredible 2021?

It starts right now-with you signing up for BEST ADVENT EVER.

The website is: [www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent/best-advent-eve](http://www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent/best-advent-eve)

May you have a Blessed Advent Season! LET ALL OUR SOULS SHINE for the coming birth of Christ!

# Pro-Life Work Continues!

## Janet Amundson

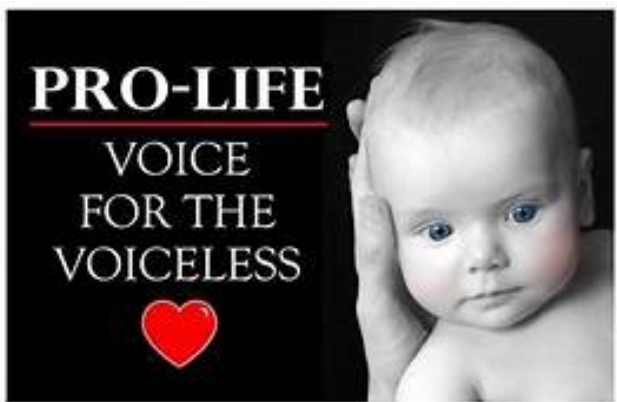
As LDCCW Pro-life liaison, I am saddened to hear that Pro-life advancements under the Trump Administration will be reversed under the leadership of President-elect Biden.



**From the Hill:** Nov. 13, 2020 President-elect Joe Biden is expected to roll back several of the Trump Administration's changes to sexual and reproductive health programs, undoing a large portion of the president's executive actions on abortion and women's health. Abortion rights and women's health care advocates anticipate the Biden administration will act swiftly to reverse a myriad of Trump-era rules including ones that allow more employers to opt out of ObamaCare's contraception mandate and ban the use of federal family planning dollars for domestic and foreign organizations that provide or promote abortions.

**Pro-Life Wisconsin Baby Bottle Campaign Virtual Fundraiser** – Crisis pregnancies happen all the time whether there is a pandemic or not but especially now, women need a supportive community to choose life for their preborn baby. The temptation of abortion is even greater in these difficult times. Sadly, many women are vulnerable in a crisis pregnancy to pursue an abortion. We know that in this time, unemployment has affected families and limited access to childcare, and education. It has stretched family resources and their ability to pay rent and or their monthly bills. The Pro-Life WI **Helping Both Program** fills the gap for families and gives the hope that moms in crisis pregnancies so desperately need. See [www.ProLifeWI.org](http://www.ProLifeWI.org) then click the menu tab "Get Involved" and click the drop-down choice "Programs."

***This idea of baby bottle fundraiser just might be the Advent Stay at Home project for PCCW's to support crisis pregnancies organizations in your area!***



## National Night of Prayer for Life

Takes place every year from 9:00 pm on December 8th to 1:00 am on December 9th

For complete details and prayers, google "National Night of Prayer for Life" sponsored by Priests For Life

Resources for more info: [www.lifesitenew.com](http://www.lifesitenew.com)

[www.wrti.org](http://www.wrti.org)

[info@hosea4you.org](mailto:info@hosea4you.org)

My dear sisters in Christ,

## ***FROM THE DESK OF OUR PROVINCE DIRECTOR***

No, your calendar isn't lying. It is already November and the holidays are sneaking up on us. Now that we are officially entering into the holiday season, it's time to start planning.

As a women's organization, we are always helping. Helping reach the women in our church pews, helping victims of Domestic Violence through our Let's Lick Family Violence Program or helping children enjoy Christmas through the NCCW Box of Joy Program. One of our commitments, through your local CCW organizations, NCCW and our very own personal ones, is one of THE NEED TO HELP AND TO HELP THE NEEDY.

Helping others fulfills some of our basic needs such as connecting with others and seeing how our actions make a positive difference. Those are the areas that help define a meaningful life. A meaningful life isn't found, but created through our actions.

Below are four service ideas leading into the holidays. These are all wonderful projects that can be done by an individual, family, or as a group project. Please share your details with me of how you accomplished the task so that I may share them with other Catholic women's organizations.

1. **Virtual Holiday Guests.** Ask a retirement home or nursing home which patients never receive visitors and ask to set up window visits, video calls, or a regular old phone call. Call once a month to read, chat, and listen. How about contacting one of your members from your organization once a month that has been couped up or one of your parishioners that you haven't seen in the pews for a while?
2. **Adopt a Missionary.** Learn about the people and the culture where the missionary services. Communicate regularly, and ask for needs. Share the needs, and gather the items for an early Christmas care package.
3. **Sleigh Bells.** Plan a special delivery to people in your community who work on Christmas Eve, such as emergency personnel, convenience store clerks, and hospital personnel. They'll be encouraged by simple gifts like cookies or handwritten cards.
4. **Reverse Advent Calendar.** This is a very easy way, but a way to help the needy. At the beginning of Advent, each day add a food item to a box. Use your imagination of what to put in the box, but if you are having a hard time coming up with a list, there actually is a list available and if you would like it, please contact me. On Christmas Eve, donate the contents to your local food pantry or to a poor, struggling family.

The need doesn't stop just with your area. Our NCCW organization has been a victim too of the COVID-19. Would you consider making a tax-deductible donation to the NCCW as a Gift of Sustainability? Christmas shopping is right around the corner. Consider shopping through [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). Add NCCW as the charity of your choice and NCCW will get 0.5% of your purchase price and no cost to you. Are you looking for that special gift for a Catholic woman who you want to remember at Christmas? The NCCW has created Santa's Special Surprise Bundles. These bundles are a variety of fun products to celebrate the season. For more information on any of these items, or to view the 2019/2020 updated NCCW strategic plan, please go to the NCCW website, [www.nccw.org](http://www.nccw.org).

As you can see the needs are great – if it is the need of feeling that you are helping someone, the need to combat loneliness for someone or the need of grocery provisions to ones that are not so fortunate.

During this 2020 holiday season let us be thankful for everyone and everything we have in our lives. Some of us may not be rich in money or jewels, but be thankful for what you do have. Be it the food on your table or the familiar faces around your table. Be it the warmth of your hearth or the warmth of your grandchild's hugs. Be it feeling safe in your bed at night or feeling secure knowing you have a wonderful friend. Whatever it is, be joyful and thankful.

Let's all pray that November and December are months filled with healing, blessings, growth, new opportunities, love and recover from all that is going on in our world today.

**My wish for you is to have a happy and healthy holiday season!**

***Paula Freimuth***

***Province of Milwaukee Director***



*There is help...there is hope...there is healing.*

*Jesus said, "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly." John 10:10*

*How can you help yourself and others experience more of the abundant life that Jesus wants for us today?*

**Our Next Quarterly Business Meeting:  
Saturday, January 16, 2020**

**We will discuss our new 2021-2022 budget.**

**Our special speaker will be our own President-Elect, Susan Tully, speaking to us on the very complicated and difficult issue of immigration.**

## *Litany of Trust*

From the belief that I have to earn Your love Deliver me, Jesus.  
From the fear that I am unlovable Deliver me, Jesus.  
From the false security that I have what it takes Deliver me, Jesus.  
From the fear that trusting You will leave me more destitute Deliver me, Jesus.  
From all suspicion of Your words and promises Deliver me, Jesus.  
From the rebellion against childlike dependency on You Deliver me, Jesus.  
From refusals and reluctances in accepting Your will Deliver me, Jesus.  
From anxiety about the future Deliver me, Jesus.  
From resentment or excessive preoccupation with the past Deliver me, Jesus.  
From restless self-seeking in the present moment Deliver me, Jesus.  
From disbelief in Your love and presence Deliver me, Jesus.  
From the fear of being asked to give more than I have Deliver me, Jesus.  
From the belief that my life has no meaning or worth Deliver me, Jesus.  
From the fear of what love demands Deliver me, Jesus.  
From discouragement Deliver me, Jesus.



That You are continually holding me, sustaining me, loving me Jesus, I trust in You.  
That Your love goes deeper than my sins and failings and transforms me Jesus, I trust in You.  
That not knowing what tomorrow brings is an invitation to lean on You Jesus, I trust in You.  
That You are with me in my suffering Jesus, I trust in You.  
That my suffering, united to Your own, will bear fruit in this life and the next Jesus, I trust in You.  
That You will not leave me orphan, that You are present in Your Church Jesus, I trust in You.  
That Your plan is better than anything else Jesus, I trust in You.  
That You always hear me and in Your goodness always respond to me Jesus, I trust in You.  
That You give me the grace to accept forgiveness and to forgive others Jesus, I trust in You.  
That You give me all the strength I need for what is asked Jesus, I trust in You.  
That my life is a gift Jesus, I trust in You. That You will teach me to trust You Jesus, I trust in You.  
That You are my Lord and my God Jesus, I trust in You.  
That I am Your beloved one Jesus, I trust in You.

This Litany of Trust was written by one of the SISTERS OF LIFE,  
Sr. Faustina Maria Pia. May this prayer sustain you and give you peace.