

## La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

# NEWS AND VIEWS

A bi-annual newsletter sharing the thoughts of our Council

*There is help...there is hope...there is healing. John 10:10*



This picture is real and was not edited, the stone is real, the trees are real, the soil is real and the sky is real.  
Now the only thing you have to do is to change your point of view, look at the picture upside down!

### ***A New Year's Resolution For Guarding Our Minds by President Melanie Frei***

When I read George Orwell's book *1984* in high school, one of the most puzzling questions I had was: "How did the totalitarian government get all the Media to lie for them?" Were they really all so scared? In my naïve youth and having been formed with a conscience deeply sensitive to lying, it *never occurred to me* that some in the Media *want* to lie on behalf of a totalitarian government agenda.

I have attended the March for Life in Washington, DC five times in the last 20 years. When I first started attending, this was a favorite joke of the participants:

### ***Save the Dates!***

Next Board of Directors Meeting January 16, 2021  
LDCCW Biennial Convention next spring!! April 23, 2022

"The FBI has been talking to the March for Life organizers to find out their secret."

"Oh, what secret is that?"

"About how they can *hide* hundreds of thousands of March participants in Washington D.C. from the Press!"

This joke is not so funny anymore. Many in the Media have gone far beyond simply ignoring the March and are now engaging in withholding essential facts and disseminating outright lies which have a consistent and clear purpose: to promote an agenda for America that is completely opposed to the design of our Founding Fathers for this Republic and our Judeo-Christian world view. Consider the false narrative that presented Nick Sandman, a 16 year-old teenager at the 2019 March For Life., as a white supremacist. Thankfully, he had support to fight back when his reputation was destroyed by media lies.

Kyle Rittenhouse is another victim of Progressive Media's insistence on twisting, repressing, and manipulating facts to promote a completely false narrative. Rittenhouse should never have been charged. And Darrell Brooks, who drove his vehicle into the Holiday Parade in Waukesha, should not have been out of jail. The effort to make the former a white supremacist and the suspicious silence on the

Waukesha massacre illustrates the bankruptcy of our media.

It is becoming a common practice to regard traditional Christian teaching and practice and the language used in preaching and teaching Gospel truths as “hate speech” which can and should be censored. J.K. Rowling, author of the Harry Potter books, forcefully and publicly supported the biological fact that there are only two genders: male and female. For this “thought crime,” she has been “doxed” on the internet: her address and phone were shared on social media and, as a result, she reported receiving so many death threats, “I could wall paper my home with them.”

The true journalistic calling involves a dedicated pursuit of the truth and is, indeed, a worthy calling. It is a tragedy for our society that so many have abandoned it for unworthy aims. I did not think the Progressive Media could sink any lower than the egregiously dishonest coverage of Brett Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court confirmation hearing. We should all be prepared for a full court press of lies and character assassination leading up to and following the Supreme Court’s abortion decision next June.

What can we do to preserve our heritage? We still have our tradition and laws regarding free speech and free press. Despite the censorship and repression practiced by the Progressive Media and social media sources, we still have other options for learning the full story on any given issue.

Although it takes more time and effort, we still have access to truth. But we must take the initiative. Sometimes we will have to go the extra mile to find truth on vital issues. We can no longer afford to be passive consumers of news. We must accept the sad realization that our major news sources are neither neutral nor fair. We cannot and should not rely only on reports from those who hate us and hate what we believe.

We must combat lying whenever and wherever it confronts us. This year put “You shall not lie” into the forefront of your spiritual life.

## Make these New Year Resolutions:

- I will, as a Catholic women leader, be responsible in promoting God’s truth.
- I will seek the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth in all areas of life.
- I will learn to be very discerning and critical in my news consumption.
- I will be vigilant in seeking truth from media sources upholding our Judeo-Christian values.
- I will not uncritically trust news commentary from media sources that routinely attack our beliefs.
- I will strive to be a critical thinker who habitually questions:

What is the political or philosophical agenda of this source?

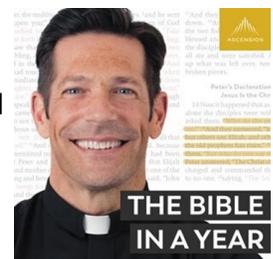
Is there more to the story than they have revealed?

Was the video edited? And for what purpose?

### *Want to learn your Bible better?*

“I have thoroughly enjoyed Bible in a Year with Fr. Mike Schmitz. It has truly deepened my understanding of the Bible and of God Himself. I plan to do it again!” - Melanie

There are now about 450,000 downloads of this podcast daily . It will be advertising during the holidays in New York’s Times Square!



**Google:**

**The Bible in a Year (with Fr. Mike Schmitz)**

## It's Time To Pray Like Never Before!

At this time of year, my mind is particularly on fighting for the lives of unborn American citizens. I have been the organizer of the Wisconsin Right to Life float for the Tomah Holiday Parade, held the Friday night after Thanksgiving for the past seven years. But this year, the issue is closer to my heart than ever.

First, the United States Council of Catholic Bishops met to establish a new teaching document that will help priests and teachers understand the Eucharist so that the faithful may be properly guided in their preparation for and reception of Holy Communion.

National Catholic Register editors offered this summary (November 23, 2021): Regarding Eucharistic coherence, for instance, the bishops teach, "The person who, by his or her own action, has broken communion with Christ and his Church but receives the Blessed Sacrament acts incoherently, both claiming and rejecting communion at the same time." Highlighting the danger of scandal, the bishops cite Pope St. John Paul II, who taught that "those who obstinately persist in manifest grave sin are not to be admitted to Eucharistic communion."

The bishops themselves affirm that "[i]t is the special responsibility of the diocesan bishop to work to remedy situations that involve public actions at variance with the visible communion of the Church and the moral law. Indeed, he must guard the integrity of the sacrament, the visible communion of the Church, and the salvation of souls." The NCR editors conclude, "It's not unreasonable to think that, on the basis of the document's restatement of tried-and-true Church teaching and its near-unanimous approval by the episcopal conference, local ordinaries may be encouraged to make the difficult, but sometimes needed, decision of publicly stating that pro-abortion-rights politicians will not be admitted to Communion in their dioceses."

*Canon Law # 915: "Those who have been excommunicated or interdicted after the imposition or declaration of the penalty and others obstinately persevering in manifest grave sin are not to be admitted to holy communion."*

### Prayer intention from Raymond Cardinal Burke:

I invite you to pray with me for the Church in the United States of America and in every nation, that, faithful to the mission of Christ, her Bridegroom, she will be faithful, limpid and uncompromising in the application of can. 915, **defending the sanctity of the Holy Eucharist, safeguarding the souls** of Catholic politicians who would grievously violate the moral law and still present themselves to receive Holy Communion, thereby committing sacrilege, and **preventing the most serious scandal** caused by the failure to observe the norm of can. 915.

<https://www.complicitclergy.com/2021/10/29/cardinal-burke-usccb-must-correct-the-scandal-of-catholic-politicians-who-promote-abortion/>

Second, the U.S. Supreme Court, on Dec. 1, heard the case of Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health. This has the potential to overturn Roe v. Wade and finally, finally, *finally* send the abortion issue back to the States where it belongs. Since Roe v. Wade was decided in Jan. 1973, an estimated 62 million unborn babies have been aborted in our nation. It is long past time to consign this horrendous piece of legal work to the trash heap of history, where our forebears righteously consigned slavery and segregation. Our parish had Eucharistic Adoration for six hours the night before for this case.

### Please pray that the Supreme Court will overturn Roe v. Wade.

I am planning, once again, to participate in March For Life in Washington, D.C. I hope you will also go, if you can. Or, for a closer opportunity, you can go to the March For Life in Chicago. Details can easily be found online.

by President Melanie Frei



*Theme for the Tomah Area Holiday Parade:*

*"There's SNOW place like home"*

*Our Monroe County Wisconsin Right to Life float won*

**Now is the time to pray for Life like never before!**

# The Virtue of Alacrity

Father William Behr was rector of St John Vianney Seminary and often spoke of the virtue of alacrity. He talked to the young men not only about obedience to God's will, but to respond to God's call promptly with brisk cheerful readiness.

St. Teresa of Kolkata (Mother Teresa) also spoke of saying yes to God:

*"We must know exactly when we say yes to God what is in that yes. Yes means 'I surrender,' totally, fully, without any counting the cost, without any examination: 'Is it all right? Is it convenient?' Our yes to God is without any reservations."*



## ALACRITY

promptness in response;  
cheerful readiness

# Nominating Committee

We are currently seeking nominations for our next slate of officers. Specifically, we are looking for our next Secretary and Treasurer. (It would be great if we had more names for Vice-President and President Elect.) Our current secretary will remain on the board and will assist in any way necessary. Our current treasurer would like to find a "Treasurer in Training" and really ease the transition, lessening the learning curve. In the last couple of terms, we have really streamlined the processes and provided laptops for the secretary and treasurer.



## NOMINATIONS ARE CURRENTLY BEING ACCEPTED

Would you or someone you know be a great leader, inspire others, and want to serve Christ in His Church? Nominations are open for Secretary and Treasurer.



Nominating Committee  
Chair,  
Lorraine Riedl  
Immediate Past President  
[immpastpres@ldccw.org](mailto:immpastpres@ldccw.org)

We have also set up a Google Suites for Non-Profits account for emails and file sharing so your personal emails will not need to be used for these positions protecting your personal security.

**Be Not Afraid!** We also have a network of ladies willing to help if you ever have a question. So, if you or someone you know would like to use their talents in the mission of proclaiming the Gospel through the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, please contact me at [immpastpres@ldccw.org](mailto:immpastpres@ldccw.org) or any of our current officers.

We will also be seeking commissioners for Spirituality, Service, Pro-Life, and all our other committees.

When I was asked to be vice-president and eventually president, I was hesitant. But my dear husband challenged me, *"What are you afraid of?"*

Answering God's call should never be scary. We should answer His call with alacrity; promptly with cheerful readiness, knowing He is in control.

*"Say YES to God. That is HOLINESS."*

*St. Teresa of Kolkata*

**WAITING, CONVERSION, and HOPE**  
**SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION**  
**Anne Walgenbach November 2021**

Modern culture makes it easy for us to miss the Advent Season and skip ahead right to Christmas. We miss so much of the beauty of Advent and its special spiritual blessings.

The Vatican's Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy provides us with three simple words that should guide us during Advent and transform our observance into a special time of preparation for the coming of our Savior.



*Advent is a time of waiting, conversion and hope.*

**Waiting:** the memory of the first, humble coming of the Lord in our mortal flesh and waiting for his final, glorious coming as Lord of History and universal Judge.

**Conversion:** to which the Liturgy at this time often refers, quoting the prophets, especially John the Baptist, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Mt 3:2).

**Joyful hope:** that the salvation already accomplished by Christ (cf. Rm 8:24-25) and the reality of grace in the world, will mature and reach their fulness, thereby granting us what is promised by faith, and "we shall become like him for we shall see him as he really is" (John 3:2).

Today is a good day to reflect on how we have kept him waiting: when he calls us to be closer to him in prayer, when our consciences accuse us that there is something very serious standing between us and him, when we cling to the nets of our security and fail to trust that he will take us to a place where we will find our joyful hope.

If you are looking to deepen your Advent season, keep these three words in the back of your mind, letting them guide your preparations for the glorious celebration of Christmas.

(Excerpts taken from Article by Phillip Kosloski 11/30/2021)

\*\*There are some online daily Advent inspirational ideas to prepare for Christmas. It is not too late to sign up.



Augustine Institute: FORMED Advent Daily (thru the FORMED App)  
AMEN Catholic Prayer App  
[www.augustineinstitute.org](http://www.augustineinstitute.org)

Dynamic Catholic: Best Advent Ever -  
The theme this Advent is "Move Toward the Light"  
[www. dynamiccatholic.com](http://www.dynamiccatholic.com)

Relevant Radio: Daily Advent Inspirations by Fr. Rocky  
There is an Audio Advent Calendar — Dec.1 through the 25th.  
It is a version of Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol"  
presented by The Merry Beggars

\*You may sign up for these programs on the Relevant Radio App.

## *Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus*

**Natalie Goeden, Chair  
Service Commission**

My world has been ready for Christmas of 2021 since the early days in May. The times my co-workers have shrieked about hearing Christmas melodies coming from my computer have subsided, probably because they are able to shut their doors or maybe because I have the volume down.

I don't buy gifts for that many people, but I still begin thinking about items because deals come at all times of the year, and it costs me less, and they can get more with this modus operandi. But...wait...should not Christmas be about Christ? Yes, in fact I will not purchase cards that say, "Happy Holidays." They must say, "Merry Christmas."

My thoughts also go to something that bugs my cutie-pie husband: Why do people go on their best behavior for one day of the year and the rest of the time they act like (...whatever comes to mind for you)? This is something that I tell him is quite right, but it has to start somewhere, and it may as well start with us being wonderful to those around us all year long. Less judging and more assisting. It should not be one day of love for everyone and does not have to be that way. Your view. Your decision. Your soul.

Then there's the thought most Mothers have recited to their children: Wear clean underwear in case you have to go to the hospital. Okay, there are reasons some people may not have clean underwear, but I know she was not talking about the unfortunate. It was to direct us toward proper habits of life, and it would, of course, be helpful not to embarrass ourselves or the family.

So...preparing for Advent...isn't that an all day and every day item of your Faith? It's in the same realm as having your soul in the State of Grace because you never know when your number comes up. Why just these four weeks preceding Christmas? Because some people need, enjoy, or flourish with the direction or focus. Be of help to them instead of ridiculing their intentions. Besides, it's about Jesus, not YOU! See Jesus in all those who are in need if it is physical, moral, mental, or some combination. You won't run out of things to do!!!



Last thought: most noticeable retail posting gaining momentum for this year: "[Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus.](#)" Neal A. Maxwell

*Have a merry and blessed  
Christmas, and the New  
Year will be worthwhile.*

## *Keeping Christ in Christmas*

**Candace V. McGrath, Secretary**

“Merry Christmas,” I greet friends, family, neighbors, Walmart employees, and everyone I encounter this time of year, and yes, including the clergy. I feel Christmas is a special time of year when we can greet everyone with this lovely expression of God’s love in Christ.

Not everyone agrees with this sentiment. Many are joyous yet prefer “Happy Holidays” or “Season’s Greetings.” There is also “Merry X-mas,” for those who watch too many X-Files. However, in this paranormal show which studies the signs and wonders of God, they start out their Christmas episode by putting Baby Jesus in the manger.

Mass is so important during Advent. I love coming to church every week and watching the Altar Servers light candles on the Advent Wreath. Maranatha means “come, Lord Jesus.” We anticipate his birth as a baby to his mother Mary and her husband Joseph, as both human and divine. God has given us the greatest gift of all, his Son, to teach us how to love him and each other, and to sacrifice himself on the cross for our sins. We wait in joyful anticipation.

I look around for the glorious evidence of our creator, especially at Christmas time. Take, for example, the Family Thrift Shop, where I am Treasurer. The sign in the window says, “Keep Christ in Christmas.” Sometimes I have to search hard, because I want to believe everyone has a small glimmer of hope in their hearts, a speck of light in their immortal souls, by which they can know Jesus loves them.

I listen to a lot of music, and I used to watch a show called “Glee.” Every year they would put out a Christmas album. Some of the characters sang in their church choirs. My favorite character was Blaine Anderson, portrayed by Darren Criss, who later became a coach on “The Voice.” When he came out with his Christmas Album, “A Very Darren Crissmas,” I listened carefully for a hint of Christ, but it was all Santa Claus and holiday cheer. My heart hurt because he seemed to take Christ out of Christmas. Then I read his album cover. “Ron not only served as the northern star that led us to the proverbial Bethlehem. . .” And then I smiled. Another glimmer of light for someone who is a Christian. Thank God.



*Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year!*

## *How's Your Influence?* Kathy Herfel, Leadership Commission

Hello, members of our Councils of Catholic women!

Even if you are not the president or chair, you have much more influence within your Councils than you might realize—in a *good* way, I hope and pray. Stay on top of things in your organization without being overbearing; have the best interest of your Council in mind. Being overbearing might not work in your favor or be good for your Council. We need to be good servant leaders and set an example for others.

Here is what the Catholic Leadership Institute has to say. While this is meant for educators, we can all relate to, and strive for, the qualities listed.

***“Catholic leaders [in our schools] are often referenced as servant leaders. Literature on this form of leadership refers to the following characteristics: empathy, awareness, healing, foresight, stewardship, commitment to the growth of people, and building community in the broadest sense.”***

Remember to practice:

*empathy, awareness, healing, stewardship, foresight, commitment, community*

*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*



## LU'S CHAT CORNER

***I want to wish each and every one of you a Joyous Advent  
and if you are out and about travelling, a very safe one.***

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

From the NCCW Nominations Committee – looking for nominations for the office of Treasurer for the National Council of Catholic Women.

From **PD Lu** - Could this be someone within your own diocese? I know many of our deaneries, aka vicariates, parishes and dioceses have all met with some difficulty in recruiting officers; let alone, being able to fill certain positions. I am involved in our

deanery and the search for board officers – going on our 3<sup>rd</sup> year. If you have an officer who has served as a treasurer at some level of a council, the NCCW would love to hear from you. I have enclosed the actual email that came from that Committee. (I tested this web page link and it worked on my end; also, it does recognize and keep the identity of the NCCW as the owner of that mail. If the web link does not work, for those interested, I can forward over to you via regular email route.)

<https://api.neonemails.com/emails/content/mEFOU-usDC4cqDwjXxxGeCOiKAgZMYzQt6nFK16284>

Also, I received a letter request from a member of the NCCW Service Commission with, I think, an absolutely wonderful and special request: Each member assigned to this Commission has been asked to collect information on service projects being carried out by affiliates in the Province of Milwaukee. The contact person for this project that represents Wisconsin is Rosalyn Bourgeois. She is from the Green Bay Diocese. Her contact information is via email: [melrosebour@charter.net](mailto:melrosebour@charter.net) or via phone: (920)-755-2645. The newsletter that I will be sending out between our board meetings she requests to be included to receive that, as well.

***Thank you for letting me spend time with you.***