

Council Sunday is a perfect opportunity to promote our Councils of Catholic Women

Here is a sample of what we can share with our parishes to promote our Council Sunday Collection which is typically held the Sunday following Easter (also known as Divine Mercy Sunday or previously, Low Sunday). PLEASE share with your pastors, your deacons, your parish councils, and your fellow parishioners. Our parish allows us to address the people during the collection which Bishop has so graciously endorsed.

I wish to thank you for your support at all our levels of the Councils of Catholic Women. We were established in 1920 by the USCCB and so are celebrating our centennial year. The US Bishops recognized the work of the women during and after "The Great War" and deemed it good that every parish, deanery, diocese, province, and nation have a Council of Catholic Women. In our parishes, we do so many things including small dresses for girls in Africa, comfort kits to victims of violence or natural disaster, grants and so much more. Our deaneries have hosted spiritual enrichment conferences, social concerns convocations, leadership development and so much more. At the diocesan level we have sponsored the anti-pornography efforts for the Diocese of La Crosse, grants to combat human trafficking, scholarships for Catholic camp, support Natural Family Planning education, our seminarians and so much more. At the national level, there are retreats, educational opportunities, leadership training and so much more. NCCW holds an advisory seat at the USCCB and at the United Nations. We are the voice of Catholic Women. We are also part of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations and

have an advisory seat at the Vatican. Our many efforts and initiatives are not only relevant in our world today, but are important. It is important that women come together in friendship and be given a purpose bigger than themselves. Opportunities to grow in areas of leadership, spirituality, and service. Thank you for supporting the Councils of Catholic Women.

Council Sunday is more than a collection...

It's a work of Spirituality, Service and Leadership!

Be a part of something bigger:

- ◆ Embracing Your Call to Holiness Catholic Women's Retreat
- ◆ Mini Retreats
- ◆ Leadership Development
- ◆ Mentorship and Renaissance Team
- ◆ Natural Family Planning Education
- ◆ Scholarships
- ◆ Books for Kids in Catholic Schools
- ◆ Project Milk and Rural Life
- ◆ Casa Hogar in Lurin, Perú
- ◆ Ministry for People with Special Needs
- ◆ Support for Marriage with retreats and Retrovaille.
- ◆ Domestic Violence support
- ◆ Fighting Against Human Trafficking
- ◆ Safe Haven Sunday Antipornography

When your Parish Council of Catholic Women asks for your help, please be generous.



Thank you, Bishop, for your support of the ladies of the diocese and this collection!

Don't forget, we also have a full-page description of the Council Sunday Collection located on our website on the Resources and Documents page at www.LDCCW.org

Please use these resources in your bulletins.

God is calling you. Don't make excuses.

Pope Francis said, *"God wants us to discover that each of us is called — in a variety of ways — to something grand, and that our lives should not grow entangled in the nets of an ennui that dulls the heart."* Well, that's a new word to me! Ennui (noun): a feeling of listlessness and dissatisfaction arising from a lack of occupation or excitement. Synonyms: boredom, tedium, lethargy, weariness. Antonyms: contentment

Each of us is called to something beyond ourselves, but we tend to make excuses. We live in a time when most people are afraid to step up and volunteer. We are convinced that we certainly don't have the time or talent to accomplish the job that needs to be done. If I commit to doing this, I lose my freedom to do as I want. When I was asked to step into a role at the Diocesan level of Councils of Catholic Women, I fell into this "me-centered" point of view. My husband asked me "what are you afraid of?" When I would honestly list out all my fears, they all fell short of the truth. I would say "I don't have the time" and the truth is that it is only a matter of scheduling, and it really wasn't that much. I would say "I don't know how" and the truth is that there is a large support group of ladies willing to teach me and help if I got into a bind. I would say "someone else will do it" but the truth is God had a plan for me. He has a plan for each and every one of us. When we stay "me-centered" we grow entangled in the "nets of ennui that dulls the heart" that Pope Francis referred to.

Pope Francis continued, "We need the courage to take a risk for God's promise." Jesus drew near the four fishermen and broke through the "paralysis of routine," making them the promise, "I will make you fishers of men,"

"The joy of the Gospel, which makes us open to encountering God and our brothers and sisters, does not abide our slowness and our sloth," the Pope said in a message released Dec. 4, 2017. "It will not fill our hearts if we keep standing by the window with the excuse of waiting for the right time, without accepting this very day the risk of making a decision. ... The Christian mission is now!" The Lord continues to call us to follow him, and we shouldn't wait to be perfect in order to answer with our "generous 'yes,'" he continued. We don't have to be fearful of our limitations and sins, but instead, should open our hearts to the voice of the Lord.

Lorraine Riedl
Immediate Past President

We Need You!

Would you or someone you know be a great leader, inspire others, and want to serve Christ and His Church? Nominations are open for Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. We have nominations for Vice President. We NEED a secretary and a treasurer. Our current treasurer is willing to stay on to train the new officer.

Please contact the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Lorraine Riedl, at immpastpres@ldccw.org or 608-463-7662

☞ *'If not you, then who? If not now, when?'* ☞ Hillel, a first-century Jewish scholar

La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Annual Collection

Thank you for supporting the La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (LDCCW; www.ldccw.org.) The LDCCW is dedicated to supporting the women of the La Crosse Diocese and providing direct service to the Church. While the LDCCW is not part of the Bishop's budget, as are CCWs of other Dioceses, we do contribute to the needs of our Bishop and Diocese through your generosity. Bishop Callahan grants permission for the LDCCW Collection each year. In the past year, your generosity contributed to the following:

Spirituality

- Prayer
- Embracing Your Call to Holiness Catholic Women's Retreat
- Vocation Purse Club to help student loans for those pursuing religious life and the priesthood
- Mini retreats on Dignity of Women, Our Spirituality through Sacraments, and Gifts of the Visitation
- Helping to build the Domestic Church in our homes
- Support for Seminarians and Deacon Aspirants and Candidates

Leadership

- Leadership Development
- Connecting the Diocese (Relevant Radio) and Televised Masses
- Mentorship and Renaissance Team
- Natural Family Planning Education
- Scholarships for women
 - Camp Scholarships for youth
 - Faith Education for Adults
 - Lay Formation Institute
- Books for Kids in Catholic Schools
- Legislative Education and Advocacy
- Building the Domestic Church
- Anti-Pornography Programs

Service

- Grant to Aid Victims of Human Trafficking
- Project Milk and Rural Life
- Supporting Fair Ethical Trade
- Casa Hogar in Lurin, Peru
- Ministry for People with Special Needs
- Recordable Books for parents in jail or prison so they can read to their children
- Domestic Violence Survivor Support
- Fighting against Human Trafficking
- Partnerships with Catholic Relief Services
 - Water for Life
 - Madonna Plan bringing pregnancy and early childhood healthcare
- Refugee Women Emergency Relief



Thank you!