

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

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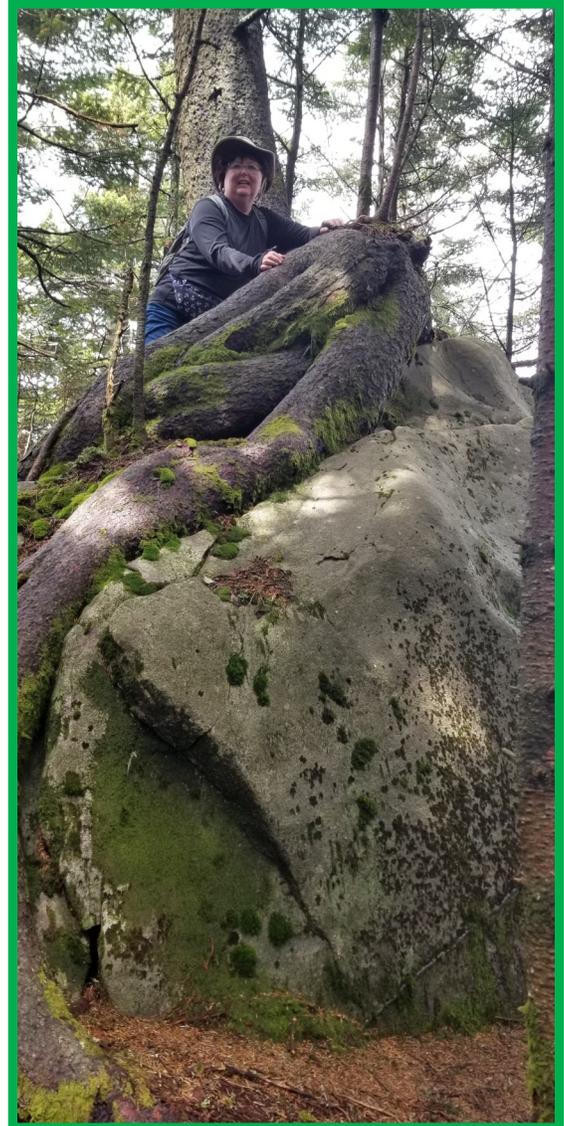
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Save the Dates!

Next Board of Directors Meeting July 17, 2021

NCCW Convention in Washington DC August 25-28, 2021



This tree in the Smokey Mountains kept growing despite the boulder in its way. How can we overcome evil when there are so many obstacles in our path?

Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life." In the confusion of today's world, ask yourself, "Will this thought, deed, or action lead me to Jesus, or away from Him? Is it based in *truth*? Will it lead to eternal life?"

Spirituality Day 2021

LDCCW Presents

A Lenten Journey
Through The Holy Land



A huge thank you to Lorraine Riedl for taking us to the Holy Land and allowing us to follow the places of Jesus' life, ministry, and passion.

It was a wonderful presentation and one that truly enhanced our Lenten experience.



A Tsunami of Evil by Melanie Frei, President

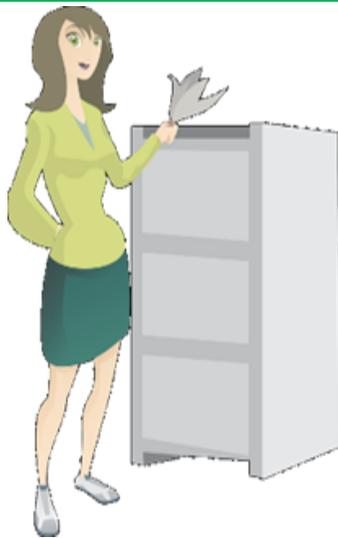
As a pro-life advocate, I have been continually saddened by the relentless attacks on the unborn from our present political administration. How true is the saying, "When your business is death, lying is necessary." Sometimes I think we underestimate the importance of the 8th Commandment, "You shall not bear false witness." The lies of the Culture of Death which permeate our society are incredibly destructive..

I am very discouraged by some prominent Church leaders who have not only allowed, but also enabled anti-Catholic policies to flourish. Moreover, rather than faithfully protecting the Eucharist, they have used it to bolster heretical practices. Jesus warned us about these wolves in sheep's clothing. (Matthew 7:15-16)

Our President-Elect, Susan Tully, after touring the Mexican border for her work on immigration legislation, reported that current administration policies are producing "pure evil." I asked her how she was able to sleep at night knowing the harm that is being done to so many people. Susan said, "I remind myself that God is in control. Nothing that is happening is a surprise to Him."

I read about daily attacks on the Christian worldview in our public schools—from the 1619 Project to Critical Race Theory to Gender Ideology. These trends, along with the daily suppression of truth by powerful media outlets and cancellation of any presentations that uphold Christian thought or values, must leave us wondering, how can we fight this tsunami of evil?

Take another look at the tree on the cover of News and Views. Our wise, good, and all-powerful God can use these "boulders of opposition" to perfect our courage and resolve to follow Him more closely and depend on Him more fully. God is in control. And He is both merciful Father and righteous Judge.



Spring Cleaning Treasures

Lorraine Riedl, Immediate Past President

While spring cleaning several BOXES of LDCCW files, I got rid of a lot of "file clutter," such as duplicates of reports and copies of 20 year old receipts for miscellaneous minor items. Other files I have scanned to keep on our Google For Non-Profits drive. And I have come across some treasures.

At the Lay Formation Institute, I was privileged to meet Harold and Suzette Matis. When I started becoming involved with the La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, I got to know Suzette a little better. You may recognize the name from our Books for Kids Scholarship as she was the foundress of this scholarship. Suzette was

the recipient of the 2006 Our Lady of Good Council Award at the National General Assembly in Milwaukee.

I came across an article written by Suzette when she was the Organization Commission Chair (we used to have 12 commissions!) I was struck by how timely her comments are even though they were written years ago.

It is good to re-use and re-cycle old articles! By passing on other's articles, it gives credence and dignity to the work of those who have gone before us. Besides, this is how we still have the writings of the saints, whether canonized or not.

*The following page is a copy of her
Organization Commission article
in a past issue of the News and Views:*

Our Service to LDCCW Should Be Filled With Love

God commands us to love. Loving one another does not mean we have to like what each person is or does, but we have to give dignity to each person. Too often our Councils get caught up in the personalities of their members focusing on all that hinders us from being active and vibrant Councils. Time is wasted discussing all the negatives that may exist such as, we don't have enough members so we can't do a project, we lack the right resources to help us with our activities, we feel we're not getting enough support from our pastoral leadership.

Remember, this is YOUR Council, and each member is special, has a different talent they would like to share. As a leader, you need to listen with love, care about the members, be encouraging to help each member be a contributing member and remain interested in helping with projects. Enlist members to share ideas and appoint a committee to sort out, investigate and prioritize. Then let the membership voice their opinion by a silent ballot vote. The highest vote gets priority, then, enlist volunteers to carry out the project. Working together helps gel the membership and eliminates hard feelings. You have lovingly led your membership through a process and now are ready to move on.

Most pastors are very busy, so keep your pastor informed of your activities and occasionally ask if he has any concerns you can work on.

Here is a prayer to help you carry out your activities lovingly:

Grateful Hearts

Loving God, we the women of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women are grateful that you have called us to serve you.

We ask you this day to open our hearts, to open our minds and to make us receptive to one another in an atmosphere of Christian love.

Help us to share our wisdom with one another as we grow in an understanding of what you are calling us to do in these challenging days facing our Church and our World.

Give us a powerful realization of how we need each other and how each of us needs the communal wisdom that can be found in Council.

Guide us in our decisions to that they be relevant to what is happening in our Parish and Council.

Help us to recognize the gentle shift that is taking place in the Church calling us women to minister in new and wider directions.

Help us to say "Yes" to your call to this vocation of the laity.

Keep us ever hopeful, and ever watchful to the Gospel of Peace, Justice and Love.

We praise you; we thank you; we ask for your forgiveness and for the forgiveness of one another.

Send your Spirit to be with us and our membership as we set our course for this year.

We ask you these favors in the name of Jesus, Your Son, and our Redeemer. Amen

I wish you all the best in working to share our love for Council and carrying out the mission of loving one another. Keep up the good work and may God bless the work of your hands.

Suzette Matis, Organization Commission Chair

(rediscovered from our past files—thank you, Lorraine!)



What We Love About St. Joseph

Candace V. McGrath, Secretary

Since I was a little girl, I have known Joseph was Mary's husband and helped her raise Jesus. As I grew, I learned he was a carpenter and he made things out of wood. While God the Father looked on, Joseph and Mary taught Jesus about life, God, and Jewish customs. I figured Jesus had to be a good child and would never have been disciplined because he was perfect and, really, how could you punish the Son of God?

Little things I would hear about Joseph made me think about what a Holy Man he must have been. He was married to the Virgin Mary, who stayed a virgin her entire life. I learned, at a Marian Catechist Convention, that Mary and Joseph never consummated their marriage but rather made a vow to purity and chastity, as the parents of the Lord. I love this about them.

Joseph had several dreams where angels ministered to him. They told him to take his pregnant wife into his home because the baby was conceived by the Holy Spirit. He did as the angel said and named the child Jesus, for he would save his people from their sins. When he was told in a dream to depart for Egypt to protect the baby and his mother, he left immediately and returned home when they told him it was safe. Joseph raised the child as his own and taught him the trade of carpentry.

It is commonly believed that Joseph was much older than Mary. This would explain why the head of the Holy Family was not seen during Christ's public ministry. We piously imagine that Joseph died in the loving embrace of Mary and Jesus.

Pope Francis has decreed this year, from December 8, 2020 – December 8, 2021, the Year of St. Joseph for the Catholic Church. At my church, the Priest leads the Litany of St. Joseph after the weekday masses. Exactly 100 years ago "St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse," was added to the Divine Praises.

Last year, I read, "33 Days to Morning Glory" which explains how to be totally consecrated to Mary, our mother. As St. Louis de Montfort said, if you want to be closer to Jesus, you need to draw near to his Mother.

This year I have been reading "Consecration to St. Joseph" (Very Reverend Donald H. Calloway), which promises that we can get closer to our Lord by strengthening our bond with the saint who raised him. It is a 33-day meditation. I started on March 30th and was wholly consecrated on May 1st, the Feast Day of St. Joseph the Worker.

This period of time dedicated to St. Joseph has helped me grow spiritually, and I hope to inspire others to draw near to Jesus through his beloved foster father.



GO TO JOSEPH

Year of St. Joseph † May 1, 2020 – December 8, 2021

DIOLC.ORG/YEAR-OF-ST-JOSEPH

Walking with God—A Social Concerns View

Natalie Goeden, Service Commission

Sacred Scripture frequently speaks of holy men and women walking with God. Adam and Eve had that level of intimacy with their Creator until they sinned and became afraid of God's holiness and hid themselves. Enoch walked with God so intimately that he was taken up to heaven (Genesis 5:24), an Old Testament picture of what happened to our Lord's mother. Noah was a good man and, although he lived in a society dominated by wickedness, lawlessness, and depravity, "he walked with God." (Genesis 6:9-11)

So what does walking with God mean? I suggest that we think of little children holding their parents' hand as they cross the street. It means that, although we are adults, we decide that to let God hold our hand at all times. When the schoolyard bully, AKA the Devil, sees that Jesus is with you and for you, holding your hand and keeping you company, he will steer clear of you. This is the only way to get through life in troubled times. In fact, when temptations and dangers abound, we hold God's hand all the more earnestly.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Many Christians have been walking with God most of their lives. I think you can easily spot them. They are the ones who volunteer their time, treasure, and talent in service for the good of the community. Review the Corporal Works of Mercy, the Spiritual Works of Mercy, and the Seven Gifts of the



Holy Spirit. Through our Confirmation we are Spirit-empowered to bear witness to the Love of Christ by word and deed. These are tried and true paths by which we can walk with God. Reinventing the wheel is not required.

Some people have dogs that want to go out for a walk every day. I recall a T-shirt which said: "Be the person your dog thinks you are." By God's grace, you can be the person God meant you to be. Walking with God does not necessarily make things easier but, with assurance of God's presence and power in our lives, it does make them possible.

So, when you start your day, recall with faith the words of our Lord, "I will never forsake you or abandon you" (Hebrews 13:5) and, in the words of a song from Carousel, "you'll never walk alone."

Pro-Life Action!

Janet Amundson, Pro-Life Liaison

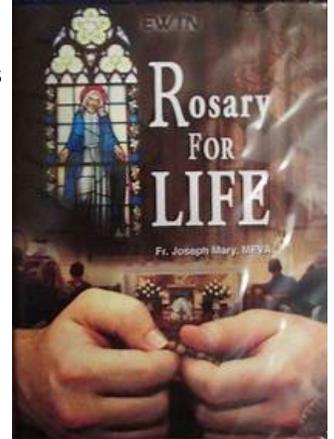
Pray...pray...pray!

The conversion of hearts and minds is an essential part and fundamental goal of the pro-life ministry. It's understandable to feel overwhelmed and helpless at times before the evil in the world. However, we have a powerful tool at our disposal to bring about the end of abortion. Just as there are countless saints who intercede for specific causes, there are many different prayers to say to create a society that values life at every stage—from conception to natural death.

Remember the PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL the ARCHANGEL

Pray it "In Defense of Life and Family"

THE ROSARY has been recognized by saints, martyrs and popes as one of the most valuable and effective prayers for our salvation. In many ways it is specifically for combat. Pope Pius IX said, "Give me an army saying the rosary and I will conquer the world." May, being the month of Mother Mary, say the rosary with the intention to support the sanctity of life.



Be educated!



Do you know your state senator?

Go to legis.wisconsin.gov and type in your home address under "Who Are My Legislators"

Pro-Life Sources—have at least one come to your email box!

www.lifesitenews.com www.wrtl.org info@hosea4you.org
www.humanlifeinternational.org www.prolifewisconsin.org

Let your voice be heard—especially in Wisconsin!

Public Hearing on Bills Prohibiting UW Employees from performing abortions and improving Wisconsin's induced Abortion Report. State Senator Andre Jacque has introduced two important pro-life bills that will receive a public hearing this week in his committee.

Senate Bill 260, co-authored by Rep Dave Murphy would prohibit both UW system and UW Hospital & Clinics Authority employees from performing or assisting in the performance of abortions while in the scope of their employment. The bill would effectively end UW medical resident abortion training and UW faculty performance of abortions at the Madison Planned Parenthood abortion facility, a grisly arrangement that stains the reputation of Wisconsin's public university system and flagship hospital.

Senate Bill 261, co-authored by Rep. Chuck Wichgers, would improve Wisconsin's annual induced abortion report by requiring more comprehensive and scientifically accurate information about abortions in our state. The bill adds to the report the sex of the aborted preborn child, if it can be determined by a visual inspection, whether the preborn child had a fetal anomaly, and if so, the nature of the fetal anomaly. The bill also removes the anonymity of the facility in which the abortion was performed, while retaining anonymity for the patient and the abortionist.

It's critical that we know specifically where Wisconsin's abortions are being performed and for what reasons. Let's shine a light and expose the evil of abortion wherever it occurs...whether it be a dingy abortion center in the big city or a state-of-the-art hospital in the suburbs.

What Do We Mean by Spirituality?

A summary of Catholic spirituality in general.

(Excerpts from article by Fr. John Bartunek, LC)

By Ann Walgenbach, Spirituality Commission

Catholic spirituality includes the various ways in which Catholics live out their Baptismal promise through prayer and action. The primary prayer of all Catholics is the Eucharistic liturgy in which they celebrate and share their faith together, in accord with Jesus' instruction: " Do this in memory of me." (Wikipedia definition)

Our intelligence, our capacity to perceive and understand truth in a self-conscious manner, was severely darkened by original sin, and darkened even more by our personal sin and the sinful tendencies of the world around us. Growth in the spiritual life gradually increases the influence of God's revelation and wisdom (a "light for our path and a lamp for our feet" as Psalm 119 puts it) in correcting, healing, and strengthening our minds. In this way we come to see and understand ourselves, God, and the world around us truthfully, i.e., as God does.

Our will, the capacity of self-determination which allows us to make self-aware choices, was also severely weakened by original sin, personal sin, and the evil tendencies of the world around us. Growth in the spiritual life gradually heals and strengthens our will, so that we emerge out of self-centered and self-indulgent habits into virtuous living. Virtues are those good habits of the will that enable us to choose what is truly good and right in any circumstance, even at great immediate cost to ourselves.

Spirituality is the road to holiness, which can also be called spiritual maturity. The spiritually mature person lives in communion with God, knowing reality as God knows it (intellect) and wanting what God wants (will).

The essential elements of any Catholic spirituality can be understood as those activities within our reach that are ordinarily necessary for moving us forward along that road to spiritual maturity. Most spiritual writers would agree that the following items ought to be on that list. But here is a warning: this list is not like a shopping list. Catholic spirituality, remember, is about our relationship with God – communion with God through friendship with Christ. So it cannot be reduced to a to-do list. Nevertheless, since that relationship takes place in the arena of faith, we need some concrete reference points to help us keep moving along. All of the following items, therefore, should be considered within the context of that relationship, that friendship with Christ, in the Holy Spirit, to the glory of God the Father:

Active and frequent participation in the sacraments, most especially the Mass (along with Holy Communion) and Confession

Active participation in the liturgical seasons

Personal and family vocal prayer

Personal mental prayer

Ongoing study of the Catholic faith

Ongoing support for the Church's work of evangelization

Filial devotion to Mary and the Saints

Obedience to the basic moral law (summarized in the Ten Commandments) and to the teaching of the Magisterium

Obedience to the duties of one's state in life and some practice of self-denial (asceticism)

Gradually learning to accept and value suffering - loving our crosses as ways to unite us to Christ's cross

Moral and Spiritual

Notice that the moral life actually makes up part of the spiritual life. This is commonly misunderstood. The link between the two comes from the nature of the human person. Our spiritual faculties, intelligence and will, are what make us moral beings. Because we are able to discern consciously what we ought to do (bananas and badgers cannot), and because we are free to choose whether or not we will do it, we are moral beings. The moral law that we perceive and should follow has been established by God; he is the moral lawgiver. In fact, the moral law is a powerful expression of his love for us, since it guides us towards good (a flourishing life) and away from evil. As a result, if we disobey the moral law, we are turning our backs on God. At that point, the potential for our communion with God (which is what holiness or spiritual maturity is all about) is severely hampered, until we repent. Anyone who claims to have a deep spiritual life but is living a reprehensible moral life is deceived.

(Spirituality Commission—continued)

On the other hand, moral integrity is not the entirety of spirituality. Love and friendship go beyond merely avoiding evil. They search for deeper and deeper intimacy and communion that transcends the limits of the law. The moral laws are like the guard rails on a mountain highway: they keep us from falling off the cliff, but the journey consists of advancing along the road – which, by the way, means that we will never be perfect until we reach heaven; we are always a work in progress, a traveler in *statu viae* as the Catechism puts it (“in the state of journeying”). In the end, Catholic spirituality is and always will be based on a personal relationship with God in Christ.

From our Province Director, Paula Freimuth

My dear sisters in Christ,

I have just a few messages that I would like to share with you.

Did you see or hear about the **Decade Club**? If you want to join, you can pledge \$1,000 over 10 years and become a member of NCCW’s new Decade Club too! You will receive a beautiful pin after you make your first pledge payment and become an important part of the NCCW’s legacy. For more information on how to join, email nccw01@nccw.org.

“**Convention 2020ne**”: August 25-28, 2021 in Arlington VA. Registration opens June 1.

Results of the NCCW election: Congratulations to Beth Mahoney – NCCW President - elect and Amy Kennedy – NCCW Secretary, who were recently elected for the 2021-23 term.

NCCW Service Commission is creating a flier on gun safety. It will be available at the NCCW Convention in August and on the NCCW website.

Did you sign up for the **NCCW Walk to Convention** Virtual Walk that the Fundraising Committee created? Just go to www.nccw.org, scroll down the main page and register.

Many affiliations are suffering with the same problem during this pandemic and that is loss of contact with their members. If you need ideas or help to bring life back into an organization, contact the **NCCW Helpline**. Rosi Schuhmacher is here to help you. She may be reached at ccwrose@gmail.com.

In closing, I would like to celebrate with each one of you the month of May. This poem is titled [Blessings Welcome May](#), written by Babz.

*May You be **happy**. May You be **well**. May You be **safe**. May you find **comfort**.
May You have **strength**. May You have **courage**. May You find **healing**. May You have **peace**.
May You have **joy**. May You be filled with loving **kindness**.
MAY YOU BE BLESSED TODAY & ALWAYS.*

Paula Freimuth
Province Director of Milwaukee

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



Ladies of our Catholic Councils!



***Register beginning June 1
at nccw.org to celebrate the
postponed 100th Anniversary***

of the National Council of Catholic Women

August 25-28, 2020

Washington DC area

Hope to see you there!



***Talk to your friends about
going together...***

***Check out these resources to build
your faith!***

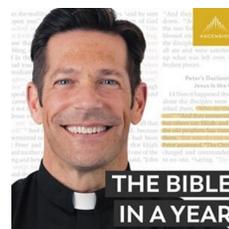
The Chosen is a made-for-streaming TV show depicting the life of Christ. While being very faithful to Scripture, it also imagines the lives



and back-stories of our favorite Bible characters. Google: The Chosen

Bible in a Year with Fr.

Mike Schmitz Listen to the entire Bible in individual podcasts with Fr. Mike Schmitz. Yes, I know we are almost half-way



through the year already, but you can start anytime and listen to a podcast each