January 13, 2024 President’s Report

The LCDCCW 2024 convention is going to be here before we know it. The *Theme* of the convention is *“Celebrate Life”.* Abby Johnson being a pro-life speaker is a perfect reason to have the theme, and we can have a lot of fun with it.

All the deaneries are being asked to provide a basket to be part of our raffle and/or silent auction. I wish each basket to reflect our theme ‘Celebrate Life” Here is an example of what that might look like: “Life is a Bowl of Cherries” and things in the basket are related to cherries, or have cherries on them. Or, “Mama always said, “Life is Like a Box of Chocolates”. Everything in the basket is Chocolate, or related to Chocolate, or for making chocolate things. There are dozens of examples of “Life is like, or sayings with Life in them. We need to have a tag or card on the basket with its chosen title as I listed above. This will be a fun way for the ladies to come up with unique and meaningful baskets, all of which help us focus on “Celebrate Life”.

The convention and Abby Johnson event is open to all women and men in the diocese and surrounding area. We have the availability to have 270 people at the convention. They can be people who want to join us for the entire day, 9:30 AM to 4 PM or 6 PM with Mass, or anyone who wants to just come in for the luncheon and hear Abby speak, from 12 PM to 2 PM only. All tickets will be $65 per person and include lunch. I feel certain the tickets will sell rather quickly, so I urge all PCCW, and DCCW women to purchase quickly, to ensure their place at the event.

Our Website has the registration form and a printable flyer for people to register for the event and also print off the information back to their parishes and PCCWs. I set up a PayPal account for the DCCW to receive online payments, but there isn’t

an online functionality for getting the registration application at the same time, so until I can figure out how to get that accomplished, everything will be mailed in.

I met with the women of the La Crosse Deanery on Tuesday night, they are going to create centerpieces for the 27 tables for the convention. All will use the theme “Celebrate Life”. The women at the meeting are excited to use their imaginations and artistic talents. They will do the event registration and manning of the information tables.

We can have a 50/50 Raffle with that many people attending, take the 50 % we would retain, and reroute it to some local Pro-Life Charity. Please take a vote and decide what your pleasure would be. We would need a couple of volunteers to sell tickets throughout the room at the convention if that is decided.

We have about seven (7) people/businesses/organizations who want to have a vendor table at the convention so far. The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe is one such vendor. Our own Melanie Frei will have a table to sell her new book. Hopefully, we can have our NCCW table there with items from the store. If you know of anyone who would like to have a vendor table please encourage them to contact me to secure their place.

Our Province Director, Jane Schiszik, will be attending, and we will be inviting all the Presidents of the other Diocesan Councils in Wisconsin. In addition, we will extend an invitation to Bishop Callahan and there are a few other dignitary types from our Diocesan offices who will be invited.

The convention will end at 4:00 PM that day and we will then go to our Diocesan Cathedral, St. Joseph the Workman, for Mass with Monsignor Gilles. We hope all of you will stay for the Mass.

I am especially excited for this event because all of the women who come … will be served, instead of serving. I am excited to see our Catholic sisters and women enjoy just being instead of doing.

Finally, we have reserved a block of rooms for the night of April 12th at the Radisson under the La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. We also have reserved a couple for the night of the 13th just in case anyone needs to stay an additional night. Both nights are at a discounted rate. Please don’t wait to make your reservation if you will be staying at the Radisson.

More updates will come to you all as we get closer to the date… until then please circulate all of this information and get your tickets soon, and pray…then please help us to have a great convention and event!!!

Until then…“Celebrate Life!”

In Christ,

Susan Tully