

# SERVICE

By Ann Miesen

*Commission*



*“Saddle- Up” and join us on this ride to give young women a fighting chance to turn their lives around.*

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women have prayerfully chosen Heartland Girls Ranch located just a few miles outside the city of Benson, MN to be their Diocesan Service Project. Heartland Girls Ranch is a well- established safe haven for girls who have experienced various types of trauma. Heartland Girls Ranch was established in 1992. Last year alone, Heartland served 77 girls mostly between the ages of 14-17, but do serve girls ages 12-21. Many come beaten by family members, or battered and abused by pimps, and various other types of trauma including trauma from being sex trafficked. The girls come from all over the state of Minnesota. They find the 160 acre ranch and residential group homes, which are staffed 24 hours a day, a safe haven to heal and rebuild their lives. The Heartland Ranch is licensed by the Department of Corrections.

Heartland is founded on Christian principles. Programing is intense. Several mental health agencies from around the area are contracted to provide trauma-trained licensed therapist offering assessments, individual, group and family therapy, psychiatric services and medication management. Catholic Charities also provides therapy to some girls. The girls receive medical and dental check-ups, receive career counseling and can work at part time jobs in Benson if they are able. Benson Public Schools contract with Heartland Girls Ranch to serve the girls with certified regular and Special Education Teachers to meet individual treatment plans and needs of the girls in separate spaces within the Public School. Emphasis is placed on improving basic skills and securing credits needed for graduation. A primary goal is to prepare the girls to be successful in future learning whether it is upon re-entry to their previous school, or at a post-secondary setting.

Heartland has a signature offering and that is Equine therapy. “Horses Never Lie.” Heartland Ranch is a working ranch that uses horses as a catalyst to bring positive change. The horses are used to address problem areas, attitudes and behaviors. The horse programming can often times reach girls that have for various reasons, not engaged in traditional “talk” therapies. Each girl is paired with a horse that will best benefit their unique personality and circumstances. The horse program at Heartland focuses not just on learning about horses, but what horses can teach us about ourselves. Bridget Kinnell is the Horse Program Director at Heartland Girls Ranch.

Heartland Girls Ranch has always served sexually exploited youth but began the work of identifying and providing specific programming for trafficked girls in 2003. Heartland is an active participant on the statewide MN Human Trafficking Task Force and was one of the first programs in the state funded to provide supportive services and housing through the Safe Harbor/No Wrong Door model to serve sexually exploited youth.

We are fortunate to have a facility such as Heartland Girls Ranch in our own diocese where girls and young women have a fighting chance to turn their lives around. We hope you “Saddle-Up” and “Run” with the New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Women to help this worthy cause. All financial gifts should be made out to the New Ulm Diocese Council of Catholic Women NUDCCW and mailed to the treasurer, Kris Anderson at 26750 County Highway 13 Morgan MN 56266.

"All life is a gift from God. The Reverence Life Committee has as its aim to recognize and protect all life from conception until natural death. Through this committee, we are encouraged to pray that all people will hold life as a precious gift from God. Helping people to become informed-knowing what is happening in our world concerning the reverence of life and then encouraging people to act-showing our stand for life by our actions and support." This is the NCCW Mission Statement. I encourage you to take time to read it again..... prayerfully ponder and internalize the words it encompasses and is committed to. My name is Kathleen Goedtke and it is my great honor and privilege to have been asked to be the chairperson of this committee for the Diocese of New Ulm. With God's grace it is my goal to uphold this mission statement by providing information on life issues and making you aware of opportunities to extend the mercy of God to others. One area of reverence for life is having an understanding of the great tragedy of abortion in our country and leading you to know how you can be the hands and feet of Jesus to bring hope, healing and mercy to those vulnerable to the lies of abortion.

I believe that **40 Days for Life** is by far the best way to get involved with prolife in our area. If you haven't heard of 40 Days, it is a community-based campaign that takes a determined, peaceful approach to ending abortion. It is changing the face of prolife protests outside abortion facilities BECAUSE it is a nonviolent peaceful effort. When you volunteer with 40 Days for life you sign a statement of peace and you participate by praying outside a local abortion facility. It is a profound & effective witness of faith. To date 40 Days for Life campaigns have saved over 11,000 babies from the horror of abortion. Learn more at [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com).

For the first time ever 40 Days for Life held a symposium in Orlando, Florida in July, 2016 to unite the leaders for the campaign under a common goal. This goal is a united campaign between all 50 states for the fall 40 Days for Life Campaign from **September 28–November 6, 2016**. This united campaign approach has never happened before. At the symposium CEO David Bereit guided the leaders in a small and simple, yet powerful exercise. I invite you to do the same right now. He said, "Everyone reach your hands as high as you can. Now..... reach a little higher!" It is a very exciting time to get involved in this nationwide effort to stop abortion. What have you done in the past to be involved? What can you do this year to "reach a little higher"? How is God tugging at your heart to be involved in helping those most vulnerable? Will you respond to that tug? If everyone would "reach a little higher" and make even a tiny effort to do something extra during this campaign we would see the hand of God work in even greater amazing and powerful ways!

**Are you ready to get involved? Your witness WILL literally save lives!**

There are 3 levels of participation you can choose to be involved in. There are activities on the state level in St. Paul, activities in Mankato and opportunities to be active at the parish level.

**State Level:** Participate in a Statewide Rally

There is now an official "40 Days for Life" RV that will be traveling to all 50 states in 40 days. The RV will be making its stop in Minnesota on **October 14<sup>th</sup>** in Saint Paul at 12:00 for a Statewide Rally. This is an opportunity to gather great numbers of people as the nationwide leaders of 40 Days for Life visit our state. They will also be stopping in St. Cloud at 2:45 for a Vigil.

**Mankato:** You can follow the campaign and be involved in the Mankato campaign by going to their website at: [40daysforlife.com/Mankato](http://40daysforlife.com/Mankato) for more information or call the Campaign Director for Mankato, Mary Flanagan, at 507-276-8747.

There will be an information meeting on **August 26<sup>th</sup>** at Resurrection Lutheran Church at 7:00 pm. At this meeting you will receive information packets providing all the awesome opportunities you can be involved in during the campaign right in Mankato! Some of this information will include:

The Kick- Off! - **September 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**- Speaker will be Brian Gibson, Executive Director of Pro-Life Action Ministries. Pro-Life Action Ministries is the most organized sidewalk counseling ministry in the United States.

The Mid-way Rally on **October 14<sup>th</sup>**.

The Closing Rally

Information on how you can "adopt" an hour or be involved in a day of prayer

Information on how to get trained to be a sidewalk counselor

Information on bus rides to the Cities for the Statewide Rally

**Parish:**

Pray and fast for the unborn.

Organize 40 hours of adoration in your parish during the campaign.

Organize a group to travel to Mankato for the information night August 26<sup>th</sup>.

Organize a group to travel to the Mankato Planned Parenthood facility to pray during the campaign.

Organize a group to travel to St. Paul for the Statewide Rally October 14<sup>th</sup>.

What is God calling you to do this year? Prayerfully consider how you can "reach higher" in this Year of Mercy and be the hands and feet of Jesus during this 40 Days for Life Campaign.

## Message from Sue Imker, First Vice President

And the 2017 "Woman of the Year" is \_\_\_\_\_. Could this be someone from YOUR parish?

The "Woman of the Year" is awarded to one woman from the New Ulm diocese who has gone that "extra mile" in living her Catholic faith through her family, church and community. Do you have "that someone" who is in in your Parish—or maybe 2?

This award will be presented at the Diocesan Convention at St. Mary's in Sleepy Eye, MN on Saturday, April 29, 2017.

A group of individuals may submit a nominee. More than one name from your parish may be submitted and names may be resubmitted if they have not previously received the award. Current diocesan CCW voting board members are not eligible. Judging is based on family commitments, participation in parish activities, committees, community activities and involvement in CCW on all levels. Nominations are kept confidential until the honor is awarded, so gather information without talking directly to your nominee. Nominations are to be sent to Sue Imker by January 30, 2017.

Application forms can be gotten from: Sue Imker, NUDCCW 1<sup>st</sup> VP, 25224 120<sup>th</sup> St. Lamberton, MN 56152  
[skimker53@gmail.com](mailto:skimker53@gmail.com) 507-829-1846

By Mary Mulloy

Historian's Message

FALL is my favorite time of year personally. I enjoy all the many different colors and the many events that start up again. School begins again and so does the CCW meeting - starting with Regional gatherings. It is great to see old friends and make new ones. All are filled with the love of Jesus and His people. We, as Historians, can start snapping all the wonderful happenings in our parishes, regional, and diocese. Find great ways of using new colors, new decorations and new and different papers - all acid free for sure! When you attend your local CCW meeting bring your History Book with you. You can review the spring and summer events. Snap some more photos of the Fall Festival in your parish. Digital crammers can snap a lot of photos and then pick the ones that are the most appealing. These would be photos that flatter or are showing people enjoying each other. Have fun, be creative and be sure to date everything.

If you have some photos of an event that you feel should be in the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's Historian book, please feel free to send it to me.

The Historian's task is very exciting since you are able to keep and remember the past with photos and stories to go with the photos - that's what history is all about. Photos are often better than any words you may say!

## Prayer to End Domestic Violence

*(Please pray on the First Saturday of every month to end domestic violence)*

O God, our world at times is divided and hostile. Some people consider themselves dominant over others based on gender, race, color, class or status. Through your Son's cross our world can be reconciled; the walls of hostility can be broken. We pray for all women who experience the pain and suffering of violence, that they may feel your healing touch and be at peace in your living embrace. We pray for those who victimize and abuse others, that they may see the errors of their sins and seek repentance. Through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel, may we understand and support those who may come to us for help. We ask these things through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

By Dorothy Vandriessche

## Voice My Choice

As Catholics, we can have a voice in our nation's and state's political process. We might be asking, "What are accessible avenues for receiving valuable resources for involvement and action?" "What websites will promote Catholic values?"

An article in Michigan's Citizen's Guide to state government, 2015-2016 MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE, states, "An informed and active citizenry is the lifeblood of a democracy." As citizens we are to keep our legislators informed on our opinions and values, our feelings and priorities regarding political issues.

On the State level, the Diocese of New Ulm pastors are being asked to encourage parishioners to join the Minnesota Catholic Conference's (mncc.org) Catholic Advocacy Network. MCC, established by Catholic Bishops of Minnesota, is the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in MN.

The site is a wonderful tool for each CCW member to receive timely updates from the state capitol and critical ways to make a difference, receive a monthly E-Updates and notices of educational events.

Periodic "Action Alerts" will be sent to you when the state legislature or Congress is in session, asking members to make a phone call, or send a letter or e-mail or to your Senator or Representative. Pre-written communications which provide key messages and talking points are provided; you may personalize the sample message.

To sign up for Catholic Advocacy Network, open webpage mncc.org, click on "Take Action"; on drop-down click "Join the Catholic Advocacy". Your street address will be requested so they can match you with your elected officials for your location.

On a webpage, <http://www.mncc.org/engage-your-candidates/>, of the MNCC website, the MNCC Advocacy areas of Physician-Assisted Suicide, Surrogacy, Support for Low-Income Families, Predatory Lending, and School Choice can be accessed with an explanation of the issues involved. Also available is a list of the Minnesota House and Senate Candidates for election. MNCC provides hours of reading information to keep us informed on current legislative issues.

On a National level, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, offers a quick sign up form to receive Action Alerts from their Action Center. The easy sign up is available at: <https://www.voterve.net/USCCB/home>

An informational website, <https://www.leg.state.mn.us/>, contains a wealth of information including laws, bills research, House and Senate schedules, which legislators represent you and how to contact them, House & Senate Broadcast Television Schedule including a list of upcoming events.

Together, if we as Catholic women "Voice my Choice" for Catholic Social principles, we can make a difference!

By Doreen Peterson

The New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Women annually sponsors a very unique Scholarship Program. Money is available to all CCW groups and parish members who are volunteers or employees involved in various parish ministries. The Scholarship Fund is intended to help with expenses to attend workshops, conferences, seminars, or with convention registration that aid individuals in their growth of the Catholic Faith.

Many have benefited from the NUDCCW scholarship program through the years. Our faith education is never finished. We are constantly challenged to grow in our faith and to help others in their faith journey. Too often, as adults, we neglect our own faith growth because the family budget just doesn't seem to stretch far enough to be able to attend a program that would help. Our NUDCCW scholarship program exists to help meet this type of expense for individuals. Consider bringing in a speaker for one of your CCW meetings, purchasing a Bible Study series or CD's that could help your members grow in their faith. We want the Scholarship Program to be a benefit to as many people as we can possibly reach. We need strong Catholics!

Every parish in the diocese will receive a scholarship information booklet at the annual Fall Gathering or from your Region President. It will include some general information about the program, the Scholarship Program guidelines, eligibility requirements for candidates and also the 2016-2017 Scholarship Application form. We encourage all members to apply for a scholarship. Remember, one of the requirements is your parish CCW must donate some monies to this program for their parish members to be considered for a scholarship. We do rely on the generous scholarship donations from the local parish CCW's and, of course, need applicants in order to continue to have this program be a success. Our thanks to all of the parishes who are so generous in their giving which allows this program to continue to be a vital part of our organization.

**DEADLINES TO REMEMBER:** To be considered for a Scholarship at the April 2017 NUDCCW Convention all completed applications need to be received by March 1, 2017. And parish donations must be received by March 1, 2017 for your parishioners to be eligible for a scholarship.

Send to: Doreen Peterson  
400 E Lyon Street  
Marshall, MN 56258

Anyone having questions, please contact Doreen Peterson, NUDCCW Scholarship Coordinator.  
phone: (507)532-3316 or email: [deananddoreen@live.com](mailto:deananddoreen@live.com)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Month of September 2016 ..... Month of Our Lady of Sorrows

September 7-10, 2016 ..... NCCW Convention, Indianapolis, IN

## Region CCW Fall Gatherings (Plan to attend your Region Fall Gathering)

Thursday, September 15, 2016..... Region 1 ..... St. Gregory, Lafayette, MN

Monday, September 19, 2016 ..... Region 5 ..... Holy Redeemer, Renville, MN

Thursday, September 22, 2016..... Region 6 ..... St. Pius X, Glencoe, MN

Monday, September 26, 2016 ..... Region 3 ..... Holy Redeemer, Marshall, MN

Tuesday, September 27, 2016 ..... Region 2 ..... St. Raphael, Springfield, MN

Tuesday, October 4, 2016 ..... Region 4 ..... St. Michael, Madison, MN

Month of October 2016..... Month of the Holy Rosary

Domestic Violence Awareness Month (pray to end Domestic Violence)

October 2, 2016 ..... Respect Life Sunday

October 9, 2016 ..... CCW Recognition Sunday

Month of November 2016 ..... Month of the Holy Souls

Saturday, November 5, 2016 ..... NUDCCW Board Meeting, St. Andrew, Granite Falls, MN

Sunday, November 20, 2016 ..... End of the Jubilee of Mercy

Every Day ..... Pray for Peace and for Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life



Marianne Schotzko, DCCW Spirituality Commission Coordinator, Ronda Mathiowetz, DCCW President and Msgr. Gene Lozinski, DCCW Spirituality Advisor observes while Bishop LeVoir signs the proclamation.

## BISHOP PROCLAIMS CCW RECOGNITION SUNDAY

Bishop LeVoir signed a proclamation declaring Sunday, October 9, 2016 as CCW Recognition Sunday. Your parish should be receiving a copy of the proclamation in the near future. Check with your pastor and see if you can have the opportunity to explain Council – its mission and goals and give recognition to the work that is being done by your CCW group in the parish. The work that is accomplished by our Councils is very much valued by our Bishop.

New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Women  
Ronda Mathiowetz, President  
17786 Co. Rd. 8  
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

