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November:
All Saints/All Souls Day – November 1/2
Thanksgiving – November 25
First Sunday of Advent – November 28

NUDCCW Board Meeting – November 6
St. Peter and Paul, Ivanhoe

December:
The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary – December 8
The Nativity of the Lord – December 25

NUDCCW Affiliate Dues due – December 31
NCCW Affiliate & Individual Dues due – December 31

NCCW
National Council of Catholic Women – Why Become an Individual Member?
(see President’s Corner to Find Out)
My time at the NCCW convention was a reminder that we (as individuals and as members of the Council of Catholic Women) are part of something bigger. This was my first National CCW Convention and each day was filled with the blessings that this organization provides in our coming together and spending time in prayer, fellowship and evangelization.

Individual Membership - Besides being a member of your parish CCW, you can also be an individual or supporting member of NCCW. By becoming an individual member you can join in being the voice of Catholic women. You are able to support the work and mission of NCCW, which under their strategic plan, includes providing Spirituality enhancement opportunities for their members, and providing resources and programs to meet the needs of our Church and Society. For more information on becoming an individual or supporting member of NCCW and the benefits of membership please visit the NCCW website at https://nccw.org and click on the “Membership” tab.

Once again, I want to say thank you to each and every one of you for all the work you do as members of the Council of Catholic Women. I am inspired by each of you in all the different ways you live out your faith and in our coming together as Catholic women united in prayer, study and service.

May God’s blessings be upon each of you! Barb Mathiowetz, NUDCCW President

Here are some facts about the National Council of Catholic Women:

- NCCW was founded in 1920 by the United States Catholic Bishops.
- NCCW is represented at the bi-annual meetings of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).
- NCCW is a member of the World Union of Catholic Women’s Organisations (WUCWO).
- NCCW has representation at the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering which advocates Catholic views to Congress.
- NCCW fields a representative at the United Nations in New York.
- We are partners with Catholic Relief Services, Cross Catholic Outreach, Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Catholic Climate Covenant, Religious Alliance Against Pornography, Catholic Mobilizing Network, Bread for the World, US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking, The Center for Concern’s Education for Justice, and National Catholic Educational Association.

CCW Structure - The National Council of Catholic Women acts through their affiliated organizations. This begins at the parish level where every woman 18 years of age or older is a member of CCW. In our diocese, we have three deanery CCW’s that are the liaisons between the parish and the diocese. Each diocesan CCW belongs to a province CCW. NUDCCW is part of the Province of St. Paul/Minneapolis CCW. The province is the diocesan liaison to NCCW.
**Spirituality by Tracy Meyer**

We have good news for all the parishes in our Diocese concerning the “7 Day Preparation For Family Consecration” booklets that we shared with you at the Fall Gatherings. We have received a benefactor to cover the costs of the booklets! All your parish will be responsible for is the shipping and handling!

To receive this benefit, you simply need to state in your order that it is with the CCW initiative. This offer will only last until the end of the year, so get your orders in soon!

If you have any questions you can contact myself (Tracy Meyer) at 507-227-4337 or Zennel with the Apostolate for Family Consecration at 740-567-7723. Again, the website to order these at is customer.service@afc.org. If you have problems getting to where you need to go on the website just call Zennel.

We hope these booklets will be a blessing to you and your parishes.

**Seven Sisters Apostolate by Lori Timmerman**

A Seven Sister: One Holy Hour, One Priest, Each Week, One Heart of Prayer

The Seven Sisters Apostolate is a call to strengthen the Church by ensuring that a Holy Hour is prayed each day of the week for the sole intention of a specific priest or bishop – a “holy wasting” or lavishing of prayer for his deeper conformity to Christ. This apostolate was started by Janette Howe from St. Paul, MN and has spread throughout the world.

Many women across our diocese are making a Holy Hour once a week in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament for their parish priest or our bishops. The priests in our diocese who have the Seven Sisters praying for them include: Fr. Jim Barry, Fr. Mike Doyle, Fr. John Hayes, Fr. Jeff Horejsi, Fr. Ron Huberty, Fr. Jeremy Kucera, Fr. Denny Labat, Fr. Brian Mandel, Fr. Brian Oestreich, Fr. Sam Perez, Fr. Todd Petersen, Fr. Zachary Peterson, Fr. Keith Salisbury, Fr. Mark Steffl, Fr. Joe Steinbeisser, Fr. Anthony Stuebeda, Fr. Craig Timmerman, Fr. Paul Timmerman, Fr. Matt Wiering, Bishop John LeVoir and our future bishop.

If your priest is not one of them, maybe God is calling you to start a group in your parish. Shut ins can be a part of this ministry. Then the requirement “in the presence of the blessed sacrament” is lifted. Currently, we have an opening for Bishop LeVoir and several openings for our future Bishop yet to be named. If you would like more information about the Seven Sisters or feel called to volunteer to pray for our Bishops, you can contact Lori Timmerman at cltimmerman@iw.net or (507) 476-0070. More information is also available at www.sevensistersapostolate.org

“IT’S UP TO YOU”

SOURCE UNKNOWN

ONE SONG CAN SPARK A MOMENT,
ONE FLOWER CAN WAKE THE DREAM.

ONE TREE CAN START A FOREST,
ONE BIRD CAN HERALD SPRING.

ONE SMILE BEGINS A FRIENDSHIP,
ONE HANDCLASP LIFTS A SOUL.

ONE STAR CAN GUIDE A SHIP AT SEA,
ONE WORD CAN FRAME THE GOAL.

ONE VOTE CAN CHANGE A NATION,
ONE SUNBEAM LIGHTS A ROOM.

ONE CANDLE WIPES OUT DARKNESS,
ONE LAUGH WILL CONQUER GLOOM.

ONE STEP MUST START EACH JOURNEY,
ONE WORD MUST START EACH PRAYER.

ONE HOPE WILL RAISE OUR SPIRITS,
ONE TOUCH CAN SHOW YOU CARE.

ONE VOICE CAN SPEAK WITH WISDOM,
ONE HEART CAN KNOW WHAT’S TRUE.

ONE LIFE CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE,
YOU SEE, IT’S UP TO YOU!
**Make a Difference In the Fight for Life** – by Lori Timmerman

As Respect Life Month ends, many of us have been busy trying to make a difference so that all life can be respected from conception to natural death. Each little thing we do helps the pro-life cause – the hour on the street praying as a part of a Life Chain, petitions at Mass, collection of baby items and money for the local Birthright, etc.

If you watch the news, the pro-life battle seems to be on a rollercoaster ride. Some days are highs with positive legislation for life, and some are lows with attacks on our former accomplishments. We need to persevere in what we are doing – little things make a difference. If we aren’t doing anything then we can begin. Sign up for action alerts with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (usccb.org/take-action) and MN Catholic Conference (mncatholic.org/actioncenter) and write your legislators so your voice can make a difference.

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**Woman of the Year**

Each year at the NUDCCW Convention, we recognize one woman from our diocese as someone who has carried on the Mission of Christ in her family, her church, the community, and especially in her involvement with the Council of Catholic Women.

At our 2022 convention, to be held on April 30, 2022, at the church of the Holy Redeemer in Marshall, we will recognize two women. One who would have been recognized at our 2020 convention and one from the 2021/2022 submissions. Those names that were submitted for 2021 will be included in the submissions for 2022.

Judging will be based on family commitment, participation in church activities, committees and community activities, and activity in the CCW on all levels. A group of three individuals may submit a nominee. More than one name can be submitted and names may be resubmitted if they have not previously received the award.

Nomination rules and forms were sent out in October to the Parish Presidents and are also available on our website at [www.nudccw.org](http://www.nudccw.org). Nominations are due by January 31, 2022, to Beth Boyle, 110 Wilson Street, PO Box 384, Tyler, MN, 56178.
Since the Minnesota Legislature is adjourned until January 31, 2022, most current Legislative Action Alerts issues are developing in U.S. Congress.

As of today, 10/6/2021, a $3.5 trillion reconciliation bill has objections, including issues regarding the Hyde Amendment. The Hill.com news stated, “The amendment is traditionally included in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) spending bill passed by Congress every year. However, this year marked the first time in decades that the House Appropriations labor and health and human services subcommittee advanced the bill without the provision”.

USCCB Bishops wrote a letter to Congress insisting “that health care proposals in this ‘human infrastructure’ bill be governed by the Hyde Amendment principle of NOT funding elective abortions”. The USCCB provided an Action Center letter for each of us to send to our legislatures stating “Americans do NOT want their tax dollars to pay for abortions in ANY bill, much less a bill promoted as a “human infrastructure” bill.

On 9/24 the U.S. House of Representatives voted to pass Women’s Health Protection Act, H.R. 3755, which USCCB webpage states is “the most radical abortion bill ever. The so-called, would:

- Allow abortion on demand nationwide throughout EVERY STAGE of pregnancy
- BAN pro-life laws in every state and local government
- Force Americans to support abortions with their tax dollars
- Likely eliminate conscience protections for doctors—among other extreme actions

Archbishop Joseph Naumann, called this bill “the most extreme pro-abortion bill our nation has ever seen.” USCCB also stated, “In addition, we believe it is likely that the Senate will also vote on this bill in the very near future. So, please also contact your two Senators to strongly urge their opposition to the Senate version of this bill (S. 1975) when it comes up for a vote”.

On a positive issue, according to Intercessors for America, on December 1st, “the Supreme Court will hear the Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health—the case that many are saying could be the trigger to overturn Roe v. Wade in our nation”.

Please Pray, Pray, Pray for our legislators and country! Lord, please move each of us to trust in You as we pray Your will be done in our precious land.

PLEASE SEE LAST PAGE ON HOW YOU CAN STAY INVOLVED IN THESE IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

This coffee harvest season marks the 30th year of Café Juan Ana. It began 30 years ago, in 1992, when the local farmers around San Lucas said they couldn’t survive with so little for their crop. Fr. Greg worked with the Mission to begin buying and selling their best crop for a price they set as fair and just and sold it to the “Friends of San Lucas family” as "Coffee San Lucas Tolimán, Café Juan Ana."

Your morning cup of coffee can show solidarity for our brothers and sisters in Guatemala! Enjoy your steaming cup of Café Juan Ana on these brisk fall mornings and know you are sharing a cup of hope through your regular daily routine! Happy Autumn!

Every purchase makes a difference. Every purchase supports a small independent coffee grower.

Coffee can be purchased online at https://juananacoffee.org, at Chuck Spaeth Ford in Sleepy Eye or New Ulm or by calling Fr. Jeremy Kucera at 507-828-5247
In Case You Missed It - Included in Every Issue

Apps & Websites to Try

NEW TO THIS ISSUE!!! Morning Offering  https://www.morningoffering.com

The Catholic Company/Good Catholic  www.catholiccompany.com

Blessed Is She  https://blessedisshe.net

New Ulm Diocese CCW  www.nudccw.org

National CCW  www.nccw.org

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops  www.usccb.org

Diocese of New Ulm  www.dnu.org

Relevant Radio  www.relevantradio.com  EWTN  www.ewtn.com

How Scholarship Works

Did you know our scholarship program can help defray the registration cost for educational courses, seminars, conventions, and/or workshops. The maximum request amount is $200 unless you attend the NCCW convention which the registration cost request will not exceed $350. The scholarship award amounts are dependent on parish CCW donations. The applicants’ parish must support the NUDCCW Scholarship Program and provide a financial donation to be considered. All CCW and parish members who are involved in parish ministries and/or employed at a Catholic educational facility are eligible to apply within the New Ulm Diocese area.

How To Apply

Please reach out to your parish CCW board to obtain a copy of the scholarship program and the application form for the 2022-2023 year. The information can also be found on the NUDCCW website at https://nudccw.org/scholarship-committee. All applications must be post-marked stamped by March 1, 2022 to be considered.
Local Crisis Pregnancy Centers

If you would like to know where the nearest crisis pregnancy center is to your local CCW please visit: https://www.mccl.org/pregnant

PLEASE NOTE WEBSITE CHANGE

NEW TO THIS ISSUE: We are currently looking for suggestions for our 2022-2023 service projects. If you want to make a suggestion on a charitable organization that you feel could benefit from our organization and its values are in-line with the church teachings, please send the name and contact information of the organization to nudccw.contact@gmail.com. Please include as much information on the organization as possible.

Donations to either of these organizations should be sent directly to the organization. Please be sure to include the donation slip from our website that identifies your affiliation with NUDCCW.

Local Pregnancy Centers
visit: https://www.mccl.org/pregnant

Contact the center to find out where to mail your donations

Holt International
Visit Holt International: Adoption Agency and Child Sponsorship or www.holtinternational.org

OR
Mail your donations to:
HOLT International Attn: Gina Hedberg
PO Box 2880
Eugene, OR 97404

Please see our diocesan website for all this information at nudccw.org.
From the Editor:

Welcome to the third issue of “Spark Action”, the NUDCCW monthly newsletter. Our hopes are that this communication has begun to provide you with ideas and information that will “Spark Action” and energize the women of our councils. This is a way for us to stay connected within our DCCW from the diocesan level down to the parish but we also want to provide a way for the parish councils to share their information with the diocese. We invite each of you to provide information on events and activities you would like to see included in this monthly newsletter to nudccw.contact@gmail.com.

This publication has been sent out via email and we have just done our first mailing to those who have requested to receive via the mail. We are using our diocesan structure (diocese to deanery, deanery to parish) to send out via email but are also sending directly to any woman who would like to receive a copy. If you would like to receive this directly via email or via hard copy thru the mail, please send your email address to nudccw.contact@gmail.com or via mail to: NUDCCW Communication c/o 77916 US Hwy 71, Olivia, MN 56277.

Please visit our website nudccw.org for a copy of this issue as well as all future and past issues.

We welcome your feedback and suggestions on this publication as it is a work in progress and ask that you pray that each month we are guided by the Holy Spirit in this communication.

Legislation >>>

Q: How do I stay involved?
A: Sign up for the following “Take Action Alerts”:

- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops at usccb.org/take-action
- MN Catholic Conference/Catholic Advocacy Network at mncatholic.org/actioncenter
- Catholic Charities at Catholiccharitiesusa.org sign up for Washington Weekly

Future events coming soon >>>

- 2022 Deanery Spring Gatherings
- 2022 NUDCCW Convention – April 30, 2022
  Holy Redeemer, Marshall
- 2022 NCCW Convention – November 2-5, 2022
  Marriott Minneapolis Center

In Every Issue:
- Service Projects
- Scholarship Information
- Legislative Action Alerts
- Catholic Apps & Websites