New officers were installed at the Biannual meeting of the DCCW Executive Board in October 2017: (front row) Carolyn Estadt, Historian; Diana R. Vargo, President-Elect; Pam Ambrose, Past President; (back row) DeDe Kidder, Treasurer; Barbara Trytko, Auditor; Rev. Tim McGuire, Moderator; Christina Gibbons, Secretary; Joanne Kolanski, President.

Joanne can be contacted by phone 740-695-1617, email jkolanski51@comcast.net, or send mail to 46919 Columbia Avenue, St. Clairsville, OH 43950.

**DCCW Commissioners**
pictured here with Father McGuire: (front row) Sandy Broom, Service - International Concerns; Camille Recznik, Service - Community & Family Concerns; Diana R. Vargo, Spirituality - Legislative Concerns; (back row) Angela Cross, Spirituality - Church Concerns; Father McGuire; Eileen Ackerman, Leadership.
DCCW Past Presidents - Thank you!


Share your love and friendship!

Valentine’s Day means more than just bouquets of roses and boxes of chocolates. It’s an opportunity to share thoughts and messages of appreciation with those we call “friends.” Perhaps this Valentine’s Day you would take the opportunity to share words of appreciation with our oldest (and dearest) past presidents Gladys Evans and Betty Bartosek who have been blessed with 90+ years of life.

Mail for Gladys can be sent to her at 8378 Pearl Rd SE, Amsterdam, OH 43903.
Mail for Betty can be sent to her at Bishop Hodges Continuous Care Center, Room 216B, 600 Medical Park, Wheeling, WV 26003.

Mission Statement

Diocesan Council of Catholic Women  Diocese of Steubenville

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) of the Diocese of Steubenville is a group of “called and gifted” Catholic women organized on parish, deanery, and diocesan levels and is affiliated with the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW).

By God’s call we endeavor to foster and encourage the spiritual development of our members and support the application of Catholic principles to all areas of social concerns.

Through the prayerful study of NCCW directives on the commissions, we attempt to instruct and motivate our members to accept their responsibility of bringing about God’s kingdom in the world for God’s honor and glory.

We recognize and address the spiritual and temporal needs of the family, the parish, the community and the world.
Renew Your Spirit at St. Ambrose

A warm, sunny October day at St. Ambrose Church in Little Hocking was the perfect setting for a Day of Reflection for the women of our diocese organized by the Catholic Woman’s Club and the women’s prayer group of St. Ambrose Church. Fifty-five ladies gathered at this retreat to enjoy each other’s company and renew their spirits in God’s presence.

Rita Rodgers was the first speaker of the day with a talk entitled Godwinks. Godwinks are defined by American author Squire Rushnell as personal communications from God to an individual, usually through a circumstance or event that seems like a coincidence but is too personal to be so. Rita shared her personal life story recalling when she knew that God was acting in the events of her life, “connecting the dots” as only He can. Godwinks are like sign posts that don’t really direct you, but rather reassure you that you are on the right path.

Karen Waller, the second speaker of the day, titled her presentation It’s Not What You Know. Karen’s witness further developed the theme of God’s activity in our lives by recalling the people who influenced her faith life and challenged her to stretch and grow and in some cases move along a path that she had not previously considered taking. The interest, concern and love of other people shape and direct our lives in ways that “what we know” can’t.

Sister Joan Van Beek facilitated the events of the day which included small group discussions and sharing of participants’ stories related to the topics of the main speakers. The retreat included music and singing led by Kay Carter of St. Mary of the Hills Church in Nelsonville, as well as times of quiet reflection. Lunch and hospitality, praying the rosary together, and opportunity for individual confession were all part of the day.

This is the seventh year that the women of St. Ambrose have offered a fall retreat day. You might want to consider joining them this year on the first Saturday of October. ALL are welcome!!

Remember to send your CWC donations for Cusco (checks payable to Steubenville DCCW)

to DCCW Treasurer DeDe Kidder, P.O. Box 31, Toronto, Ohio 43964 in January.

Boxes of Joy Sent to Haiti

Responding to June Lawrence’s presentation for Cross Catholic Outreach at the June 2017 DCCW Convention, several CWC units throughout the Diocese of Steubenville prepared Boxes of Joy for Haitian children for Christmas. June related how the simple things in life which are provided through this program make such a difference in the lives of these children, many of whom have never received a Christmas gift. Shoeboxes provided by Cross Catholic Outreach were packed with toys, school supplies, candy, apparel, hygiene items, personal accessories, and other useful items. Cards with personal messages were also included by CWC members. Mother of Hope Deanery units, under the direction of Joelle Bucci, Project Leader, filled their boxes and delivered them to St. John Fisher Church in Richmond for pick up. Fifty-four boxes filled by St. Joseph CWC in Bridgeport and 20 boxes from St. Bernard CWC in Beverly were delivered to the Basilica of the Assumption of Mary, Marietta where the CWC there was also hard at work filling about 200 boxes for the November pick up by Cross Catholic Outreach.

NCCW 2018 Theme - Reflect the Joy of God: Faithful Missionary Disciples

NCCW Convention: August 29 - September 1 in Pittsburgh, PA
The women of St. John the Baptist CWC, Miltonsburg, were busy at the Barnesville Pumpkin Festival in September. They worked for four days at their stand nestled in a bright orange tent near the King Pumpkin. This annual stand began years ago as a sale of homemade lemonade and buckeye balls. But times changed, and health department regulations changed, and the women changed the menu of their festival items to delicious pumpkin bread, rolls, pie, cookies, fudge, and coffee. Having the stand is a wonderful contribution to the festival and is a great addition to the community celebration. The goal for this annual event was to raise money to assist St. Sylvester Central School with additional funds as needed, and also to assist with the needs of the Church and Parish Hall.

In 1964 Assumption Church in Barnesville held its first Fall Festival in the church basement. This was the forerunner to today’s Barnesville Pumpkin Festival. While the celebration underwent several name changes over the years and moved outdoors to the entire community, the ladies of the CWC still cook and serve lunch and dinner during the weekend of the festival. This year they also offered crafts and a basket raffle along with their delicious homemade food in the church basement.

St. John the Baptist CWC

The women of St. John the Baptist CWC, Miltonsburg, were busy at the Barnesville Pumpkin Festival in September. They worked for four days at their stand nestled in a bright orange tent near the King Pumpkin. This annual stand began years ago as a sale of homemade lemonade and buckeye balls. But times changed, and health department regulations changed, and the women changed the menu of their festival items to delicious pumpkin bread, rolls, pie, cookies, fudge, and coffee. Having the stand is a wonderful contribution to the festival and is a great addition to the community celebration. The goal for this annual event was to raise money to assist St. Sylvester Central School with additional funds as needed, and also to assist with the needs of the Church and Parish Hall.

St. John the Baptist CWC

Carol Crooks and Eileen Ackerman pause for a photo at the festival stand.

Nativity of Mary Deanery News

On Sunday, November 12, about 20 women of Nativity of Mary Deanery came together at St. Louis Church in Gallipolis to form a Council of Catholic Women for Nativity of Mary Deanery. All parishes were represented by those in attendance. Their obligations to DCCW were discussed, bylaws were reviewed, and elections were held. Officers elected were Debbie Richards of Holy Cross Parish, Glouster - President; Linda McComas of St. Ann Parish, Chesapeake - Secretary; and Marilyn Holbert of Holy Cross Parish, Glouster - Treasurer. During the meeting, the women exchanged information about their parish activities. Father Foxhoven and Father Hamm were also present.

St. Louis Church in Gallipolis was established as their regular meeting site because it is most centrally located in the deanery. They will hold their next meeting there on Sunday, February 25, when they hope to elect their remaining officers (Vice-president, Auditor, and Historian) and then hold an installation service for all officers.

DCCW Lenten Day of Spirituality - Theme: “Practical Holiness”

“Do all through love, nothing through fear.” ~ St. Francis de Sales
Retreat Leader: Sharon Colvin

Saturday, March 17, 2018 St. Mary’s Church, St. Clairsville
Veterans Remembered at St. Agnes

In the spring of 2017 as we were reviewing the different areas of our community that needed assistance, we noticed that we did not list a veterans group. We decided to contact the local AMVETS Post 275 in Steubenville, Ohio and their Commander Dan Wilson. We explained that we would like to have a speaker attend our April CWC meeting at St. Agnes in Mingo Junction and he agreed. He is an Air Force veteran and a board member of the Jefferson County Veterans Service Commission. AMVETS’s mission, he explained, is helping veterans and their families connect to benefits they earned while serving. They create interest using their website OVVets.org and social media. Wilson stated the organization’s goal is “to add value for our local vets and be a place where local vets and their families can come for answers.” He told us that women veterans are the fastest growing segment of the veteran population!

In September 2017 we again contacted Mr. Wilson, as the CWC had agreed to support the veterans in every way we could. Financial help is needed for prescriptions, rent and other payments, and special equipment. Assistance with rides for veterans to and from appointments is another way we can help. This is a wonderful start for us in being of service to those who have protected our country and their families. The CWC is looking forward to working with Mr. Wilson in many different ways for many years.

Thank you Joanne Raha, Immediate Past CWC President, and Patricia Cramblett, President, of St. Agnes CWC for this article.

Caring for Our Seminarians

Each CWC unit is asked to sponsor one of our diocesan seminarians through prayer and sending cards.

The women of Mother of Hope Deanery sponsored a “Day With the Bishop” in October at Sacred Heart Church in Hopedale. The day included Rosary, Mass, and lunch sponsored by Harrison County CWC. Bishop Monforton was presented with a check for $2500 from the Deanery units for his charity, the Seminarians’ Assistance Fund.

Seminarians in our diocese and their seminary addresses include:

Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N High St, Columbus, OH 43235-1499: Wil Crow, Brandon O’Nan, Peter Stetson, Nicholas Ward
Sacred Heart Major Seminary, 2701 Chicago Boulevard, Detroit, MI 48206: Joshua Erickson, Jeremiah Hahn, Joseph Hahn
Pontifical North American College, 00120 Vatican City State, Europe: Nicholas Ginnetti (Please send cards only to that address. Packages and monetary gifts should be sent to his attention at his family’s address - PO Box 122, Kimbolton, OH 43749.)
Mission Immersion Experience

I developed an interest in mission when I was a teenager. Back then I thought mission was exclusively for consecrated people helping the underprivileged in foreign lands. But I’ve realized that mission is something we are all called to do as disciples of Christ through our baptism. When we accept God’s unconditional love for us and let it take root deeply within our hearts, we are naturally inclined to share that love with other people. Every summer for the past 5 years I have spent between two weeks and two months with people in South America. This past year I spent the month of July in a deprived area of Peru accompanying the elderly and the children in an afterschool program. I would spend mornings with the seniors and then go to the after-school program in the same town. I was not there to build a house or upgrade an old sewage system. I was there to accompany the people, to spend time with them, feed them, groom them, bathe them, play with them, read to them, and listen to them. The Peruvians that I encountered both in the nursing home and in the school came to realize that they are not alone in their struggles and that they have brothers and sisters as far away as Athens, Ohio, who care about them and are connected with them in the bonds of missionary discipleship. My experiences have enriched my life and I bring the fruits of my summer experience to my parish as a catechist, a member of the Peace & Justice Ministry, and a member of the diocesan Laudato Si Committee.

Thank you, Emilia Alonso Sameño, Christ the King Parish, Athens, for sharing your story.

Caring in Chimbote, Peru

Mark & Dianne Tribo are members of St. Ambrose Parish in Little Hocking. They are also Associates of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. In August 2016 they began a 2 year commitment to missionary work in Chimbote, Peru, through the Sisters of the Word Incarnate, San Antonio, Texas. Mark uses his nursing skills in the Home Hospice program. Dianne uses her teaching skills to teach English, math and sewing techniques. St. Ambrose CWC and the parish as a whole have donated money for them to use in their work in Peru. Medications, medical supplies and metal roof sheeting for a local school have all been purchased. Some funds were also used for a Christmas party for the children of a local parish - 3,000 attended the party!

Thank you, Sister Joan Van Beek, for providing this information.

“Rolling Along” in Adena

The women of St. Casimir’s Church in Adena were busy with their annual baking of nut, poppy seed, and apricot rolls in December. With the support of their pastor and other parishioners, they filled about 400 orders for Christmas. It is a true labor of love that takes several days to make the dough and fill and bake the rolls. They have made this a part of their holiday activity for years and will be baking again for Easter 2018.

Thank you, Jeanette Kelly, for the story! The rolls are delicious!

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Save the Dates for the 2018 DCCW Convention - “Women Giving With Joy”
Pre-Convention Dinner, Tuesday, June 5 at Bella Hall, Steubenville
Convention, Wednesday, June 6 at Holy Family Church, Steubenville
DCCW International Charity Work

Every January, on a Sunday convenient to the local parish, members of the Catholic Woman’s Club collect free-will donations for the residents of St. Francis of Assisi Senior Care Center (Centro Gerontologica), a care facility for the abandoned and elderly in the Archdiocese of Cusco (Peru). The Archdiocese of Cusco, located in the Andes Mountains, celebrated its 480th anniversary in 2017 and is the sister diocese of the Diocese of Steubenville. This relationship between the dioceses was established by the late Bishop Albert Ottenweller, second bishop of the Diocese of Steubenville, and was renewed by Bishop R. Daniel Conlon. In 2007, Steubenville DCCW adopted this elderly care center as one of their international projects and over the years has collected $34,891.01 for the residents of this facility. The Little Sisters of the Abandoned Elderly have used the funds to purchase a large rising oven for bread and upgrade their kitchen, renovate the rooms for the residents of Centro Gerentologico with paint, new cots and clothing lockers, refurbishing the residents’ bathrooms, and replacing a roof on the residents’ building.

While many CWC units organize parish collections for this cause, the women of St. Joseph Parish in Bridgeport decided that they wanted to sponsor an event to raise the funds. So they decided to bake apple pies - with the dough and filling made from scratch - and all of the profits going to Cusco. So with bushels of apples and two days of time and effort, they were able to make and sell about 70 pies to parishioners and friends after masses one weekend. The profit of $717 was all donated to Cusco. It was a great time of fellowship, joy, and mentoring - particularly for women who had never made a homemade pie before in their lives! They plan to do it again next year.

St. Mary of the Hills Fall Activities

Fall has been a busy time for the ladies of St. Mary of the Hills. Activities included events for all ages. Each spring and fall an Anointing of the Sick Mass is celebrated (pictured left, Father Christopher Foxhoven) followed by a luncheon. On a beautiful October day, thirty-five elderly gathered to receive the sacrament and enjoy fellowship.

In November the CWC hosted a “Weinee Roast”. (Pictured at the grill are CWC members Bev Mathe- ny, Tina McClelland, & Ashley Dishong.) Young and old enjoyed good food, games, and a fire pit complete with making smores.

With the leadership of the CWC, the parish annually adopts a family for Christmas. Parishioners purchase gifts indicated on ornaments of the “Giving Tree” for delivery to the family.

In January we look forward to the annual Epiphany party. We begin with the blessing of the church hall using an adaptation of the Epiphany House Blessing with PSR students taking the lead roles. Following the blessing we celebrate with games, gifts, food, and fellowship.

Thank you, Tina McClelland, CWC President, St. Mary of the Hills, for this story.
Steubenville Diocesan Council of Catholic Women
Donna Turner, Editor, The Spirit
102 Gaywood Drive
St. Clairsville, OH 43950

Prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel

God of heavenly wisdom, you have given us Mary, Mother of Jesus, to be our guide and counselor. Grant that we may always seek her motherly help in this life and so enjoy her blessed presence in the life to come. O Mother of Good Counsel, patroness of the National Council of Catholic Women, intercede for us, that we may be wise, courageous and loving leaders of the Church. Help us, dear mother, to know the mind of Jesus, your son. May the Holy Spirit fill us with the reverence for God’s creation, and compassion for all God’s children. May our labors of love on earth enhance the reign of God and may God’s gifts of faith and living hope prepare us for the fullness of the world to come. Amen.