With Fond Remembrance

On May 5, 2018 our DCCW lost a dear friend and mentor as Gladys Evans passed away at the age of 93 surrounded by her family. We have had many outstanding members and officers in the 73 year history of our organization, and it is because of their efforts, patience, and caring that we exist as we do today. As a long time member of St. Joseph CWC in Amsterdam, we can appreciate Gladys’ service on every level. Diana R. Vargo, President of Mother of Hope Deanery, recalls, “To me, Gladys was Mrs. CWC and a mentor to the women in our deanery. She was a blessing to her unit, our deanery and our diocese.” She served as our 5th DCCW President from 1969-1973 and was recognized for her outstanding service to the church by Bishop Sheldon in 2001 with the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice award (which translates For Church and the Pontiff) from St. John Paul II. She assisted in organizing the historical records of the DCCW and archiving information and materials at the chancery office along with Joanne Raha who recalls her fondly, “When you speak of Gladys, you are speaking of a true lady. She was a lady who could instill in you the desire and commitment for the Council of Catholic Women.” She believed that using common sense and working hard would result in a job well done.

Gladys was the matriarch of a large, loving family of 5 children, 13 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren. On the occasion of her 93rd birthday, she was visited by past DCCW presidents Nina Huffman and Veronica Way. Veronica remembers Gladys as “a kind and classy lady. It was a blessing from God to know her and have her as one of my mentors.” Gladys enjoyed telling stories and that day she enjoyed telling them about how she met her husband Jerome in Texas where she grew up and was impressed with his dancing and letter writing skills. For her, that was a winning combination! Nina commented, “I followed Gladys as DCCW President and I found her to be a Grand Lady. She was very helpful to me as the immediate past President. I truly feel blessed with our friendship through the years.” DeDe Kidder, past DCCW President and current DCCW Treasurer, will remember Gladys as “a woman of exceptional gratitude and encouragement for the work of others. She would always send a hand-written note following an event thanking me for the work I had done or a photo I had sent to her. I still have those notes from 10 years ago and won’t be throwing them away any time soon.”

In life we stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us. May we always stand with the kindness and dedication that Gladys demonstrated!

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.
The Spirit

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.

Ordination in Toronto

The Toronto parishes (St. Francis of Assisi and St. Joseph Churches) hosted the ordination to the priesthood for Father Joshua Erickson on Friday, May 18. Besides the ordination, the CWC planned the dinner for priests, which was held before the ordination, and then a large reception following the ordination. On Saturday morning, following Father Erickson’s first Mass, a brunch/luncheon was provided for family and friends.

Forty-seven priests came for dinner and 55 priests attended the ordination. Approximately 400 attended the ordination; and the CWC made more than 200 dozen delicious cookies for the reception. This was a very special week in our parishes and in Toronto. Father Erickson has been assigned to the Basilica in Marietta.

Submitted by DeDe Kidder - thank you!

DCCW Lenten Day of Spirituality

“In do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.” Romans 12:11-12

In spite of the inclement weather forecast for the day, 140 women were able to attend the Lenten Day of Spirituality sponsored by the DCCW on March 17 in St. Clairsville. The attendees were treated to a wonderful day of reflection and sharing led by retreat presenter Sharon Colvin of Christ the King parish in Athens. Throughout her presentation titled “Practical Holiness: Divine Living in the Here and Now”, Sharon related personal stories and experiences to demonstrate her points. She reminded the group that if we align our perspective of God with the truth of His desire to be in our lives in every circumstance, we become receptive to His grace. We walk with God and go where He is going. She encouraged us to be close enough to God to get the dust from His footsteps on our clothes, close enough to hear His whispers, close enough to see where He is gazing. Pray daily for the grace to live in such a way as to demonstrate that God is trustworthy, that we all have a purpose, and that we all are loved. We, as “extraordinary ordinary women”, can make His love real in a way that others can learn to follow Jesus. Bishop Monforton celebrated Mass with the group. Later he joined the women for lunch and shared comments on vocations, gratitude to parents of priests and seminarians, the importance of engaging young people through social media, the work of deacons in our diocese, and the financial status of our diocese.

Next year’s retreat is scheduled on April 6, 2019 at St. Mary’s in St. Clairsville.
DCCW Convention

Theme: Women Giving With Joy

Such an appropriate theme for the members of our Steubenville Diocesan Council of Catholic Women! Keynote speaker June Lawrence from Cross Catholic Outreach provided details on the Boxes of Joy project. She commended the CWC units for their marvelous participation for Christmas 2017. Mother of Hope Deanery, with all 11 active units participating, collected 285 boxes under the direction of Joelle Bucci, Project Director. St. John Fisher parish in Richmond served as their drop off location. The Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption also served as a drop off location for the 200 Boxes of Joy they collected with Janet Steinel coordinating their efforts. They were joined by St. Joseph CWC in Bridgeport who filled 54 boxes and St. Bernard in Beverly who added 20 boxes to the shipment. These groups plan to participate again this Christmas and have set their goals even higher.

In total, Cross Catholic was able to send 46,360 Boxes of Joy to children in 4 countries - Nicaragua, Guatemala, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Their goal for next year is 60,000 boxes.

In the convention’s Dedication to the Children of the World, Sister Mary Brigid Callan reminded the 168 women in attendance that “ours are the lips who carry Christ to the children of the world who desire to know God.”

Thirty certificates were presented during the Parish Awards portion of the program. CWC units were recognized for being “Women Giving With Joy” for particular activities of service that they had done during the year.

Father Michael Gossett thanked the women for their prayerful and monetary support of our diocesan seminarians and introduced the men who were present.

Whether gathered around the table of the Eucharist or gathered around the lunch table, this wonderful group shared a joyful spirit of service throughout the day.
Election Day - November 6

Diana R. Vargo, SDCCW Commissioner

The Spirituality Commission reinforces faith and supports service to the Church and the world through discipleship and spiritual growth and encourages advocacy at the local, state and national levels, guided by Catholic social teaching.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (nos. 1913-1915), “It is necessary that all participate, each according to his position and role, in promoting the common good. This obligation is inherent in the dignity of the human person... As far as possible, citizens should take an active part in public life.”

As Catholic women, when we face serious challenges that are clearly political, remember that we must be educated about our moral responsibilities, seek God’s guidance and take action in the political process.

Ways to take action are:
1. **Pray** - Ask for God’s guidance in all our undertakings as we defend the life and dignity of every human person and the common good. Pray for our branches of government that they respect our rights.
2. **Educate** - Read websites and other information on issues of concern to the Catholic Church.
   - United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (www.usccb.org)
   - Catholic Conference of Ohio (www.ohiocathconf.org)
   - National Council of Catholic Women (www.nccw.org)
3. **Act** - Call or write your legislators on issues of concern.
4. **Vote** - One vote can make a difference. Are you registered to vote? If not, contact your local Board of Election and add your voice and vote to this upcoming election. Offer rides to the polls to those unable to drive.

We have a Facebook page! Let’s be Friends! Submit information from your unit to share with all of us! On the Facebook site, search “Diocesan Council of Catholic Women-Diocese of Steubenville”.

Mother’s Day in Harriettsville

St. Henry’s annual Mother’s Day Dinner for the public serves 850-900 people. The entire parish, young and old, work very hard on this event. They join together for four days before the event to make their famous homemade noodles using 423 dozen eggs. Some of these noodles will be served at the dinner. The rest will be sold. Besides noodles, the group specializes in baking angel food cakes to sell at the craft table, and extra pies are made to be shared. The remainder of this wonderful dinner is prepared on the Saturday before the event. This is quite an amazing success story for a parish of less than 40 families!

Thank you, Donna Archer & Debbie Biehl for the photo and this story.

Pictured (l-r): Donna Archer, Lannie Burkhart, Connie Legrean, & Debbie Biehl
A Trip of a Lifetime  

from Rita Rodgers

Imagine living in a shed-like building with a dirt floor and a leaking roof (or no roof at all), when a strong thunderstorm dumps its rain all around you. The house has no bathroom, running water or electricity. Now imagine helping to build your family a new house, even though it is only 16’ x 16’ with a new tin roof, solid wooden floor and a bathroom with running water and shower. The people can’t believe their eyes. In 4 1/2 days they have gone from barely a shelter to what seems like a mansion to them.

I have had the honor and privilege to travel to Belize the past three years with Sister Luke (Sister of Charity of Nazareth) to build three houses for families in need. It is the experience of a lifetime. Seeing how appreciative the families are, how happy and thankful they are for the little they have and how grateful they are for the help of the volunteers who come, is just overwhelming.

The volunteers from the USA work with the volunteers from Belize and the family who will receive the house, as well as overseers from Hand in Hand Ministries. Workers mix and pour concrete, construct a floor and walls, and paint. Working together to raise the walls, a house suddenly takes shape! The inside of the house may be finished by the family.

At the house blessing, a cross, Bible and small gifts are presented to the family, along with the key to the house. Seeing the happy faces of the family is such a blessing. There is not a dry eye to be found. One lady told us that she couldn’t believe that people from the USA would come to Belize to help her family.

Several ladies from our diocese have participated in these trips and several ladies from St. Ambrose parish have made dresses for the girls and shorts for the boys. The parish has sponsored two houses and sent two teams to Belize to build the houses.

The whole experience is beyond description. Want to participate? For more information contact Rita Rodgers at drrodgers2417@gmail.com or Sister Luke at lukescn@scnky.org.

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Veronica’s Viewpoint

ABCs of Leadership

Thoughts from Veronica Way, Province Director of Cincinnati, Leadership Commission of NCCW

When you are looking for a leader for a parish CWC unit, look for someone with a wealth of life experiences and consider their gifts. When looking for deanery leaders, look to the strong leaders of the parishes. When looking for DCCW leaders, look to the deaneries and gather women from their strength. These ladies will be the women who are our future Province Directors and national officers. As you seek out leaders, consider these “ABCs of Attributes.”

A - Appreciation  N - Negotiator
B - Belief  O - Opportunity
C - Caring  P - Pray
D - Details  Q - Quiet
E - Energetic  R - Respectful
F - Friendly  S - Sincere
G - Grateful  T - Team Player
H - Helping  U - Unique
I - Information  V - Virtuous
J - Joyful  W - Worker
K - Kind  X - Extra Special
L - Listener  Y - Yielding
M - Mentor  Z - Zest
Diocesan Rosary Congress

The two means we have been given to bring down a torrent of graces upon our families, diocese and nation are the Eucharist and the Rosary. This fall, from October 6-12, in 3 locations in our diocese, we will have the opportunity to anchor our families, diocese and nation to those two pillars. For 7 days there will be perpetual Adoration, hourly recitation of the Rosary, Eucharistic and Marian processions, special Masses, regularly available confessions and special speakers.

This annual Rosary Congress, held at Holy Rosary in Steubenville, the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption in Marietta and St Joseph in Ironton, is a fruit of the reconsecration of our diocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary last June. But it cannot succeed without your help.

There are many ways to get involved:
1. You can be a parish contact for the Rosary Congress by coordinating a group of parishioners to sign up for an hour of adoration at the Rosary Congress.
2. If you are in a parish that is too distant to attend the Congress, you can coordinate a Holy Hour of Adoration during the week so your parish can participate via “satellite.”
3. You can pray the rosary daily during the week of the Rosary Congress for the intentions of life, reparation for sin, and peace in our diocese, in our country, and in our world!

For further information or to volunteer to be a parish contact, please call Peggy Downs in Amsterdam at 410-596-1936 or email her at rcstaff@rosarycongressusa.org; or Shelly Medley in Marietta at shellymedley@aol.com.

from Sister Teresa Condit of the Two Hearts, OSIHIJM

St. Ann Participates in Local Chili Fest

From Linda McComas & Theresa Adkins

The ladies of St. Ann Church in Chesapeake recently participated in their first Lawrence County Developmental Disability Board’s annual Chili Fest and Craft Show held in Coal Grove. The CWC women made and served chili during the event along with twenty-three other local groups, churches and individuals. The event brings attention to the needs of developmentally disabled children and adults living in the county, raises funds for programs and gives families the opportunity to enjoy the day. Feeling that it is part of the mission of CWC to bring a strong Catholic presence to the community and to model our belief in the sanctity of life for all groups, the women plan to continue this event interacting with the local Lawrence County community again next year.

Special thanks to our CWC Deanery Moderators!

Very Rev. Victor P. Cinson, Jr. - Mother of Hope Deanery
Rev. David Cornett - Presentation Deanery
Msgr. J. Michael Campbell - Visitation Deanery
Rev. H. Christopher Foxhoven - Nativity of Mary Deanery

St. John the Baptist CWC

Hungry for some home cooking?
The ladies of St. John the Baptist CWC, Miltonsburg are cooking for the annual Festival Picnic on August 5th. Country style chicken and beef dinners that include homemade noodles, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, cole slaw, fresh vegetables, dessert and beverages will be featured. You can also enjoy a baked goods and craft table and then play some games and even dance the night away in the evening!

Looking for spiritual enrichment?
† Attend a retreat †
Visit St. Ann, Chesapeake on August 18 or St. Ambrose in Little Hocking on Oct 13.

Thank you, Eileen Ackerman, for sharing this story.
Spiritual Traditions in Athens

The CWC of St. Paul and Christ the King churches in Athens has made a commitment to support the many and diverse spiritual traditions which enrich the church. Some of these traditions are hidden in plain sight, such as the symbols in our church’s stained glass windows. Parishioner and Athens Messenger photographer John Hailey took beautiful photographs of the windows for an album which was given to Father Pat on the occasion of his retirement. John has given permission for the CWC to use these images.

Images have been used to create candle cards with stamped envelopes which are placed near the candle stands in church. Anyone who lights a candle for a loved one can send them a note letting them know that they are remembered in thought and prayer in the church. Images have also been used to make a calendar which was sold as a fundraiser. Additionally, a children’s book was developed by Sabrina Kotts explaining the historical religious symbols in the windows. These books are kept at the entrance to the church for the children.

During the Marian months of May and October, the CWC places rosaries and rosary mystery cards in all the pews in both churches. Volunteers from the CWC lead the rosary before or after each Sunday Mass. Every year more parishioners join together for this devotion to our Blessed Mother.

As a reminder of the Communion of Saints, the CWC started a program to sponsor altar flowers in remembrance of the deceased, or in celebration of special anniversaries. A note is entered in the bulletin as a reminder to pray for our loved ones.

For the Feast of Epiphany, Sabrina Kotts made a booklet about the Epiphany tradition of house blessings. These were placed in each church with blessed chalk and holy water bottles for families to take home and bless their homes.

Our Church is so rich in traditions from all around the world. We hope to continue to find ways to refresh our parishioners’ interest in these beautiful gifts from our history.

Thank you, Angela Cross, for sharing this work of your CWC with us.

NCCW CONVENTION -- PITTSBURGH, PA

August 29 - September 1, 2018

Theme: Reflect the Joy of God: Faithful Missionary Disciples

Daily Bread

Submitted by Janet Steinel - thank you!

CWC women volunteer at Daily Bread Kitchen, a local non-profit community service that provides a free nutritious meal in a warm and welcoming atmosphere for those in need. The Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption and its 120 volunteers support the kitchen by helping with meal preparation, serving meals and general clean up.

Daily Bread Kitchen serves approximately 250 meals each Wednesday. It depends solely on the generosity of individuals, businesses, organizations and churches to meet the financial needs necessary to feed thousands of people each year.
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.