Thank you, Betty Bartosek

As the new editor of this newsletter in 2017, I was surprised with a message on my answering machine complimenting my first issue. I returned the call to a wonderful woman named Betty Bartosek who had called me from the Continuous Care Center in Wheeling, WV where she resided. She told me that her cell phone was difficult for her to manage and I arranged to go to Wheeling the next day to meet her. What a wonderful visit we had!

I took my notebook with me, anticipating that I would learn a lot from our conversation. And I wasn’t disappointed. We shared stories for hours. She told me that she had volunteered to be the first editor of this newsletter at the request of then DCCW president Vivian Kuhn. Those first issues were typed on her kitchen table, copied at her parish church, and then mailed to the units. She enjoyed this responsibility and complimented my issue as being “tastefully done and visually appealing.” I considered that high praise. She said that she had read it several times because she loved reading about the good work that the units were doing in the diocese. She gave me this analogy: “The CWC is a group of wonderful, dedicated, beautiful women. It’s like a bouquet of flowers. Some are roses and some are daisies. Each person brings her beauty and talents to the group.” She encouraged me to “just be myself” in my new role.

Betty was so grateful to God that in spite of her physical limitations, she had wonderful memories. She wished that she could still play the organ as she had for 75 years at St. Joseph in Bridgeport. She reminisced about the CWC’s Calendar Parties where women filled 12 theme-decorated tables and happily enjoyed time and food together. Ice cream socials at the local nursing home and breakfasts with Santa and the Easter bunny were other CWC activities that she enjoyed. She happily recalled being the chairperson of the Toy Collection Drive for 20 years for the Friendship Council in Bridgeport and volunteering at Wheeling Hospital for 30 years. Her commitment to her church and community and especially the CWC was evident in her memories.

In her days as the 10th DCCW President (1983–88) she recalled times when she was nervous about speaking in front of the group. Her mother, Hester Dolak (DCCW President 1961–65) remarked, “You’re not at the White House or even the school house. These women will listen and be thankful for all that you have to say. They are all good women.” She recalled the first DCCW convention held at St. John’s Arena in Steubenville where 500-600 women came together. I showed her photos from our 2017 Convention and she thoughtfully savored every one of them and was very touched when I invited her to keep the photo of the past presidents who were in attendance. She recognized every one of them with a smile. She fondly remembered her travels to leadership meetings with Veronica Way (DCCW president 1992–96) and the humorous times when they would get lost.

She loved the Catholic Woman’s Club and treasured all of the women she had met over the years as God’s gifts to her. May she rest peacefully in the arms of Our Lord!
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.

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Reflection from Sandy Broom,
DCCW Service Commissioner - International Concerns

So many times we are asked to give, to collect, to donate year after year and it becomes so routine that we forget the real reason of why we are doing it, especially if the recipients live in another part of the world. I would like to speak on behalf of those recipients, the majority of whom are Spanish-speaking, if I may.

On behalf of the elderly residents at Centro Gerontologico in Cusco, Peru, who now have remodeled bedrooms, modernized bathrooms, a recently painted entrance, a new roof (twice), and new ovens to raise and bake their daily bread, I say, “Gratias Amigo Mio.”

On behalf of the “poorest of the poor”, the young girls, women and children in the world whose dignity has been restored by helping them escape abusive environments, by preventing them from becoming victims of human trafficking, and by deterring them from forced abortions, I say “Gratias Amigo Mio.”

On behalf of over 46,000 children, in 4 impoverished countries of the world, who have been given perhaps their first Christmas gift ever, who have learned the message of the “gift of Jesus” in their lives, and who feel the love and hope which came inside a little white box from across the world, I say “Gratias Amigo Mio.”

I hope this has reminded you WHY you are participating in the Cusco Free-Will Offering, the Madonna Plan collection, Cross Catholic Outreach and the Boxes of Joy project. YOU have played an important part in international service...of helping others as we would like to be helped.

I know you will continue to encourage participation in these international projects as you have in the past. After all, we have been called to be Christ’s hands and feet.

“Gratias Amigo Mio”... “Thank you My Friend.”
Mother of Hope Deanery Officers

Newly elected officers for the Mother of Hope Deanery were installed at the November 25th CWC deanery meeting held at Holy Family Church in Steubenville. Rev. Victor P. Cinson, Mother of Hope Deanery Moderator installed the new officers. They are (pictured left to right) Diana R. Vargo (President), Karen Jochims (Vice President), Beatrice Antol (Secretary), Rev. Cinson (Moderator), Joanne Raha (Treasurer), Donna Pizzoferrato (Historian) and Joelle Bucci (Auditor).

DCCW Lenten Day of Spirituality

Theme: Setting Our Hearts on Pilgrimage

April 6, 2019  St. Mary’s Church, St. Clairsville

Led by Dr. Nadia Mitchell who will present Ignatian Journey, Footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi and Mary’s Dowry.

Special presentation: How to go on a pilgrimage without leaving your own home

Blessed are those who strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. Psalm 84:5

Christmas Elves from St. Peter CWC

St. Peter Parish generously supported the Toy Distribution at the Steubenville Urban Mission this past holiday season by donating about 200 new, unwrapped toys to the project. The Urban Mission Ministries is one of the largest charities in the Upper Ohio Valley, offering food, shelter and other essential services to the community’s low-income families. Those who participated in the Mission’s food program were eligible to register for the toy distribution. Donated toys were organized in a Christmas Shop where parents who had registered for the week-long event could walk through and personally select 3 toys for each of their children, as well as some stocking stuffers.

This was the 12th year that St. Peter’s CWC sponsored the Annual Toy Drive in the parish and this year saw the largest number of toys collected. Next year they will not only donate toys once again, but also gather stocking stuffers.

Thank you, Bea Antol, for sharing this story.
Cookie Walk

Fifty years ago, Anne Chonko and her friends decided that they needed a fund raiser to support the activities of the St. Paul Catholic Woman’s Club. Anne was a great baker who baked as a girl for her siblings after the death of her mother and continued to bake for her husband Andy and three growing boys. She would bake traditional Kolache bread rolls filled with walnuts, prune, apricots or poppyseed, and Kolache tarts—delicate cream cheese pastry cookies filled with apricot. The ladies would sell them before Christmas and the annual “Christmas Bake Sale” was born.

Over the years the baking moved from Anne’s home kitchen, helped by Andy and the boys, into the church’s kitchen and the addition of many helping hands of her fellow CWC members and their husbands. All sorts of traditional Christmas goodies were added to the menu: rum cakes, Buckeyes, coffee cakes, fudge, cookie trays and so much more.

Before long the ladies added other facets to the bake sale in order to attract more customers. They included a raffle, craft booths, a chili luncheon and white elephant booth. The new “St. Paul Bazaar and Bake Sale” was quite a substantial undertaking. Baking went on all week before the event. The cookie tray assembly, raffle organization and set up of the craft booths went on into the wee hours the night before the event. The chef arrived to cook the chili through the morning and the ladies served food and bussed tables and worked until they could barely take another

While it was all tremendous fun, and the ladies enjoyed working together very much, year by year it was getting harder. The whole event was moved down to the newly expanded Holy Family Center at Christ the King’s parish which is clustered with St. Paul. There the wonderful modern kitchen and off street parking made it easier for everyone. But it was still exhausting! It was time to consider an alternative which would eliminate the activities that gave little return for the considerable time and effort involved. If the current sales of the cookie trays could be doubled by adding a Cookie Walk, which several ladies had heard was very successful in other places, the income from all the other activities would be replaced. And that was what happened.

Kolaches continued to be baked and many donations of family favorite cookies and treats filled the Cookie Walk table. To maintain the wonderful comradery from the previous baking sessions, the ladies got together to decorate sugar cookies for the trays, and in the process got to know each other better and enjoy each other’s company. Trays were prepared and decorated in anticipation of the event. And last but not least, the wonderful aroma of Father Mark’s freshly baked cinnamon buns which were sold with hot chocolate, coffee and tea filled the beautifully decorated setting.

The former bazaar had been laid to rest. The most successful and enjoyable parts of it were combined to make a new and equally fun event which was highly successful and done with a fraction of the time and effort of the former activity. More money for all the many projects which our CWC carries out for our parishes was raised. Anne Chonko’s Kolache recipes and guidance continue to be used fifty years later and she couldn’t be more proud of the ladies of the CWC of St. Paul and Christ the King.
**Fun and Fellowship**

The four CWC units in Noble County have been having fun-filled experiences throughout the year. Each month we try to do something special such as meeting for lunch or dinner at different restaurants. The ladies look forward to this time, and so do Father Wayne and Father Chet who enjoy the fellowship as much as the ladies. It’s not a meeting. It’s simply an enjoyable time together to get to know each other better.

This summer we traveled to Marietta and took a trolley ride around the city. Following this enjoyable activity, we went to noon mass at the Basilica and enjoyed a very informative and wonderful tour of the church with Msgr. Campbell.

A painting party at St. Stephen Church included lunch and another opportunity to enjoy time together. In the fall we planned a trip to Amish Country to see the play “Stolen” at the Ohio Star Theater with a meal at the Dutch Valley restaurant.

These activities were wonderful ways to get to know the people in the parish and the community.

_Submitted by Carolyn Estadt, Leadership Commissioner_

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**Seminarians**

Has your unit adopted a seminarian? If you did not submit your response to Debbie Richards yet, please notify her as soon as possible. Debbie is the new Chair for our **Adopt a Seminarian** Committee.

Debbie’s contact information:
Email: bigdeb_23@yahoo.com
19075 Lewis Rd, Amesville, OH 45711
Home: 740-448-2214
Cell: 740-541-3532

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**Veronica’s Viewpoint**

**Why Isn’t My CWC Growing?**

_Thoughts from Veronica Way_  
_Province Director of Cincinnati_  
_Leadership Commission of NCCW_

Do you look around the room on meeting night and wonder “Where is everyone? Why is our group shrinking?” If so, ask yourself a few questions.

- How are your meetings run?  
- Is this a meeting you ENJOY attending?  
- Is this a club you would join?  
- Is this meeting worth getting up from your couch, getting ready, putting gas in your car and traveling to attend?  
- Will the president and/or officers thank you for coming?  
- Does the group talk positively about its previous leaders?  
- Is everyone given a chance to voice their ideas?  
- When reports are given by ladies who took the time to prepare them, are they thanked for their work?  
- Do we show appreciation for reports by being open and attentive to what they say?  
- Is everyone on the agenda treated with respect and given equal opportunity to speak?

Hopefully your club is not run by “Dictator Sally” who reminds the group constantly that “we always do it this way” and shuts down new ideas.

Our churches have pews full of ladies who are talented for positions in your club. Do they feel welcome? Or are they turned off by leaders who tell them that “this is how we do it – no changes.” Encourage new ideas! You’ll never know if it will work until you try.

Your group will grow if every lady is given a chance to use her God-given talents. Isn’t that the work of the CWC?

In this day and age, ladies need support, kindness and expressions of gratitude. Say “thank you” to your project leaders. It is a short phrase that gets amazing results. Running a group through a computer keyboard or texts may be quick but can leave some women out, hinder new women from getting involved and prevent your group from growing.

Our best memories are those of enjoyable events. Remember that your group needs open arms. It’s a Catholic Woman’s Club, not a dictatorship. If all ladies are PERSONALLY invited, welcomed, appreciated, valued and thanked for being present, they are more inclined to step forward to get involved. Openness is the way to grow!
CWC units throughout our diocese came through with flying colors for the Boxes of Joy project of Cross Catholic Outreach. One thousand one hundred nine decorated shoe boxes for boys and girls ages 2-14 were packed with an assortment of toys, school supplies, candy, apparel, hygiene items, personal accessories and useful home items by the CWC members as well as parishioners and members of their communities. Many boxes also included personal greetings, Christmas cards, hand-drawn pictures and photos. CWCs from every deanery were represented in the collection this year. Drop off locations in our diocese for this international service project were St. John Fisher Parish, Richmond and the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta.

The CWC of Mother of Hope Deanery with Joelle Bucci as project leader sent 524 boxes. St. Joseph CWC, Bridgeport donated 76 boxes under the direction of CWC president Barbara Trytko. The collection from the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta was coordinated by CWC member Janet Steinel and with the cooperative effort of parishioners totaled 414 boxes. Elaine Schott of St. Bernard’s CWC, Beverly was happy that the women doubled their efforts this year and were able to fill 42 boxes. This was the first year of participation for the CWC of St. Paul and Christ the King, Athens and they successfully achieved their goal of filling 50 boxes under the leadership of CWC president Angela Cross. All of these units pledge to do “even more” next year with everyone’s help.

Statistics for Cross Catholic indicate that 56,727 children in the five countries of Nicaragua, Guatemala, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and El Salvador received Boxes of Joy from the project this year which included 620 participating parishes, schools and groups in 48 states. That’s an increase of about 10,000 boxes over last year’s distribution.

To learn more about the Box of Joy program and Cross Catholic Outreach, go to www.crosscatholic.org/boxofjoy.
Let us pray.

As we enter a new year, consider these words of St. Francis de Sales.

Be At Peace

Do not look forward in fear to the changes in life; rather, look to them with full hope that as they arise, God, whose very own you are, will lead you safely through all things; and when you cannot stand it, God will carry you in His arms. Do not fear what may happen tomorrow; the same understanding Father who cares for you today will take care of you then and every day. He will either shield you from suffering or will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.

DCCW CONVENTION NEWS

ALL AT ONE LOCATION IN MID-JUNE

Tuesday, June 18, 2019: Pre-Convention dinner at Holy Family Church hall, Steubenville

Wednesday, June 19, 2019: Convention at Holy Family Church hall, Steubenville

Theme: Love Saves Lives

Watch for your convention packet in the mail with details about times, costs and registration.

OTHER CHANGES this year!

Joelle Bucci is the new editor of the convention program.

She is looking forward to her new challenge and invites everyone to submit ads for the program to share their good news. These ads give you an opportunity to announce your success stories or congratulate someone in your parish who is celebrating a significant birthday or anniversary or who may have received a special honor or award. You can offer words of encouragement for your pastor or compliment members of your CWC or parish for their service. You can invite people to parish or CWC events. Joelle’s email is Buccij5@gmail.com; address - 313 Thomas Street, Wintersville, OH 43953.

Donna Turner will again be coordinating the Parish Awards presentation, but with a different format. You are no longer asked to submit a lengthy summary of all of your yearly activities. Instead, under a new program title of “Gather Around the Table”, you will be asked to submit only one page identifying your unit and explaining the ONE project which will be shared at the convention. A gift will be presented to the CWC when the idea is read. Donna’s contact information is listed on page 8 of this newsletter.

We are looking forward to a robust attendance at the convention this year! Please plan to attend!
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.