Cross Catholic Outreach Box of Joy Ministry

Our CWC units made a wonderful impact on the lives of some children who suffer from extreme poverty in El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Haiti and the Dominican Republic through the Box of Joy Ministry of Cross Catholic International Outreach. Local groups organize this annual Christmas gift ministry which provides children with a shoebox gift that includes toys, hygiene items, school supplies, apparel and snacks. Cross Catholic provides each child with a booklet in their own language that tells the story of Jesus which adds an element of evangelization to the distribution.

We were proud to have two locations in our diocese which served as Drop Off locations for Cross Catholic. As the November 2019 deadline approached, 503 boxes were brought to the Basilica in Marietta and 737 boxes to St. John Fisher Church in Richmond. Participating groups included: St. Bernard in Beverly (54), the Catholic community in Athens (24), CWC units throughout Mother of Hope Deanery (446), Assumption BVM in Barnesville (72), St. Joseph, Bridgeport (105), Basilica of St. Mary (425), Steubenville Catholic Schools (102) and Moon Township, PA (10).

It was our privilege to have some representation from EVERY deanery in the diocese engage in this simple, tangible, charitable opportunity to serve an international concern through Cross Catholic.

Thank you, Joelle Bucci and Janet Steinel, for providing the information and photos.
Retreat in Nativity of Mary  Deanery  

Taste and See that the Lord is Good (Ps. 34:8) was the theme for an all-day women’s retreat for the Nativity of Mary Deanery on September 28. Jointly sponsored by the Catholic Woman’s Club and the Catholic Ladies of Columbia of the Athens Catholic Community, this day of discovery, spiritual reflection and community drew 103 women for Adoration, interviews with local women who raise sheep or keep bees, lunch with food mentioned in the Bible, and plenary talks by Sharon Colbin, Tere Frost, and Fr. Mark Moore. The 13 morning and afternoon breakout sessions included topics such as Herbs and Spices of Biblical Times, Breadmaking, the Mediterranean Menu Plan. The Science of Taste, Experiencing the Mass with your 5 Senses, and Prayer Journaling. Women also enjoyed Israeli wine made from a varietal existing in Jesus’ day. The retreat raised almost $5000 for Mary’s Meals, a no-frills charity which sets up community-run school feeding projects in some of the world’s poorest communities and can feed a child a simple lunch for an entire school year for only $19.50.

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.
The ladies of St. Ambrose Church offered their fall retreat to women on October 5th at St. Ambrose Church from 8:30am until 2:30 pm. Two area women presented talks from their life experiences. In the morning Chams Ekelson shared about her life in Lebanon before coming to America. She now has her Lebanese restaurant, Chams Lebanese Cuisine, in downtown Parkersburg, WV. Our afternoon speaker was Kathy Reis of Belpre who shared experiences of her life journey of faith. Small group sharing took place after each talk. An opportunity to go to confession was offered by Fr. Robert Gallagher. Lunch was provided and singing took place several times during the retreat. St. Joan Marie VanBeek served as master of ceremonies. The Divine Mercy Chaplet was recited at the end of the retreat. The women returned home with their faith strengthened and their spirits renewed. Mark your calendar for our next retreat to be held on October 10, 2020. You are welcome to attend!

March 28, 2020

DCCW Day of Spirituality

Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta

“Standing Strong as a Parent or Grandparent”

Speaker: Dr. Ray Guarendi

Dr. Ray is a Catholic father of ten adopted children, a clinical psychologist, author, and professional speaker. His TV Show “Living With Dr. Ray” can be seen on EWTN. His radio show “The Dr. Is In” can be heard on Catholic radio.
The Spirit

Election 2020

“In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. The obligation to participate in political life is rooted in our baptismal commitment to follow Jesus Christ and to bear Christian witness in all we do.” Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, No. 13

Tuesday, March 17 is the date set for Ohio’s primary election prior to the general election on November 3. If you have not yet registered to vote, please contact your county or state Board of Elections by the February 18 deadline and do so.

The US Bishops’ publication Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship (available on www.usccb.org) gives some guidance on our political responsibility. It does NOT tell us who to vote for and does not serve partisan interests. It does remind us that our choices should focus on moral principles, the promotion of human life and dignity, and the pursuit of the common good. Importantly, we are reminded to PRAY about our choices.

Prayer Before an Election*

Lord God, as the election approaches, we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our city, state and country and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community. We ask for eyes that are free from blindness so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters, one and equal in dignity, especially those who are victims of abuse and violence, deceit and poverty. We ask for ears that will hear the cries of children unborn and those abandoned, men and women oppressed because of race or creed, religion or gender. We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voice of leaders who will bring us closer to your kingdom. We pray for discernment so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word, live your love, and keep in the ways of your truth as they follow in the steps of Jesus and His apostles and guide us to your kingdom of justice and peace. We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*obtained from the USCCB website

Cookie Walk

St. Paul and Christ the King parishes, Athens enjoyed a wonderful Cookie Walk in December. This year they baked and decorated all the cut out cookies themselves. And the accidental “overbake” of 235 cinnamon buns (100 more than the plan) turned out to be a wonderful mistake since every one of them was sold. Everyone had a lovely time with only the cookie chairperson and her deputy elves a little tired. As a fundraiser, this event grossed $7923... but as a community event, it was priceless!

Thank you, Angela Cross, for submitting this information.
On October 27, 2019 Mrs. Marion Mucha celebrated her 100th birthday at Park View Health Center in Saint Clairsville. Marion is a member of St. Joseph CWC in Bridgeport and mother of Rev. John Mucha who is pastor of the Bridgeport Cluster of Parishes and moderator of the CWC. Marion enjoyed the celebration complete with cards, cake, gifts, flowers and balloons.

**MILESTONES**

**THE CATHOLIC WOMAN’S CLUB**

of the
Diocese of Steubenville,
found by Bishop John King Mussio
in 1945,
will celebrate

75 Years

at the
75th Annual Convention
on June 3, 2020
at Holy Family Church
in Steubenville, OH.

Please try to attend this historic celebration!

The National Council of Catholic Women was founded in 1920 by the US Catholic bishops to provide all Catholic women a common voice and an instrument of unified action.

The 100th Anniversary Convention will be celebrated Aug. 26-29, 2020 in Arlington, VA (Washington, DC Area) with the theme “A VISION FOR THE FUTURE.” More information can be found at www.nccw.org.

Adopt-A-Seminarian Program

We are happy to support the seven seminarians of our diocese with our prayers, cards and gifts.

Studying at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus are Brandon O’Nan, Peter Stetson and Rev. Mr. Nicholas Ward who will be ordained to the priesthood this year.

Studying at the Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit are Joseph Beigel, Jeremiah Hahn, Joseph Hahn and Aaron O’Nan.
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.