



Saint Paul & Minneapolis
 Archdiocesan Council of
 CATHOLIC WOMEN

From the Desk of our President . . .

ACCW OFFICERS

- President*
Doreen Hogan
- Past President*
Mickey Nickelson
- 1st Vice President*
Terri Pontious
- 2nd Vice President*
Laurie Otte
- Recording Secretary*
Cathy Healy
- Treasurer*
Lori Keys
- Parliamentarian*
Lucy Johnson

COMMISSION CHAIRS

- Leadership Organization*
Colleen Hogan
- Legislation*
Patricia Reinardy
- Spirituality Church*
Florence Schmidt
Jane Rosner
- Family Concerns*
Debbie Keller
- Service Community Concerns*
Theresa Cermak
- International Concerns*
Denise Haaland

IMAGE Editor
Carol Shukle

Greetings My Fellow CCW Sisters,

On April 28 I was installed as your 2023-2025 ACCW President. I was raised in New Prague and currently live in Le Center which is in the southern part of the Archdiocese. In October my husband Melvin and I will be married for 38 years. We have two beautiful daughters, Colleen (37) and Joleen aka Jo (35). If you see me at a CCW event, you will probably see my daughters as well.



My younger sister asked me “why” I wanted to be ACCW President. Leave it to your kid sister to put you on the spot. So, the obvious answers, the timing was right, I thought I could be a great leader and I needed to put God first. All were good reasons, but it isn’t necessarily what called me to this position.

My honest answer came from my strong sense for family values. My parents raised a family of eight children. We may not have had everything we wanted, but we had what we needed, love from both parents.

We need to put God and our family first in our lives. That can be very hard to do today. We all have obstacles and distractions that lead us astray, including myself. I have used the “busy at work” card too many times. For families with younger children, they have way more distractions and activities that take their focus or attention away.

Truthfully, I am sad at seeing all the negative and bad things happening in the world, crime, violent protesting, and total disrespect to human life. I realized we need to put the emphasis on protecting our family values. All the wrong in the world could be eliminated if parents taught respect and morals to their children. A strong foundation begins with a mother and father teaching children to know the difference between right and wrong, good versus evil. My parents instilled those values such as working hard, showing respect to everyone and being thankful for all God has provided us.

As strong Catholic women, let us pray and stand together to protect our families. I am honored and excited to serve as the ACCW President for the next two years.

Doreen Hogan
 ACCW President

Save the Date!
ACCW Morning of Reflection
 Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023
 Our Lady of the Lake Church, Mound
Invite a friend, mother, sister or daughter!

It's Official!

The Saint Paul and Minneapolis ACCW is a non-profit religious organization that acts through its affiliated organization to support, empower and educate all Catholic Women in spirituality, leadership and service. ACCW programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the church and society in the modern world.

Save the date!

ACCW Recognition Sunday 10-8-2023

Appalachia 10-21 to 11-2-2023

Morning of Reflection 11-4-2023

See inserts for more details

Proclamations for Recognition Sunday can be found on our website under resources or in this issue.

In appreciation of clergy, please remember to thank and celebrate all priests in our lives.



Past Presidents Luncheon in July

Saint Paul & Minneapolis
Archdiocesan Council of
CATHOLIC  WOMEN

2023 Deanery Presidents

Minneapolis	Teresa Droessler	651-697-1344
Northeast	Mary Lou Wilharber	651-429-2140
Northwest	Betty Thomes	763-443-9452
St. Paul	Annemarie Chlebeck	651-647-0905
Southeast	Inactive	651-291-4545
Southwest	Andrea Jewison	612-423-5592
West	Inactive	651-291-4545

Call for more information

2023-2024

Membership Dues

September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024

Parish Affiliates

ACCW Dues \$40.00

Individual dues:

ACCW \$10.00

Office hours are Tuesday through Thursday 8:30 -2:00

651-291-4545

777 Forest St. St. Paul, MN 55106

E-mail: alliec@archspm.org

www.accwarchspm.org

Spiritual Advisor's Corner

Fr. Dan Haugan
ACCW Spiritual Advisor



I am a huge fan of TV documentaries, especially historical documentaries. One of my favorites is Ken Burns documentary of the American Civil War. One scene stands out to me. At the end of a bloody battle, someone found the following prayer folded in the pocket of a dead soldier at the Battle of Gettysburg:

“I asked God for strength, that I might achieve; I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.

I asked for health, that I might do greater things; I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.

I asked for riches, that I might be happy; I was given poverty, that I might be wise.

I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men; I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God..

I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life; I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.

I got nothing I asked for, but everything I had hoped for. Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered. I am, among men, most richly blessed.”

This young soldier's prayer reminded me so much of the Beatitudes from Christ's Sermon on the Mount found in Matthews Gospel 5:3-10.

People ask me “but isn't it too difficult? Aren't the Beatitudes too demanding or impossible? Is it not requiring ordinary people to be heroes? Though this was never taught as doctrine, it has become a general attitude. The Beatitudes, it was concluded, were not addressed to all the people, to all the “Mission Disciples”, because it consists of counsels and not commandments. This approach watered down the Sermon of the Mount from modern Catholic theology, and we need to bring it back more emphasis on the 10 commandments.

The Beatitudes and the Gifts of the Spirit

Saint Augustine kept the Beatitudes in the forefront of his preaching. He taught that we all want to be happy, to live life well, and that happiness governs the entire Sermon on the Mount, giving us Jesus' answer to the pursuit of happiness and a life lived well. Augustine joined the seven beatitudes with the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. He was the first to apply them to every Christian. “Receiving the seven gifts is not just for Jesus but for all Christians.” Augustine knew that he was being innovative here (“it seems to me that...”). The Christian cannot live the Beatitudes without being led by the Holy Spirit; we cannot be happy without the Holy Spirit. The patron Saint of our Archdiocese, Saint Paul, says that -“The Christian life is the life of the Spirit.”

A theory of a life well lived cannot be Christian if it doesn't ascribe the primary role to the Holy Spirit. Charity is not just a sentiment, but a reality. Rom 5:5 says that a divine love given to us changes us. This love is incarnated in our actions, thoughts, etc., when we live the life of faith. In a Christian reflection of life we must be open to this divine mystery. This makes it totally different from a purely human reflection on life. There's an internal change through the Holy Spirit, based on our relationship with Jesus.

God has decided that for all eternity his eternal Word, his divine Son will become human, and in his glorified humanity, we will have access to God. Just as the divinity of God was made visible in the human life of Jesus Christ, so the divinity of God is also accessible in the Body of Christ, in the Church, in her sacraments and sacramentals.

I have no idea if that young soldier was a Catholic or not, and I pray for his soul to this very day, but to be able to say, like that poor soldier found dead on field of Gettysburg, “I got nothing I asked for, but everything I had hoped for,” that's what a life well lived in Jesus Christ is all about.

God Bless and keep you – Fr. Dan Haugan

Laurie Otte 2nd Vice President

I am Laurie Otte, member of St. Mary's Church in New Trier, past deanery president, past ACCW secretary, past Foreign Mission Chair, past Lay Women Award chair and past On the Road chair. I am excited to be your 2nd Vice-President and can't wait to be of service to our new President Doreen, and all members of the ACCW.

Parliamentarian Report Lucy Johnson

WUCWO General Assembly – Assisi 2023

In May, I was privileged to attend the General Assembly for the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO) held in Assisi Italy. The theme for the Assembly was *Women of WUCWO, Artisans of Human Fraternity for World Peace*.

Every four years (or so depending on pandemics) Catholic women from around the world gather to pray, connect, and conduct business. While all women are invited to attend, only delegates from the organizations that belong to WUCWO may vote. There were 67 organizations present with over 800 women in attendance. Of these, 37 women were from the United States.

The Assembly was divided into two main parts: study days and statutory days. The theme of the study days was *Women in the Church*. Speakers presented various challenges and opportunities for women especially in a

The ACCW Convention last April at St. Peter's in Mendota had a wonderful group of First Timers pictured at right. First Timers are CCW members who have not attended an ACCW convention in the past.



synodal church. Panel discussions allowed for questions and answers.

My favorite part of the study days portion was dividing into smaller groups according to language either English, French, or Spanish. The groups were arranged with a mix of women from different countries. We were instructed to discuss the presentations that we had heard, sharing reflections and personal experiences.

The second part of the Assembly was the statutory days or what we would call business meetings. An agenda was adopted, Rules of Procedure established, minutes approved, and bylaws amended. There were reports, elections, and resolutions debated.

During the statutory days, we had regional meetings. The United States along with Canada form the North America Region. Connecting with our partners to the North is special. We discussed the proposed WUCWO resolutions and business that related to our region.

To view a slideshow and complete report, visit *Reports and Upcoming Events* (wucwona.org)

Executive Committee

President: Doreen Hogan, 507-514-7483
Immediate Past President: Mickey Nickelson
1st VP: Terri Pontious
2nd VP: Laurie Otte
Secretary: Cathy Healy
Treasurer: Lori Keys
Parliamentarian: Lucy Johnson
All Commission Chairs

Leadership

Organization Commission

Colleen Hogan, Chair

My name is Colleen Hogan and I am the Organization Chair. I am a member of St Mary's Church in Le Center and part of the SW Deanery. I am very excited for this opportunity and look forward to planning and creating fun, informational events.

Under the Organization Commission there are 3 main committees: Membership, Mentoring and On the Road Training.

Membership: Betty Berge works with Deanery Presidents and with trying to generate new members. They brainstorm and try to solve the problem of lack of membership and dying CCWs. Betty has a great passion for this, and we are excited to see the continued progress. Betty is planning on meeting with all the Deanery Presidents soon.

Mentoring: Barb Pierce is our newest member to the board, and we are so excited to have her. Her expertise and knowledge will be a great asset to us. Currently she is researching and brainstorming to continue to develop the Mentoring Program. Stay tuned for more information.

On the Road Training: Flo Schmidt has been busy updating the brochure and designing a new flyer. There should be flyer for you to grab and start advertising and promoting this within your deaneries and parishes. We are excited to see where our next training session will be. Please contact Flo for more information.

NCCW has three main Commissions: Spirituality, Leadership and Service. Organization falls under the Leadership Commission.

Leadership

Organization Commission

Chair: Colleen Hogan 507-304-5755

Membership: Betty Berge

Mentoring: Barb Pierce

Communications/Historian: Geri Mages

On the Road: Florence Schmidt

Promotional Items: Jo Hogan

Image Editor: Carol Shukle (Resource)

Legislation Commission

Chair/Government Issues: Pat Reinardy 507-263-3295

Religious Issues: Bernadine Henderson

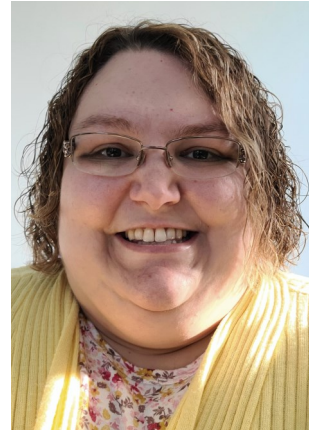
I came across a Facebook post from a favorite author, Jon Gordon, who writes books about leadership. It was called 3 Truths About Leadership.

3 Truths About Leadership:

Leadership isn't about gaining power. It's about empowering others.

Great leaders succeed because they bring out the greatness in others.

You don't have to be great to serve but you have to serve to be a great leader.



These three little phases made a huge impact on me. We all think of leaders as these important people with fancy job titles. However, it reminded me that anyone can be a leader. I encourage us all to reflect on these statements and remember this the next time a leadership opportunity comes.

On the Road Florence Schmidt

ACCW has a great program for CCW groups entitled "*On the Road*". It is a leadership training program for deaneries and parishes that offers many practical tips that will infuse new life into your organization or give you a framework to begin a CCW group.

Training includes:

Membership Roles

Officer Job Descriptions

Recruitment

Parliamentary Procedure

What is NCCW/ACCW

Team Building

And more!

A team of ACCW leaders come to your location for about a 3-hour training session....and each participant will leave with a folder filled with items to help them with their CCW work. The cost to your organization? Only \$75 which covers the cost of all materials.

Legislation Commission

Pat Reinardy, Chair

This is the year we need to speak out against ASSISTED SUICIDE. Contact your legislators to oppose HF 1930 and SF 1812. This bill is perhaps the most dangerous and aggressive legislation introduced in the US.



This legislation:

1. Endangers people who are disabled, the poor, the elderly and vulnerable adults.
2. Allows non-physicians to prescribe death-inducing drugs.
3. Does not require a mental health evaluation before a life-ending prescription is written.
4. Distorts the role of healthcare professionals as healers who seek to “do no harm” and undermines the trust between doctor and patient.
5. No doctor or nurse must be present when the patient ingests the lethal dose.

After all the pro-life defeats in the Minnesota legislature “40 Days for Life” tells us “ We have a disposition of victory, not because of strategy or growth, but because of Christ’s victory on the cross. Even at His weakest moment, He preformed one of His most outrageous miracles, saving the thief dying next to Him. Fulton Sheen summed it up best, “A dying man asked a dying man for eternal life, a man without possessions, asked a poor man for a kingdom: A thief at the door of death asked to die like a thief and steal Paradise.”

If Jesus can convert souls at His weakest moment, what will He do through you during the strongest moment in the history of the pro-life movement?

This article tells us we need to go and pray at abortion clinics, on our homes, churches and everywhere to change hearts and souls.

This is from an article in our local paper.

“ Just as the silence of the church in Germany opened the door to hell on earth, it seems that it is the silence of the church in America now that props the door open to many hellish things. We must remember that Inaction and Passivity will result in every area of our society being captured by evil. What have we to lose? Our country, our kids and God’s blessings.

-This information is from MCC and 40 Days for Life and Belinda K

Religious Issues Bernadine Henderson

So much focus is put on the Federal and State legislatures by our local and national news, that we can lose sight of what is happening locally. As these legislative sessions close for the summer, it is a good time to remind ourselves that we also need to focus on our local governments.

In our busy lives as we try to support our families and make ends meet, we often are not paying attention to what our school boards, city councils or county governments are doing. These are all funded by our tax dollars and have elected officials who make decisions directly impacting our family life. The most obvious impacts are taxes paid for municipal services (water, sewer, electricity, etc.).

However, since our 2022 election, some of the most burning topics are happening at the school board level. Based on personal review of recent school board meeting videos and media coverage, minutes, and school websites, various school districts in Minnesota are allowing sexually explicit books in the libraries, adopting policies that allow the school to conceal students changing gender identities from their parents, and passing resolutions for gender affirming curriculums and pedagogical practices. As summer comes to an end and the new school year begins, many parents sending their children to public schools may not be aware of what they are about to be exposed to in some districts.

Future generations to come will bear the ultimate impact, so none of us are immune to what is happening. Take a moment to research what is happening in the school districts that you live in or that your families live in. If you do not agree with the decisions being made, take action by talking about it at the dinner tables, family gatherings, book clubs, prayer groups, social outings, etc. Attend your school board meetings, talk to the school board members, run for office. Talk about it and be willing to debate it, using Christian values and faith to guide you. Most importantly, pray to our Lord and ask Him to watch over and guide our children and families



PROCLAMATION

Whereas,

This year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-three, marks the one hundred seventy-third anniversary of the establishment of this local church; and

Whereas,

The Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women has been a vital organization in the Catholic life of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis since March 25, 1933, when the Council was formed by Archbishop John Gregory Murray; and

Whereas,

The Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women continues to encourage affiliates to work closely with their respective parishes in meeting spiritual and human needs by creating a spirit of unity through prayer, enrichment and service in fulfilling the Mission of Christ; and

Whereas,

The Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis wishes to recognize the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women's immeasurable contributions to the progress and welfare of families, parishes, communities and the poor of the world, and the organization's invaluable assistance as we seek to implement the insights of our Archdiocesan Synod, therefore be it

Resolved,

That October 8, 2023, is hereby designated as Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women Recognition Sunday in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

*Most Reverend Bernard A. Hebda
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis*

Spirituality

Church Commission

Florence Schmidt and Jane Rosner, Co-Chairs

ACCW's new year has started with many things planned. Church Commission has several areas that will be focused on this year. Co-chairing this commission are Jane Rosner and Flo Schmidt.

Cindy Prior is vice chair for Religious Vocations, an important area as we continue the work of the church locally, in our country and around the world. She wants to acquaint the Deaneries with the need for vocations and provide information or programs deaneries can use in their meetings.

Lucy Johnson, vice chair, is working on the Naomi Ruth Prayer partnership (NRPP) to promote and encourage praying for each other. Contact Lucy if you want a prayer partner.

Maureen Stanoch is vice chair of Ecumenism/Evangelization/Adoration for ACCW. One of her aims



is to encourage ecumenical cooperation of ACCW members by keeping up with the latest Church policies and statement of the Pope, U.S. Bishop and NCCW.

The hope is also to work together with the Family Commission and their groups as we spread the work of the Church throughout the deaneries.

And finally, SAVE THE DATE. Saturday, Nov 4, 2023 is the Morning of Reflection to be held at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Mound. Details are being finalized for the event which will start at 8:15 a.m. with refreshments, speaker, vendors and Mass. This half day event will be a wonderful preparation for the coming Advent Season.



Speaking of Church and Family, Archbishop Hebda seemed to especially enjoy meeting the youngest attendee at the ACCW Convention last spring — little Mary Hicks of Our Lady of the Lake parish, then five months old.

Spirituality

Church Commission

Chair: Florence Schmidt 612-386-3969
Jane Rosner 651-261-2534

Liturgy/Scripture/ Retreats: Florence Schmidt

Religious Vocations: Cindy Prior

Naomi-Ruth Prayer Partners: Lucy Johnson

Ecumenism/Evangelization/Adoration: Maureen Stanoch

Family Commission

Chair: Debbie Keller 612-801-0510

Respect Life: Karen McCann

Family Life: Deb Smith

Marriage in Christ : Fran Willard

Grandparent Ministry: Colleen Dobie

Canva Family Institute: Cathy Carson

Religious Recognitions: Theresa Cermak (Resource)

Morning of Reflection

Saturday, November 4, 2023

Our Lady of the Lake Church

2385 Commerce Blvd

Mound, MN

Shop with our vendors

8:15 Gathering and Refreshments

9:15 President's Welcome

9:30 Bishop Izen

11:30 Mass with Bishop Izen

and Father Haugan

\$25.00 before 10-25 After 10-25 \$30.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Checks payable to ACCW

ACCW

777 Forest St

St. Paul, MN 55106



Guest speaker

BISHOP MICHAEL IZEN

Register online

www.archspm.org/accwmor2023

Ecumenism/Evangelization/ Adoration Maureen Stanoch

For 2023-2024 goals foremost for the Church Commission under Ecumenism, Evangelization and Adoration remain active promotion of the NCCW and ACCW Resolutions. This includes the Daily Rosary and Fatima First Saturday Devotions, and Consecration to the Sacred and Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, through Mary, in union with St Joseph.

At the July 20 Education Day for our ACCW Board Members, on the agenda was a “breakout time” for the Commissions. The Spirituality, “Church” and “Family” Board Members shared about their ministry and tasks at hand. While setting goals for the new year is essential, we were reminded that discernment is key and to listen in an ongoing way to where *the Lord* calls. We were invited to think in terms of Saint Peter being the law and Saint Paul the faith as we think, react and make decisions.

We were asked to think about those who have invited us to be active in our faith life and in the CCW. For me a coparishioner, Carol Rusinko, came to mind. She is a many-year ACCW, MCCW and Sacred Heart Parish CCW Member. Carol’s article on “Why I am a Catholic” was featured in the July 6, 2023, Catholic Spirit <https://thecatholicspirit.com/news/local-news/why-i-am-catholic/why-i-am-catholic-carol-rusinko> Another ACCW, MCCW and CCW Sister in Christ, Terri Pontious, was featured in the Catholic Spirit in the July 18 issue <https://thecatholicspirit.com/news/local-news/why-i-am-catholic/why-i-am-catholic-terri-pontious> and gave tremendous witness to the gift of our Catholic Faith. Both these women show the joy of service!

As people of Hope we must each “do our part.” The messages of Mary from Heaven in her apparitions throughout history give us help and consolation while alerting us to certain dangers. Mary is happy when we turn to guidance and help from St. Joseph. Saying the Daily Rosary and Consecrating to the Holy Family provides safety and brings peace to the family. See afc.org, Apostolate for Family Consecration to purchase materials. Leave a message for a call to be returned to place your order and obtain payment info at customer.service@afc.org **or call 740-567-7712**. Mention the Council of Catholic Women to inquire about Parish and Individual prices.

If you have consecrated to the Holy Family, you are encouraged to re-consecrate on the Holy Feast Days of August, the Assumption and the Coronation of Mary, to continue to bring great spiritual power into our culture and world. God Bless You as we start anew!

The believer has received faith from others and should hand it on to others...CCC 166

Religious Vocations Cindy Prior

Andrew Cozzens, Bishop of Crookston, MN, in a 2022 talk on the Eucharistic Revival at Mundelein University, shared many good points that I want to include in my IMAGE article this time.

Bishop Cozzens said Pope Francis said, “The world still does not know it, but everyone is *invited* to the ‘supper of the wedding of the Lamb’”. We must not stop to rest until everyone has received this invitation, as we are all so busy in our daily lives, this important opportunity may be overlooked.

As many know, this revival came about as a result of a 2019 PEW Research project that said about 70 percent of Catholics did not believe in the real presence in the Holy Eucharist. The COVID Crisis of 2020 did not help the situation with many Catholics not able to attend Mass, and many still not returning to Mass.

The three-year Revival will include the first-year focus on leaders—attempting to activate those who believe in the Eucharist and provide them with the tools to share this truth with others; second-year focus on those who come to church and don’t believe; and the third-year missionary year where the Good News of the Eucharist is spread beyond the walls of the churches. **HIGH POINT-Eucharistic Congress, July 17-21, 2024 in Indianapolis.**

Bishop Cozzens says the Revival is so needed in today’s world. The problems of our world today demand a spiritual response. Vatican II states that “The other sacraments, as well as with every ministry of the Church and every work of the apostolate, are tied together with the Eucharist and are directed toward it” (Presbyterorum Ordinis, 5). For the Church, the place she experiences her identity is in the Eucharist.

Resolution to Encourage Daily Rosary and First Saturday Devotions

The National Council of Catholic Women is continuing to promote and encourage members to adopt or continue the practice of daily Rosary and observing the First Saturday Devotions. A resolution to that effect was adopted by the voting membership at the NCCW Convention in Minneapolis Friday, Nov. 4, 2022 and Province Directors were asked to make an ongoing effort to share the information with parishes and dioceses.

The resolution also called on members to form cenacles of prayer before Masses, on First Saturdays, or at times of Eucharistic Adoration.

PROCLAMATION

Whereas,

The Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women was established by a pastoral letter and with the leadership of Archbishop John Gregory Murray in 1933 to help carry out his apostolic work in the local church; and

Whereas,

The successors of Archbishop John Gregory Murray have continued to provide sponsorship and leadership support to the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women; and

Whereas,

With open encouragement from Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda, clergy continue to support the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women and its gospel-valued programs of educating women in spiritual, leadership and service roles to their families, parishes, communities and poor of the world; and

Whereas,

To express deep appreciation for the spiritually enriching service provided by Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda and all supportive priests, deacons, nuns and brothers; therefore be it

Resolved,

That the Board of Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women hereby designates the month of October as the ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLERGY AND RELIGIOUS APPRECIATION MONTH; and

Resolved,

That the Board of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women encourages each affiliate organization to manifest its appreciation to clergy publicly.

Doreen Hogan

*Doreen Hogan, President
Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women*

Family Concerns Commission

Debbie Keller, Chair

I'm Debbie Keller and look forward to serving for the next two years as the Family Concerns Commission Chair! I've been married to my husband, John, for 42 years and we have five adult children and three sons or daughters in-law. We are grandparents to three precious granddaughters, with another on the way in December! I'm active in my parish's Council of Catholic Women at St. Pius X in White Bear Lake and have served on the ACCW board since 2008.

Marriage and Family Life Cathy Carson

As stated in Archbishop Bernard Hebda's Pastoral Letter, "For most Catholics, the parish is their primary encounter with the Church. Therefore, we need to have thriving parishes - the church is a family of families" (Synod, 5). This year, small group ministry is at the forefront of the Synod Implementation.

We know the immense need and challenge in marriage and family life and ministry today. In fact...in our country, according to the MARRI Study (Catholic University of America) **54%** of children do not even have married parents by the time they are 17.

What if your parish or Catholic school offered families an experience specifically designed to engage young families to fulfill the call to "Create a small group ministry that fosters personal relationships and builds community..." (Synod, 25)?

What if you received more support for ministry leaders for families who walked with you and your small groups in your parish?

The Cana Experience, is a formation journey and a network of trained leaders which serves parents of young children. The Cana Experience will allow you to engage young families bringing them to grow in their relationships with God, gain confidence in their role as Catholic spouses and parents, and build friendships with other families that last.

"Parents are primary educators of their children. A
(Continued on next page)

The Family Concerns Commission provides Catholic women with information, programming and education for many phases of family life. Here's a snapshot of our Commission's gifted Vice Chairs:



Respect Life Vice Chair, Karen McCann, will glean from her decades of being involved in the prolife movement. She's a longtime director of Birthright in St. Paul and was one of this year's Champions for Life award recipients. Drawing from her strong organizational and communication skills, Family Life Vice Chair Deb Smith, will share invaluable tips in areas of education, family finance and faith. As Director of Marriage in Christ, Vice Chair Fran Willard will cite how to bring the 5-week Marriage in Christ seminar to your parish small groups, to strengthen marriages and relationships between couples. Grandparent Ministry Vice Chair Colleen Dobie will highlight ways grandparents can actively share their Catholic faith with their grandchildren, from her years of involvement with the Grandparent ministry at Nativity of Our Lord in St. Paul. Vice Chair Cathy Carson, Partner Success Manager of Cana Family Institute, will work with your parish to form small groups for parents of young children. Young moms, dads or couples meet throughout the year with the goal of building strong, healthy, and holy families.

In light of the call to Small Group formation in Archbishop Hebda's recent Pastoral Letter (see archspm.org/synodletter) it is essential that we work toward that end within our Parishes and Councils, growing in our relationships with one another and seeking to deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ. Make it a goal this year to join a small group at your parish. Or better yet, start one. You've got amazing ACCW resources at your fingertips. Utilize them! Praying for you be richly blessed in all your endeavors!



2023 ACCW Convention Highlights



ACCW once again recognized four Lay Women Award winners, from left, Elaine Monitor, St. Genevieve, Centerville; Tracy Velishek, St. Patrick of Sheildsville; Marge Sehnert, St. Albert the Great; and Teena Badzinski, St. Timothy, Blaine.



The Theme for the ACCW 90th Convention at St. Peter, Mendota was “Walking Together, Sharing our Gifts”. Attendees enjoyed speakers like Lucy Johnson on Mentoring, top left, a lunch and learn break, left, and a convention favorite, the Silent Auction and Mystery Box drawing chaired for a number of years by Marcia Simon, lower right.

Marriage and Family Life

Continued from Previous Page

family that is rooted and united in Jesus and that has experienced this love so humbly expressed in the upper room will be a shining example of evangelization and mission” (Synod, 26)

Currently, Cana is serving seven Dioceses throughout the country, including St. Paul/Minneapolis. We all play a part in supporting families, first and foremost with our prayers. Together, with the grace of God and guidance of the Holy Spirit, we can transform the culture by forming strong Catholic marriages and families. Learn more at www.canafamilyinstitute.com or email me at cathy@canafamilyinstitute.com I’m grateful and blessed to be on this journey with you. Come Holy Spirit!



Service

Community Concerns

Theresa Cermak, Chair

My name is Theresa Cermak and I am the new Community Chair. While I have held many, many positions on the ACCW Board I have never been a Commission Chair. I am still finding my way around this one, I have met my Co-Chairs. Sheila Casper is heading up Our Lady of Peace Home. Maggie Stensaas will be working on Environmental Concerns and Jean Cemrnsky-Mohr will be heading up Domestic Violence /Mental Health.. Jean and I talked about concentrating on Human trafficking this year.



Our Lady of Peace Home



A favorite annual fundraising event for the Our Lady of Peace Home and hospice center is the spring luncheon, attended this year by a sizeable contingent of ACCW members.

Province Report

Carol Shukle, Province Director

By the time this issue of the Image is in your mailbox, I will have been installed as your new Province Director for St. Paul and Minneapolis at the NCCW Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The NCCW Board of Directors is made up of the executive officers of the organization and the 30-plus Province Directors. Our Province includes Minnesota and North and South Dakota and our Province group consists of the active affiliate Dioceses. Thanks to Chris Heiderscheidt of the New Ulm Diocese who just completed a two-year term as Province Director.

Every 10 years it is our ACCW's turn to elect the next Province Director from available past presidents. I was



ACCW president from 2007 to 2009. Before and after that I have been active in CCW in my parish, deanery and on the ACCW Board, including two terms each as president of the Our Lady of the Lake CCW in Mound, MN, and of the West Deanery.

After I retired last fall I was approached about being a candidate for Province Director. That led to serious conversations with several other very qualified past ACCW presidents about which of us was actually being called by the Holy Spirit to this position. The Lord works in mysterious ways. Lucy Johnson from our ACCW is now the NCCW parliamentarian and Debbie Keller is the NCCW Spiritual Commission chair. What a joy it will be to serve alongside them the next two years on the Province and National Boards!

Service

Community Concerns Commission

Chair: Theresa Cermak 763-786-7051

Our Lady of Peace Home: Sheila Casper

Environmental Concerns: Maggie Stensaas

Domestic Violence/Mental Health: Jean Cemrnsky-Mohr

International Concerns Commission

Chair: Denise Haaland 507-334-2781

Madonna Fund/Foreign Missions: Kathy Zweber

Ethnic Understanding: Marilyn Neuville

Domestic Missions: Kathy Halverson

Appalachia: Olive Hupf (Resource)

International Concerns

Denise Haaland, Chair

As we start another session of our Council work that we are committed to, I am proud to be on again for the International Commission. Coming from a small town in the south part of the Archdiocese, it is great to work with women from all over the ten counties we cover. My vice chairs will be ones you will hear from more for this issue of the Image, but I will do more in the ones to come.



The photo below shows part of the Archdiocesan delegation that recently visited the dormitory in Kitui Kenya that was built with significant help from the women of the ACCW. Note the black water tank at left. At lower right, Bishop Joseph Mwangela of Kitui, was a recent visitor to St. Paul. Among those who met with him were ACCW members from left, Mickey Nickelson, Lucy Johnson and Debbie Keller.



Ethnic Understanding Marilyn Neuville

From June 5 -17, 2023, I was able to travel to Kitui Kenya with the Archdiocese's Center for Mission's 14-member delegation team. We have had a "Relationship/Solidarity Partnership" with the Kitui diocese since 2004.

One highlight of the trip was visiting the girls dormitory. Building the dormitory has been a "partnership project" with our ACCW and the Kitui CWA (Catholic Women Association) since 2015 when we learned the CWA members were trying to raise funds to build safe housing for their rural youth to pursue higher education. As an ACCW we have raised over \$50,000 to help fund this endeavor.

We met Peninah John, current President of the CWA Minnah Paul, and the "Housemother" at the dormitory. The 5-story dormitory has 42 rooms. Each room has a small kitchenette, bathroom with flush toilet, and room for a double bed and small desk. Students bring their own furnishings. The cost is \$35 each month.

As of now, three fourths of the rooms are full. More men than women applied so the dormitory houses men as well. The students will be returning to school in September, although ten students chose to remain on campus during their term break.

The discovery of water...in the center of the campus grounds ...was a huge surprise and blessing! It is "good water!" Not only is it used for the dormitory, but it is sold to the community, thus helping fund expenses for the dormitory. Speaking with Peninah, we agreed that WATER is a great concern for Kitui.

Next summer we will celebrate the 20th year of our partnership and plans are already being made to welcome the Kitui Delegation.



Madonna Plan/Foreign Missions Kathy Zweber

My name is Kathy Zweber and I am excited to be appointed the Vice Chair for the ACCW Madonna Program which is part of the ACCW International Commission.

My interest and in International Commission, which includes programs that support and serve women in Third World Countries, started many years ago when I was invited to work in Nigeria with a Natural Family Planning Team and later in Southeast Asia at the Refugee Camps working with women and families awaiting immigration to the United States.

Those experiences taught me so much and moved me to learn more about Catholic Relief Services. I have now come full circle as our NCCW collaborates and coordinates in serving the women of our entire World.

The ACCW Madonna Fund was established to help ease the burdens of struggles of the women in Third World Countries and support Mother-Child projects managed by Catholic Relief Services. In 2023 your donations totaled \$16,429.30.

My Goal for 2023-24 is to continue to share with the CCW Women of our Archdiocese, Deaneries and Parish Councils the importance of these programs and share the impact of how the funds that are donated are being used. I plan to:

Attend your Deanery Meetings and/or Parish Council meetings to speak on the Madonna Fund and offer ways to raise funds for this important program.

Continue to pray for the women in many countries that continue to have limited access to **Water, Nutrition and HealthCare**, that they feel the thousands of prayers being offered by their Council of Catholic Women Sisters and that they never feel alone or abandoned because we are all reaching out to our loving God to continue to find solutions to their struggles.

Encourage fundraising activities at all Council levels for "The Madonna Fund".

The ACCW link to the Madonna Fund can be found at <https://accwarchspm.org/resources>

The Madonna Brochure can be found under Resources at on the ACCW website or by contacting the ACCW Office at 651-291-4545.

I look forward to seeing and thanking the many women who continue to support The Madonna Fund when I attend your Deanery and Parish Council Meetings.

2022-2023 ACCW ACCW Madonna Fund

INCOME

\$16,429.30

Disbursements Required by the Bylaws:

(CRS) Madonna Clinics 75%	\$12,321.98
(CRS)Water for Life	1,500.00
(CRS)Help A Child	500.00
(CRS)Refugee Women Fund	500.00
Venezuela Mission**	500.00

Total **\$15,321.98**

Optional Disbursements

1,107.32

Pregnancy Resources, Apple Valley	553.66
Abria, St. Paul	553.66

**Venezuela Mission - It has been recommended Saint Vincent DePaul or the Legion of Mary. Research shows St. Vincent as an organization that meets our mission.

Domestic Missions Kathy Halverson

As I begin the Domestic Mission Vice Chair position, I do have some experience with services that support the sick, it was a blessing for family members who needed physical and moral support it meant the world when it was so needed, it gave me a passion for those in need. This meant so much to me and now being able to support our missions is a blessing of sharing and praying for them.

My plan for Domestic Missions is to continually provide information to our deaneries and attend your meeting if requested. Our goal is to support these missions with prayers and concern and provide understanding of these services that are offered to our women in councils, parishes and deaneries.

List of Domestic Missions:

- Sharing and Caring Hands
- Dorothy Day
- Birthright
- Our Lady of Peace
- St. Joseph's Coat
- Women's Life Care Center
- Local Food Shelves

In future issues I hope to update email addresses, phone numbers and addresses that you can share with your deanery/parish. Let me hear from you how your group has helped a special project, do you have a story you wish to share and most of all, please send your local mission information .



APPALACHIA CHRISTMAS MISSION

The St. Paul and Minneapolis Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women is again sponsoring our Appalachia Christmas and Papal Footprints (Shoe Box) Missions. Since this mission started in 2013, over 10,000 shoeboxes have been sent. People in many age groups have benefited from your generosity and we receive letters every year full of grateful thanksgiving.

On the reverse side, there is a list of items to include in your shoe boxes, or use your own ideas. Farther down on this sheet, there is a more personalized suggestion for parish donations. Appalachia parish contacts and addresses are listed below.

The Terminal Transport Company of Roseville has donated the semi and driver to deliver all donations to Kentucky for the past 50 years, and they will continue to do so as long as there is a need. Without their semi and driver, the Appalachia Christmas Mission would not exist. A thank you note goes a long way, and their address is:

**TERMINAL TRANSPORT INC., c/o LISA KLATT, 2982 CLEVELAND AVE.
ROSEVILLE, MN 55113**

While shoe boxes are a great way to serve the people of the Appalachia Christmas Mission, you can personalize your donations by calling one of the contacts listed below and asking for specific parish needs. When you pass on those needs to your friends, family, and fellow parishioners, these Kentucky parishes have the chance to receive much more than shoe boxes. Make sure to box and label the requested items so they arrive at the correct parish. See boxing and labeling information, as well as the drop off address and dates on the reverse side. **Do not send money in the boxes. Make checks out to the parishes listed below and mail them directly.**

**Catholic Church of
the Good Shepherd**

PO Box 742
Campton, KY 41301

Ms. K. Thorstad

606-668-3731

**Holy Family
Catholic Church**

1439 KY 11S
Booneville, KY
41314

Sr. M. Eilerman

606-593-6948

**Queen of All Saints
Church and Mission**

90 Railroad St. PO
Box 563 Beattyville,
KY 41311

Fr. Mark Ouma,
Pastor

606-464-8695

**St. Francis of Assisi
Church**

147 Bryan St.
Pikeville, KY
41501-1404

Fr. Rob Adams,
Pastor

606-437-6117

Here are some gift suggestions for shoe boxes, but these items can also be sent separately in one big box. **NEW ITEMS ONLY, PLEASE.** We again thank you for your donations and please keep all of the families in your prayers.

Dolls, balls, stuffed animals, small musical instruments, slinky, play-doh, crayons, colored pencils, coloring books, school supplies, notebooks, paints, barrettes, hair ties, headbands, shoes, socks, underwear, bag or purse, bracelets, some sunglasses, lip balm, mirror, watch, flip-flops, sweatshirt, sweat pants, nightgown or pajamas, puzzles, books, flashlight, deodorant, hat, scarf, mittens, sewing kit, picture frame, playing cards, small blanket, blocks, stickers, kitchen items for cooking

and baking, stickers, tennis balls, comb, brush, toothbrush, a washcloth, small cars and trucks, interactive toys (please include extra batteries), hacky sack, nail clipper, small tools, games, cosmetics, wallets, jewelry, slippers, batteries

Try to include:

- a wow item
- a personal care item
- a useful item
- a fun item

then add a personalized note and a religious item if you'd like.

OTHER NEEDS THAT MAY NOT FIT IN A SHOE BOX

Towels, laundry soap, large t-shirts and sweatshirts, blankets and bedding, hunting clothes, coats and shoes for kids, wrapping paper, craft kits, ornaments, all toiletries (please put lotion and shampoo in a ziploc bag to prevent spills.)

PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE

Canned goods or food items, no used or damaged items; no scary or war-related items such as toy guns or knives.

- Please label each shoe box with the appropriate age group and whether it's for a male or female.
- All shoe boxes must be packed into a larger box that is taped shut and labeled with the name and city of the receiving parish (see other side for parishes). Please use sturdy boxes.
- If you are sending gifts other than shoe boxes, please pack them in bigger, sealed boxes labeled with the name and city of the receiving parish (see other side for parishes).
- Please make sure boxes are packed to capacity and ready to put on the truck when you arrive at the drop off address below.
- The semi should arrive in Kentucky on Monday, November 6, 2023.

Delivery dates are Saturday, October 21 through Thursday, November 2, 2023.

DELIVER DONATIONS TO 4386 260TH STREET EAST, RANDOLPH

From US Hwy. 52 to Hampton/47 exit. Turn right on 47 through Hampton, continue for 3 miles to 260th St. and turn left. Turn at the fourth driveway on the right hand side, look for APPALACHIA SIGN.

If coming from Farmington, take MN 50 to Hampton, turn right at stop onto Northfield Blvd. to 260th St. and turn left. Turn at the fourth driveway on the right hand side, look for APPALACHIA SIGN.

**God Bless you and your families,
Olive Hupf, Appalachia Resource Person
4386 260th St. E. Randolph, MN 55065
507-581-2808 olivehupf@gmail.com**

Saint Paul & Minneapolis
Archdiocesan Council of
CATHOLIC WOMEN **2023** 
APPALACHIA CHRISTMAS MISSION
651-291-4545 www.accwarchspm.org

Around the Deaneries

Minneapolis Deaneries **Teresa Droessler, President**

More than 30 women from the Minneapolis Deaneries attended the ACCW Convention in April, and were inspired by the speakers, other women, and Mass. We were delighted that Minneapolis members Marge Sehnert (St. Albert the Great) and Teena Badzinski (St. Timothy) were honored with Lay Volunteer Woman Awards.

For everything there is a season, and a time for every activity under heaven. (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Summer is a time to gear up for fall programming. The By-laws committee met to propose updates to our by-laws and standing rules, the Budget committee met to propose the new budget, the MCCW directory was updated, and the first Board meeting for 2023-24 was held. There was also a bit of fun! We had our annual summer picnic in July at North Mississippi Regional Park. About 22 women (and our spiritual advisor) attended. We had a lunch with salads, hot dogs and cookies, and played a get-to-know-you game and Bingo (with prizes!).

Our first Deanery meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 28 at Immaculate Conception Church in Columbia Heights. Registration will begin at 4:15 pm, followed by Rosary,

Southwest Deanery **Andrea Jewison, President**

We are very blessed to have Father Andrew Stueve, newly assigned pastor of Holy Trinity in Waterville and St. Andrew in Elysian, serve our deanery as Spiritual Director. And we are so very grateful for the many years Father Michael Ince served the deanery and wish him well in his retirement.

The Southwest Deanery held our annual Presidents' Supper in July, hosted by the CCW of Our Lady of the Prairie in Belle Plaine. As always, it was an enjoyable evening, celebrating the parish officers and sharing information about upcoming events.

Our Fall Institute will be on Sept 19, hosted by St. Patrick in Shieldsville and our annual Mission Event will be in October, hosted by St. John the Baptist in Jordan.

My husband, John, and I are parishioners at Holy Trinity in Waterville. I currently serve as Parish Trustee, Eucharistic Minister, Usher and CCW Treasurer. We are blessed with five children, four daughters-in-law, eleven grandchildren, expecting the twelfth in February, and one great-grandson.

5:00 Mass, dinner, meeting and speaker, and ending by 8:30 pm. The Legislation and Family Concerns Commissions are planning the evening. We will have a Minnesota Catholic Conference speaker on end-of-life decisions and Minnesota assisted suicide legislation.

Our second Deanery meeting will be on Monday, Nov. 13 at 9 am at St. Albert the Great Church in South Minneapolis. The International and Community Concerns Commissions are planning this event

St. Paul Deaneries **Annemarie Chlebeck, President**

As much as I prefer summer's heat to the deep snow and bitter cold of winter, this has felt like a very long and very hot summer. Our April Deanery meeting feels like a long time ago. St. Peter's in North St. Paul hosted the meeting the evening of April 21 with Mass, dinner and a presentation by Risen Savior Missions. The collection of flipflops and summer clothing for the Philippines was very successful. A week later we gathered at St. Peter's in Mendota on Friday, April 28 for our ACCW convention. A highlight was the talk by Fr. Tim Tran on the Eucharistic Revival. Many of us really enjoyed the small group table discussions and opportunities for sharing. On June 14 a group of us gathered at Feed My Starving Children in Eagan and filled 14 boxes. My personal thought is that we should do this on a regular basis!

Our first fall gathering is the Sept. 21 Deanery Meeting at Transfiguration Church in Oakdale. It will be a daytime event but will be slightly different than in the past. We will join in the parish daily Mass at 8:30 am, followed by registration and a very light breakfast. We will have a silent auction as a fundraiser. There will be a business meeting and sharing from people who attended the National Council of Catholic Women Convention in August in Salt Lake City. I am excited to be going to the Convention myself and will be connecting with a friend from high school years (a past president of her diocesan CCW) and visiting a couple others in my long-ago hometown of Provo, Utah. The speaker for our September meeting is still TBD but we are hoping for someone from the Archdiocese to talk to us about the synod and its implementation in our parishes. Lunch will follow the speaker.

Our Nov. 16 Deanery meeting will be at Our Lady of Guadalupe and our Feb. 15 meeting is at Holy Childhood. The April Deanery meeting will be on April 11 (note earlier date) because the ACCW convention is on April 19 at Mary Mother of the Church in Burnsville. Please do talk to women every chance you get to encourage more women to become involved in CCW, and to come to Deanery meetings and your own parish events!

777 FOREST ST. N.
SAINT PAUL, MN 55106
Phone: 651-291-4545
Email: ACCW@archspm.org
Web: www.accwarchspm.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Please advise the ACCW Office
if there is an error in your address
or if you are receiving duplicate copies.
Thank You.*

Northwest Deanery **Betty Thomes, President**

Even though summer brings a bit of a slow-down for meetings and activities, it seems CCW organizations are quite busy in our deanery.

This deanery is filled with talented people that share their talents with quilts, holiday crafts, and prayer shawls. You will find throughout the year many opportunities to support events tied to these crafts.

CCWs across the deanery ended the year strong with many projects and support given to local parishes and organizations. Some donations went to young women for college scholarships, senior breakfast, and vocations support.

The local radio station, KRWC 1360AM, hosts a weekly Rosary on Sunday at 11am. Some organizations support this mission. Listen in if you can.

Although we may take a summer breather, we are still working and on call to lend a hand in our parishes. Fall Festivals are around the corner, and we will be busy supporting our parishes. You will be seeing information about Quilt BINGO, Holiday Craft Events, Luncheons,

and much more. Watch for details from this deanery.

We continue to plant seeds and encourage women to join our organizations. Our work is never done and we are proud of our efforts to be a part of our parish life.

West Deanery

The West Deanery has chosen to join the Southeast Deanery in going inactive at this time. With only three affiliate parishes and no new officers it has not been practical to attempt to host events. The deanery's funds have been placed with the ACCW for safe-keeping and possible future reorganization.

Our Lady of the Lake CCW in the West Deanery will host the ACCW Morning of Reflection on Saturday, Nov. 4. The Deanery was also the site of the Archdiocesan Rural Life Sunday this past June. The spiritual and parish life of the deanery continues to be very active.

