

The HINGE

Duluth Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

OCTOBER 2021

Connie Andrews, Editor



DDCCW - Our First 100 Years!



Finally, our history book is published and available. Those attending the Fall Conference will be the first to receive a copy.

Thank you to all those who submitted an article or a picture for this book. Have fun reading it! Alice Parendo and Leona Barten

Appalachia Christmas Project:



This summer we received the newsletter from our friend, Fr. Hoppenjans, "The Mountain Crier".

Father informed us that he was retiring as of July 1st. His Bishop suggested he retire – "At ninety, it is time." After 60 years in ministry, he is stepping down to start a new ministry, "St. Joseph Mission Workers". He will be moving to Lexington, KY to a retirement complex. Sister Nancy is moving back to New York to her community and will be living in a convent in Brooklyn after almost 50 years of ministry in many different ways to help the needy of the mountains. "Over the past 61 years, we served people in 13 counties." The Mountain Crier was interesting as Fr. Hoppenjans told us his entire history. We hope most of you got a copy!

Fr. Michael Flanagan is the new pastor at St. Michael's. Cathy Olson had a nice conversation with Father. He is excited about the Christmas gift project. We hope to support him as we did Fr. Hoppenjans. The DDCCW has been involved in the project for 30 years. It has been very successful and we all have felt good about this charity.

We hope you still want to contribute, because, the Christmas Project for the families of the Appalachian Mountains will continue! Like we did last year, we will be sending monetary donations to St. Michael's Parish and they will be doing the shopping for Christmas gifts for the families in need. All monetary donations will be sent through our DDCCW treasurer and she will send one check from the Duluth Diocese to St. Michael's. **Make your check payable to DDCCW and indicate it's for Appalachia Christmas Project. Collect the donations locally and send to: Ann Johnston, P.O. Box 115, Pengilly, MN 55775.**

If would you like to write to Fr. Hoppenjans, his new address is: Fr. Terence Hoppenjans, 2724 Green Valley Ct., Lexington, KY 40511

Peace and Care,

Cathy Olson and Pat Walsh
International Commission Co-Chairs



Brainerd Deanery Report – Pat Walsh, BDCCW President

We are busy getting ready for our Fall Conference. It will be held at St. Andrew's Church in Brainerd. Our speaker will be Fr. Tony Wroblewski. Father has completed his Certification in Biomedical Ethics. The discussions will cover end of life issues and principles that all Catholics must be aware of to be faithful, even in the most difficult of circumstances. We will be able to record Father's talk for the women who are unable to attend the conference.

Editor's Update

Fr. Tony came down with Covid and was unable to attend this conference, but Deacon Jim Kirzeder stepped in to fill his place and did an excellent job. He talked on Good Angels in the morning and Bad Angels in the afternoon. Thank you to the St. Andrew's Parish CCW for a wonderful day and to Deacon Jim for subbing in an emergency! Go to St. Andrew and St. Mathias webpage to find the recordings.

P.S. We DO want to hear Fr. Tony speak on Biomedical Ethics at a later date, and wish him a full, quick recovery.

Hibbing Deanery Report – Connie Andrews

The Hibbing Deanery held their convention themed "Living Abundantly," on October 9, 2021 at St. Joseph's in Grand Rapids. Lisa Knapp was our speaker and she spoke about how we are called to be in an intimate relationship with the Lord.

She noted that she didn't know how great the gift of her faith was because she hadn't fully unwrapped that gift! We can have a personal relationship with God. "I knew *about* Him, but I didn't know HIM!"

Attendees were asked to write their 'go-to' bible verse. Lisa collected them and then read them to us. Here is a sample of the responses:

"I will be with you always, even unto the end of the world."

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall now want"

"While Jesus was speaking, a woman from the crowd called out and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that carried you and the breasts at which you nursed. He replied, 'Rather, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.'"

"A man plans his path but God directs."

"In the beginning there was the word, the word was with God and the word was God."

"If today you hear his voice; harden not your hearts."

"Come, walk with me, pray with me."

"Today you will be with me in Paradise."

"This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad!"

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

"Present your bodies as a living sacrifice – holy and acceptable to God."

"In the Lord, I take refuge."

"I lift up my eyes to the hills from whence cometh my help. "

"My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth."

"The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore."

Lisa encouraged us all to read the encyclicals. They are not just for clergy, but they are for all of us.

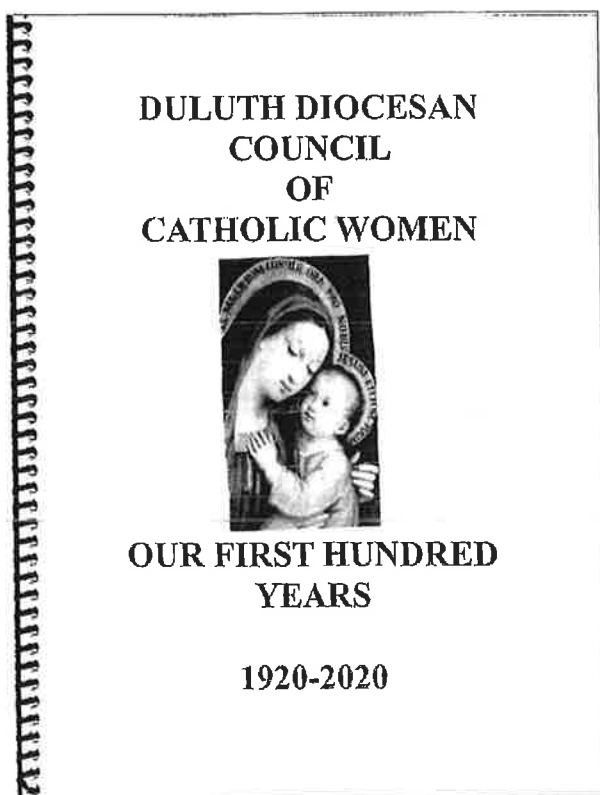
Thank you to the St. Joseph's parish CCW for a lovely day and to Lisa for sharing her gift with us.

Connie

DULUTH DIOCESAN CCW FALL CONFERENCE

Women from all over the Diocese of Duluth gathered in Hibbing on October 16 for their annual DDCCW Fall Conference. Thank you to the women of Blessed Sacrament Church in Hibbing for their wonderful hospitality and Fr. Daniel Weiske for saying Holy Mass for us.

Reports on the NCCW 2020 One Convention covered the WUOCWO Regional Convention, the Associates Meeting, the Friends of NCCW for WUOCWO, Business meeting and Resolutions reports and, of course the Birthday Party!



As Duluth Diocese is a Charter member of NCCW, members have been working on a centennial book of their own for the past several years. MAJOR thanks and gratefulness go out to Alice Parendo and Leona Barten who have been the point people for contacting parishes about their history, gathering information from the Diocesan Archives, compiling the stories, editing and copying and meeting since 2018! Finally, their work is complete and the book is printed. Everyone at the Fall conference got one.

Members of the DDCCW Board did a decade presentation. Each of them took a decade and revealed what was going on in the world and the Diocese during that time period. Some dressed in period costume!



Too Much Fun!

Following the call of the 2018 pastoral letter of the United States Catholic Bishops, *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love – A Pastoral Letter Against Racism*, NCCW members approved a resolution at the 2020 One Convention in Arlington to heal our country and communities from the negative effects of racism, prejudices, and all types of discrimination. Here is the adopted resolution:

Healing Racism

Purpose:

At the 2022 NCCW annual convention, each Province will be able to name at least one action their councils have taken to begin reducing racism in their personal lives, in their councils and/or in their communities.

Whereas, Racism is a sinful, learned, negative behavior of prejudice, discrimination or antagonism against others of a particular race or ethnicity (<https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/racism>),

Whereas, Racism disrespects human life and dignity and brings injustice and illness to our national and individual souls,
and

Whereas, Racism can cause great emotional, mental, and spiritual harm to both the person expressing this belief and those experiencing the effects of this belief.

Resolved, that all NCCW members will pray and promote the NCCW Prayer to Love: Healing Racism (www.nccw.org, Explore NCCW, Prayer) to assist in eradicating racism and empowering council members, through the grace of the Holy Spirit, to become missionary disciples.

Resolved, That NCCW members educate ourselves and others by studying *Open Wide Our Hearts, The Enduring Call to Love*, a Pastoral Letter found on our website (www.nccw.org , NCCW News). The Letter, an accompanying study guide and other resources from the US Council of Catholic Bishops can also be found at https://www.usccb.org/resources/study-guidopen-hearts-2019-09_0.pdf

And

Resolved, That we encourage all members to invite women of all races and ethnicities to join, become involved in our councils and to share equally in the benefits and responsibilities for the direction and development of our councils and our communities.



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
CATHOLIC WOMEN

Prayer to Love: Healing Racism

“Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness.” Genesis 1: 26

Our Father, thank You for giving us life created in Your image and likeness. We are family - each and all of us Your children – brothers and sisters in You.

Please forgive us for the times we have failed to respect or mistreated others because they did not look, think, talk or act like ourselves – thereby condemning ourselves to be less than the persons You created us to be.

Dissolve the feelings of fear that bind us and forgive us for the times we remained silent or failed to act when we witnessed injustice and hatred imposed on others.

Dear Lord, grant us conviction and conversion of heart that we may acknowledge our sinfulness, experience true regret, repentance and work not only for justice, but also for right relationship – love for one another that You expect us to share.

Give us the grace to eradicate racism from our own hearts, communities and country by welcoming, including, integrating and lifting up everyone as Your children especially our most

vulnerable and those suffering in any way.

Make us missionary disciples who rebuild relationships, heal communities, reshape policies,

institutions and laws to end poverty, unemployment, inadequate healthcare and educational

opportunities which diminish others and their quality of life.

Holy Spirit, help us to transform this world to Your image and likeness as it will be in Your world

to come – all of us are one. Amen.

“After this I had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people

and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb...” Revelations 7: 9

www.nccw.org

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
CATHOLIC  WOMEN



NCCW PRESIDENT
PAT VOORHES
2021-2023



NCCW PRESIDENT ELECT
BETH MAHONEY
2021-2023

—NCCW  YEARS—

A *Vision* for the *Future*

2020th CONVENTION

WASHINGTON D.C.

August 25-28, 2021



Attendees from the St. Cloud Diocese



2021 Province of St. Paul/Minneapolis Province Dinner attendees



Attendees from the New Ulm Diocese



Attendees from the Duluth Diocese



Attendees from the Winona-Rochester Diocese

Attendees from the Arch Diocese of St. Paul.



Cell phone vs. Bible

Ever wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone?

What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?

What if we flipped through it several time a day?

What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?

What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

What if we gave it to kids as gifts?

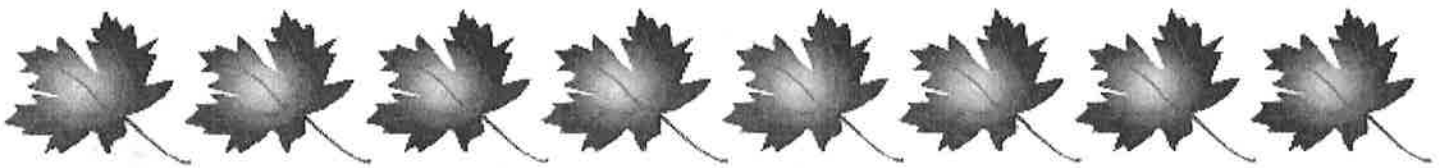
What if we used it when we traveled?

What if we used it in case of emergency?

This is something to make you go....hmm...where is my Bible?

Oh, and one more thing, unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill. And no dropped calls! Makes you stop and think 'where are my priorities?'

Have a blessed and wonderful day!



CALLING ALL HOLY CARDS!

Do you remember when we collected prayer cards (holy cards) and kept them in our mass missals? I do. I remember keeping so many I could hardly close my missal, but I still kept them!

Do you have 'extra' holy cards that you are willing to give up? We have someone who wants to add to her collection. If you have cards you wish to donate, please send them to Kathleen Hughes, 4563 Legend Lane, Ft Ripley 56449

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE!

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

SAVE THE DATES: March 14-24, 2023

To join the NCCW Pilgrimage to Italy

**Including Rome, Assisi, Siena, Florence, Orvieto, Genazzano
Accompanied by NCCW Spiritual Advisor Fr. Miguel Gonzalez**

Full details will be available in Spring 2022

Please contact: Kathleen Penno at krpkath@hotmail.com or (586)772-1976 or

Karen Hurley at k.m.hurley1@gmail.com or (717)919-4818



Save the Date

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN
102nd ANNUAL CONVENTION

JOIN US *in the* **TWIN CITIES!**

Marriott Minneapolis City Center
in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis
MINNESOTA

November 2-5, 2022

MEMBERSHIP & SUPPORT SUNDAY

Your membership and donations to CCW allow us to continue to serve each other and to serve God. We are Catholic Women who share in the gifts of the Holy Spirit through Baptism and Confirmation and we will continue to strive together to be true missionaries, faithful witnesses helping to renew all things. Below is a letter of support from our honored Bishop Daniel Felton. Forms you will need are on the following pages.



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP • Diocese of Duluth

2830 East Fourth Street • Duluth, Minnesota 55812-1501 • Tel: (218) 724-9111 • Fax: (218) 721-2221

September 2021

Dear Priests, Deacons and Parish members of the Diocese of Duluth,

The Duluth Diocesan Council of Catholic Women has scheduled their annual Membership and Support month to be in September and October 2021. This annual collection taken up in September or October and is used to finance the works of the Council of Catholic Women on all the Parish, Deanery, Diocesan, Provincial and National levels.

The National Council of Catholic Women was started by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops one hundred and one years ago. The mission statement for the Council of Catholic Women reads as follows:

“The National Council of Catholic Women acts through its affiliated organizations to support, empower and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. CCW programs responds with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world.”

The Duluth Diocesan Council of Catholic Women work hard to provide educational, leadership and spiritual workshops for the women in our Diocese. They contribute to and support the Appalachian Christmas Project, the Appalachian school socks and underwear project, Water for Life, Project Africa, Refugee Women Emergency Fund, Catholic Relief Services, Cross Catholic Outreach and many other local and international projects. They support local organizations such as homeless shelters, food shelves, domestic violence, the seafarers group in Duluth, and many other organizations too numerous to list. They also support through evangelization and encourage women to help in any way they are able to do so in their parish up to and including the national level of NCCW.

Please promote the affiliation of your parish women’s council with the National Council of Catholic Women. The Duluth Diocesan Council of Catholic Women would be happy to work with your parish’s women to help establish a council within your own parish if one is not already present. The current DDCCW president is Alice Parendo. Her address is: 5809 Rose Road, Hermantown MN 55811. Contact her with your questions about the Council of Catholic Women.

Your help is needed to support the membership and encourage the work of the Council; an organization that for one hundred and one years has carried out the apostolic mission of Christ. I ask everyone to be generous when the collection is taken.

Blessings upon you and those you serve,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Felton'.

Most Reverend Daniel Felton
Bishop of Duluth

Send this form with your support Sunday collection as noted in this form.

**COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC
MEMBERSHIP & SUPPORT SUNDAY
FOR PARISH USE DUE BY DECEMBER 1**

Membership term - January -December

Please use this form when sending membership & support dollars to the Diocesan CCW Treasurer.

DATE SENT			
PARISH NAME		DEANERY NAME	
CHURCH ADDRESS			
TOTAL COLLECTED FOR MEMBERSHIP & SUPPORT SUNDAY			\$
MINUS PARISH AFFILIATE DUES TO NCCW *SEE BELOW FOR DETAILS			- \$100.00
SUB TOTAL			\$
DIVIDE SUB TOTAL IN 1/2 AND SEND THAT AMOUNT BY DECEMBER 1 TO:			\$
DDCCW TREASURER ANN JOHNSTON PO BOX 115 PENGILLY, MN 55775			
PARISH KEEPS 1/2 OF SUB TOTAL			\$
PARISH AFFILIATE DUES:			
SEND \$100.00 <i>WITH AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION form</i> TO:			
NCCW 10335-A DEMOCRACY LANE UNIT 201 FAIRFAX, VA 22030			
Thank you very much for your support! If you have questions, call Ann at 218-966-3052			



Send this form with your Parish membership dues (\$100) to NCCW – address below.

NCCW AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP Registration/ Renewal

Member Organization Name _____

Total number of members: _____

Diocese: _____

AMOUNT DUE (please circle one):

High School/ College: 50.00

Parish: \$100.00

Deanery: \$100.00

Subdivision: \$100.00

National Group: \$200.00

Diocese: \$275.00

President (High School/ College Advisor)

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address (where the Connect will be sent)

IMPORTANT: The individual listed on this form will receive ALL NCCW correspondence (e-Connect newsletter, Catholic Woman magazine, election information, and all other notifications).

Please send payment and completed form to:

National Council of Catholic Women

10335-A Democracy Lane, Unit 201

Fairfax, VA 22030

How will you be paying (circle one)? Check (Number) _____ or Credit Card: Visa / MasterCard / Discover

Credit Card Number _____

Exp Date _____ Code _____

Billing Address (if different from above)

City/State/ Zip

Cardholder's Signature:

Ask Father Mike

DUTIES WEIGHING ON US? REMEMBER 'BACKWARDS BLESSINGS'

BY FATHER MICHAEL SCHMITZ

I find myself consistently becoming more and more aware of the good things in other people's lives — and the lack of good things in my life. The demands of work and family and taking care of my parents is really weighing on me.

This is such a fantastic question. And this is such a fantastic problem to have.

I apologize: I can imagine that my excitement over your dilemma doesn't help all that much. But I hear something in your question that has resonated deeply with me recently.

Students have recently returned to the campus where I serve as a chaplain for our Newman Center. After a year and a half of looking across the street and seeing the parking lot less than a quarter full and only having limited contact with our students, it has been such a blessing to see them in person and to have the parking lot full again.

At the same time, since it has been so long since we have been able to have them all back, I have to admit that I became a bit accustomed to having more space in our little Newman House to myself. Now, I can't walk through the living room without noticing all of the dirt that students have tracked into the house. I walked into the chapel the other day and someone had left all of the lights on. I was trying to record an episode of the podcast for the Bible in a Year, but musicians were practicing for Sunday Mass in



the basement, and I had to wait until they were done before I could hit "record." On top of all of that, with so many students back, I am constantly tired and dream of the day when I will be able to get to bed at a normal hour for a middle-aged man!

I was praying about all of this one day. And I have to confess that I was feeling a little bit salty (which is Gen-Z for "bitter") about the lights and the mess and the noise and the lack of sleep. But then I realized something: there is a mess in my house because students feel comfortable spending time at our Newman House. The lights were left on in the chapel because our students have been choosing to make time to pray in the Lord's Presence. I wasn't able to record a podcast because we have students who generously offer their musical gifts and practice for Sunday Mass. And I've been tired because so many young people are responding to the call of Jesus to follow him, and they just want some guidance on how to do that.

All of my complaints were actually "backwards blessings."

Would I prefer that the house was clean and no students were there? Would I prefer space and time to myself rather than having the chance to be a part of the miracle that God is working in the lives of future saints?

How crazy would I be to trade having a front row seat to what God is doing on campus for a full night's sleep?

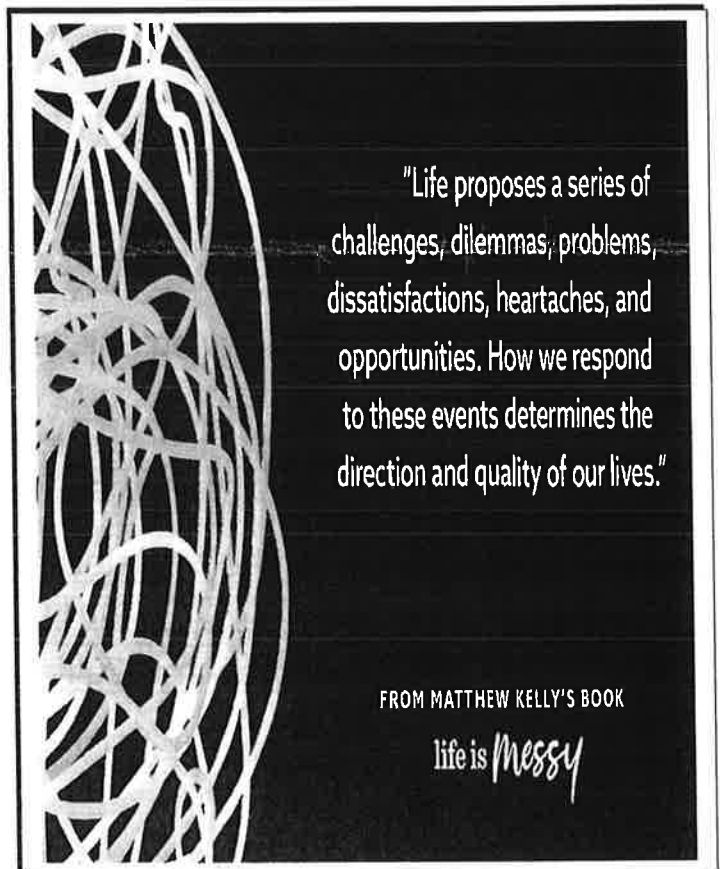
And I wonder if this isn't true for many of us. You note that you have experienced the demands of "work and family and caring for your parents." Those demands are real. I would never want to minimize the difficulty and real suffering that accompanies so much of life. The idea of "backwards blessings" isn't an invitation to ignore real trials and difficulties. But it is an invitation to look at the other side of things.

Yes, our jobs sometimes place more stress on our lives than we prefer, but what a gift to have a job. Family can be a real thorn, with fights and disagreements and more demands on time and resources, but what a gift to have the responsibility of family. And

certainly, it can be taxing to have to care for elderly parents, but the day is going to come when we would give anything to be able to care for them one more day.

Again, I do not want to make light of real pain. But almost every pain in our life can be lightened by perspective. I wonder if this isn't why St. Paul invited Christians in Thessaloniki to "give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). We can do this when we know that God is in all circumstances, and that even many of our pains contain hidden "backwards blessings."

Father Michael Schmitz is director youth and young adult ministry for the Diocese of Duluth and chaplain of the Newman Center at the University of Minnesota Duluth.



Focusing in prayer is not always easy. We are distracted people.

But, what if we offered even our distractions to God in prayer?

That car that's giving you trouble come to mind during Mass? Use that distraction as an opportunity to thank God for even having a car at all. Distractions in prayer will always be there. Do not get frustrated. Simply give them to God and begin again. Jon Leonetti