

NewsNotes



A message from your LDCCW President -

Independence Day greetings! July Fourth, is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of *Independence* on July 4, 1776. As we celebrate this holiday let us be reminded of our religious freedom and pray that freedom is never lost in our country.

The Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the Flag, Of the United States of America
And to the Republic for which it stands, One Nation, under God
Indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for All.

For an enhancement of your summer, please plan to attend the Province meeting in Grand Island, on Monday, July 16th. This is the last meeting organized by our Lincoln Diocesan Province Director, JoAnn Messing. Attending the Province meeting will be ladies from the Omaha Archdiocese, Grand Island and Lincoln Diocese. This is a great opportunity to learn the successes of the other Nebraska Councils of Catholic Women and possibly incorporate some of them into the LDCCW. The new Province Director, Susan Johnson from the Grand Island Diocese, will be installed at the NCCW convention in Pittsburgh PA. Please consider attending the NCCW convention August 29 – Sept 1. Details at NCCW.org.

Also planned this summer is the August Executive Board meeting at Catholic Social Services in Lincoln on Friday evening August 17th. The Full Board meeting will be at Syracuse St. Paulinus church hall on Saturday, August 18th. I hope to see many of you in Syracuse.

I was fortunate to have attended the ordination of three transitional Deacons and two Priests in May. The ordination ceremonies are truly blessed and faith filled. Please continue to pray for the newly ordained as well as all Lincoln Diocesan Seminarians.

We see the wonders of the Lord every day in the growing of all things green.

Please pray for favorable weather.
God Bless
Kay Wessel
ldccwpresident@gmail.com

Up Coming Events

- July 16 – Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (Patroness of LDCCW President-elect and two VPs)
- July 16 – Omaha Province Meeting, Grand Island
- August 17-18 – LDCCW Board Meetings
- August 29-Sept 1 – NCCW Convention, Pittsburgh, PA



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TO PRIESTS: MOVING AND HEALTH PROBLEMS

Somewhere, once upon a time, fifty priests were asked what problems they least liked to deal with. Among the top fifty answers were: health problems and moving.

Fr. Lux has had health problems with his back and is trying to recover from what sounded like a pretty complex surgery. He had to return to the hospital a week after surgery to get help with some intense pain and then back to the rectory to begin recovery again trying to figure out what exactly to avoid doing. Please keep Fr. Lux in your prayers, for backs are precious, mysterious gifts we have from God.

Myself, I am dealing with moving. It's interesting that after the moves I've made, I am now aware that I like to sort things. I may even sort things when I can't figure out what I should do next.

I've seen a few priests move and one of the best sorters I saw was Fr. Jim Cooper. (May he rest in peace). He was meticulous in labeling boxes and separating things into them. I'm not sure how he was at removing the things that got sorted. There is a difference, as I've discovered over the years. I'm not sure why there's a difference or what the difference is, but there is a difference.

I have to say, however, the greatest sorter and mover among the priests whom I followed in a parish has to be Msgr. Witt. I never exactly saw him in action but he described to me what he was going to do and how he knew where things moved would go in the next rectory he was moving to. He's the whole package: a sorter, scout out the new place, and a remove-and-put-in-place person. I can't do that. Can't do what Jim Cooper did either.

Then I've heard, but never witnessed, that Fr. Steve Major is able to move from one place to another by placing his entire belongings into his own car – one vehicle – and move. I don't know how he does that. After I had five men carry boxes of my stuff into the rectory in Tecumseh, I started sorting the boxes. I separated boxes of things I would use right away from boxes of things that could wait. I was humbled by how many containers I shoved aside that could wait – some for a long time. Maybe my next move I'll try to limit my belongings to what I can place in one vehicle. You're my inspiration, Fr. Major!

When my older brother, Pat, died, my two younger brothers and I went to Oakland, CA to take care of his estate and move his things back to Nebraska, especially any artwork. He was an artist and had a gentle heart and was a voracious reader. We found out he was a collector, too. When we got to the place he rented, we saw how much he had collected while in Oakland. His apartment was pretty full, his small garage was overstocked, and the storage trailer he rented was also full but we could walk thru it. He had a love for a few things and I think he collected them so they would survive. If no one else had them, at least he would have some – vinyl record albums, European military clothing, and lots of books, besides a few pieces of his artwork. To move everything he had back to NE in the one pick up we had was impossible, so we closed the storage container and left it and we did the best we could with his apartment and garage. There was a good friend of his who volunteered to work at going thru as much as she could until the rent came due and the landlord would take over.

All this is reminding me that we Americans have lots of material things, even if we are poor like my brother was. We have attachments and it becomes hard to get rid of things especially if they have an emotional connection to us. That's why I wish I had invested in some storage containers years ago and started renting them out to people. The size of the property where the semi-trailer sized storage units were near Oakland was probably close to half a square mile. Most of what is stored is unused. Where does it all end up? May God give us the grace to be free enough from material things so we can cling to Him.



Divine Mercy - Jeanette Stengel

The Journey to Catholicism

It is a journey that took Scott Hahn from being a fervent Presbyterian minister and Professor of theology at a major Protestant seminary to becoming a Roman Catholic theologian and internationally-known apologist for the Catholic Church. Through study and prayer, Scott Hahn came to realize that the truth of the Catholic Church is firmly rooted in Scripture.

The following is a shortened version of Mr. Hahn's life from "The Coming Home Network International" and his book, 'Rome Sweet Home.'

Life is filled with unexpected surprises, and that's how I came to see the Catholic Church to be the family of God that He wants all of His children to share in. To paraphrase Venerable Fulton Sheen, there are not 100 people in the United States who hate the Catholic Church, although there might be millions of people who hate what they mistakenly believe the Catholic Church to be and to teach. I thankfully discovered I fell into the 2nd category. For years I opposed the Catholic Church and worked hard to get Catholics to leave the Church. But I came to see, through a lot of study and considerable prayer, that the Catholic Church is based in Scripture.

Early in my high school years, I made a commitment, asking Jesus Christ into my heart. It cost me a lot of my friends, but the Lord gave me real friends in Christ.

Through my college, seminary years, being a pastor of a church in Virginia and teacher at a Presbyterian Seminary eventually led me to be introduced to the Catholic faith. Jesus said, "My flesh is food indeed, my blood is drink indeed." Catholics taught and believed in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. As time went on, I learned of Tradition and Scripture.

Monsignor Bruskewitz, the priest who brought me in, is just the noblest prince of a godly man. He went on to be the Bishop of Lincoln, Nebraska. But for my wife, Kimberly, and me, he did this private liturgy so well, so filled with tradition and Scripture, that halfway through it, when he said, "Alleluia, alleluia," in one of the liturgical prayers, Kimberly almost jumped out of her socks. She said, "Alleluia!-Oh, I'm sorry." He said, "No, I wish Catholics would do that; this is good."

Dr. Scott Hahn is the author of over 40 books. An exceptionally popular speaker and teacher, he has delivered numerous talks nationally and internationally on a wide variety of topics related to Scripture and the Catholic faith. His talks have been effective in helping thousands of Protestants and fallen away Catholics to (re)embrace the Catholic faith. Many years ago I was privileged to hear Dr. Hahn speak at the Lincoln Cornhusker Hotel.

Dr. Scott Hahn entered the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil, 1986 and his wife Kimberly, entered in 1990. They live in Steubenville, Ohio and have 6 children.

If you'd like to read his conversion story, please read 'Rome Sweet Home' or the Coming Home Network International - online chnetwork.org.

Jeanette Stengel - Spirituality Commission

Service Commission—Kathy Rentschler

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Hello, hope you are staying cool this summer. Already the thermometer is at 90 degrees. The wind is warm and the sun shines hot on the green grass. My name is Kathy Rentschler, I am new to this office and would like to share the learning with you. The Service Commission is one of the 3 commissions of the Lincoln Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. The purpose is to respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in this modern world. We have several ways to involve our members to accomplish this goal.

- Apostles for Life. By contributing \$12.00 to the LDCCW treasurer Chris Cooney for the year 2018, this money will be distributed to the local pregnancy centers to assist in their mission of service.
- Birthright and pregnancy centers. With contributions of money, diapers, clothing and formula, we can assist these agencies in their mission of service;
- Catholic Social Services. This agency serves many throughout the diocese. They have several offices that can reach out to the local people in need. Fr. Christopher Kubat is the director. We can assist them financially with donations and/or fundraising programs. Thus allowing them to accomplish their mission of service;
- The Chastity programs that support and promote Family Life in our diocese. With our financial donations to these programs, they can continue to reach out to those looking for assistance in forming our families. Fr. Sean Kilcawley is the director of Family Life office. Again, our charity allows them to reach their mission of service;
- Collection of Used Eye Glasses. These eyeglasses are given to local practitioners who take them to mission areas in foreign lands and distribute to those in need. You can bring donations to the LDCCW meeting in August, February and April. By donating, you can assist those in need in the mission of service.
- Community Health, Respite and Safety. Currently human trafficking is being highlighted as a need we all see across the United States. There is information on the NCCW.org website that educates on what signs to look for if you suspect human trafficking and how to help those afflicted. The website has some tools that are simple to use. One suggestion is to take flyers that you can customize, with tear off tabs, on your vacation trip. You can put up in local restrooms along the way. This is a great way to be active in LDCCW mission of service.

I will continue with my list in the next NewNotes. Plan on attending the Province meeting in Grand Island July 16, 2018 at Blessed Sacrament Church. Our next Full Board LDCCW meeting will be in Syracuse August 18. Enjoy your summer! Take some time to enjoy God's beautiful world. Take some time to volunteer for those who need help—it will give you a great feeling of worth and accomplishment. And take some time to thank God for all you have.

Not all of us can do great things, but, we can do small things with great love!!!

Kathy Rentschler

Pope's Intentions for July

Universal: That political responsibility may be lived at all levels as a high form of charity.

Evangelization: That, amid social inequalities, Latin American Christians may bear witness to love for the poor and contribute to a more fraternal society.



I have a very busy schedule during the summer months. You name I feel it, I like I am doing it! One of my jobs is to make sure the bee hives we have started are healthy. The bees do their own job. I have been reading about an old European custom, "Telling the Bees." In this custom the beekeeper is to talk to the bees about their daily lives and in return they are more productive. I love old customs but I am more worried about getting stung than having a chat with an insect who will sting. This year we started a nucleus colony and it was ready to go to a new home. I normally have a person on hand to assist but it was me that day. I decided to give it a try and calmly go in and visit with the bees. I opened the hive and shared with the bees why we were there and what was going to happen. It was the smoothest transition I have been a part of! It made me think about the women who we tend to quickly chat with never really sharing what is going on with the offices in the council. Our ladies won't sting but sometimes the reaction isn't what we expected. It is really an interesting custom and next time you visit with your future council officer, calmly help them understand what lays ahead for them. Better yet, why not have your job description ready and help them understand why their talents are necessary for the growth of the council. You will be surprised at the response once you calmly and casually visit with them.

Remember to update your officers in the spread sheet. Use this link.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1tcOPD7Tff1hAa0nPIYbmG6hdtQsuT11DWrl6y5RI7f8/edit?usp=sharing>

Terri Sullivan,
Leadership Training/ Past President

Thank you to all who braved the snow to attend the LDCCW Convention in McCook. The speakers scheduled to share their message were not able to attend but with God's help we were able to hear Sondra Jonson's journey to Catholicism. He placed her in our presence when Laura Buddenberg called and said she wasn't going to try to venture from Omaha. Saturday morning Becky Deaver put her presentation together on video so we were able to listen to her message, which was so appropriate as she related St. Therese the Little Flower to St. Teresa of Calcutta – the saints of my term as President and your current President Kay Wessel. Fr. Lorenz also shared with us about reaching out to the Hispanics.

I would like to give a special thank you to all those who supported the projects and raffles. \$11,110.00 was collected for the Bishop's Project – 'the enhancement of sacred music and liturgy; 1) organ project for John XXIII and 2) funds to support the Diocesan Sacred Music Clinic.' An additional \$14,072.74 was collected for the Bishop's Burse Fund. With your generous funds, we were able to present \$6030.00 to Totus Tuus, my President's Project. In addition, donations totaling \$1,157.00 were given to Catholic Social Services, St. Gianna's and Bonacum House Renovations from the Convention Raffle. Monies received thru a Silent Auction held at the convention totaling \$689.00 will be used to help fund the Parent Educator Project.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The past two years Ann Jansky and her team presented the need for council and leadership in your parishes. I would like to help your PCCW's make it easier for the officers to do their jobs and hopefully make the transition of new officers go smoothly. Do you have job descriptions for your officers? We would like to help you put some in place if you don't, and make it easier for them to know what needs to be done and when. We will be contacting you to see what you already have and how we might be able to help you. God bless you for all of the work your do for CCW.



PRIMARY ELECTION REPORT

Primary elections were held in Nebraska on May 15, the outcome to determine who will be on the ballot for the fall 2018 election. A number of races for various state, local, and city positions were, in some instances, narrowed from a larger field to just two. In most cases, the turnout was low, as expected for a primary election.

A report by a political science professor at UNL said the 2018 elections saw many more women wanting to tout their knowledge and abilities as politicians.

President Trump threw his support behind Republican Deb Fischer, who is running for her second term to represent our state in Congress. She will run against Jane Raybould in November.

Incumbent Adrian Smith also defeated his opponents and will advance to the November ballot.

At the Governor's level for our state, Pete Ricketts ran unopposed and will face Bob Krist of Omaha in the fall seeking his second four-year term.

November elections are not that far away so please study the candidates' views and get out and vote. It is a privilege and an honor.

**Post –It Notes
From Province
Director
JoAnn Messing**

**WELCOME ALL WOMEN
OMAHA PROVINCE MEETING
Monday July 16, 2018
Blessed Sacrament Parish, Jubilee Hall
518 W. State Street
Grand Island, NE**

**It is summer time and
there is a significant
amount of road con-
struction on Highway
281. Please plan your
drive with extra time!**



The ladies who decided to stay one more night after the convention joined the priests of McCook for an evening out and share in a meal.

Who says faith is boring?
Hats off to our ladies who made the best of a spring/winter storm!

Faith Matters

A reflection in the life of the Catholic Council of Catholic Women

Some of the many miracles in my lifetime?

We know God performs miracles for us every day, some big and some small. Many miracles we are not even aware of but blessed to have received. Following are a few miracles I am quite aware of.

In May of 1996 my Mother was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. The tumor was too large for surgery. She chose chemotherapy to hopefully shrink the tumor as she was in terrific pain. Her chemo treatments, were every 3 weeks for 5 days in a row. Fortunately my job would allow me to take the week off and stay with my parents during her chemo week, so my Dad could drive the 15 miles to treatment while I was able to help Mom if she got sick in the car. While my Mom was going through chemo treatments, a co-worker of mine asked me what was going on with my neck. (Miracle #1)) I had been treated for fluid in my neck years before and I had not noticed anything unusual. How often do you look closely at your neck? My surgeon now tried to drain fluid from my neck, but this time there was no fluid, just a mass. His examination indicated one thyroid lobe had a tumor so a right thyroidectomy was scheduled knowing it was cancerous. While Jerry and I were out of town for a week in August, my Mom was in and out of the hospital and unfortunately died before we arrived home. We left to plan, with the rest of the family, for her funeral. As it turned out her funeral was the day before my thyroid surgery. My Dad would not consider I change my surgery to a later date. My thyroid surgery turned out to be more than originally planned. The tumor that had been visible on the right side of the thyroid was growing out but there was also a tumor in the left thyroid lobe that was growing inward. Consequently a complete thyroidectomy was done. The day after release from the hospital, I left to recuperate for a week, with my Dad. My husband, Jerry, was so supportive during Mom's illness and my surgery and recuperation time away from home.

In November of the same year, I had my annual mammogram. The test found a tumor in my left breast. Back to the surgeon. He was surprised the mammogram would find the tumor as it was on my chest wall and the mammogram does not routinely find them. (Miracle #2). A breast lumpectomy (cancer again) was done, followed by radiation (30 treatments) and 8 chemo treatments, one every 3 weeks. I was able to schedule the chemo on Thursday afternoon, so could work Thursday morning and then rest on Friday. Other than the Thursday afternoon/all day Friday off I was able to work every day. I was not hesitant to share my cancer diagnosis with family, friends and co-workers. I could feel all their prayers and the Lord watching over me.

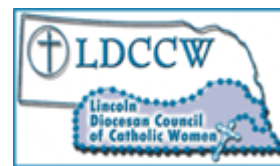
In 2009 I was having persistent lower abdominal pain and feared I was following in my Mom's diagnosis. Test revealed a large cyst in each ovary and because of my cancer history I consulted a specialist in Omaha. After a lengthy initial visit he ordered an abdominal CT scan just to be sure there would be no surprises with a hysterectomy. The CT scan (Miracle #3) revealed a cancerous growth on my left kidney. After consulting with the urology surgeon it was determined the hysterectomy would be done first followed 3 months later with the removal of the left kidney. Hopefully there is no more cancer in my future but the Lord has truly blessed me already with three big miracles and I'm so thankful for the prayers from family and friends. Keep trusting the Lord, he will guide you through all your trials. God Bless you all!

Kay Wessel

LDCCW President



As the NCCW focuses on Domestic Abuse, it is only appropriate we learn more about St. Maria Goretti who's feast day is July 6th. She is the patron of youth, young women, purity and victims of rape.



Born on October 16 1890 in Corinaldo, in the Ancona Province in Italy, her farmworker father moved his family to Ferrier di Conca, near Anzio. When he died of malaria, Maria's mother had to struggle to feed her children. Maria's mother, brothers, and sisters worked in the fields while she cooked, sewed, kept the house clean, and watched her youngest sister Teresa. Though the family's circumstances were extremely difficult, they were very close and loved God.

On July 5, 1902, Maria was sitting outside the steps of her home sewing her 18-year-old brother or neighbor -it is unclear which - Alessandro's shirt while he threshed beans in the barnyard. As she concentrated on her

sewing, Alessandro surprised her and grabbed her from her steps. When he tried to rape her, Maria cried that it was a mortal sin and warned he would go to hell.

When Alessandro persisted, she fought him and screamed, "No! It is a sin! God does not want it!" At her words, Alessandro began to choke her and she said she would rather die than submit. Upon hearing her words, Alexander pulled out a knife and stabbed her eleven times. When she attempted to reach the door, he stabbed her three more times then fled.

Teresa woke to the sounds of her sister's cries and began to cry. Maria's family returned home and found her bleeding on the floor. They quickly took her to the nearest hospital in Nettuno, where she underwent surgery without anesthesia.

Unfortunately, her wounds were beyond the surgeon's ability to help. Halfway through the surgery, the man asked her, "Maria, think of me in Paradise."

As she lay on the table, she looked up at him and said, "Well, who knows which of us is going to be there first?" She did not realize how terrible her situation was, and the surgeon replied, "You, Maria."

She said, "Then I will think gladly of you." She also mentioned concerns for her mother. The next day, Maria forgave Alessandro and said she wanted to see him in Heaven with her. She died that day while looking upon an image of the Virgin Mary and holding a cross to her chest.

Shortly after Maria's family discovered her, Alexander was captured and questioned. He admitted Maria was a physical virgin as he was unable to assault her and he was sentenced to thirty years. He also admitted he had attempted to persuade her to accompany him to bed on several occasions in the past and had attempted to rape her before.

Alessandro remained unrepentant for his actions until he had a dream that he was in a garden. Maria was there and gave him lilies, which immediately burned in his hands. When he woke, he was a changed man. He repented his crime and living a reformed life. When he was released 27-years-later, he went directly to Maria's mother and begged her forgiveness, which she gave, saying, "If my daughter can forgive him, who am I to withhold forgiveness?" Maria Goretti was beatified by Pope Pius XII in a ceremony at Saint Peter's Basilica on April 27, 1947.

Three years later, on June 24, 1950, Maria was declared a saint and Alessandro was present in the St. Peter's crowd to celebrate her canonization. He later became a lay brother of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, where he lived in a monastery and worked as its receptionist and gardener until his death.

Saint Maria is called a martyr because she fought against Alessandro's attempts at sexual sin; however, the most important aspects of her story are how she forgave her attacker - her concern for her enemy extending even beyond death - and the miracle her forgiveness produced in his life.

Saint Maria's body can be found in the crypt of the Basilica of Nostra Signora delle Grazie e Santa Maria Goretti in Nettuno. Though several claim her body is incorrupt, she has been proven to be corrupt. Her body is kept in a statue which lies beneath the altar and has been mistaken to be all of her remains.

Images of Saint Maria often represent her with wavy hair dressed in either white or farm clothes and is often depicted holding lilies.

WELCOME ALL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

OMAHA PROVINCE MEETING

July 16, 2018

8:15 to 3:30 PM

Speaker, Father Au

"Catholic Mission and Social Justice"



Agenda Items

- Introduction of new Province Director elected by the GIDCCW
- Information on projects and the 2018 NCCW convention
- Omaha Province History and By-Law changes

The day includes a Living Rosary, Mass and Lunch

Take time to meet with the Catholic Women across the state of Nebraska!

Date: Monday July 16, 2018

Cost \$15. per person includes lunch and continental breakfast.

Place: Blessed Sacrament Jubilee Hall 518 State St, Grand Island, NE

Do you want to receive
the Effect and
NewsNotes by email?
Contact Judy Weston at
ldccwleadership@gmail.com



**'Kind
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