

# NewsNotes



From Terri Sullivan, LDCCW President

As the Year of Mercy comes to a close, we must not close our hearts and minds to continue extending mercy to others. The year of mercy wasn't meant to be something that just happens one year. It was meant to make us aware of the need for mercy always. Remembering this as the year of Mercy, the theme of the NCCW Convention held in Indianapolis was "Catholic Women: Instruments of Mercy". A full report on the convention is included in these NewsNotes. Continue to send in your "Million Works of Mercy" report to NCCW. The final count is due the end of November. If you aren't already a member of NCCW, please join to become part of the national organization that speaks for your Catholic values and supports, empowers and educates all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. Membership forms are available at [www.nccw.org](http://www.nccw.org).

One of my goals as President is to revitalize and organize the CCW in the parishes. One of the ways to help achieve this is to have meetings that the women want to attend. A place to start is to have officers with good leadership skills. A great opportunity to build these strong leaders is with the NCCW Leadership Training Development Program. I hope to see you in Doniphan November 5 when the NCCW team will be coming to present the program. If you are unable to attend, the LDCCW Leadership Team will be presenting customized programs for your deanery or parish.

As we look forward to Thanksgiving and the Advent Season, we reflect on the blessings in our lives. The cornucopia is a symbol of an abundant supply of good things. It comes from the Latin words *cornu copiae* which translates to "horn of plenty." When we look into the cornucopia of our lives we need to be thankful for family, friends, food, and the freedom we too often take for granted. Remember to offer a prayer of thanksgiving to God for all of the blessings in your life. As Advent approaches we must not get wrapped up in the commercialization of Christmas but look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus on Christmas. Consider displaying an advent wreath or having a Jesse Tree to celebrate.

Keep up with all of the LDCCW happenings by checking out our website at <http://tiny.cc/LDCCW>. Add the LDCCW link to your website for a quick and easy access. So what has the LDCCW been doing -- We had a great meeting in Red Cloud in August. The ladies at Sacred Heart Parish were wonderful hostesses. We enjoyed the Willa Cather tour prior to the executive board meeting. In September, North Platte held a Retreat Day for Women. The KVSS Spirit Catholic Radio Fall Care-a-Thon was a success. A huge thank you to Judy Weston and Kay Wessel for representing LDCCW during the challenge hour. I would like to thank everyone who collected diapers for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Pro-Life Diaper Drive in October. I hope you had the opportunity to celebrate LDCCW Sunday October 30<sup>th</sup> and you were able to thank your Council members for their service and works of mercy. We are currently in the process of rewriting the Parent Educator Booklets (with the help of Sue Bollwitt and Ellen Jirovsky of Seward) and the committee members are updating the letter that is given to the parents of the newly baptized babies to include websites and apps which would be helpful in raising their child in the Catholic faith.

Finally, I invite you to attend the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual LDCCW Winter Symposium at Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat Center in Waverly January 13-14, 2017. The theme is "Being Mary in a Martha World". You can register online at [www.goodcounselretreat.com/retreat/schedule/](http://www.goodcounselretreat.com/retreat/schedule/). The LDCCW Full Board Meeting will precede the Symposium and begin at 3:00 pm Friday, January 13. Look for more details in the December Effect.



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## Tidbits from Province Director JoAnn Messing

Spirituality project: Sock project. Stuff sample sized toiletries in one sock. Then stuff the sock into its mate into the sock. Donate to local charities. Ask about specific needs.



**November 2016**  
**LDCCW NewsNotes article**  
**Most Rev. James D. Conley, Bishop of Lincoln**

Dear Members of the Lincoln Diocesan Council of Catholic Women,

First of all, on behalf of the priests, religious, and laity of the Diocese of Lincoln, I want to thank you for your prayerful witness of service to Holy Mother Church. Your efforts to promote the spiritual life and the beauty of family life are a great blessing to me in my episcopal ministry. May God reward you both in this life and the next!

As you know, the spiritual life of individuals and the family, is of highest importance. The firm foundation of liturgical prayer and private prayer allows for a fruitful practice of the works of mercy from day to day. Our private prayer is formed first and foremost by the liturgy, where God himself feeds and nourishes us with his word and his flesh.

When our lives are steeped in prayer, we grow in our longing for the Lord. St. Augustine and his mother, St. Monica, spoke of this in their last conversation as recorded in the ninth book of the Confessions of St. Augustine: “And so the two of us, all alone, were enjoying a very pleasant conversation . . . We were asking one another in presence of the Truth – for you are the Truth – what it would be like to share eternal life enjoyed by the saints, which ‘eye has not seen, nor ear heard, which has not even entered into the heart of man.’ We desired with all our hearts to drink from the streams of your heavenly fountain, the fountain of life.” My dear friends, this is what we strive to do through the sacred liturgy of the Church, or rather, this is what God strives to do in our hearts and souls through our experience of divine worship.

St. Augustine, as the Bishop of Hippo, would often lead sung Morning Prayer with his people at his Cathedral church in North Africa. St. Augustine is the one who coined the phrase, “he who sings prays twice,” so much does singing add to our prayer.

This past summer Cardinal Robert Sarah, the Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments, gave a very important speech in London entitled: “Towards an Authentic Interpretation of *Sacrosanctum Concilium*” the document on the liturgy from the Second Vatican Council. And in that speech he mentioned that one means of more faithfully implementing the reforms of the Second Vatican Council is the singing of liturgical texts. His Eminence stated: “We must sing the liturgical texts, respecting the liturgical traditions of the Church and rejoicing in the treasury of sacred music that is ours, most especially music proper to the Roman rite, Gregorian chant. We must sing sacred liturgical music not merely religious music, or worse, profane songs.” In other words, we must “sing the Mass” and not merely “sing at Mass!”

Worshipping God—especially in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass—is the greatest privilege of our lives. It is an expression of our gratitude for what God has done for us—which is everything! The Church takes worship seriously because worship is what we offer to the God who has offered us everything that matters.

The music we sing at Mass should express, as best as we possibly can, the sacredness of the moment, and the power of God’s grace. The music of the Church’s tradition is written for this. The Church says that chant and polyphony express beautifully the mystery of the Mass. That sacred music allows us to use our voices to honor God, and thank him for what he has given us.

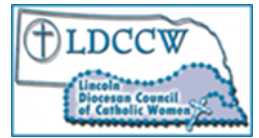
Of course, singing the Mass is not easy. But we come together in gatherings like this to learn to make the mystery of the Mass as beautiful as possible. To make a gift of ourselves, by giving God our best efforts, and our best music, and our trust.

The power of worship is the power to transform our hearts—to be turned to the Lord, and to know him more intimately, and more deeply.

In August, the diocese hosted the first annual Sacred Music Clinic. I encouraged our diocesan musicians to start with small steps as they incorporate chant into the Mass. I know it might seem like the chants, and propers, and polyphonies of the Church’s tradition might not fit in ordinary parish worship. Do not be overwhelmed. Everything starts with small steps. To begin at the beginning, with small steps, and to trust the Lord, as he leads us all to worship Him with beauty, making sacred worship all about God, who loves us, and gives himself to us, who is the source of all beauty, and who is a mystery.

**Tidbits from Province Director JoAnn Messing**

Spirituality has a ‘Retreat on Mercy’ and a booklet ‘Prayer Services for Vocations.’



Dear NewsNotes Readers;

Blessed **All Saints Day** to you as we celebrate those who have gone before us marked by the sign of faith & share in the fullness of the joy of eternal life in heaven. They can look upon the Face of God! We can join them as we celebrate the Holyday Mass for November 1. The saints & angels are present at every Mass offered.

**All Souls Day** the next day, November 2, is a reminder of the importance to pray for those who have died in the state of grace but who are still being purified in Purgatory. We can assist them by our penances & prayers, especially the Holy Mass, that we offer for them to God who is mercy. His love for them is greater even than ours.

**Election Day** is 11/8/2016. Be sure to pray for our civil leaders & citizens at every level of society. Be sure to study & prepare to practice what our US Bishops have called for in their document *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* (© 2007, 2011, 2015). In the introduction the bishops wrote:

"We urge our pastors, lay & religious faithful, & all people of good will to use this statement to help form their consciences; to teach those entrusted to their care; to contribute to civil & respectful public dialogue; & to shape political choices in the coming election in light of Catholic teaching.

"The statement lifts up our dual heritage as both faithful Catholics & American citizens with rights & duties as participants in the civil order. First & foremost, however, we remember that we relate to the civil order as **citizens of the heavenly Kingdom**, whose reign is not yet fully realized on earth but demands our unqualified allegiance. **It is as citizens faithful to the Lord Jesus that we contribute most effectively to the civil order.**"

The updated Bishop's document includes links such as talks by Pope Francis eg. *Address of the Holy Father, Meeting for Religious Liberty with the Hispanic Community & Other Immigrants, Independence Mall, Philadelphia*. Sept. 26, 2015. **Podcasts & other resources** are available along with the US Bishops document at [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/).

A homily was given on October 2, 2016 in the Cathedral of Phoenix, AZ, by Fr. John Lankeit, rector, many have found helpful. You can listen or read at <http://simonjude.org/catholic-podcasts/>. Bishop Thomas Olmstead of Phoenix is from the Diocese of Lincoln.

Bishop James Conley ([www.lincolndiocese.org/](http://www.lincolndiocese.org/)) & others such as the Nebraska Catholic Conference ([www.necatholic.org/](http://www.necatholic.org/)) have written well about the issues we face. There are many levels of government from local to national; three different branches, executive, legislative & judicial; plus social issues that need our input as faithful citizens. How we respond will influence the outcome this year & for years to come.

Among the issues we face in Nebraska is **Retain the Ban**.

Omar F. A. Gutiérrez, Special Assistant to the Archbishop George J. Lucas of Omaha, explains it as follows.

"Last year our **legislators voted to replace the use of the death penalty in the State of Nebraska with life in prison without the possibility of parole**. As you are no doubt aware, significant

efforts have been underway to repeal last year's law in order to bring back the death penalty. The bishops of Nebraska have encouraged all Catholics to work to retain last year's law banning & replacing the death penalty."

The ***Catechism of the Catholic Church*** Paragraph 2267 says "Assuming that the guilty party's identity & responsibility have been fully determined, the traditional teaching of the Church does not exclude recourse to the death penalty, if this is the only possible way of effectively defending human lives against the unjust aggressor.

"If, however, non-lethal means are sufficient to defend & protect people's safety from the aggressor, authority will limit itself to such means, as these are more in keeping with the concrete conditions of the common good & more in conformity to the dignity of the human person. Today, in fact, as a consequence of the possibilities which the state has for effectively preventing crime, by rendering one who has committed an offense incapable of doing harm - without definitely taking away from him the possibility of redeeming himself - **the cases in which the execution of the offender is an absolute necessity "are very rare, if not practically nonexistent."** -*Evangelium Vitae* #56.

**The Jubilee Year of Mercy** has helped us focus on the God Who is Mercy. The jubilee ends with the *Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe*. Closing of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome & the conclusion of the Jubilee of Mercy will be celebrated on Sunday, November 20, 2016. How will you mark the end locally? How will you extend the effects of the Year of Mercy into the future?

The Order of Celebrating Matrimony, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition is now available. It will be the prayers & rites used for marriages on December 30, 2016 & following. More information about the changes is available at [www.foryourmarriage.org/marriage-rite-second-edition-whats-new/](http://www.foryourmarriage.org/marriage-rite-second-edition-whats-new/).

**Advent** begins November 27, 2016. Jesus arrived, He is here now, & He promises to return. What will you do to prepare for the coming of the Lord? Let us celebrate Advent & Christmas season to the fullest.

There are some **notable anniversaries** coming in 2017. The apparitions at **Fatima 100 years** ago from May to October. Pope Francis received the O.L. Fatima statue in Rome in 2013 with these words: *O Mary, let us feel your gaze as a Mother. Lead us to your Son, as we are not Christians 'for show', but who can 'get their hands dirty' to build with your Son, Jesus, his Kingdom of love, joy & peace.*

It will be the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **Protestant Reformation**. Pope Francis said to an ecumenical delegation of the Lutheran Church of Finland on 01/22/2015: "A shared Christian witness is very much needed in the face of the mistrust, insecurity, persecution, pain & suffering experienced so widely in today's world."

**Pope John XXIII**, *The things that unite us are greater than those that divide us.*

I look forward to seeing many of you at the **Leadership Training** in Doniphan on Saturday, November 5.

*May God bless all of us.*



**Fr. Thomas McGuire, Assistant Spiritual Advisor**  
**Phone No. 402-759-1392**  
**Email address: frthomasmcguire@yahoo.com**

**THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN CONVENTION  
AT INDIANAPOLIS  
ESPECIALLY FOR OUR PARISH PRIESTS**

I want to highlight a few things just so you get a glimpse of the last NCCW Convention. When the women and priests of the three dioceses of Nebraska (the Province) attended this convention, we were a Catholic group of Nebraskans. When we could we usually sat together, went out the first day to eat and visit local sites. This time several attended a Eucharistic Holy Hour for Peace and Benediction held at the downtown Church. It was at night and there were a lot of students at the closing.

We got to be with some of the same people again or got to know some new faces. One woman is the mother of a seminarian, another just retired from being a long-haul semi driver; some live on a ranch, others live in an urban setting. There were young and old, those who have attended many times and those who attended for the first time. Since we took a bus this time it allowed us time to talk and get to know others better before we Catholic Nebraskans got to the convention hotel.

I think our group of women and priests numbered about 45 – the biggest number from NE in a long time. At the convention there were between 600-700 registered women. I thought it was the best convention we've had since I've been involved in NCCW/LDCCW. Though still a bit expensive, costs were down from previous ones.

Last year it was reported that NCCW was solvent and fairly close to being out of debt. This year it was reported there is no more debt. It's taken over a decade but the leadership in recent years has done a very good job of reducing expenses, being accountable and having a plan. Also, for several years now there have been no problems between Catholic Church teaching and the leadership of NCCW. If anything, there seems to be a close working relationship between the NCCW and the USCCB. Not only are speakers at convention solid in their faith, so is the NCCW leadership. Mass each day seems to be the central activity for everyone. And this year we again had bishops celebrate the three Convention Masses: Archbishop Tobin of Indianapolis, Archbishop Kurtz – outgoing president of USCCB, and Bishop Parkes who is the episcopal liaison between NCCW and the USCCB. (His appearance is like that of Fr. Waskowiak of the Lincoln Diocese, and hears a lot of the same questions – and jokes).

A few years ago when the leadership took a survey of the women of NCCW they found most were looking for more spirituality at the convention. And that has happened. It's not just at Mass but it's at presentations, activities, and business meetings. There is pride in being a Catholic woman and a welcoming spirit among the whole group, so much so that a couple speakers mentioned it in their talks with gratitude.

The President-elect, Maribeth Stewart, of the NCCW has

been to Nebraska, met with Bishop Conley and the women leaders of LDCCW, and with others. She spoke at our Diocesan Convention in York this past spring, along with Marilyn Ericksen, a woman from the Grand Island Diocese who lives on a ranch and drives miles to church. Marilyn had been honored by the NCCW a few years ago with an award for her involvement and faithful work on just about every level of the organization – from parish to diocesan, to national level. They made the LDCCW Convention this past spring very inspiring, in my opinion. Some women came forward to ask how to join the NCCW. It was a very positive event. So was the NCCW Convention in Indianapolis. The growth and solidifying of the NCCW has been something rewarding to witness and experience.

I'll end by letting you know, even though NCCW is out of debt, each year for quite a few years they have been losing *affiliates* (parish groups on the parish and deanery level). Parishes have been closing. Several years ago they opened membership up to *individuals*, too, which only make sense as an organization. So if you ever want to know how you can support your women and the NCCW at the same time, *you might ask them to become individual members of NCCW* – or at least let them know they can do that. For information, see [www.nccw.org](http://www.nccw.org)

Do you want to continue receiving the mailed NewsNotes? We are going through our lists. If we don't hear from you we will drop you from the mailing list. Please contact Jackie Kassebaum  
1216 Country Side Drive  
Juniata, NE 68955  
402-469-7076  
Or email Jackie-Kassebaum@cdolinc.net





NOVEMBER is the month we remember All Saints, and All Souls. In December it seems it is easy to pray, because we are reminded so much of Jesus' coming—amid the rush of preparations for the season. In January, we look forward to the Epiphany, the arrival of the Three Kings; and of course the Baptism of Jesus. Let's concentrate briefly on the Saints and Souls this NewsNotes.

When we say, "Pray for us," it means that we ask the Saints in Heaven, or the Souls in Purgatory, to pray for our souls, our families, or any intention. But another way to see this phrase is to think "Pray FOR us"—do our praying FOR us, please (we cannot pray adequately on our own). Sometimes even, "I don't want to pray any more; I can't." We have hit a dry spell. The Saints and Angels are close to God, and of course they may ask him for anything. If the wish is in God's will, then the prayer will be answered. All prayer is answered, just sometimes not in the way or time we want it. If we think back on past prayers and hopes we had so deeply in our hearts, we can see that God worked the situation better, in His Time.

The Souls in Purgatory can pray for us, but not for themselves—this is why it is so important to pray for them and offer Mass for them. The persons who have gone on from this life will surely remember us when they get to their heavenly reward. Our Lord told St. Gertrude the Great that the following prayer would release 1,000 souls from Purgatory each time it is said. And also living sinners! On the beads of the Rosary, over 50,000 souls go to heaven. GET PRAYING!

**Prayer of St. Gertrude Chaplet**

Begin with the Apostle's Creed, Our Father, Hail Mary & Glory Be. On each large bead say an Our Father. On the 10 small beads say, "Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal Church, those in my own home, and within my family. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, open the hearts and minds of sinners to the truth and light of God, the Father.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for the conversion of sinners and the world."

Say the "Glory Be" and repeat 4 more times.

How many new saints will be praying for us immediately when they reach Heaven! God lets us in on little miracles all the time. One Promise of making Nine First-Fridays is the guarantee of the Sacrament of the Sick when we die! A guarantee of Heaven! And one more to mention here—Plenary Indulgences take away our punishment in Purgatory! Let's try to go to a pilgrimage place or do other acts of prayer to gain a plenary indulgence in this Year of Mercy, before Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>, the final day. Though one can gain this indulgence any time, this year is special in its graces. And let's look for miracles for us in 2017!

Pope Francis in "The Face of Mercy" opens with the declaration, "Jesus is the face of the Father's mercy." These words might well sum up the mystery of the Christian faith. The Holy Year is "dedicated to living out in our daily lives the mercy which God constantly extends to all of us."

This Holy Year will end on November 20, 2016, the Sunday dedicated to our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe and living face of the Father's mercy.

From Pope Francis's homily with announcement of Year of Mercy Vatican Radio is good to remind us again:

The call of Jesus pushes each of us never to stop at the surface of things, especially when we are dealing with a person. We are called to look beyond, to focus on the heart to see how much generosity everyone is capable. No one can be excluded from the mercy of God; everyone knows the way to access it and the Church to the house that welcomes all and refuses no one. Its doors remain wide open, so that those who are touched by grace can find the certainty of forgiveness.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation, in fact, allows us with confidence to draw near to the Father, in order to be certain of His pardon. He really is "rich in mercy" and extends His mercy with abundance over those who turn to Him with a sincere heart. To be touched with tenderness by His Hand and shaped by His grace allows us, therefore, to approach the priest without fear for our sins but with the certainty of being welcomed by him in the name of God, and understood notwithstanding our miseries. Coming out of the confessional, we will feel God's strength, which restores life and returns the enthusiasm of our faith.

From the Novena to Divine Mercy: Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon all mankind and especially upon poor sinners, all enfolded in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. For the sake of His sorrowful Passion show us Your mercy, that we may praise the omnipotence of Your mercy forever and ever. Amen.

THE GREATER THE SIN, SO MUCH THE GREATER MUST BE THE LOVE THAT THE CHURCH EXPRESSES TOWARD THOSE WHO CONVERT.

In our daily lives, may Jesus draw us to Him thru His bountiful mercy. God's blessings to you and your families.

**Tidbits from Province Director JoAnn Messing**

- NCCW is now debt free!
- Individual membership is lowered to \$50.00
- Catholic Woman Magazine is now \$30.00!
- NCCW has an improved website with improved search features.
- The e-newsletter the "Connect" is posted online the first of each month.

Service Commission—Geri Burns— burnz@q.com  
1611 East I McCook, NE 69001  
308-345-7447

Happy Fall!! I love the cool evenings and changing colors that Fall brings. Let us remember to thank God for the beauty of the seasons. NCCW is promoting a new project called Tickle the Tootsies- Stocking Stuffers. Collect socks and fold them together with travel size bottles of shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, tooth brush, Kleenex, etc to make a personal hygiene kit. You can donate them to shelters, homeless, domestic abuse programs, CSS or a local charity that your parish may have. Set up a collection bin in your church or parish hall. Get the whole parish involved including the children and young adults. The young people could fill socks geared toward someone their age.

Thanksgiving brings to mind the less fortunate in our communities, those who struggle to put food on the table. Many organizations collect and distribute food at this time. Find out what is going on in your area and take part. It is also a great time to focus on meal prayers and include those who are hungry in your family prayers before meals. Take part in the NCCW Day of Prayer and Fasting to end World Hunger (on the Thursday before Thanksgiving). Encourage your family to take part also, helping them to keep the Thanks in Thanksgiving.

Encourage your CCD and Catholic elementary school students to have an Advent fundraiser for Missionary Childhood Association. The money for this should be sent to Catholic Chancery (attn. Tracy) P.O. Box 80328 Lincoln, NE 68501. Make checks payable to Propagation of the Faith with MCA in the memo line.

A good way to stay updated on all pro-life issues is to contact the Nebraska Catholic Conference, Nebraska Right to Life or your local Right to Life and ask to be put on their mailing list. Also volunteer to help with the activities they promote.

Geri Burns Service Chairman

Georgeanne Rashilla  
[rashilla@aol.com](mailto:rashilla@aol.com)

Pi Alpha Chi Liaison

Pi Alpha Chi's biggest news is that they were accepted into the Pan Hellenic group at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln!! - a huge step which will allow them to be part of recruitment the week before classes start in the fall instead of after the fact at the Newman Center when most girls have already committed. The impact should be higher recruitment which will lend itself to maintaining enough members to allow building of their sorority house. Thank you for your prayers for this great accomplishment.

On the increased recruitment note, I made several presentations within the parishes of Lincoln to raise money to present "Merit Awards" to potential members and current members. St. Peter's in Lincoln and North American Martyrs PCCWs came through for us. I am still waiting to hear from St. Michaels and other Lincoln deanery members. This fundraising for our future PCCW members is NOT limited to Lincoln. I am hoping you will present the request to your parish women's groups so we can offer relief on member dues for the sorority. Please remember - they are forging a new path for a Catholic sorority and have no national group to rely on. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Pi Alpha Chi held their philanthropy "A Chili Night with Pi Chi" on Sept. 22nd. They served chili and cinnamon rolls and were able to donate over \$1,500 to Project Rachel.

Their retreat was held on Saturday, October 8th. It was focused on developing deeper friendships with each other and with Christ. Amanda - who works for FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) - came and spoke with them about the 6 Lies Women Love to Believe.

They are currently in the process of preparing for the election of their 2017 board. They are going through the discernment process and to elect the new leaders of the Chapter on November 5th. Prayers to help the younger women step up and out in faith would be greatly appreciated.

Pi Alpha Chi was in charge of an altar for the Eucharistic Procession on Campus which was on October 27th. PAX will also be hosted the reception for the participants after the procession. It is quite an experience to see the large crowd of Catholic students in procession and see the reaction of the other students on campus who came out to see what it is all about - a great evangelization tool!

They will be making fleece tie blankets for Saint Gianna's Women's Home in November.

I want to welcome you to the glorious days of fall. I am writing this note after attending the Catholic Answers Conference in Omaha. One of the statements that made an impact on me was "What would happen if your parish disappeared?" As leadership chair I found that statement hit near and dear to the mission we are charged with. Our parish is the heart of soul of our family and our family can be our work, home or wherever we make our presence known. What influence do you convey to them? Taking that charge of being a leader I am going to make one more reference. It is wonderful that you give yourself to everyone who asks but remember to also attend event such as the Catholic Answers Conference, daily Mass, spiritual reading or turn your radio to Spirit Catholic Radio. There are several opportunities in the diocesan area. It is sometimes very difficult to get to a retreat but the benefits outweigh what you had to go through to get there. You are charged with refilling your spiritual bucket. You cannot give what you don't have!!

I am going to be the squeaky wheel but the revamped Catholic Woman magazine is amazing! JoAnn Messing reports the New Catholic Woman is printed in partnership with FaithCatholic. There is something for everyone and not only leaders in your organization. Among the people in the past that I recommend getting a membership for I would like to suggest this magazine be available for the parish holy hour station. The great news is the membership costs has gone down. \$50.00 is the new membership price. Go to [nccw.org](http://nccw.org) to review their website. They have information for all!

Many people are switching over their officers. It is very important to go into the live spreadsheet and update your officers. If you have questions please contact us at ldccwleadhip@gmail.com to ask for help. We will get back to back to you as soon as we can. Please go to this link to update your officers.

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1d8jd3M03xT5OVuusLskgwVujx6JAr2AdAuZ2VmX\\_1-l/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1d8jd3M03xT5OVuusLskgwVujx6JAr2AdAuZ2VmX_1-l/edit?usp=sharing)

Last but not least remember it is tough to get away and sometimes as caregivers we feel it is important to serve our families or the needs of others but I want to encourage you to attend the Winter Symposium on January 13 and 14th. Please go to <http://www.goodcounselretreat.com/retreat/schedule/> to register for the retreat.

## Ann Jansky

## Leadership Training Chair

### LDCCW Leadership Training 2016-2018

**Phase 1: NCCW Leadership Development Program.** Please pray for the success of the LTD program being held at Doniphan, NE on November 5, 2016.

**Phase 2: Leadership Training for deaneries and parishes of the Lincoln Diocese.** Beginning in January 2017, the Lincoln Diocesan Leadership Training team consisting of Ann Jansky, Judy Weston, Kathy Broz, Kathy Rowell, Agnes Anderson and volunteers will be contacting members to help provide individualized guidance for deaneries and parishes.

The Leadership Training team will help you with questions or obstacles you are facing as a group or individually. Whether you would like to better understand the programs of the LDCCW, need to brainstorm ideas on increasing your membership or would like to talk through different ways to solve another problem, the Leadership Training Team is ready to help. Members of the Leadership Training Team will focus on Deaneries and Parish Altar Societies/PCCWs on the same rotation as the St. Monica Prayer schedule during 2017.

Featured deaneries will be:

January – Lincoln Deanery  
February – Orleans Deanery  
March – Plattsmouth Deanery  
April – Wahoo & York Deaneries  
May – Crete Deanery  
June – David City Deanery

July – Fairbury Deanery  
August – Fall City Deanery  
September – Grant Deanery  
October – Hastings Deanery  
November – Indianola Deanery  
December – Lawrence Deanery

Deaneries or parishes may schedule training for their groups outside of their "featured" month by contacting Ann Jansky at [arjansky@gmail.com](mailto:arjansky@gmail.com) or 402-826-0219 or 168 County Road I, Friend, NE 68359.

## National Council of Catholic Women Convention

The 96<sup>th</sup> National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) convention was held in Indianapolis, Indiana, September 7-10 with 610 attendees along with 45 Spiritual Advisors present. Attending from the Lincoln Diocese were LDCCW President, Terri Sullivan; LDCCW President-Elect, Kay Wessel, and her husband, Jerry; LDCCW Treasurer, Teresa Koch; LDCCW Past President, Ann Jansky; Province Director, Jo Ann Messing, and her husband, John; and Spiritual Advisors, Fr. Thomas Lux and Fr. Thomas McGuire. Several of this group hopped on a bus in Omaha to join attendees from the Grand Island Diocese and the Arch-Diocese of Omaha to journey to Indianapolis.

This year's theme for the NCCW Convention was "Catholic Women: Instruments of Mercy" which followed Pope Francis' Jubilee Year of Mercy. As Council of Catholic Women, we all do spiritual and corporal works of mercy. This year we were challenged to count those acts and reach a goal of One Million Works of Mercy by the end of the Jubilee year, November 20<sup>th</sup>. We were reminded that even little acts of mercy are important. Whether it be as simple as wearing a shirt with a Catholic theme, praying in public, not saying something that would have hurt others, or being a grandparent who teaches children their Catholic faith, we are doing acts of mercy.

The speakers at the convention conveyed the message of mercy. Sister Donna Markham, President and CEO of Catholic Charities USA pointed out that as Catholic Women we are witnesses to and ministers of mercy. God is calling us to show compassion for our neighbor – be less judgmental and more open to compassion. We need to harness the power of good.

Maria Morera Johnson is a [CatholicMom.com](http://CatholicMom.com) blogger and composition and literature professor. She revealed how bringing the Saints into her life strengthened her faith and taught her mercy. She shared how some of the saints, including St. Rose of Lima, showed her signs of where she was meant to be. Maria pointed out that we are all instruments of mercy by the way we talk to each other and connect. When we make eye contact, we see the face of the Lord. She told us that we think we do mercy for others, but we need to realize we need mercy as well. She made us aware that when we do Works of Mercy we receive mercy.

Speaker Judy Hehr's personal testimony gave us insight to the infinite love and mercy of God. She told of how she had been a slave to alcohol and drug abuse and is now a Servant of God's Kingdom and how her understanding of Jesus moved from her head to her heart. She pointed out that when Jesus is all you have, Jesus is all you need, and how mercy is new every day. She reminded us that Mary is the way to Jesus and that Jesus is the center of all the sacraments. She summed up her talk by saying that she had turned "mess into message and test into testament."

Katariina Rosenblatt shared her story of survival of human trafficking. She made us aware of how easily it is to be lured into human trafficking when children are so vulnerable and naïve. It was through her faith in God that she broke free and now shares His mercy to rescue trafficking victims and promote public awareness of human trafficking through her program "There is HOPE for Me."

In the Spirituality Commission session, we learned about a new program through NCCW "Retreat on Mercy" which is a mini retreat. There is a new project, "Vocation Purse Club" where funds are being collected to help religious enter the convent when they have a major debt. This is similar to LDCCW's existing project Funds for Nuns.

The Leadership Commission session reiterated the NCCW mission statement – *The National Council of Catholic Women acts through its members to support, empower, and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership, and service. NCCW programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world.* It is through this that we are called to inform, inspire, and ignite the Council of Catholic Women (CCW). We need to increase membership and support in CCW. They are making plans for a Junior CCW to include high school and college age girls. This program would include membership from Pi Alpha Chi, the UNL Sorority. The NCCW Leadership Training Development (LTD) Team shared what their program is about, who NCCW is, and the importance of running a successful meeting. LDCCW Leadership Training Chair Ann Jansky states "The LTD training is not intended only for board members or officers but is beneficial to every woman in the pew." We are excited that they will be coming to Doniphan, Nebraska on November 5. More information is available through LDCCW or by contacting Ann Jansky.

The Service Commission shared their projects on stopping Human Trafficking – modern day slavery – and talked about the damaging effects of pornography. They discussed their work with immigration and the RESPITE program to help the caregiver and keep the elderly in the community.

Jo Ann Messing, a parishioner of Sacred Heart in Shelby, was installed as Director of the Omaha Province, which includes the Lincoln Diocese, Grand Island Diocese, and Omaha Arch-diocese. She will represent all Nebraska Council of Catholic Women at National Council of Catholic Women meetings.

Throughout all of the convention we were reminded of God's mercy and that "we are not human beings having a spiritual experience – we are spiritual beings having a human experience." It was a very spiritual filled event with Masses celebrated daily with bishops and all of the priests in attendance. The next NCCW Convention will be held in Dallas, September 6-9, 2017. It is sure to be another awe filled gathering of Catholic Women and Priests from across the US.



## Faith Matters

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

When I got the email from Terri, and it said she needed an article from someone who had had a great faith experience, I started thinking about my own faith experiences. I thought, “Gosh, I don’t think I’ve ever had a ‘great faith experience’, I’d better ask someone else to write this.” Then, as the deadline was upon me, and I had not asked anyone else to write it, I thought “Uh-oh”! But then I started thinking about my own faith. Although I don’t know that I have had a single “aha” moment where I knew that my faith mattered, it has been a daily, hourly, by the minute experience for me.

My patron saints at birth are St. Michael the Archangel, and St. Joan of Arc. Pretty strong personalities. However, when it came to choosing my confirmation saint, I chose St. Therese of Lisieux, the Little Flower. I think her faith life more closely matches mine, as my faith has grown with the “little things”, as opposed to some earth-shattering, world changing experience.

I was born into a Catholic family, but not in a town that had a Catholic school. When I was young, I remember going to stay with my grandmother in Lawrence, and walking to Mass with her. We had CCD weekly, as well as Sunday Mass. I remember going to summer school religious education classes with the Marian Sisters. Then we moved to Hastings, where I was able to attend Catholic School. At that time, I remember reading at Mass and learning more about the Catholic religion and its history. I think my faith was just beginning to grow.

After graduating from STC, I went to UNL. At that time, I participated in the March for Life in Lincoln, among other activities. I was beginning to look at my faith with more adult eyes, which continued when I graduated from law school and moved to McCook. In McCook, I really became involved in my faith. I participated in the RCIA class, as I wanted to learn more about my faith at a time I had more of a capacity to appreciate it. I became involved with Altar Society and was in on the ground floor of the Life Chain in McCook. My faith was growing with the small things.

When I moved to Grand Island, I became a Lector and Eucharistic Minister. I taught Confirmation, CCD and was very involved with youth ministry. I was beginning to share my faith with others. Now, in Hastings, I have grown even more, not only doing the works of the Church, but in becoming more active in my personal prayer life. I have been involved in ENDOW groups, and I have an hour of adoration that I attend each week. I am still sharing my faith with others by being involved with CDA, LDCCW and Stewardship. I am also a Teammate Mentor to a senior at St. Cecilia High School, and, hopefully, am sharing my faith with her.

Hopefully, I am living up to St. Therese’s saying, “The smallest actions done for his love are those which charm his heart.” Although I have not had an earth-shattering faith experience, I am trying to live my faith according to her little way.

Michelle J. Oldham, Hastings Deanery President

#### **Moments of Mercy on the USCCB website for November 2016**

Death is a difficult topic to discuss for many people, but it is something we face on a regular basis. The Church *celebrates* the life & memory of those who have passed from this world & reminds us of God’s merciful love. There are many examples of this: at the beginning of November, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of All Saints & the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls); there are vigils for the deceased, [funeral liturgies](#), rites of committal & final commendation, & [prayers](#) for the deceased & those who are mourning. All of these prayers & services help us acknowledge our grief, celebrate the life of the one who has passed away, and find solace in the loving compassion of God.

1. Throughout this month, we should commend in prayer the bodies & souls of those who have died & who may still be in need of God’s mercy in purgatory ([CCC, 1020-1060](#)). Sometimes it helps to write out a list or mention specific names of those who have died. Add some of these [prayers & scripture readings](#) to your daily prayer time.

2. In addition to praying for them, we can help those who are grieving in a tangible way. Be open to listening to someone who is grieving. You could volunteer with a bereavement ministry at your parish if it has one (this usually involves helping organize funeral liturgies and/or a small reception or luncheon afterward for the family). In these small acts of mercy, we show others that the love of God is still present in their lives & their communities even though they are grieving.

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### **Popes Intentions for November**

**Universal:** That the countries which take in a great number of displaced persons and refugees may find support for their efforts which show solidarity.

**Evangelization:** That within parishes, priests and lay people may collaborate in service to the community without giving in to the temptation of discouragement.

## **Dates of Importance**

- **November 5, 2016** – Leadership Training - Doniphan
- **November 11, 2016** Veterans Day
- **November 24, 2016** Thanksgiving Day
- **January 13-14, 2017**—LDCCW Board meetings and 7th Annual Winter Symposium at Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House, Waverly
- **March 1, 2017** Ash Wednesday Day of Recollection in Hastings and Waverly
- **March 21, 2017**—Catholics at the Capitol
- **April 7-8, 2017**—LDCCW Board Meetings Wauneta and Imperial
- **Anniversaries** 2017- Fatima 100



Terri Sullivan  
74951 Ave 358  
Wallace NE 69169