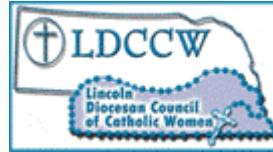


NewsNotes



As the crops are all planted and I watch them grow, I look at the earthly care we must give them so God can do His work to make them produce abundantly. I think about how we must also give earthly care to others so that they can grow spiritually with God and produce the good fruits of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes we need guidance to become an evangelizer and to carry out our earthly mission to spread God's word. Bishop Conley has invited me, so I will be attending the *Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in America* July 1-4 in Orlando, Florida. This is a gathering of Catholic leaders organized by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops inspired by Pope Francis' *Evangelii Gaudium* in an effort to form Missionary Disciples to share the Gospel. By bringing Catholics from across the U.S. together, the goal is to respond to the change of times and the challenges facing the world today and to identify where bearing great fruits is working. There is a definite need to help a divided nation and to unify the Catholics in order to evangelize. The first and only other gathering of Catholic leaders like this was 100 years ago following the crisis of WWI. This was where the need for a Council of Catholic Women was discussed. We will again be called to carry out our mission and to bring the Gospel to the world.

I will share more on the Convocation at the upcoming LDCCW Meeting in David City August 11-12. We will start with a traveling rosary on Friday afternoon where we will recite a Decade of the Rosary at five different churches in the David City area. Saturday the LDCCW Full Board will meet beginning with registration at 8:30 at St. Mary's gym. A full agenda will be sent out later.

The Parent Educator is progressing. We are excited that the writing and artwork for the booklet has been completed and sent to Fr. Heaslip and Bishop Conley for final approval. As with most projects, we will probably be running short of funds before the project is completed so we would appreciate any help financially you may be able to offer. The Knights of Columbus has been contacted to help with this new edition, as they were very instrumental in publication of the original Parent Educator booklet. We have had some parishes contribute towards the Parent Educator booklets already, which we greatly welcomed.

A big thank you goes to Teresa Koch, who made the Palls that were given by the LDCCW to the five newly ordained priests. She will have one of the palls at the August board meetings to show her work of art.

Are you registered to attend the NCCW Convention in Dallas, September 6-9? Stacy Thomlison will be one of the speakers, so I am sure you will not want to miss hearing her words of inspiration. At the Spring LDCCW Board meeting we introduced a fund raiser started by Fr. Kramper to help with the costs to attend. You are asked to send \$15 along with your name, the name of a woman living, and the name of a woman who has passed away. Fr. Kramper will say Masses for those on the list. A drawing will be held at the August Board Meeting for someone to receive money for the bus trip to the Convention. Monies need to be sent to LDCCW Treasurer Teresa Koch for the fundraiser.

Terri Sullivan LDCCW President
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Dear Newsnotes Readers;

Many topics came to mind as I considered what to write about- Precious Blood, Summer Religious Ed, Vacation time, Liturgical Music, Eucharistic Adoration, Religious Freedom, Health Care, the Environment. I decided after my annual retreat to focus on Eucharistic Adoration. The retreat master for the 2nd Priest Retreat was Fr. Alexander Sherbrooke from St. Patrick Parish in Soho London.

The main fruit of the retreat for me was an awareness of the **foundational necessity of a ever-closer relationship with God who is sacrificial love** and the importance of a daily hour of adoration of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. From that relationship and experience a person can and is **impelled to invite others to a relationship with God who is Love** of a sacrificial nature.

There are many tried and true teachers in the church who urge us to develop our relationship with the Lord. Following are some of these teachings.

Blessed Cardinal John Henry Newman- We are by nature what we are; very sinful and corrupt, we know; however, we like to be what we are, and for many reasons it is very unpleasant to us to {241} change. We cannot change ourselves; this too we know full well, or, at least, a very little experience will teach us. God alone can change us; God alone can give us the desires, affections, principles, views, and tastes which a change implies: this too we know; for I am all along speaking of men who have a sense of religion. What then is it that we who profess religion lack? I repeat it, this: a willingness to *be* changed, a willingness to suffer (if I may use such a word), to suffer Almighty God to change us. We do not like to let go our old selves; and in whole or part, though all is offered to us freely, we cling hold to our old selves. Though we were promised no trouble at all in the change, though there were no self-denial, no exertion in changing, the case would not be altered. We do not like to be new-made; we are afraid of it; it is throwing us out of all our natural ways, of all that is familiar to us. We feel as if we should not *be* ourselves any longer, if we do not keep some portion of what we have been hitherto...

It is this principle of self-seeking, so to express myself, this influence of self upon us, which is our ruin. I repeat, I am speaking of those who make a *profession* of religion. ... But when a man comes to God to be saved, then, I say, the essence of true conversion is a *surrender* of himself, an unreserved, unconditional surrender; and this is a {242} saying which most men who come to God cannot receive. They wish to be saved, but in their own way... but to say, "I put myself into Thy hands, O Lord; make Thou me what Thou wilt; I forget myself; I divorce myself from myself; I am dead to myself; I will follow Thee."

Samuel, Isaiah, and St. Paul, three Saints in very different circumstances, all instance this. ... St. Paul's words, when arrested by the miraculous vision, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" [Acts ix. 6.] ... (Parochial & Plain Sermons 5-Sermon 17)

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen (adoration is obedience):

"The only time our Lord asked the Apostles for anything was the night He went into agony. Not for activity did he plead but for an Hour of companionship."

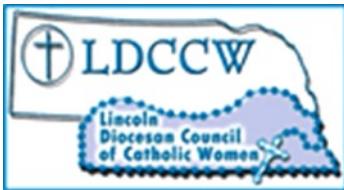
Pope Paul VI- Because Christ himself is present in the sacrament of the altar, he is to be honored with the worship of adoration. "To visit the Blessed Sacrament is... a proof of gratitude, an expression of love, and a duty of adoration toward Christ our Lord" (MF 66)

Pope Benedict XVI- "The hidden treasure... is Jesus himself, the Kingdom in person. In the Sacred Host, he is present, the true treasure, always waiting for us. Only by adoring this presence do we learn how to receive him properly-we learn the reality of communion". (address to Religious and seminarians, Altötting, Germany, Sept., 11, 2006)

Pope Francis: "Citing the Second Vatican Council document *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, the Pope referred to the Eucharist as 'a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity,' and he called the faithful to be nourished by it 'in order to be fraternally united among themselves, and cooperate in the building of the Church and the good of the world.'

Bishop James Conley- Love is selfless sacrifice, and sacrifice is the language of love. Love is the gift of ourselves to our beloved. And Christ made a gift of himself—he gave us his body and blood—poured himself out for our salvation, when he conquered death by dying and rising again....

May God bless all of us.



Fr. Thomas McGuire, Assistant Spiritual Advisor
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TO PRIESTS: USE THE VISITATION AS A SPRINGBOARD

My story: When I saw *Jesus of Nazareth* – not *The Passion of Christ* directed by Mel Gibson but the 6 hour movie directed by Franco Zeffirelli – a scene that stuck with me was the Annunciation.

Mary is awakened and frightened by the Angel. She knocks something over as she jumps back. It awakens her mother. All we can see is light shining in the room; same with her mother. Mary's mother listens to her daughter speak to someone and sees the strange light. She hears and sees no one. After Mary says, "Let it be done to me as you have said," her mother and she talk. Mary informs her mother that Cousin Elizabeth, who was barren for years, is "with child." Her mother asks how she knows this. I don't recall the answer that Mary gave. The next scene I remember is Mary getting ready to go visit Elizabeth.

I used to think Mary knew about Elizabeth before. The movie shows the Angel told her. It made sense. Angel Gabriel is helping the Virgin trust that his message to her is true. If that's the case, Gabriel must have given Mary a deep desire to visit her cousin, for Elizabeth's child would have been something of a miracle, too. Elizabeth would need help; even more, Mary's companionship. Both became new moms after a message from the Angel. Each was given the name for her child. I can imagine that they talked at length of the events leading up to their pregnancies, of prophecies yet unfulfilled, of their hopes for their children, of God's mercy... This "silent" period as their babies grew within them must have been a time of great blessing for the two mothers. I imagine they become closer than twin sisters. Both loved God and believed He would send a Messiah to deliver His People. And God had chosen *them* to be intimately involved with His Plan of Deliverance. They would need to continue to trust God now for their children. I imagine the unborn presence of the infants affected the hearts of Mary and Elizabeth to be contemplative and grow closer to God. Their companionship likely focused on the other – on their children, also on each other: how each other experienced God's Presence. It started with a supernatural message from the Angel.

Suggested application: When we priests meet with women of our parish (Altar Society, Catholic Daughters, etc.) it may be helpful to think of the Mystery of the Visitation. When bringing a message to a group, imagine the Angel Gabriel bringing a message from God. Bring the women a holy message: of unity, of charity, of hope and trust. You could remind them that God has chosen *them* to play a role not only in the salvation of their family members but in the salvation of the members of their parish. It may be talking to the grieving at a funeral dinner; praying for the sick, for veterans, or for the unborn; sharing their stories with each other. It would be interesting to ask them to share with each other how God called them to be involved with the women's group; how God called them to the Catholic faith, or a deepening of their faith. Most of your talk would be listening to their stories and letting them share their faith with each other. They may never have done that. It might draw them closer to each other, and to God. Most parishes and mission parishes have a women's group – Altar Society, Catholic Daughters, Christian Mothers, PCCW, etc. Each may have their own by-laws, mission statement or constitution. Regardless, parish organizations are under their parish's goals. And the primary goal of a parish and its organizations and groups is *the holiness of the members*.

In November 2016, our LDCCW hosted a National Leadership Training Development team that gave an all-day presentation to the three NE diocesan CCWs. Women from each diocese helped as well as attended. From there, our LDCCW, under the guidance of recent past president Ann Jansky, formed *our own Leadership team*. It is made up mainly of past presidents of our LDCCW.

Leadership Training Development (LTD) is taking place for the women of our diocese, a deanery at a time. On January 5, our own LTD Team members met with representatives of the Lincoln Deanery, and followed up offering assistance by phone or by meeting with parish officers. The Team will meet with women from the Orleans Deanery February 28 in Holdrege.

The **purpose** of Leadership Training Development is customized to what the women of each deanery determine is needed among their parish groups by way of an emailed pre-assessment form. The LTD Team puts the content of their deanery presentation together from responses on these forms.

Our LDCCW LTD Team are women with experience on every level of the Council of Catholic Women. They have become leaders in LDCCW especially by their experiences. They are volunteering to help women in parishes discover their leadership abilities, to help women work together in their parish, to address needs they have in their groups, to do things their pastor asks of them, or the bishop asks them to help with. (The bishop has asked for help with one project every two years, for the most part).

So, I hope you have input you can offer to us of some ways you have implemented *holiness* into or thru your parish women's organization(s). If so, please send descriptions of this to me or to Fr. Lux. My email is frthomasmcguire@yahoo.com and Fr. Lux's email is fr.thomas-lux@cdolinc.net Thank you!

Post -It Notes
From Province
Director
JoAnn Messing

- **Post-its from your Province Director:**

- Encourage everyone to ride the bus to the NCCW convention in Dallas. It's a great way to be reenergized and to receive the materials on the new projects being presented.
- Invite all your ladies to the Province Board Meeting on July 17, 2017 at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Grand Island (1 block east of the 5-points intersection). 8:30 is rolls and coffee and registration. We will be learning about the Shroud of Turin from a scientific perspective. Then Mass, lunch and a Business meeting will fill out the day, with adjournment at 3:00 p.m.

- NCCW Mother's Day Roses Fund Raiser brought in \$3,500 and \$1,750 was given to the Basilica for Masses for our moms and upkeep at Mary's shrine. It was decided that the roses would be too cumbersome.
- NCCW wants to expand its base and encourage future leaders by offering membership to high school and college women. They would have a direct connection to NCCW and not be through an affiliate. NCCW wants us to contact each unpaid affiliate and find out why they have not paid and resolve the problem if there is one or note the reason so that NCCW can update the status of these delinquent affiliates.
- They are looking to create a "members-only" website and are deciding what resources they want to give away for free and what resources they want available only to their paid membership, thereby enhancing the value of being a member!
- NCCW is encouraging all Provinces to create a "Province Director Elect" position to help the incoming gal 'learn the ropes' by working along side the present P.D. so she doesn't feel so overwhelmed when it's her turn to take over the job.
- In 2018 we will have our own representative at the UN (!) and will no longer have to use the credentials of WUCWO.
- NCCW is looking for a doctoral student to research and write the 100 year history of the NCCW for their doctoral study. Contact Dr. Rebecca Woodhull beckwood22@comcast.net or call 217-585-0664 for the particulars.
- The NCCW Leadership Development Team (LTD) is being confused with the Leadership Commission, so they will be renaming themselves the "Enrichment Development Team". They will have a workshop at convention.
- October is "Domestic Violence Awareness" month, Kathy Bonner has developed a program, she will speak at convention and her program will be in your convention packet. As part of Service commission we will also be displaying a crotched mat for the homeless made out of plastic bags.
- Leadership is encouraging all meetings and conventions to have membership brochures to hand out and also NCCW logo items for sale. If they enroll that day they can be in a drawing to win a gift basket of NCCW items. And that communication and education are an ongoing necessity. There will be a mentoring workshop at convention.
- Spirituality will present a resource on the "Dignity of Women", based on a reflection of the Mysteries of the Rosary, which will be in your packet, also. The Vocation Purse Club has \$19,264.91, they will be reviewing applications by several orders who have requested funds for their candidates.
- Guest speaker at the NCCW Board meeting was Amy McInerny, director of the "Human Life Action", a project of the Nat'l Committee for a Human Life Amendment, she encouraged all of us to support laws that make even small changes to increase the protection of all life.
- We prayed the rosary at Mary's Garden on the grounds of the Basilica of the Nat'l Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, it looks tired, needs a refresh. Looking through old documents they were unable to find any

OMAHA PROVINCE COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN MEETING

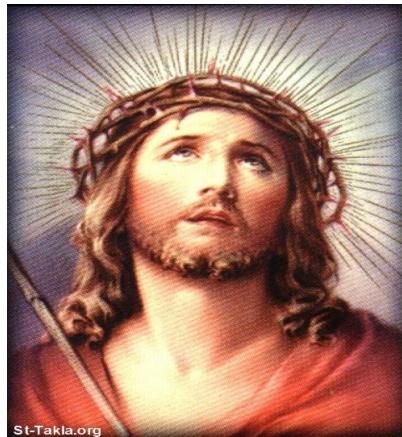
MONDAY JULY 17, 2017

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH JUBLEE CENTER
518 WEST STATE STREET GRAND ISLAND, NE

8:15 AM-\$15.00 REGISTRATION - COFFEE AND ROLLS

9:00 AM- ROSARY

9:30 AM- PRESENTATION BY: JIM BERTRAND
“THE HOLY SHROUD OF TURIN”



11:15 AM- MASS
NOON-LUNCHEON
1:00 PM BUSINESS MEETING

During the 2014-2016 term, Bishop Conley selected Camp Kateri to receive the money collected for the Bishop's Project. The new and improved Target Range is now completed and below are two photos. Russell Koos, camp director, said they modified an existing building and now have slingshots, LARP arrows and equipment storage and enough archery stations for an entire cabin group to shoot at the same time (12 people). A plaque thanking LDCCW as the range sponsor will be available soon, as well as a sign



for range commands, making it easier for kids to know what to do. Thanks for making this happen! It is great to see the results of our charitable contributions.



POPES INTENTIONS FOR JULY

Lapsed Christians.



That our brothers and sisters who have strayed from the faith, through our prayer and witness to the Gospel, may rediscover the merciful closeness of the Lord and the beauty of the Christian life.

Spirituality Commission – Ellen Jirovsky
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ellenjirovsky@outlook.com

St. John Paul II said, “Do not be afraid to welcome Christ and accept his power.” With the coming of Pentecost, we are strengthened in our faith and once again feel energized to spread the kingdom of God in charity.

From the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians: “There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.” Do what you do best, as an individual, as a parish, and offer it to God.

In June, many of our Diocesan Priests changed their parish or ministry assignments. Please welcome them, work for them to make their move comfortable and done smoothly. It is not easy to move their entire “lives” to a new location, new duties, and new people to meet. Our newly ordained need our prayers as they take their positions in their new lives, dedicated to the Lord. All priests need our prayers in whatever they must take on daily as their crosses.

At this time, I would like to introduce a wonderful assignment for your parish. There is a program called “Seven Sisters”—a hidden apostolate in which seven ladies form a group to take one hour per day (of the seven days of the week), and pray before the Blessed Sacrament, for the parish priest. The goal is to have it in each parish. There can be more than one group of Seven Sisters. It was started by Janette Howe, in Minnesota, her e-mail is Joy2Day2U@aol.com and this program has been around for about four years. LDCCW was mentioned in the last newsletter, nationally, for beginning groups in the Diocese of Lincoln! There are several groups in the parishes in Lincoln already praying for their pastor with the Seven Sisters program. We have inducted seven ladies at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Seward, starting on Pentecost Sunday. The goal is One Hour/One Priest/Each Week/One Heart of Prayer. A Diocese in Minnesota is nearing 100% participation—a Seven Sisters group in every parish in their diocese. What a great goal for us to follow. Please go to the website to inquire or start your group: sevensistersapostolate.org for more information. As the parish priest is assured of a holy hour each day, he is strengthened in his mission. Janette Howe sends e-mails daily to the anchorress of the Seven Sisters, and she in turn shares them. There is a booklet to follow, and a commitment ceremony. The time goes from May to May each year, with a re-commitment the next year to continue if desired. The Seven Sisters pray for their parish Priest, so if there is a change in administration, the group prays for the new priest arriving.

And of course, if there is an assistant priest or more in residence, there should be a Seven Sisters group for each priest.

Janette Howe asks of us: “I ask each active Seven Sister to pray one wee Hail Mary every day for me—that I may not ruin the work of God (St. Teresa of Calcutta)”. The Church draws her life from the Eucharist. The primary goal of every priest is to administer the Eucharist to all. The other duties he has all point to and come from the Body of Christ. “Ever since Pentecost, when the Church, the People of the New Covenant, began her pilgrim journey towards her heavenly homeland, the Divine Sacrament has continued to mark the passing of her days, filling them with confident hope.” (Introduction, I). Pope Francis remarks, “The Holy Spirit leads us to perceive the Lord’s presence and love in our lives.” ~~~~

Leadership Commission
Judy Weston
Phone 402-984-5856
ldccwleadership@gmail.com

Who said summer was a lazy hazy time? During the summer I chase middle to high school students around for camps that help the students choose a career. Recently the students learned about trucking and the conversation changed drastically to human trafficking. As we prepare for large group activities. Please be mindful of things that might say a person is a victim. The Grand Island Independent recently reported the state fair and the solar eclipse may key times for human trafficking. The solar eclipse will cover a large part of our area. Copy and past this link in your browser to read more.

<http://www.omahawomensfund.org/wp-content/uploads/Human-Trafficking-in-Nebraska-Report1.pdf>

Have you been reviewing with your new officers about what they need to know? Summer is a wonderful time to relax and go over ideas and brainstorm on how to increase your membership. As always please add your new members to the spread sheets and let's keep your officers updated in our spreadsheet.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1d8jd3M03xT5OVuusLskgwVujx6JAr2AdAuZ2VmX_1-I/edit?usp=sharing

Service Commission—Geri Burns—burnz@q.com

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308-345-7447

It's Summertime! Time for families to spend more time together. We must remember to keep everyone safe. There are so many activities we do in the summer that require extra attention; swimming, being out in the heat and eating outside. Be sure to use plenty of sunscreen, use life jackets and keep food at safe temperatures when eating outside.

If your parish offers religious programs for the children in the summer, try to get your children or grandchildren involved. Even if you don't have children, the program can always use extra help such as bringing snacks or drinks.

Most of us receive a lot of religious materials in the mail and many times we get duplicates. A good resource for these items is the prison ministry. Contact your priest to find out if there is a need. Another place these items are welcome is your Catholic school, they can be used for incentives for learning prayers or celebrating Baptismal anniversaries.

If you have a Meals-on-Wheels program in your area, find out if they need extra volunteers in the summer. Many people go on vacation and there might be a need for someone to fill in. Maybe your schedule doesn't allow you to deliver meals on a regular basis, but you could be on call. This is a great ministry and children can help to brighten the day of those receiving meals.

If you have an over abundance of produce from your garden, check with your food pantry to find out if they can accept it. For a family who doesn't have a lot of food, fresh fruits and vegetables would be wonderful. We need to pray for the many immigrants in our country. In the NCCW magazine Catholic Woman, it is suggested we pray to Saint Josephine Bakhita for intercession for immigration. Every evening at 8:00 p.m. (CT) or 7:00 p.m. (MT), say three Hail Marys and one Our Father for all immigrants. St. Josephine Bakhita who was enslaved in her childhood in Sudan, is also the patron of victims of human trafficking.

Did you know that Pope Francis wrote an encyclical on ecology? On June 18, 2015, Pope Francis' encyclical on ecology was released to the world. The encyclical, as is usually the case, takes its name from the first few words of the text: "Laudato Si" which translates "Praise be to you". These words, in turn come from the opening line of the Canticle of the Creatures by St. Francis of Assisi, who Pope Francis continues to look to for inspiration. The subtitle is "On Care For Our Common Home". Pope Francis asks "What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us?" Pope Francis gives examples of little daily actions we can do to help take care of our planet:

- Avoid the use of paper and plastic
- Reduce water consumption
- Separate and recycle trash when possible
- Use public transportation when possible
- Plant trees
- Turn off unnecessary lights.

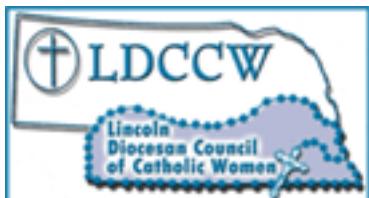
You can google the name of this encyclical and read it in its entirety.

Wishing everyone a safe, holy Summer.

God Bless you and your families!

Upcoming events --

- Our Lady of Mt Carmel (Patroness for President-Elects & 2VP) July 16
- Omaha Province Meeting - July 17 - Grand Island
- LDCCW Board Meeting - August 11-12 - David City
- NCCW Convention - September 6-9 - Dallas, TX



Friday, 09 June 2017 - Tom Venzor Executive Director of the Nebraska Catholic Conference
The state legislature adjourned their session on May 23. The legislature will not reconvene until early January. As with all things, lessons were learned along the way. Reflecting on the past several months, my colleagues and I thought the following lessons were particularly beneficial to us and could be to all Catholics across Nebraska.

1. Prayer Matters. Prayer is critical for many reasons, but for two in particular. First, our state senators are constantly discerning what is good and prudent public policy. This is no small task, especially considering the scope and complexity of issues. Senators—like us—approach these decisions in the frailty of their humanity, in need of the Holy Spirit’s guidance.

Second, as Lt. Gov. Mike Foley emphasized during Catholics at the Capitol, there is a spiritual battle occurring within the legislature. When senators debate key social issues (e.g., abortion, marriage and family, human sexuality, religious liberty, education, poverty), the tensions run high. This is unsurprising since these issues are literally a battle over the soul of our culture.

Praying for senators, legislative staff members, lobbyists, and others throughout the legislative session is crucial. Your prayer aids them to discern and act on prudent policy. Your prayers assist and fortify them in the spiritual battles encountered throughout the lawmaking process.

2. Catholic Presence Matters. Throughout the legislative session, the outreach and presence of Catholics across Nebraska had a direct effect on the legislative process. State senators met Catholics through various encounters (e.g., personal contacts, phone calls, e-mails, petitions, testifying at a committee hearing).

These encounters with elected officials should not be taken for granted. These moments further encourage friendly senators. They help educate senators still weighing the issue.

These moments apply pressure to senators who may be indecisive or waffling on an issue. They also inform senators with differing opinions that they have constituents who reasonably and charitably disagree with their positions and votes.

3. Personal Relationships Matter. To build on the previous lesson, it is critical that your voice is heard through various forms of political activity. But take the next step: build a personal relationship with your senator. Take time to get to know your senator as a person. Find ways to invite them to parish activities (e.g., parish festival, fish fry, Mass, etc.). As Christ taught us, the world is transformed through encounters and relationships.

4. Ask Questions, Get Clarity. Never settle for platitudes or slogans when speaking with (aspiring) elected officials. For example, if your senator says they are “pro-life”, don’t let them stop there. Ask what it means for them to be “pro-life”. Are they anti-abortion? If so, what exactly will they do (or not do) to support laws to end abortion and the killing of innocent human life? What have they already done (or not done) in their life as pro-life advocates?

Constituents deserve clear and detailed answers from their senators. This informs you as a citizen, and keeps senators accountable when voting on legislation.

5. Elections Matter. Who you send to the state capitol makes all the difference. One senator can make or break an issue. A single senator can make key contributions through their arguments during legislative debates, private conversations with fellow senators, and deals and compromises they reach throughout the legislative process.

There are moments when the fate of a legislative bill comes down to one or two senators. We experienced this with the advancement of school choice legislation out of the revenue committee and the defeat of legislation that would have substantially defunded Planned Parenthood.

Catholics must be aware of the Church’s teaching on “Faithful Citizenship” and vote during elections in accord with the Truth. We must also pray ardently that God would raise up good women and men for elected office—especially the state legislature—in order that our society would honor God, protect the human person, safeguard the family, and advance the common good.

Conclusion. We hope these few lessons we have learned will help you become a better constituent and advocate with your state senator and legislature. As it is inscribed on our state capitol building: “The salvation of the state is watchfulness in the citizen.” Be vigilant.

Faith Matters

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

My name is Barb Janda from Lawrence. I have been asked to write this article titled “How faith has been beneficial in my life”.

This is a pretty easy question for me to answer. Where would I be *without* my faith? Let me introduce my family to you. My husband, Tom, of 37 years and I have been blessed with 4 daughters, Jamie, Jackie, Stephanie and Kimberly. Jamie & Steph are married and have blessed us even more with 6 grandchildren. Jackie was stillborn in 1984 – 7 months pregnant. That left us with many questions – why and what did we do wrong. Faith got us through this. Our last pregnancy was a unique gift from the Lord. At the time, we just thought she was a beautiful ornery brown-eyed girl who would challenge us daily! Little did we know, Kimberly Marie, was a special gift from God.

God entrusted His daughter to us to take care of for only 23 years. Kim suffered from an Arterial Venial Malformation on June 2, 1992. She was 4 ½ years young and was stripped of all her motor skills including speech. Not going into the details of her health and educational life, I would like to express how the Lord guided us each and every way. Sometimes it was tough signing the next surgery consent, choosing the correct treatment plan, enrolling her in the school system and ‘trusting’ her in someone else’s care during her school days. The poem “Footprints in the Sand” has a true meaning to our family’s life.

Kim was able to receive all the age appropriate sacraments, but that she could receive the Holy Eucharist is what helped me personally through this time. Kim would receive just a tiny piece of Jesus at Mass. (She was tube fed for 18 years). I continue to be blessed as I am able to attend daily Mass and receive Jesus. It’s the best part of my day!

Her sisters to this day recall many events from those years, and I know this made them such strong daughters, sisters and now mothers. Tom was my strength through all this. We were dairy farmers then. So, Tom wasn’t always able to be there for appointments, etc. However, Kim and I knew he was with us just as Jesus was.

One cannot measure the amount of faith Kim portrayed. Anyone who would see her in her wheelchair would smile.

Kim developed an untreatable pneumonia in February of 2010 and was called home to be with her Father. A great priest friend told me, “Barb -- Jesus loves Kim more than you could ever possibly love her.” Jamie & Steph wrote on her funeral prayer card: “Countless members of our family, countless friends and neighbors, numerous medical personnel and a host of acquaintances stood by us as we stood by the Cross that Kim carried. May Jesus reward you now and in eternity.”

Our girls also wrote a poem entitled “Loving Memories” for her funeral and this is an excerpt: “Your wheelchair was no barrier; but instead, a ‘vehicle’ to spread God’s tender love. You were a fighter to the very end of your life on Earth. Now, you are singing, dancing and running around in Heaven.”

Where would I be without my faith? I have no idea. Thy will be done!

Women Fully Alive

Retreat

July 29, 2017 8 am–5 pm

St. Michaels Hastings

Join us to discover your God given strengths and awaken your soul to your beautiful purpose.

Women will take the Gallup Strength Finders Assessment as part of the retreat.

- Blogger, Catholic missionary and co-founder of St. Bryce Missions and the St. Francis Emmaus Center, which care for at-risk mothers and their children in Costa Rica.
- Dain Finney, Strengths Finder Coach and former FOCUS Missionary

Questions Call

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Or email sarahheideman@hotmail.com

Andrea Rodriguez 1-402-984-0076

To register go to

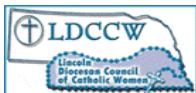
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**Doing
little
things
with
great
love for
God**



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