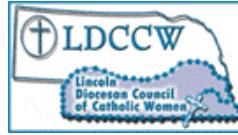


# NewsNotes



## Thankful Grateful Blessed

The Thanksgiving Holiday has somehow been lost between Halloween and Christmas. It does not get much recognition except for the fact that Black Friday follows "Turkey Day". And yet, it must be important because we spend a lot of time in preparation for a gathering on that day. We clean the house, find ways to decorate, plan a big meal, invite friends and family and gather enough chairs and tables to seat everyone. When the big day arrives, we enjoy the smell of turkey and homemade rolls which fill the house. Friends and relatives arrive and we share memories of past celebrations. We give thanks to God for the loved ones gathered say a prayer for those who are no longer with us.

We might enjoy time sitting around the table talking, telling stories and making plans for next year. As the time to depart comes closer, we are reluctant to leave. It has been a special time of family and friends. A time spent sharing our lives and our love. What lies ahead in the days to come? We know there will be exciting happenings and challenges. But we have had this time of togetherness to strengthen us for what we will encounter.

Thanksgiving also brings thoughts of the Pilgrims in a new country coming together to give thanks for a bountiful harvest. They thank God for safe the passage across the ocean, for surviving the unexpected winter weather and for safety in the future.

But there was another Thanksgiving – one that took place long ago and is still celebrated today. It began with a Man who told two of his followers to go into the village and find a place that was big enough to accommodate all their friends. He asked them to make arrangements so they could have a special meal and talk about the things that have been happening in their lives. He knew there would be uncertainties facing them in the future. Life would be different after tonight. They might be afraid and unsure. He wanted to be with them one last time before their lives were turned upside down. He ministered to them, washing their feet and asking them to serve others as He had served them.

When it came time for dinner, the Man prayed to God, broke the bread and shared it with his friends. He asked them to do this same thing in memory of Him. At the end of the meal, he shared a cup of wine as a covenant with them. Luke 22: 8-20. This was the Last Supper they would share (in person) with their friend and teacher. Eucharist in Greek means Thanksgiving. The Last Supper was the first Mass. This Eucharistic celebration of Thanksgiving (the Mass) takes place every day in churches around the world. Thank you, Jesus for the Gift of Thanksgiving and the most special gift – the Gift of Self.

*We are Thankful, Grateful, Blessed .... Kathy Rowell*



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Dear NewsNotes Readers:

Stay Good! is a phrase I remember hearing a priest of our diocese use. It is positive. It presumes that you have been good and are good. But what does "good" mean? There are many meanings.

My parents would say "Be good". They would ask "Did you have a good time?" or "These garden tomatoes are good!" We had a phrase "Goody goody gum drops." We pray each year for a safe and good harvest and in thanksgiving for the harvest.

A Bing search for a definition shows there are many parts of speech that good fits into. Below is a "summary" with links for additional detail:

When I studied philosophy in college seminary we heard about various definitions of good put forth by philosophers down through time beginning with Aristotle & Plato and ending with Sartre. Our focus was on the definition put forth by St. Thomas Aquinas who, based on Aristotle, wrote. "The end of anything is that in which its appetite terminates." -Summa Contra Gentiles

Aquinas, adapting Aristotle, says that God made all creatures to seek that which is good. Ultimately this leads to consideration of what is the highest of good. The answer is God so all things are in some way ordered to God.

From the Modern Catholic Dictionary by Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J. the definition of GOOD is In general, whatever is suitable or befitting someone or something. Practically, however, it is that which all things tend toward or desire. The good is the desirable, and therefore the object of the natural (or supernatural) needs or tendencies of a being.

Our theology studies taught us with more definition what I had learned as a child: "God is good." Scripture repeatedly asserts this. A few examples: James 1:17 says: all good giving and every perfect gift\* is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no alteration or shadow caused by change.

Luke 18:19 says: Jesus answered him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone." There are parallels in Matthew 19 & Mark 10.

Psalm 107:1 says: "Give thanks to the LORD for he is good, his mercy endures forever!" which is echoed in many other psalms.

It can be said that God is Goodness or God is the Good. We also know that God is love.

1 John 4:16: We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us. God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him.

It was good to be a part of the 2020 NCCW National Convention which celebrated 100 years plus one since

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we could not meet in 2020. Check out the [www.nccw.org](http://www.nccw.org) website. Thank you for sending me as part of the twenty some folks from Nebraska, including Bishop Hanefeldt of Grand Island.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed, especially, Kayleen Lukasiewic, the Omaha Archdiocese CCW president, and Janet Naughton, the Grand Island Diocese CCW president, each of whom died in office this year.

May God bless all of us.

Good - [good]

ADJECTIVE

to be desired or approved of. "a good quality of life" | [more]

having the qualities required for a particular role. - "the schools here are good"

synonyms: fine · of high quality · of a high standard · quality · superior · satisfactory · | [more]

possessing or displaying moral virtue. - "I've met many good people who made me feel ashamed of my own shortcomings" | [more]

synonyms: virtuous · righteous · moral · morally correct · ethical · upright · upstanding · | [more]

giving pleasure; enjoyable or satisfying. - "the streets fill up with people looking for a good time"

synonyms: enjoyable · pleasant · agreeable · pleasing · pleasurable · delightful · great · | [more]

NOUN

that which is morally right; righteousness. - "a mysterious balance of good and evil"

synonyms: virtue · righteousness · virtuousness · goodness · morality · ethicalness · | [more]

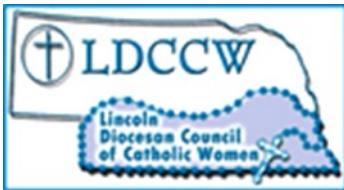
benefit or advantage to someone or something. - "he convinces his father to use his genius for the good of mankind" · | [more]

synonyms: benefit · advantage · profit · gain · interest · welfare · well-being · enjoyment · | [more]

ADVERB - informal

well. - "my mother could never cook this good"





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## TO PRIESTS—Women Know What's Going on More than Most Men

It's a general statement, I know, but I've usually found it true. For example, I once was asked if someone was in the hospital. I didn't know. Tried to think if I had seen the person around. Didn't recall. I did remember it was the time locals meet for coffee in the local coffee-meeting place. Went there and, as usual, two groups were having coffee – the men and the women – both having lively conversations. The groups were talking about different things. I joined the women. I mostly listened. Thought I'd ask about the individual I was asked about; ask surreptitiously. Turns out I didn't need to ask.

Before long I learned the person was fine. The women knew and cared. Their conversations were of people they cared about or hoped to connect with later in the day. They talked about friends with whom they kept in touch. They even knew what the group of men were up to – what was going on in their lives.

The men? They were having fun “jabbing” at each other and laughing.

The women especially wanted to learn about the joys and sorrows of their neighbors and share what they knew about them. It could have become “gossipy” but it didn't. They were respectful. A couple planned to go visit one who was not there and knew they could use a visit. I was impressed with both groups but there was a “feminine genius” the women had.

Several wanted to do little acts of charity for a few who came up in discussion. Was it the presence of a priest that led them to this charity? Nope. Maybe the conversation was civil (no cussing). And I did make a point of asking how life was going for those who couldn't get a word in edgewise. The charitable were going to be charitable whether I was there or not. Their conversation seemed to have that purpose: find out about those missing from the group – how they may be doing – and go visit them if need be.

I don't know if the men's conversation produced similar decisions. Had the impression their coffee group was simpler: recreate with each other, laugh and joke and come back tomorrow for the same. If something serious had happened, bringing it up was warranted. All would be concerned though not all would express it openly. And that was okay. It was understood.

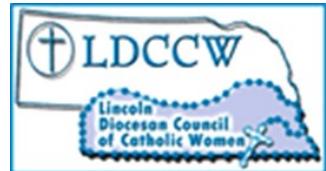
I was glad I stopped that day. I saw a motherly concern the women had for others. The women admitted readily they were no angels. However, they knew what was going on in the lives of ‘members’ who were not there. A pretty mature group, this group. I think it's fairly common that women meet to connect with others and want to know about the ‘missing’ especially if they are in some kind of need.

How can we priests tap into their gift? How can we direct them? Learn from them? Appreciate what they do simply as women? Support such leadership in parish women's groups? How can we use the Word of God or the Gospel to give deeper meaning to their little acts of charity? To their desire to help the needy? How can we redirect their energies when they may get caught up in things that don't matter nearly as much? Or how can we respect them when they have to do things for the parish that can be so tedious? How do we support their feminine genius? Can we focus their compassion on their families at parish women's meetings without getting too personal? Can we recognize those who may be good at mentoring younger women in their vocations: being spiritual daughters, mothers, or grandmothers? Do we form goals for our women's groups and let women carry them out – personal holiness, family unity, acts of charity for the parish or community? Do we pray for the members of the groups; pray with them more than just a Hail Mary or an Our Father?

Women are creative followers of Jesus if we let them, encourage them – guide them when needed.



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Jeanette Stengel, Spirituality Commission Nov. 2021 Divine Mercy

Jesus said to St. Faustina: BEFORE I COME AS THE JUST JUDGE, I AM COMING FIRST AS THE KING OF MERCY. (Diary, 83).

The devotion to Divine Mercy as we practice it today came from St. Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun who lived in the 20th Century. She claimed that she had regular visions of Jesus and saints, and that Jesus himself gave her the details of the devotion. She wrote descriptions of what she saw and heard in her diary, which are now published in a book called 'The Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska: Divine Mercy in My Soul.'

Warning her fellow nuns that a great war was coming and that they should pray for Poland. St. Faustina died at the age of 33 on October 5, 1938.

A year later, Germany invaded Poland. Impressed by the accuracy of her prophecy, Archbishop Józef Glemp of Vilnius allowed for public use of the Divine Mercy devotion for the first time. The devotion quickly spread through Poland and was a source of strength and inspiration during the terrible years of the war. By 1941, it was already spreading around the world and, despite the war, had made it all the way to the United States. Polish priest Fr. Sopocko was inspired to start a religious congregation (something like a religious order) related to the devotion.

With the end of the war, the devotion spread even faster. By 1951, just 13 yrs. after St. Faustina's death, there were 150 religious centers in Poland dedicated to Divine Mercy. Pope Pius XII blessed a D.M. image in 1956 and allowed many bishops throughout the world to give their blessing to writings about the devotion. Vatican Radio even started promoting the devotion in its programming.

But not everyone in the hierarchy approved of the devotion. On March 6, 1959, the Holy Office finally issued a document that forbid the use of "Images and writings that promote devotion to DM in the forms proposed by Sister Faustina. It seemed like the devotion to Divine Mercy might be over with.

The Polish people were crushed including one such person Karol Wojtyła. A "rising star" in the Church's hierarchy. He was appointed Archbishop of Krakow at the young age of 43 in 1964. He started a fresh investigation into her works. He discovered her works were not read in their original Polish but via faulty French and Italian translations. Then in 1978 Cardinal Wojtyła, who led the effort to not ban St. Faustina's works, was made Pope John Paul II.

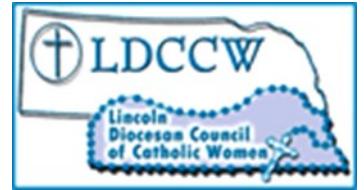
John Paul II personally beatified Faustina in 1993 and then canonized her in 2000. He also designated the first Sunday after Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday. St. Faustina and her devotions were completely vindicated and took the message of God's infinite mercy to the whole world!

We are called to pray the DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET daily. Please read the Divine Mercy Message and Devotion (M17 booklet). To order material: contact the Marianas of the Immaculate Conception, Stockbridge, MA. 01263-0004 call 1-800-462-7426 or visit website [www.marian.org](http://www.marian.org).

Continue promoting and praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet and the Message.

This is my last article on DM for the LDCCW. It's been a blessing to have served in this capacity. Jesus gave us the 'recipe' for His Mercy through St. Faustina. Let's go share it with others through billboards, assisting our priests at Divine Mercy Sunday and knowing the Message. Because of His Divine Mercy, may we accept it, step back and let GOD BE STRONG. God Bless.

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The LDCCW believes in the sanctity and dignity of life from conception to natural death and endorses programs which support and advance this belief. The Service Commission addresses the concerns and needs of the family, the community and the world. It sponsors activities, works and programs that strengthen families, especially women and children. It encourages an awareness Service. The Service Commission provides valuable information about the needs of all through education and encourages women to stand together to make a difference in the world.

Are you making a difference in your parish? Thoughts to ponder as we enter into the cold weather season. I suspect there are plenty of opportunities to make a difference.

Here's to a successful Service Season....

Kathy Rentschler

## November

INDIANOLA Deanery – St. Monica Prayers

November 1 – All Saints Day

November 2 – All Souls Day

November 1-8 – Visit a Cemetery -- An indulgence, applicable only to the Souls in Purgatory, is granted to the faithful, who devoutly visit a cemetery and pray, even if only mentally, for the departed. The indulgence is plenary from the 1st to the 8th of November.

November 7 – Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 11 - Veterans Day

November 20 – Pi Alpha Chi Founder's Day Brunch 10 am [mruhl87@gmail.com](mailto:mruhl87@gmail.com)

November 23 - Thanksgiving

November 28 – First Sunday of Advent

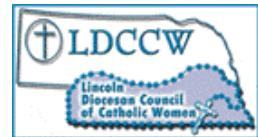


Holy Father's (November Intention: People who suffer from Depression)

\*\* We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

Year of Saint Joseph - 15 ways to gain an indulgence in the Year of St. Joseph (listed in the December 18 issue of the Southern Nebraska Register). I will pick one to highlight each month.

# 9 MEDITATE for at least 30 minutes on the LORD'S PRAYER because St. Joseph "invites us to rediscover our filial relationship with the Father, to renew fidelity to prayer, to listen and correspond with profound discernment to God's will."



### **Finding the Leader Within You!**

As I mentioned, the Councils are now working to change up the leadership in their current officers. We must give a big shout out to the women who have stayed on during COVID and are now ready to step down. Who can be a leader for your council? In an article in Catholic Woman, the article about Finding the Leader Within You, said to take the initiative, listen and motivate in your council or where ever you volunteer! What is holding you back?

You don't have to be perfect you just need to say yes! There is a woman in our council with a young family, works a full time job and teaches CCD! She will be our parish council president this January. She has answered to call to be a Mary and Martha.

We also discussed leadership in my CCD class last week, we talked about Moses. Moses was a great leader, but he had a speech impediment and had killed a man. We talked about how this man who had problems was chosen to be a leader by God. Granted not everyone is going to encounter a burning bush but you have skills to be a leader. Can you organize your family? Great, you are a leader. Are you worried about agenda planning? If you can make lists. you can make an agenda. Communication? Please, if you are in an workplace setting, or managing a family you most definitely have communication skills. You can be asked to hold an office or run a committee but why not step and just say yes! Your president of your PCCW is listed in your church bulletin, give them a call today and say to being a new leader at your parish council!

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1tcOPD7Tff1hAa0nPIYbmG6hdtQsuT11DWrl6y5RI7f8/edit#gid=1332328597> If you have questions please text me at 402-984-5856

**Legislative Chair**  
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Nebraska's new redistricted maps were approved by Governor Ricketts. The maps can be found [here](#).

- These new maps redistricted boundaries of Supreme Court judicial districts, public service commission districts, University of Nebraska Board of Regents, State Board of Education and legislative and Congressional districts.

There is a vacancy to be filled on the Nebraska State Board of Education for the newly redistricted #5. Recommendations must be made to the Governor. Feel free to share names of any individuals you feel would be an asset to this board or direct them to this article: [https://governor.nebraska.gov/press/gov-ricketts-seeks-applicants-represent-district-5-state-board-education?fbclid=IwAR2t3soDPbyuu2m9Q3S\\_mmj2vSXHvVYSUfonFvkXnASd5sNOx5tlHPJ70o4](https://governor.nebraska.gov/press/gov-ricketts-seeks-applicants-represent-district-5-state-board-education?fbclid=IwAR2t3soDPbyuu2m9Q3S_mmj2vSXHvVYSUfonFvkXnASd5sNOx5tlHPJ70o4)

- Another friendly reminder - elections will be coming up for District 6 also for the Nebraska State Board of Education. Please inform yourself and make your vote count to elect people to these types of boards that can help protect our children. Keep a watch for other local elections such as school boards, etc for which you feel you can make a change for the better.

(continued on next page)

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT CONTINUED

Several articles (nationally and locally) have been published about the "halting" of the Nebraska Department of Education's "health standards". This is great that this is getting national attention. I've listed a few below if you are interested in reading them:

<https://freebeacon.com/campus/nebraska-department-of-education-excluded-religious-groups-from-sex-ed-curriculum-team/>

[https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/10/14/emails-reveal-nebraska-ed-bureaucrats-disdain-for-parents-inpushing-radical-sex-ed-curriculum/?fbclid=IwAR3HSir3AyviAt0moOuqb8cgfWwZmFUeeTLB\\_rFNXsYVETPrvWDf\\_nPE\\_VK](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/10/14/emails-reveal-nebraska-ed-bureaucrats-disdain-for-parents-inpushing-radical-sex-ed-curriculum/?fbclid=IwAR3HSir3AyviAt0moOuqb8cgfWwZmFUeeTLB_rFNXsYVETPrvWDf_nPE_VK)

<https://www.lincolndiocese.org/op-ed/legislative-update/15570-a-disappointing-validation?fbclid=IwAR14OLiUFexyWm4rbhTyPHPk1jqYQfuTEfasoKU7NZ83Xyo0re7KBir0UMA>

[https://omaha.com/news/local/education/why-were-nebraskas-sex-ed-standards-halted-emails-offer-behind-the-scenes-look/article\\_e9cbac36-209f-11ec-baed-2713bc5c1aae.html](https://omaha.com/news/local/education/why-were-nebraskas-sex-ed-standards-halted-emails-offer-behind-the-scenes-look/article_e9cbac36-209f-11ec-baed-2713bc5c1aae.html)

- The 2022 Nebraska Legislature will be in session starting Wednesday, January 5 **National Issues**

As mentioned in a previous report, recent appropriation bills have been released from the Senate lacking several longstanding provisions like the Hyde Amendment and the Weldon Amendment. Without these amendments, along with other longstanding pro-life provisions, the Senate is forcing tax payers to pay for the taking of innocent unborn human life. You can read an article on this issue from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: <https://www.usccb.org/news/2021/bishop-chairmen-call-us-senate-retain-longstanding-bipartisan-pro-life-policies>

Contact Nebraska Senators and let them know how you feel about this: Ben Sasse - <https://www.sasse.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-ben> and Deb Fischer - 202-224-6551

- The Supreme Court will hear arguments on December 1 from the case Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization - this is the case that *could* pose a serious challenge to Roe v. Wade. There have been a series of informational columns in the Southern Nebraska Register about this issue and I would encourage you to read them as well as - continue to pray for justice and protection for all of the unborn.



**January Meeting will be held Via Zoom**



**Proposed Amendment to the  
LDCCW Bylaws  
Adopted 2004, Revised 2016**



**Article 5: LDCCW Nominating Committee, Section 2:Nominations,  
B: Eligibility, Subsections: i and ii.**

**Current Bylaws read:**

- i. Nominee for President-elect shall be a member of the current and/or past LDCCW Executive Board. Nominees shall have exhibited leadership in the Parish, Deanery, Diocese and Community.
- ii. All nominees shall exhibit leadership qualities related to specific offices.

**Proposed Amendment change shall read as follows:**

- i. All nominees shall exhibit leadership qualities related to specific offices.

**The proposed amendment eliminates the requirement of past membership on the Executive Board. This allows more members the opportunity to seek the office of President-Elect.**

The process to amend the Bylaws began at the 2020 LDCCW Fall meeting with the President appointing a Bylaw Committee. Over the past year, at each LDCCW meeting of both the Executive board and the Full Board, the committee proposed various options to the amendment. At the 2021 Fall LDCCW meeting of both the Executive and Full Board, the final wording of the amendment was accepted, but not adopted.

The amendment to the Bylaws shall be presented for adoption at the 2022 LDCCW Biennial Convention on April 23, 2022. A vote of approval by two-thirds of the delegates present is required for the amendment to be adopted.

**Submitted by Kay Portillo  
Co-Parliamentarian of the LDCCW**

Please let us know how you are receiving the Effect and NewsNotes. Are you receiving them through your phone, email or website? Contact Judy Weston at [ldccwleadership@gmail.com](mailto:ldccwleadership@gmail.com)



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