

NewsNotes



The Season of Reflection

November is the start of the season of reflection. I find myself reflecting on the past year and its blessings as well as the changes for the next year.

In stepping into this role as president of the LDCCW, I have had to review, reflect, and recognize Jesus in my life. I chose the theme from the scripture verse John 15:16 and I have reflected these past six months on the first part of the verse, “It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you.” Whatever role you are participating in as a Catholic woman, you have been chosen. God is using you and your skills to further His kingdom. Personally, I do struggle with the fact that Jesus has chosen me! I pray every day to recognize Jesus in everything I do. My husband and I studied Discerning the Spirits this summer and my goodness, it is an amazing book to study, and learn how Jesus is present in our lives.

During our faith sharing time, we have been studying “Foundations for Discipleship” and each of the sessions have been amazing. If you haven’t joined us yet, please do and consider taking this book to your PCCW. Maybe start by reading one chapter before you begin your meeting. It will take your council to a more prayerful level. Our next study on Nov. 10, will focus on “The Power of Your Testimony.” (Pgs. 182-189). It has been placed on my heart and I have been encouraged to speak out for the faith. It is not easy. I worry about the negative reaction I may receive. 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 really speaks to the fear I might have. We will know who our next president will be soon after these NewsNotes are sent. During your family gatherings be strong. Instead of politics, speak about the blessings you have received throughout the year. Prepare your witness for these times. Don’t jump on a soap box, but share a personal testimony about yourself and how you have grown. If this makes you nervous then share by your actions. You want your family to know you are Christian by your love.

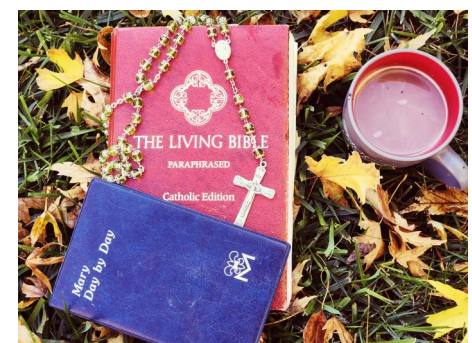
It feels like the time has flown by this year. Could it be the busyness of our daily activities, do not lend us to treasuring the moments? During the upcoming holidays, take the time to treasure those moments.

Your Humble Servant
Judy Weston



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**Bishop James D Conley
Lincoln Diocese**

Dear Ladies of the Lincoln Diocesan Council of Catholic Women,
As we approach the month of November, the Church—in her wisdom—begins to remind us of the ‘Last Things,’ namely our own mortality. These traditionally have been Death, Judgement, Heaven, and Hell. As the world begins to slow down and the silence of winter slowly begins to take shape, the Church tenderly reminds her children of these final realities. Not to scare us, but to help us stay prepared “for at an unknown day and unknown hour our Lord will come for us.” (c.f. Mt. 24:36-44.)

There are a few reasons for this. One being that that November is the Month where we traditionally remember the Poor Souls in Purgatory. Another being that we celebrate Christ the King Sunday at the end of Ordinary Time, in November—the Feast where the Church reminds us of the truth that Jesus Christ is King and will return to judge the living and the dead.

However, while it’s good to know where we are going and what’s to come—we need to know how to live our lives in order to prepare for these truths. For that I would propose the story of Martha and Mary. We naturally tend to act as Martha’s—always wanting everything to be perfect in our lives. While this is good, this sometimes forgets that he knows of what we are made (c.f., Ps 103:14). While we should strive for holiness and to make things perfect for him, it should not get in the way of our *relationship* with him. Mary knew she did not have to impress Jesus. She knew Jesus loved her for who she was. She just wanted to spend that time with him while he was in her presence. Does this mean that she didn’t try to overcome her faults? No, of course not. However, she knew that it could only start with him. Jesus knew that Martha, in her good intentions, was missing the opportunities that Jesus was giving her to spend time with him and learn his love for her life, which is why he called her to join him and Mary. The work would get done, but in that moment, it was important to spend time with him.

Throughout our lives, there are many opportunities that our Lord is giving to us to spend time with him, but we are too concerned with menial things. We forget that in the end, all that matters is Jesus, and the way we love him and spend time with him.

Jesus will return and, we will have to render an account for our lives, However, contrary to popular thought, we do not have to do it alone. Jesus will help us every step of the way. We just have to trust him enough to let go and sit as his feet and let him teach us the way to perfection.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James D. Conley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "C".

The Most Rev. James D. Conley
Bishop of Lincoln



Fr. Thomas Lux—Spiritual Director
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It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. -John 15: 16

Dear NewsNotes Readers;

Congratulations to the new LDCCW President Judy Weston and to the officers for her term. Her President's motto (John 15:16) is a good reminder for us in our time. God has chosen each one of us and appointed us to go and bear fruit that will remain. Jesus promises us that God will hear the prayers of those he has chosen and appointed.

Bishop Conley quotes St. Joan of Arc who was martyred in 1431: ***I am not afraid...I was born to do this.*** The Book of Esther gives us Esther's uncle Mordecai's words: ***Who knows—perhaps it was for a time like this that you became queen?***

The news reported a recent program at the *Lied Center* featuring a panel of speakers on the topic of the American Civil War and its impact on present day voting. Our country has been deeply divided in the past. The split during the Civil War affected our area. There is a State Historical marker on the road to Steinauer, Nebraska. It begins: *Warnings to avoid "bloody Kansas" prompted the Steinauer brothers, Anton, Nicholas, and Joseph, to settle here in Pawnee County. They arrived in September 1856, only two years after the creation of Nebraska Territory. Famine and depression had forced them to leave their native Switzerland in 1852. Kansas was a free state but there were forces trying to change that policy.*

We say "one nation under God" in the *Pledge of Allegiance* since 1954 promoted by different voices in the early 1950's including the *Knights of Columbus*. Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address (as reported by all reporters of the day) "that the nation shall, under God, have a new birth of freedom" was cited with the purpose of setting the U.S.A. apart from atheistic governments.

What is the opposite of national division? Apathy? Unanimity? Unity of purpose? Ability to work together? Compromise? Willingness to deal with conflict? Ability to listen and speak in order to truly communicate?

We are blessed as Catholics to have a deeper understanding of being one, a mark of the true Church. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches us:

#813 *The Church is one because of her source: "the highest exemplar and source of this mystery is the unity, in the Trinity of Persons, of one God, the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit."*²⁵⁹ The Church is one *because of her founder:* for "the Word made flesh, the prince of peace, reconciled all men to God by the cross, . . . restoring the unity of all in one people and one body."²⁶⁰ The Church is one *because of her "soul":* "It is the Holy Spirit, dwelling in those who believe and pervading and ruling over the entire Church, who brings about that wonderful communion of the faithful and joins them together so intimately in Christ that he is the principle of the Church's unity."²⁶¹ Unity is of the essence of the Church:

What an astonishing mystery! There is one Father of the universe, one Logos of the universe, and also one Holy Spirit, everywhere one and the same; there is also one virgin become mother, and I should like to call her "Church."²⁶²

(Notes for the CCC quotes: 259 UR 2 § 5. 260 GS 78 § 3. 261 UR 2 § 2. 262 St. Clement Of Alexandria, Paed. 1, 6, 42: PG 8,300.

It was a great blessing to experience the unity of Catholics at the National Eucharistic Revival Congress this summer in Indiana. 55,000 at Adoration and at Mass praying together with sounds and sights and actions and smells and silences... Thousands in line for hours to go to confession to 60 priests at a time.



Fr. Thomas Lux—Spiritual Director
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Travelling to the National CCW Convention in Tulsa I was blessed to pray at the Servant of God Fr. Emil Kapaun shrine in Pilsen, Kansas and at the Blessed Fr. Stanley Rother Shrine in Tulsa. Each of their priestly lives was inspiring to me and my fellow pilgrims. They served God's people here in Midwest America and overseas in very different places. They brought the love of the one true God with all of his truth and goodness and beauty to very difficult situations. They both gave their lives for God's people in the Lord's service.

The World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO www.wucwo.org) represents women from every continent and is recognized by the Holy See as a Public International Association of the Faithful. The NCCW Friends of NCCW for WUCWO help support the financial needs of the organization. The "Friends" current president is Josephine Gilbert from Florida. Her mother Chief Grace Adeyeye died Christmas afternoon 2023 in Nigeria. So... the "Friends" president is a princess! May we all be one.

May God bless all of us he has chosen!

Our Lady of Good Counsel. Pray for us!

From Our Province Director

The introduction to the orientation program for Province Director was held on October 5, it was a three hour zoom meeting. It was so informative. One main concern is how to engage catholic women of all ages to become involved in council.

I have been assigned to the NCCW Spirituality Commission! Debbie Keller {NCCW Spirituality Commission Chair} held a zoom meeting on October 9th to organize the monthly Rosary Call which is held on the 13th of the month. I helped by leading the third "Glorious Mystery " Respect Life {using the "Pray the Rosary with NCCW booklet} Two of the decades were said in Spanish and Italian.

Debbie sent out an email outlining the Year 2 of Spirituality Commission work. One of the projects be: At the national convention held this past August, American Female Servants of God- Raising Up Holy Women and the Eucharistic Life was introduced. The Spirituality Commission will work on finalizing to have a booklet published for NCCW. I am asking for prayer for the 2025 NCCW Convention as plans are being formulated.

Thank you to those who have sent in individual, parish dues for NCCW, along with a donation for "Mary's Garden. As I keep the Omaha Province in my prayers :

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

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TO PRIESTS – Catholic Women Authors

TO PRIESTS – CONSIDER PRISONERS

In Tecumseh State Correctional Institution TSCI there are about 1000 men incarcerated. I don't know how many of them are Catholic. There are 41 men allowed to attend Mass. Most of them are Catholic. Fr. Kubat or I offer Mass and hear confessions weekly. Several men have asked to meet with us for instruction in the Catholic faith or to prepare them to receive a Sacrament they missed growing up.

Neither one of us has the training to be able to go around inside the prison without an escort. So, we are limited in how we visit the men at TSCI. Some add our names to their visitor's list and give us a request form to fill out so we can visit in the large visitation room or one of the adjoining smaller ones if they are not taken. To visit men in the Restricted Housing Unit, we are only allowed to use the closed-circuit TV for a video visit. Once one of the men asked to be anointed so I was led to the infirmary to do that. One man on death row asked me to visit him but before I could figure out the restrictions and whom to ask, he had taken my name off his visiting list and blocked me from emailing him.

If I was younger, I would go thru the training that would allow me to walk throughout the prison to meet men who may not have seen a Catholic priest in years. I don't know. I think since COVID, there have been less workers at all the prisons and administrators most want to keep everyone safe. Somehow, though, Fr. Kubat and I need to visit the most spiritually vulnerable. He has been working to find a way for one or both of us to do that at TSCI. I don't think other State Correctional institutions have as many restrictions for visitors as we do here (to keep everyone safe). At least I hope not.

So, I want to ask you to consider a couple things, if you don't mind...

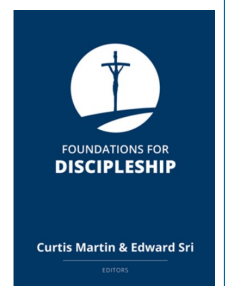
If you sense being called to a different ministry, please consider prison ministry. There is a great need that people don't see. And it has been the most rewarding for me personally.

Try to learn about restorative justice. In 2011 Pope Benedict XVI wrote, "Together with the Synod members, I draw the attention of society's leaders to the need to make every effort to eliminate the death penalty and to reform the penal system in a way that ensures respect for the prisoners' human dignity. *Pastoral workers have the task of studying and recommending restorative justice as a means and a process for promoting reconciliation, justice and peace, and the return of victims and offenders to the community,*" Apostolic Exhortation *Africae Munus*, 83. (Italics mine). Being a person that incarcerated people can trust and reminding them of their dignity and the vocation they have as disciples – sinners who are yet called by God to be saints, seems to give them a joy and peace. Many are grateful for our presence and simple words to remind them of this.

Finally, if your PCCW, Altar Society, Catholic Daughters, etc. is looking for a project, I can offer them one. Some of the men ask for books to read or simple ones to use to follow the Mass. Half of them are English-first readers and half Spanish-first readers. And it seems that those at Mass do read. If your group decides to take on this project of books, I can let them know how they can do that at TSCI. There are some restrictions, but I can let them (or you, Father) how to follow them. *(By the way, there are plenty of Bibles at TSCI, but someone may donate for some study-Bibles).*

(See my contact info above)

Foundations for Discipleship Book Study
November 10 , 6:30 - 8 pm
[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84558052750?
pwd=mubybUU41pPGZ4C1yktxQBBoR7Ya59.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84558052750?pwd=mubybUU41pPGZ4C1yktxQBBoR7Ya59.1)
December 8, 6:30 - 8 pm
January 12, 8, 6:30 - 8pm
February 9 6:30 - 8pm
Email ldccwpreselect@gmail.com for question





Val Able
President Elect
402-274-3088
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Dear Sisters in Christ,

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Can you believe our summer is over? The nice Fall days are here with their cool mornings and sunny afternoons. Fall is my favorite time of year. I love seeing the leaves on the trees turn vibrant reds and yellows. God’s creation is truly amazing! Each of you are truly an amazing creation, also. I would like to share with you in this newsletter what I believe to be something amazing I did this summer by just staying at home.

I used my time this summer to enhance my prayer life and draw closer in a relationship with Christ. I

already was praying a couple times a day and had a beautiful statue of Mary in my living room, but as I looked around my house, I thought I needed to make my home a reflection of my beliefs. A place when friends and family came, they would know that I valued my family and my faith. So, I began to take stock of what I already had and how I could highlight it even more in my home.

First, I took my antique picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus out of my windowsill in the den and I placed it where I could see it in my front room. I began looking online for other things that I could use to make a home altar and surround Jesus with beauty and love. I found several good websites that had religious items such as an Immaculate Heart of Mary, on a stand in gold, and a picture of the three hearts of Jesus, Mary and Joseph done in a beautiful watercolor.

Using these items, I made a home altar that I see throughout my day and it brings me a tremendous amount

of peace just gazing upon it. I’m hoping to have my priest out to consecrate it to the Sacred Hearts of the Holy Family. This was just one aspect of my journey towards drawing closer to Christ.

Another way I have found to draw closer to Christ is to offer prayers to Christ throughout my day. Whether it be a “thank you Jesus” a “Come Holy Spirit” or “Help my Jesus” I try to put Him into my conversations. I heard a man at church tell the priest, I know I’m praying throughout my day because I pray when I get up, then I set my phone to ring at certain times during the day, so I pray. That way I know I’m praying without ceasing. The priest looked at him and said, “do you think the disciples had cell phones?” That really isn’t what was meant by that scripture. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”) He went on to say, “Christ wants us to live with him throughout our day, not just be setting an alarm, but living your faith.”

I pray that all of you can find ways to enhance your days and homes with Christ’s love.



Your Sister in Christ,
Val Able, Pres. Elect

Divine Mercy

November is the month of remembrance for Holy Souls in Purgatory.

You are called to a Work of Mercy. There are souls in need, and you can help.

To begin this month we can offer at least one Divine Mercy Chaplet for a soul each day of this month.

When time allows, attend a daily Mass.

A prayer from St Faustina's diary would be special: "O Jesus, my love extends beyond the world, to the souls suffering in Purgatory, and I want to exercise Mercy toward them by means of indulgenced prayers.... O Jesus, make my heart sensitive to the sufferings of my neighbors, whether of body or soul." (diary of St Maria Faustina Kowalski, 692)

thedivinemercy.org

Prayer to Consecrate the 2024 US Election to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mary Immaculate, living tabernacle of the Divinity, where the eternal Wisdom lies hidden to be adored and served by angels and men, Queen of Heaven and of earth, beneath whose sway are subject all things that are lower than God, Patroness of the United States of America, sorrowful and mindful of our sinfulness and the sins of our nation, we come to Thee, our refuge and hope.

Knowing that our country cannot be saved by our own works and mindful of how much our nation has departed from the ways of thy Son, we humbly ask that Thou wouldst turn Thine eyes upon our country to bring about its conversion. We consecrate to Thee the integrity of the upcoming election and its outcome, so that what is spiritually and morally best for the citizens of our country may be accomplished, and that of those who are elected would govern according to the spiritual and moral principles which will bring our nation into conformity with the teachings of Thy Son.

Give grace to the citizens of this land so that they will choose leaders according to the Sacred Heart of Thy Son, that His glory may be made manifest, lest we be given the leaders we deserve. Trusting in the providential care of God the Father and Thy maternal care, we have perfect confidence that Thou wilt take care of us and will not leave us forsaken.

O Mary Immaculate, pray for us. Amen.

divinemercyforamerica.org



Service Commission—Joyce Reich

joycereich@hotmail.com

Phone: 402-616-0334

Lincoln Diocesan Council
of Catholic Women

In Service of God
and His Church

The autumn leaves are starting to rustle as cooler weather arrives. It's a good time to think of coats, gloves, hats, and scarves. Perhaps a donation drive for these items is needed in your area. Consider being a sponsor for one.

Fall is also a good time to sponsor a food drive. The rising cost of food can make providing meals for one's family for the holidays a hard stretch on the food budget. Consider typical holiday foods - stuffing mix, potatoes, canned green beans or corn, canned pumpkin, canned cranberries- for example. Perhaps put the ingredients for a pumpkin pie in a disposable pan and donate that.

Many people in a nursing home are often neglected during the holidays. A project to brighten their days could be heartwarming charitable work.



Hopefully many of you have decided to participate in the Box of Joy program. If you haven't already, please order your boxes at crosscatholic.org as soon as possible. It will likely take up to a week to receive them. You can use any shoe box sized box, however. Meanwhile, collect the contents to be ready to pack the boxes. Items such as school supplies, small toys, socks, tissues, etc. are always welcomed. Thanks to the staff at the St John XXIII Diocesan Center for allowing their facility to be a drop-off site for the filled boxes. The address is 3700 Sheridan Blvd., Lincoln NE. I will be there November 8, 2024 from 9:30 to 3:00 to collect your boxes. If this time doesn't work

for you, please contact me at the above email or phone to make other arrangements. The boxes have to be turned in no later than Nov. 8 in order to be picked up for shipping. If you have any questions or concerns please contact me.

Remember - "Try to be a rainbow in someone else's cloud." Maya Angelou

Pope's Intentions

For anyone who has lost a child

We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.

Leadership Commission
Jane Potts 1-308-280-0210
ldccwleadership@gmail.com



LEADERSHIP COMMISSION – Jane Potts

October was a whirlwind of a month and, obviously, I got caught up in that whirlwind and didn't get my October report in! I pray your parish was able to participate in the Life Chain, Diaper Drive and LDCCW Sunday.

Hello, November! Thank you for reminding us we have so much to be GRATEFUL for. We are thankful for all the ladies in our Diocese, Deaneries and Parishes who give of their time and talent. Gratitude makes us appreciate what we have, rather than what one does not have. Praying with gratitude is a very powerful tool. It reminds us of the good things that are already in our lives. There are countless things to be grateful for. Start your day with a "Good morning, Lord"! Be grateful for little things: a warm cup of coffee, a good hair day or a good night's sleep! Isn't it amazing how something as simple as gratitude can give new meaning to life? Make every day a day of Thanksgiving!

In closing I would like to remind everyone to go out and VOTE!

VOTE FOR 434 – VOTE AGAINST 429

Legislative Report 2024: Ginger Jelinek

Abortion Initiatives on your November Ballot: **Vote yes on 434 and no on 439** – I have seen some verbiage instructing voters to leave 434 blank, if you feel you cannot vote yes on any abortion initiative. It is my understanding that to be considered "passed" – an initiative must receive at least 50% of the total votes. If both initiatives receive the required 50%, the initiative with the most "yes" votes will win. Because of this, I would encourage everyone to vote yes on 434; do not leave it blank and vote no on 439. We know this initiative isn't ideal as it does still allow some abortions, but it is a step toward the right direction and a much better scenario than what 439 will leave us with, which is be a dangerous step for the safety of women and their pre-born children.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events

Indianola Deanery—St. Monica Prayers

Nov 1 - All Saints' Day

Nov 2 - All Souls' Day

Nov 5 - Remember to VOTE

Nov 11 - Veteran's Day

Nov 22 - Pro Life Banquet

Nov 23 - Pro Life Conference

Nov 28 - Thanksgiving Day

Jan 10 & 11 - Winter Symposium at Good Counsel

Retreat House near Waverly



OUR LADY OF KIBEHO PRAYER

Our-Lady-of-Kibeho

Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Word,
Mother of all those who believe in Him
and who welcome Him into their life,
we are here before you to contemplate You.
We believe that you are amongst us,
like a mother in the midst of her children,
even though we do not see You with our bodily eyes.

We bless You, the Sure Way that leads us to Jesus the Saviour,
for all the favours which You endlessly pour out upon us,
especially, that, in your meekness, You were gracious enough
to appear miraculously in Kibeho, just when our world
needed it most.

Grant us always the light and the strength necessary to
accept, with all seriousness, Your call to us to be converted,
to repent, and to live according to your Son's Gospel.

Teach us how to pray with sincerity,
and to love one another as He loved us,
so that, just as You have requested,
we may always be beautiful flowers
diffusing their pleasant fragrance everywhere and upon
everyone.

Holy Mary, Our Lady of Sorrows,
teach us to understand the value of the cross in our lives,
so that whatever is still lacking to the sufferings of Christ
we may fill up in our own bodies for His mystical Body,
which is the Church.

And, when our pilgrimage on this earth comes to an end,
may we live eternally with You in the kingdom of Heaven.

Amen.

President's Note

You may have noticed each month I have shared a different Marian apparition. Mary hold such a strong role as my favorite mother who listens!

This month, Our Lady of Kibeho, resonates with the turbulent time we are currently going through.

Prayers for a peaceful election.

President

Judy Weston



Please let us know if you want to continue receiving the Council Connect by email or the NewsNotes. Please send us your current address and email to Contact at Donna Havlat donnahavlat@gmail.com



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