

NewsNotes



A message from your LDCCW President -

November Greetings from your President

November is such a busy time. We pray everyone stays safe during harvest. We start the month, remembering All Saints and praying for All Souls. Be a Saint, what else is there! Please prepare and plan to vote in the November 6th election. Our votes are critical. The Nebraska Catholic Conference has published a Voter Guide at www.nebraskacatholicvoter.com. From the website you can access the candidates for your district by entering your physical address on the screen. You can also see the candidate's answers to the survey questions. The Voter Guide was published in the October 12, 2018 edition of the Southern Nebraska Register. Will someone you know be unable to get to the polls? You could possibly offer them a ride.

Thanks for your generous response to the Spirit Catholic Radio Fall Care-a-thon. You are truly holy women with a passion for assuring God's word be shared. Thanksgiving gives us a special opportunity to be thankful for all the blessings we have received and spend time with family.

We need to continue to pray for our Priests. I urge you to say the St. Michael Prayer often throughout the day. Also, if you have not already, please consider starting the Seven Sisters Apostolate in your parish.

<https://sevensistersapostolate.org>.

Thank you.

Many blessings

Kay Wessel, LDCCW President



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Up Coming Events

November 1, 2018 – All Saints Day

November 2, 2018 – All Souls Day

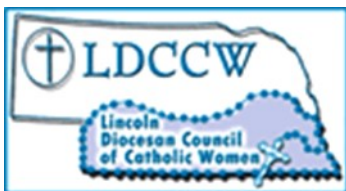
November 6, 2018 – Election Day

December 2, 2018 – Advent begins

January 11-12, 2019 LDCCW Winter Symposium – details and Registration information coming in the January Effect.

March 27, 2019 – Catholics at the Capitol





Most Rev. James D. Conley
Bishop of Lincoln

All Saints Day, All Souls Day and the Call to Holiness

Brief History

This November 1 and 2, we will celebrate All Saints and All Souls Day respectively. The celebration of All Saints Day dates back to the late 300s when Catholics of different dioceses would join together to celebrate feasts of martyrs. All Souls Day has its roots in the 6th century custom of the Benedictine monasteries' commemoration of deceased members. Over the centuries, these customs have developed and become more formalized in our annual liturgical celebrations. All Saints Day provides us with the opportunity to both remember the witness of holiness of those who have gone before us, known and unknown, and to call upon their intercession. All Souls Day reminds us of our call to charity in remembering the souls of those who have died but are still in need of purification. Since they are not able to help themselves, our prayers are important in their attainment of the eternal goal--heaven.

Call to Holiness

Our remembrance of the witness of the Saints, and our prayers for the poor souls in purgatory point to our own call to holiness. The Second Vatican Council proclaimed this call in the document on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*. Chapter 5 of *Lumen Gentium* states: *"The followers of Christ are called by God, not because of their works, but according to His own purpose and grace. They are justified in the Lord Jesus, because in the baptism of faith they truly become sons of God and sharers in the divine nature. In this way they are really made holy. Then too, by God's gift, they must hold on to and complete in their lives this holiness they have received. They are warned by the Apostle to live "as becomes saints", and to put on "as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved a heart of mercy, kindness, humility, meekness, patience", and to possess the fruit of the Spirit in holiness.*

Our response

Dear members of the Lincoln Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, you are the followers of Christ called to become Saints. I am grateful for your fidelity to the Church and your witness of hope, especially in these trying times in the life of the Church. As we approach the Solemnity of All Saints and the feast of All Souls Day, I encourage you to renew your own commitment to your vocation. Your participation in the sacraments, a life of personal prayer, and generosity in works of charity are a great gift to your family, parish, and the Universal Church. The call to sainthood is not a privilege of the few and it is not complicated. Your daily "yes" to the Lord and the intercession of all the Saints and poor souls will be your means to reaching the heavenly banquet. God bless you!

+jdc

Most Rev. James D. Conley
Bishop of Lincoln



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Dear NewsNotes Readers;

November to March is the span of time this edition of the NewsNotes covers. *This includes All Saints, All Souls, Election Day (Tuesday, November 6), Advent (First Sunday of Advent is December 2, 2018), Christmas, New Years, National March for Life, Nebraska Walk for Life, cabin fever, and Lent (Ash Wednesday is March 6) as some of the highlights. The LDCCW will have the 2019 Winter Symposium in January. I look forward to seeing many of you there.*

Thank you for your prayers for my health- both physical and spiritual. I was able to have back surgery on June 5 in Holdrege by Dr. Henry Fabian from Colorado. He is happy with the results of the fusion of Lumbar 4 and 5 with laminectomy of L4. I have much less pain in my back. The residual pain I have in in my left iliac where they borrowed some of my bone for the graft. I have been blessed with good care in the PMHC hospital and at Physical Therapy. Writing this I am waiting on results of a nerve conduction test on my feet and lower legs on October 4 by Dr. William Marco A Suleiman at Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney. I have numbness, tingling, weakness and stumbling. Dr. Suleiman has an interesting background. He is from a Christian community in Iraq that speaks Aramaic similar to what Jesus spoke.

Form my spiritual health I am embarking on some of the **Exodus 90** regimen. *It is helping me be more aware of how I take for granted things like a hot shower, desserts, television, comfortable living and other things that go along with living in a modern society and culture. I hope to be a better follower of Jesus at the end of 90 days which will be Christmas. Like the people of Exodus those of us doing Exodus 90 are seeking freedom from things that enslave.*

Thank you for giving me a break in July- I did not submit a message for the NewsNotes. *Probably just as well as my memory and brain was just barely recovered from the effects of anesthesia and strong pain killers. I am not sure if I am fully recovered or if I ever will. I have heard that any time you undergo anesthesia it can affect your brain function. I have had many new experiences over the past year in getting approval for back surgery and having the surgery and rehab. I am very thankful for the health insurance which makes this medical care possible.*

Unbound ministry has been in our diocese for a few years. I recently met Matt Simmons and heard him present on the topic of evil influences that can hold a person back from progressing in the spiritual life. He will be presenting to priests in the western half of our diocese with the hopes of bringing an Unbound event to the area soon. I also attended a presentation by Marg Noecker of Hastings which included her experience of Unbound and how it has affected her life and her work of teaching.

Some notable movies have come to my attention recently. They cover some very worthwhile issues and stand out from the entertainment oriented movie fare. I recommend you check them out. The first is **Unprotected – The Untold Story of the Sexual Revolution** is about Pope Paul VI's encyclical Humanae Vitae which was issued 50 years ago and how it was prophetic as we can see starkly looking back from today. <http://unprotectedmovie.com/>

The attendees at the 2018 National CCW Convention were invited by Carmel Communications to a preview of **Indivisible**. *It presents the extraordinary true story of military chaplain, his young family and the soldiers he served when deployed in the Middle East. It was helpful to me to understand some of the particular stresses experienced by those deployed and the importance of a faith life.* <https://www.indivisiblemovie.com/>

Gosnell: The Trial of America's Biggest Serial Killer was the topic of the 2018 Walk for Life in Lincoln- journalist Ann McElhinney spoke in the Student Union relating how she and her husband Phelim McAleer, originally from Ireland, came to be in the Philadelphia promoting a documentary they made and heard about the local trial of Kermit Gosnell, abortionist. She went to the trial on her days off and was shocked that the press benches were empty. Gosnell was found guilty of first-degree murder of three babies who survived abortion, The McAleers wrote a book about the trial which was very detailed. The film is much more palatable- rated PG-13. Hollywood would not fund the movie so they crowdfunded it - 30,000 people donated over \$2.3 million in 45 days. www.gosnellmovie.com/

Blessed Advent!, Merry Christmas! Holy Lent!



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TO PRIESTS: WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

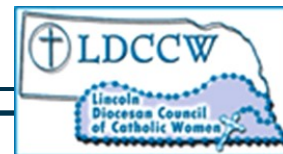
Ever wonder if you were the Pope what you would do? I don't mean during this current crisis but just during regular crises that get less attention but still have to do with the salvation of mankind. A Pope deciding what to do may not be too different from a new pastor making a decision, but on a lot grander scale.

As pope, how many people's names would you try to remember? Are you pastor of the diocese of Rome (or is it an archdiocese, I don't know?) or of the whole world? Are your first "parishioners" the priests of the world? Lay people? Bishops? Is your parish council (Vatican Offices) dissolved upon your election until you can say, "I'll keep them for a while." Am I in charge of my own schedule or is it in charge of me? Do I decide my job description? I'll decide if I am going to tick off some people who've always done things a certain way. If I can't make my own decisions I'll probably just keep going from ceremony to ceremony, meeting to meeting giving friendly advice. Of course, we all know recent popes have almost laid down their lives so the faith may live. Figuring out how to carry out his job, I imagine, would be pretty complex. I'm guessing one of his first decisions is to keep it simple and focus on Christ each day. That may be why Pope John Paul II would keep his appointments waiting while he spent time before the Eucharist after some Masses. Maybe that's why Pope Francis moved from the traditional Vatican apartments and its daily Mass chapel to the simpler St. Martha's.

There was an article in the Oct 5th Southern NE Register that said Pope Francis decided married couples need to be taught to keep to the basics in living their sacrament and vocation of matrimony. He called it a "permanent catechumenate" for married couples. Married couples with children are far less examined in their vocations than the pope in his, but their vocation is the bedrock of the Church. Their faith in Jesus, their love for Jesus and His Church is passed on to their children. If parents do not focus on faith, hope and love, the gospel the Apostles passed on to us, what will happen to the Christ's Church? I know it will be a lot weaker when facing the challenges of life. So are my children going to develop great skills in sports, great creative thinking, or great virtues in life? Or all of these? What exactly are the virtues I hope to instill in my children? What are the ones I am working on, with God's grace, to develop in me, in our marriage? How do you form a family in, and live, a virtuous life today?

I think Pope Francis identified something he's decided to do. He wants to see that married couples are continually formed in marriage and family life, keeping it simple, working on the basic teachings of the Catholic faith: developing a life of daily prayer alone and as a family, to stay close to Jesus; learning about love, forgiveness and self-giving within the family; etc.

When I first saw this article, it made me imagine priests [or someone who is trained] going into the homes of married couples periodically to discuss their challenges of living the Catholic faith, and offering reminders of the gospel – simple, Catholic teaching. Something like that may help families 'be what you are,' as St. John Paul II encouraged them.



Divine Mercy - Jeanette Stengel

"Could you not watch one hour with me? Watch you and pray that you enter not into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Matthew 26:40-41

The messages of Our Lord and Our Lady addressed to Sister Faustina in regard to priests are entirely in keeping with Pope John Paul II's criterion for acceptable private revelations. They contain "a truth and a call whose basic content is the truth and call of the gospel itself" (Homily at Fatima, 1982).

Words of Christ to Priests: On proclaiming and preaching mercy, especially to sinners: "I desire that priests proclaim this great mercy of Mine towards souls of sinners. Let the sinner not be afraid to approach Me. The flames of mercy are burning Me---clamoring to be spent; I want to pour them out upon these souls." (Diary 50)

Again Jesus said to Sister Faustina with kindness, "My daughter, speak to priests about this inconceivable mercy of Mine." (Diary 177)

"No soul will be justified until it turns with confidence to My mercy, and this is why the first Sunday after Easter is to be the Feast of Mercy. On that day, priests are to tell everyone about My great and unfathomable mercy. Tell the confessor that the Image is to be on view in the church and not within the enclosure in that convent. By means of this Image I shall be granting many graces to souls; so, let every soul have access to it." (Diary 570)

The Lord said again: "Tell My priests that hardened sinners will repent on hearing their words when they speak about My unfathomable mercy. To priests who will proclaim and extol My mercy, I will give wondrous power; I will anoint their words and touch the hearts of those to whom they will speak." (Diary 1521)

On recommending the Chaplet: Sister Faustina heard these words in her soul: "Say unceasingly the Chaplet that I have taught you. Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death. Priests will recommend it to sinners as their last hope of salvation. Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this Chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy. I desire that the whole world know My infinite mercy. I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in My mercy." (Diary 687)

Oh Jesus, give us fervent and holy priests. Oh, how great is the dignity of the priest, but at the same time, how great is his responsibility! Much has been given you, O priest, but much will also be demanded of you....(Diary 941).

On suffering for others from Sister Faustina: "I want to share compassionately in the sufferings of my neighbors and to conceal my own sufferings, not only from them, but also from You, Jesus. Suffering is a great grace; through suffering the soul becomes like the Savior; in suffering love becomes crystallized, the greater the suffering, the purer the love." (Diary 57)

Over 20 years ago, a very wise, kind priest printed in our bulletin....In Sunday's readings, we see that even Jesus himself was rejected and suffered. St. Paul put this into perspective by reminding us that '...in weakness, power reaches perfection.' It is in our trials and in our weakness that we become 'super,' for we are forced to step back and let God be strong.

Because of His Divine Mercy, may we accept it, step back and let GOD BE STRONG.

Jeanette Stengel - Divine Mercy

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Crystal Vavra
Phi Alpha Chi Liaison

Happy Fall to everyone!

I don't know about you, but I am hoping for some warm, sunny days ahead of us for the fall season. For me, nothing like watching the trees turn to vibrant colors, God's natural beauty.

Father McGuire, Ann Jansky and myself met with PAX's Kaitlin Taylor, President; Leah Heyen, Liaison and Marlene Beyke, Director of Administration, to spearhead ideas of how LDCCW and Phi Alpha Chi sisters can continue to develop a working relationship along with spiritual growth plus provide support to these wonderful young ladies, who are, the future LDCCW members. Some of the highlights that were decided are as follows:

- *PAX Liaison will provide a quick blurb about Pi Chi activities to be add to the Effect;

- *LDCCW members to vote at the winter symposium to provide membership to Catholic Woman magazine for Pi Alpha Chi and others to view;

- *Philanthropy information! By announcing this information, we hope to have LDCCW/Altar society members attend their fundraisers. The first philanthropy is their annual chili feed on October 26 from 5-10 p.m. All events are held at the Newman Center;

- *In July 2019, LDCCW will help spread the word to help recruit future members for Pi Alpha Chi;

- *Potentially doing a social once a year or partnering to make a treat or something for St. Gianna's Women's Home, since it is a joint philanthropy of interest;

- *A list of smaller supplies was provided to the PAX sisters to be used as an informal philanthropy for St. Gianna's home and/or LDCCW

President's project; and LDCCW/PAX Liaison continued on page 8

Service Commission—Kathy Rentschler

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Well, the last time I wrote it was 90 degrees in the summertime. Now the wind has turned cool, out of the north. The rain has stopped for a while. I read that we may see snow soon. The changing of the seasons is one of God's miracles of life. My task is to share with you the aspects of the Service Commission. The Service Commission promotes Works of Mercy for others, allowing us to share in God's plan. The purpose is to respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in this modern world. Responding with Gospel values is accomplished in several areas.

Community Service: projects such as participating in local Bloodmobiles, Meals on Wheels and volunteering at the local Nursing homes, visiting the sick, feeding the hungry and giving drink to the thirsty are Corporal works of mercy. By volunteering, we can assist in their mission of service.

Catholic Relief Services have several programs sponsored overseas to address specific needs of poor women and children universally such as Help-a-Child, Water for Life, Madonna Plan and the Refugee Women Emergency Fund. Donations can be sent to NCCW, 200 N Glebe Rd, Suite 725, Arlington, VA 22203. The check memo line needs to show which program you wish your donations to go toward. Donations will assist the mission of service.

Family Ministry shares resources, activities and upcoming events related to the family. Information about these programs can be obtained by contacting the Lincoln Diocesan Family Life Office; phone 402 473-0620. Participating in these programs allows us to share in their mission of service.

Healing Hearts is a program to assist those who are grieving death or divorce in the family. Comforting the sorrowful is important to those who have lost someone close to them. Information regarding Healing Hearts can be obtained from the Lincoln Diocesan Family Life Office, phone 402-473-0620. Again, sharing in people's grief is a way to share the mission of service.

Making and Distributing of Rosaries involves distributing rosaries to the missions and to those who are in need. If you know of a need you can contact Barb Sullivan-phone-402-797-7106 or email: js70837@windstream.net. Praying for the Living and the Dead is a spiritual work of mercy which is another way to achieve the mission of service.

Natural Family Planning is promoted and supported by the Lincoln Diocesan Family Life office. You can contact Michelle Chambers at the Family Life Office, phone 402-473-0630. Learning the programs and being involved by teaching the programs are ways to achieve the mission of service.

As I write this we are in the middle of collecting diapers for the Diaper drive. These will be delivered to the various agencies near your areas. The Diaper Drive will go thru October 31. You can help by donating and or picking up the diapers and delivering to local representatives. You can reach out to your local PCCW to see what help they need.

Thank you for all that you do to serve others. It really is a great way to share in God's love.

Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love..... St.Teresa of Calcutta

Thank You,
Kathy Rentschler

Pope's Intentions for November

Universal – In Service of Peace

That the language of love and dialogue may always prevail over the language of conflict



Are you the spark a member needs to hear? I recently took on the deanery president position. I am not going to lie, it was a struggle getting ready for it. I have had many family activities filling my plate. After attending our deanery meeting and hearing about the exciting work of the ladies in our deanery I felt energized! If I did not attend I would have been at home feeling hum and drum. In the recent "Connect" from the NCCW, the statement was—"Because you said yes!" Fill in the rest of the statement, because I said yes, I enjoy talking about this amazing organization. Or, because I said yes, I am the person who brought a salad to help feed a grieving family. Keep going it will make your mission visible to you! Remember and think, what is keeping you at home? I know we all struggle to make the meetings but maybe you are the one person who sparks the creativity in another! Remember your "yes". I have heard from several people who have had trouble getting into the spread sheet for the officers. I am working to find an answer as to why this spread sheet is not easy to open as it has been in the past. Please ask to be allowed to edit the spread and I can open it up to you. The title should have Kay Wessel in it.

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

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

One last note to saying yes, because you said yes, we raised \$8,530 for the Spirit Catholic Radio network. This is matched with a total of \$17,060!

Terri Sullivan,
Leadership Training/ Past President
LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Last term the LDCCW Leadership Training Team presented workshops on the role of CCW and how to work together to be effective and successful as Catholic Women. They looked at how the chain began with the National CCW and ended up on the Parish level.

This term we would like to work on the job descriptions on all levels of CCW. Our first step is to look into each Deanery and see if job descriptions are in place, and if so, what they entail and how/if they might be improved. Once the Deanery job descriptions are completed, we will look at the Parish CCW job descriptions. It is important that all the levels work together to be sure things get done effectively and make it easier for new officers to do their duties.

To help our CCW work more efficiently it is important to have a job description for each office. Not only will this help the current officers know what their duties are and give them a time table of when things need to be done, but it will help with the transition for new officers. If you are having trouble getting your officer positions filled, it might help to have a job description so the position doesn't seem so overwhelming.

For more information contact Terri Sullivan, 74951 Ave 358, Wallace, NE 69169; ldccwleadertraining@gmail.com; 308-650-1850 (cell)



Mid term elections – 2018 – Nebraska

Election day is November 6; you need to be registered by October 19. Apply for Absentee vote by October 26 and return by mail by November 5. Early voting begins October 8 and ends November 5.

Some issues facing Nebraskans are:

Voters heading to the polls this fall could have a huge hand in the future funding for the skilled nursing industry.

Seventeen states are set to elect new governors for 2019, thanks to term limits, incumbents who lost in the primary or open seats. And eight of those new leaders will reign in states that have chosen not to expand Medicaid, nursing homes' largest source of funding.

Florida, Georgia, Kansas and Wisconsin are just a few that are up for grabs.

Consumer advocacy group Families USA noted this week that upcoming gubernatorial and legislative elections will likely determine whether states open the Medicaid wallets wider, or further tighten eligibility restrictions. Nursing home funding could be affected by varying degrees.

Three conservative-leaning states, Idaho, Nebraska and Utah, also have Medicaid expansion measures on their ballots in November. Governor Ricketts is running for second term against Bob Krist who is a republican turned democrat. Krist is running on the platform of lowering taxes. His website does not say whether he is pro-life or pro-abortion. Ricketts is pro-life and up to now he has done well in many areas such as ag exports.

Deb Fischer is also running for second term against Jane Raybould. Fischer is pro-life and supports the repeal of the federal estate tax commonly known as the 'Death Tax'. She is opposed to same sex marriage and opposes raising the federal minimum wage.

Jeff Fortenberry is a second term candidate, who is pro-life and supports providing people with terminal illnesses in their attempt to try experimental drugs which have not yet been approved by the FDA. He is opposed to funding organizations that will aid in abortions.

Get out and vote – it is an opportunity to voice your opinion. But first, check out the candidates and VOTE PRO-LIFE.

Crystal Vavra

Pi Alpha Chi Liaison Continued from page 6

*Sponsorships from the LDCCW for PAX sisters to attend Husker Catholic Live on Friday, November 9. Pi Alpha Chi's sisters that attend, hope to be sitting at tables with LDCCW members to build relationships.

Now, I have a few more things to pass along! Pi Alpha Chi Founder's Day is November 20. On this date in 2012, the paperwork officially establishing Pi Alpha Chi as a registered student organization at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln was signed and submitted. The women of the sorority worked diligently to form the organizational foundations of sisterhood, and on September 6, 2013, the Alpha Class of Alpha Chapter was initiated into Pi Alpha Chi. The Alpha Chapter became an associate member of the Panhellenic Association in the Fall of 2016. If you have time, please send a note on this day by email (pialphachi@gmail.com) or say a special prayer for the members to help guide them on their spiritual path and to watch over them.

The sorority has a wonderful moto: *"Be who you are meant to be, and you will set the world on fire."* – St. Catherine of Siena.

And a final note from Leah Heyen, PAX Liaison: "We would love it if you would include our Sisterhood Holy Hour and Mass on Wednesdays starting at 4:30 and ending with the 5:30 Mass. This holy hour and Mass is open to the public, but we strive to have as many Pi Alpha Chi's attend as possible."

Phew, there is quite a bit of information for this month! If you have a chance, look at the Pi Alpha Chi website <http://pialphachi.com/> or join them on Facebook to see who the PAX members are and what they have scheduled for the week. It is wonderful to watch these spiritually committed young ladies grow!

Blessings to all,

Crystal Vavra

Parish Tidbits

Barneston, St. Joseph, is located in the southern portion of Gage County near the borderline between Kansas and Nebraska. From 1885 and 1889 Mass was celebrated during the week in the homes. Starting in 1889, Mass was celebrated one Sunday a month in the school. In 1890 the congregation purchased two lots for \$1,377 and built their church. Bishop Bonacum dedicated the white-frame church on May 11, 1891. The church was renovated, inside and out, between 1937 and 1942. The congregation had a unique way of raising funds for maintenance of the parish. Farmers would raise a calf or two each year to be sold in the fall with proceeds designated for church support. The parish can be proud of the two priest vocations, Father Paul York and now Bishop Thomas Olmsted. Two young women were called to the Religious Life – Sister Loretta McGuire, O.S.B. and Sister Mary James York, O.S.F. Barneston is now a mission of St. Mary, Wymore and is served by Father BalaRaju Marneni.

98th National Council of Catholic Council of Catholic Women report

August 29 – September 1, 2018

LDCCW Spiritual Advisers Fr. Thomas Lux, Fr. Thomas McGuire, Shirley Huss, Ann Jansky, Rita Maloley and I were blessed to attend the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) Convention. 500 women and 42 priests gathered for the 98th NCCW Convention in Pittsburgh, PA, August 29 – September 1, 2018. The convention theme was *NCCW Reflecting God's Joy/Disciples – Mission Possible*.

We were invited on Wednesday evening to a free preview of the movie, *Indivisible*, courtesy of Carmel Communications.

Keynote speaker, on Thursday, was the most Reverend Frank Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport. He spoke powerfully on *'Disciples Called to be Joyful. Signs of Contradiction in the World.'* He asked all to discover God's will in our life. Be a joyful messenger of the gospel – Mission Possible. If you don't act what you believe, soon you will believe what you act. Hope makes our mission possible. Hope is found 75 times in the New Testament, 63 times out of the mouth of St. Paul, never out of the mouth of Jesus. Hope is the power to allow us to trust that word to a positive conclusion. Hope has two daughters: 1) anger at seeing things as they are; 2) courage seeing what they are meant to be in Christ. In a moment of personal suffering, sit before the cross, where we are given the power of hope. The mirror of our souls is the cross. In reflection the Lord is asking you to pick up the cross and follow him. Forgiveness is a choice, giving a choice to someone to start anew – write a new chapter. Hope gives us permission to forgive ourselves. The hardest challenge may be the ability to forgive one self. The greatest challenge of youth today is to believe they are lovable and loved by someone. Hope is born before the cross of Christ. We are living in a time of spiritual earthquake and it's time to rebuild one brick at a time. Joy is a gift to the heart that all things shall be with assurance of heart that everything will work out. Joy is often expressed in tears. God will never abandon his sons and daughters. Continue to be a joyful witness to the gospel.

We also heard from Holly Joy McIlwain speaking on *'A Mission of Joy'*. Gina Loehr titled her presentation, *'Blessed is She Who Believed, Embracing the Impossible Mission'*. Women are created to be the nurturers of every single human being. Our gift of nurturing extends to the Priesthood – we should nurture and protect our Priests. Pray for them. Our reward is to see a faith-filled joyful life. Ask Mary to 'Pray for Us'. Let the light of Christ shine through you. Bob Rice spoke and sang, encouraging members to join in. The title of his presentation was *Owed to Joy: Sharing the Gifts of Love*.

Commission Reports

Leadership Commission – Two to four million persons are trafficked in the US each year. The average age of those trafficked are 12 – 15 years old. 70% - 90% are US citizens. Every woman coming out of the trade, has post-traumatic stress disorder. There are four types of traffickers: Child – adults using voice changing software; Romeo – uses dating sites; Gorilla – used among the gangs; CEO – offer girls a modeling job. National Trafficking Hotline number is 888-373-7888. Locations for rehab facilities are posted on the NCCW website.

Service Commission – become part of a Respite team in your parish. Respite allows you to spiritually and temporarily renew a primary caregiver. The cost for insurance, of \$3.00 per year, is available through NCCW. The NCCW encourages Catholic school students in the U.S. unite with their counterparts in the Holy Land to increase awareness of life the Holy Land. The NCCW was thanked for donations made to the Vocation Purse Club - \$32,000 was raised last year. Several women have been able to join a Religious Order.

Spirituality Commission – encouraged NCCW members join in the monthly call-in rosary, prayer and three mini-retreats, 4 hours each, developed this year.

Two rosaries were prayed: One for healing and peace in our Church and for all affected by the clergy abuse scandal and an International Rosary offered in English, German, Spanish, Italian and Latin.

Beautiful Masses were celebrated each day by many Bishops and Spiritual Advisors as well as His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, President of the USCCB and Archbishop of Galveston-Houston.

Four resolutions were adopted by the attendees: Mentoring At-Risk Youth, Treatment of Those Affected by Mental Disorders, Building Our Future and The Environment-Reduction in Plastic Use.

The new Province Directors were installed, one-half rotate off each year. Our own Susan Johnson was installed for the Omaha Province. Our thanks to JoAnn Messing, retiring Omaha Province Director for her two years of service.

The 2019 NCCW Convention will be held in Atlanta, Georgia from August 22-24, 2019. Make plans now to attend.

Reported by Kay Wessel, LDCCW President

Gift of Faith

I did not earn it. I did not buy it. I did not win it. I did not beg, borrow or steal it. I did not do anything to deserve it. It was given to me freely. It was a gift and it was mine. It was called Faith. My Faith had the Baltimore Catechism as its foundation and “Blind Faith” as its defense. I had my Faith and a set of rules to live by; I had it all. I was proud of my gift and put it “on a shelf” where it could be seen and admired.



But some gifts are not meant to be merely on display - they grow rusty and forgotten. They are meant to be used or they lose their shine and bring no joy. God puts people in our lives for a reason, and whether that person is a longtime friend or a chance encounter, we are changed once our paths have crossed. I was fortunate to meet some special people who introduced me to various opportunities to grow in my Faith. I was encouraged to read religious books and welcomed into bible studies. I attended retreats, workshops and weekend encounters. I was invited to attend World Youth Day in Canada and I was blessed to stand in the presence of Saint Pope John Paul II. As I look back, I see that most of my Faith experiences were possible because others shared their Faith with me. Periodically I did take my “Gift” off the shelf and let it hang around with my friends. I shared “my gift” but did not give it away.

One Sunday, a visiting priest gave a talk at Mass about Jesus and His love for us. I listened, transfixed, as tears streamed down my face. I felt the Love of Jesus touch my heart. Our Parish hosted a Sacred Heart Parish Mission and the time I spent working with the mission team and parishioners challenged me to open my heart and dig deep within myself to explore this gift of Faith. In June, 2006 we invited Jesus into our daily lives through a Home Enthronement. Life changed.

Faith was not given to me to sit on a shelf. I received it so that I could use it. I learned to give of myself – my time, talent, treasure, prayers and sacrifices for the benefit of others. I realized that Faith should be unwrapped and studied. Faith demands more and it must be used, increased and shared. Sometimes that realization comes as a rock and sometimes as a feather. It calls me to become vulnerable and take a risk, believing that God is with me in all that I do. My Faith continues to grow as I strive to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Kathy Rowell -- President-Elect 2018-2020

Act Justly, Love Tenderly and, Walk Humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

Province Director's Report—Susan Johnson

Greetings Dear Sisters in Christ from the Omaha Province Director Susan Johnson

I was installed as the 2018-2020 Omaha Province Director representing the Dioceses of Grand Island and Lincoln and the Archdiocese of Omaha at the NCCW Convention at Pittsburgh, PA on Sept. 1, 2018. Thank you to our 2016-2018 PD Joann Messing from the Lincoln Diocese for your service and bringing me up-to-date as well as continuing to be a source of information on the duties of PD!

The NCCW Convention theme was "Reflecting God's Joy: Missionary Disciples – Mission Possible." Just as we were encouraged to awaken, engage, reflect and rejoice, I encourage you to do the same in parish CCW, Deanery CCW and Arch/Diocesan CCW. If we all share in the work as missionary disciples, the mission does become **possible**. Congratulations on your past year of accomplishments at all level of Council—parish, deanery and arch/diocesan! I attended the GI DCCW's 54th Biennial Convention and Banquet Sept. 13-14 at North Platte where we heard the conversion story of Rev. Sid Bruggeman, a former Protestant minister. My husband John and I spoke on "The Power of Prayer and the Importance of Relationship." Lauren Garcia from the NE Catholic Conference spoke about importance of following proposed legislation, and the Most Reverend Bishop Joseph Hanefeldt followed with a talk, "Perseverance in Prayer."

I also attended the 94th OACCW Convention and Banquet, Sept. 16-17 at Stanton, NE. The keynote speaker Rev. Jerry Connealy inspired us with his talk, "Surrender to God: The Way to True Freedom." Other speakers included Lauren Garcia, Lynnette Otero who is the Life Coach and Director of Teen Ministries at Sacred Heart Parish, Norfolk, NE speaking on "Joy after Surrender: Finding Your Light in Your Darkest Times," and a message from Most Reverend Archbishop Lucas.

Please keep our Spiritual Advisers in your prayers and let them know how grateful we are that they serve in this capacity. Spiritual Advisers are Rev. Stephen Deaver (Omaha Province and GIDCCW), Rev. Andy Sohm (OACCW), and Very Rev. Thomas Lux, V.F. and Rev. Thomas McGuire (LDCCW).

Communication of Council work is very important! We have three Catholic Newspapers in Nebraska: *The Catholic Voice* (Archdiocese of Omaha), *Southern Nebraska Register* (Diocese of Lincoln), and *West Nebraska Register* (Diocese of Grand Island). Inform others of your good works!

I'd like to point out some of the NCCW resources available for Councils at every level:

New! ***Updated Guidance and Resource Manual*** which contains proven ways to operate dynamic councils at every level

including a chapter entitled "Essential Technology for Council Leaders." Order from NCCW \$30—**A Must for Councils at all levels!**

- *Ask the Parliamentarian and Protocol Points* booklets @ \$3 each
- Numerous brochures including NCCW Membership and RESPITE
- Four retreats focused on women complete with scripture references, discussion questions, prayer reflections, and music options ready to be implemented at the Parish level.
- The website nccw.org is an excellent resource for exploring the commission works, the NCCW store, prayer requests, and much more.
- All three commissions focus on the Anti-Trafficking Project which was Pope Francis's request when asked by NCCW

President Maribeth Stewart what he would like NCCW to focus on.

"The Role of the Diocesan President"—Power Point good for all officers at every level.

The other IMPORTANT opportunity for you is to become an individual member of NCCW. For a membership fee of \$50 you can become an individual member and support a national organization. To keep you informed, you will receive *Catholic Woman* magazine quarterly and the e-newsletter *Connect* monthly. As a member, you'll have access to Member Only Resources which can be downloaded or printed. You can join in monthly conference calls. The NCCW acts through its membership to support, empower and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. Join with the many organizations that collaborate with NCCW to provide service world-wide while you live your life with your family, local church and community. **As your PD, I ask that you join NCCW today.** Go to the website nccw.org and click on the tab "Join Us." God bless you! Susan Johnson, Omaha Province Director

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the Effect and
NewsNotes by email?
Contact Judy Weston at
ldccwleadership@gmail.com



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