

NewsNotes



Jubilee of Hope

If I have learned anything by being involved in the Lincoln Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, (LDCCW) is that when we are together, we love to celebrate! This year holds a special meaning as we are celebrating the Jubilee of Hope. Hope is what provides us with eternal optimism.

I challenged myself to read the Papal Bull, [“Hope does not disappoint.”](#) It is not a difficult read and I am going to encourage everyone to read it. I found myself thinking of my recent trip to the Holy Land. In the picture, we were able to adore and worship the very spot, his birthplace, where Jesus entered this world for our salvation.

Across the diocese I have seen many PCCW’s and Deaneries go silent. Even the simple work of the mission statement goes unheard. Our world is fast paced and we feel we may not have the time to be with others. Our daily schedule is filled with activities. We could not possibly squeeze one more item into our busy schedule. With this thought in mind, sometimes we fall into pessimism. The phrase, “I just don’t have time,” comes into play. In the letter, Pope Francis quotes, “Patience has been put to flight by frenetic haste, and this has proved detrimental, since it leads to impatience, anxiety, and resulting in more unhappiness and self-centeredness.” It is time to make a choice to agree to meet and begin fellowship with your Sisters in Christ.

As women of the LDCCW, we know “Hope is born of love.” It is with the guidance of our Bishop we seek to perform Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy in the Service of God and His Church. The meetings you attend whether they are PCCW, Deanery or a LDCCW training are to help you learn about new ways to inspire hope within your parish family. In reading the letter, you will find many ways to add this to your jubilee year. There are many pilgrimage sites in the Diocese of Lincoln to obtain a Jubilee Indulgence. I think it would be wonderful to gather up your LDCCW Sisters and make a road trip to visit these churches. I believe it would be a time of celebration! (Continued on page two)

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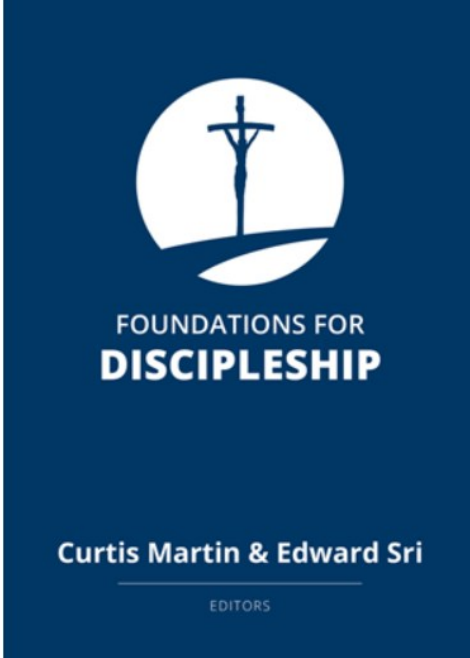
President's Message Continued

I have mentioned the book, "Foundations for Discipleship" is a start to knowing your members in the PCCW. I belong to St. Michael's in Hastings and one chapter is read before each meeting. It is a great study. I enjoyed learning about the faith of the women in my PCCW.

This book can be purchased either online, or going to <https://focusequip.org/discipleship-articles/>

As president, I do feel hopeful. The women I have encountered have a yearning to know more about how to serve their council and grow in their faith. If you belong to a council that has grown silent, I am asking that you gather a group of women to prayerfully meet and plan what you might envision the council would be in the future. "The Holy Spirit illumines all believers with the light of Hope."

Your humble servant
Judy Weston
LDCCW President



St. Monica Prayer Card



Prayer for the Intercession of St. Monica
O God, You are the comfort of those who mourn, and the Savior of all who trust in You. Blessed Monica's loving tears moved You to convert her son, Augustine. Help us, who pray to You for the salvation of our sons and daughters too. May we also grieve for our sins, and win the grace of your pardon, through the intercession of this loving saint, through Christ Our Lord. Amen. St. Monica & St. Augustine. Pray for us!



In 1978, the Prayer Auxiliary of St. Monica was established by the women of the Diocese to seek to emulate St. Monica in a never-ending prayer of petition. Each day of the year, a woman of the Council of Catholic Women attends Mass to pray for the return of our family to the church and for the works of the Council.

During the past 47 years the women of the Diocese have prayed this prayer using small sheets of paper with the prayer on it. 47 years later we now have official holy cards!

The plan is to distribute to the women for the daily Mass attendees. Please pray this prayer during your month either before or after Mass. We are estimating 20 cards for the smaller parish and more for the larger parishes. Please carefully consider how many cards you will need and let us know. You can email me at

ldccwpresident@gmail.com . You will be able to pick up your cards at the April Diocesan meeting.



Bishop James D Conley
Lincoln Diocese
Highlights from the letter from Bishop Conley
December 20, 2024

To the readers

This NewsNotes is dedicated to Jubilee Year of 2025. We on the board felt it would be wonderful to highlight the message from Bishop Conley to the faithful. It is a long message. We are encouraging you to go to the diocesan website and review the article. Please go to <https://www.lincolndiocese.org/news/diocesan-news/18403-jubilee-year-of-hope-a-letter-from-bishop-conley>.

In the article asks to make a pilgrimage to the eight sights designation for a Jubilee Indulgence. These sites are:

[The Cathedral of the Risen Christ](#), Lincoln

[The Pink Sisters Chapel](#), Lincoln

[St. Elizabeth Ann Seton](#), North Platte

[St. Benedict](#), Nebraska City

[St. Mary](#), Orleans

[St. Anthony](#), Steinauer

[Assumption](#), Dwight

[Our Lady of Fatima Shrine](#), Arapahoe



The door leaving the Church of the Nativity

These plenary indulgences require the faithful to have no attachment in their heart to sin, even to venial sins. However, should total detachment to sin not be attainable, in these moments the Church still provides a partial indulgence to her children who are working towards holiness but are still attached, in some capacity, to their sinful inclinations. The normal conditions to receive an indulgence are: (1) sacramental Confession 20 days before or after the indulgenced activity, (one confession can count for many indulgences); (2) reception of Holy Communion; (3) and prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father ('Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be' is a good option). Finally, a plenary indulgence may be obtained once a day, and may be applied to yourself or to a deceased person—which can be a great way to pray for the Poor Souls in Purgatory.



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Dear NewsNotes Readers;

Pope Francis's health, the divisions at home and abroad, and Lent, give us more than enough to pray for. They can also lead us to ask "What is it all about? Alfie." Song reference dates me. God has the answers & his promises are sure.

Pope Francis designated 2025 a Jubilee Year of Hope. His Bull of Indiction begins: SPES NON CONFUNDIT. "Hope does not disappoint" (Rom 5:5). In the spirit of hope, the Apostle Paul addressed these words of encouragement to the Christian community of Rome. Hope is also the central message of the coming Jubilee that, in accordance with an ancient tradition, the Pope proclaims every twenty-five years. My thoughts turn to all those pilgrims of hope who will travel to Rome in order to experience the Holy Year & to all those others who, though unable to visit the City of the Apostles Peter & Paul, will celebrate it in their local Churches. For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the "door" (cf. Jn 10:7-9) of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere & to all as "our hope" (1 Tim 1:1).

Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire & expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring. Even so, uncertainty about the future may at times give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from confident trust to apprehensiveness, from serenity to anxiety, from firm conviction to hesitation & doubt.... https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/20240509_spes-non-confundit_bolla-giubileo2025.html

The USCCB website page on Jubilee 2025 says in part:

2025 is the Jubilee Holy Year, the 2,025th anniversary of the Incarnation of our Lord, an "event of great spiritual, ecclesial, & social significance in the life of the Church." The concept of "Jubilee" has its origins in the Book of Leviticus (chapter 25) as a special year of reconciliation, pilgrimage, & coming home. Pope Francis has designated the 2025 Holy Year as a time to renew ourselves as "Pilgrims of Hope." usccb.org/jubilee2025

Hope, perhaps least understood of the theological virtues, with Love & Faith, make it possible for us to have a relationship with God. Fr. John Hardon's Modern Catholic Dictionary defines Hope as The confident desire of obtaining a future good that is difficult to attain. It is therefore a desire, which implies seeking and pursuing; some future good that is not yet possessed but wanted, unlike fear that shrinks from a future evil. This future good draws out a person's volition. Hope is confident that what is desired will certainly be attained. It is the opposite of despair. Yet it recognizes that the object wanted is not easily obtained & that it requires effort to overcome whatever obstacles stand in the way. (Etym. Latin spes, hope.)

The Catechism of the Catholic Church par. 1817 says:

Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven & eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit. "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful."⁸⁴ "The Holy Spirit . . . he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his grace become heirs in hope of eternal life."⁸⁵ Spe salvi (November 30, 2007) | BENEDICT XVI Pope Benedict XVI wrote in the 2007 Encyclical Letter Spe Salvi: "SPE SALVI facti sumus"-in hope we were saved, says Saint Paul to the Romans, and likewise to us (Rom 8:24). According to the Christian and faith, "redemption"-salvation-is not simply a given. Redemption is offered to us in the sense that we have been given hope, and trustworthy hope, by virtue of which we can face our present: the present, even if it is arduous, can be lived and accepted if it leads towards a goal, if we can be sure of this goal, and if this goal is great enough to justify the effort of the journey. Now the question immediately arises: what sort of hope could ever justify the statement that, on the basis of that hope and simply because it exists, we are redeemed? And what sort of certainty is involved here?

A person with extraordinary hope who comes to my mind is St. Josephine Bakhita. The Word Among Us, 02/25, has a wonderful article about her life. She had a sense of God long before she received evangelization and catechesis. I remember looking at the stars and saying, "Who is the master of all these beautiful things?" And I experienced a great desire to see him & know him and honor him. Kidnapped by slave traders in her homeland of Sudan at age 9 God provided for her freedom in Italy and the means for her to be with him in heaven for all eternity. She became a bride of Christ and forgave her captors. She said: If I were meet those men who abducted me,... tortured me...I would kneel and kiss their hands, for if that hadn't happened, I would not be a Christian...

May Pope Francis experience what he wrote of in Spes Non Confundit: I am confident that everyone, especially the suffering those most and for the holy people of God, is "a sign of certain hope and comfort".

For the Jubilee Prayer please go to the Province Director Report Page 10



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TO EVERYONE – CONSIDER THE IMPRISONED



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

However, to walk around inside the prison without an escort and meet any of the men at their housing unit, even priests are required to have training. It limits how we can visit the men. But Fr. Kubat has just been allowed to register to take the necessary training.

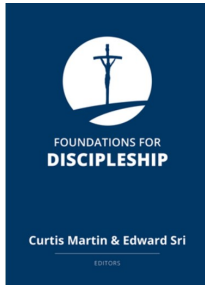
The ministry is so rewarding and so needed. Some of the men *may* not have seen a priest in years. COVID and fewer workers in all the prisons have had something to do with that. Keeping everyone safe is important.

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

If your PCCW, Altar Society, Catholic Daughters, etc. is looking for a project, here is one. Donate spiritual books by Catholic authors. The men ask for spiritual books to read. Half the men are English-first readers and half Spanish-first readers. Many do read. If your group decides to take on this project, I can let you know the restrictions at TSCI. (See my contact info above)

Consider prison ministry. Pray over it to see if God may be calling you to it. There is a great need. And for me personally, it has been my most rewarding ministry.

Foundations for Discipleship Book Study
Final Study!! We will review 6.1-6.4
March 9 , 6:30 - 8 pm
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84558052750?pwd=mubybUU41pPGZ4C1yktxQBB0R7Ya59.1>
 Email ldccwpreselect@gmail.com for question





Val Able
President Elect
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“For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.” Romans 8:24-25

Dear Sisters in Christ,

I want to start by saying, “thank you” to all of you that sent words of encouragement, get well cards, or called to chat during my time in the hospital. It truly has been a couple of months filled with hope for me.

As I laid in my hospital bed, sometimes overcome with physical pain, I hoped that God would just take it away. I would offer it up for others I knew were in more pain than I and hoped it would bring them some relief. I often struggled saying my morning offering, especially the offering up my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings. Wondering if I was asking for sufferings. Then, I read Fr. Christopher Eckrich’s article, “A Minute of Hope” and it really shed some light on my ignorant heart.

Hope is a virtue, but we must also have the grace of patience. Patience to endure the difficult times in our lives. So, I began asking for patience to endure those moments during the day that seemed impossible for me to get through. The days seemed to get a little shorter and day by day I was closer to going home. I felt an inner peace and confidence that did bring me back to my home where my loving husband is helping to take care of me.

I still have a back brace that I must wear during the time I am up and out of bed. It is very uncomfortable, but it gives me hope that I won’t have to wear it much longer and patience to endure it day by day.

As we walk together during the 2025 Jubilee Year, “Pilgrims of Hope” keep your hearts and minds alert for the many opportunities to witness signs of hope!

Your Servant in Christ,

Val Able, LDCCW President-Elect



Spirituality Commission – Shelly Chloupek and Barb Kadlec
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Divine Mercy Chair - Bonnie Damrow



Allow us to introduce ourselves. Shelly Chloupek and Barb Kadlec are the new Co-Chairs for the Spirituality Committee.

I'm Shelly Chloupek from Harvard, Nebraska. My husband and I have been married 45 years and we have 3 children and 8 granddaughters. I'm a retired special education teacher. I am a past Hastings Deanery President and current treasurer as well as PCCW president in our parish of Harvard St. Joseph Catholic Church. I have volunteered in many roles over the years in parish community.

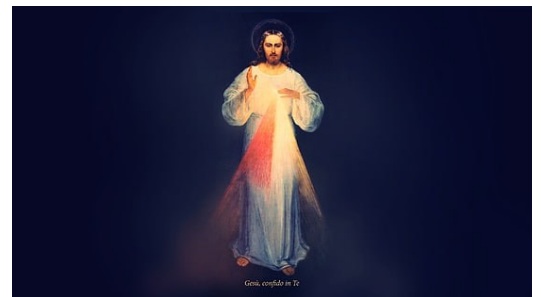
Hi, I'm Barb Kadlec from David City, Nebraska. My husband, Michael and I have been married for 28 years and have 4 children, 1 daughter and 3 sons. We have 2 beautiful grandchildren. I am the bookkeeper for our trucking business. I just ended my term as David City Deanery President and am active member of Assumption Parish in Appleton, a mission parish of David City.

As this new year begins and with the Jubilee Year, Pilgrims of Hope, ushered in by Pope Francis, there is so much for which to be "Hopeful". Hope does not mean wishing for something to happen, like a child hopes for a new bicycle for his birthday. Hope means so much more. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of Holy Spirit." (CCC: 1817). If we truly take the time and focus on these three key aspects, we will grow in Christ's goodness and love so we can gain our ultimate goal of Heaven. May this upcoming Season of Lent be one of Hope.

Divine Mercy

The Divine Mercy signs have arrived and have been slowly distributed throughout the diocese. There is one sign to go to each parish in the diocese. Please place them in a prominent, safe from the wind location. They are of no cost to the parishes. There will be extra signs available for purchase at a cost of

We will not be delivering the signs but request you come to the LDCCW meeting on April 26 to pick up your sign (s) for your church and deanery.



Service Commission—Joyce Reich

joycereich@hotmail.com

Phone: 402-616-0334

Lincoln Diocesan Council
of Catholic Women

In Service of God
and His Church

Shout joyfully to the Lord, all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful song. - PS 100:1-2

As the cold days of winter continue to persist, thoughts of warmer weather enter our heads. Spring will be here before we know it!

The President's Project is for each PCCW/Altar Society to adopt a pregnancy center and support them through providing material needs, by volunteering, and/or providing spiritual needs through your prayers. Has your PCCW adopted a center yet?



Used eyeglasses were brought to the September and January meetings of LDCCW. In total 142 pairs of glasses were donated to the local vision center for distribution. Thank you!

Support for the pregnancy centers in the Diocese from LDCCW continues throughout the year. Following the January Symposium donations were given to Birthright Lincoln, Wellspring Hastings, and Willow Center Beatrice in the amount of \$208.33 each, to Hope Superior in the amount of \$125, and to ABC McCook in the amount of \$83.34.

In addition, because of your donations to Apostles for Life Birthright, Wellspring and Willow Center each received \$265.75, Hope \$159.45 and ABC \$106.30. Thank you!

Lent is fast approaching. Make it a time worthwhile to grow closer to our Lord. Your Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving can fit nicely with our mission of performing the Corporal Works of Mercy. Prv 19:17 says, "He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his deed."

Pope's Intentions

For families in crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, re-discovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

LEADERSHIP COMMISSION – Jane Potts

A Jubilee year is traditionally proclaimed every 25 years. As we embrace the Holy Year of Jubilee of Hope, we are reminded we are all Pilgrims of Hope and people today need HOPE!

- H – Help gain new strength
- O - Opening of Holy Doors
- P - Pilgrimage
- E – Encourage Holiness

Embrace the Jubilee of Hope by participating in pilgrimages, prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, and acts of repentance and charity, drawing us closer to the mercy of God.

Mother Teresa is a model of servant leadership---leading by serving others with humility and compassion. She said, “Not all of us can do great things, But we can do small things with great love.” In reviewing the Charitable Acts Survey submitted, I am filled with awe in all the corporal works of mercy that you have all done in your parishes! There are a lot of great charity acts being done. Thank you for all you do!

In this Year of Hope, we pray your leadership role will be to Regain, Retain and Grow! HOPE comes from Christ. We deepen our HOPE through prayers, sacraments and growing in virtue. Keep looking to the future with a trusting and prayerful heart!

PAST PRESIDENTS!! We know in the flurry of the change of officers it is difficult for the new president’s to send the new updates to me. Please send your updates to me at ldccwleadership@gmail.com and I will update the google spreadsheet.

We are not hosting our spreadsheet on the diocesan website due to spamming issues. If you need to know a name email myself or Judy Weston and we will get them to you!

Upcoming Events

- Upcoming Events
- St. Monica Prayer
- March-Plattsmouth
- April-Wahoo and York
- May-Crete
- June-David City
- March 5-Ash Wednesday
- March 25-Feast of the Annunciation
- April 9-Catholics at the Capitol
- April 20 –Easter
- April 25-Spring Executive Board Meeting Giltner St. Joseph’s Catholic Church
- April 26-Spring Full Board Meeting Aurora St. Mary’s Catholic Church
- Feast of Our Lady of Good Council





Province Director Report

January 10, 2025

Tricia Ferguson, Province of Omaha

As we begin 2025 check out the President's Pen. It is packed with information: A message from Fr. Tom Washburn National Spiritual Advisor, Spirituality, Leadership & Service Commissions, Committee's: Education, Resolutions, Religious Alliance Against Pornography {RAAP}, Leadership Training & Development {LTD}, Nominating Committee Update {slate is full!}, Legislative Advocacy Committee and Our Lady of Good Counsel Award {Nominations are accepted from March 17 to April 28.}

Sharing the Good News from The Vatican

Pope Francis has declared 2025 a Jubilee Year! The theme for this holy year is "Pilgrims of Hope." "For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus," stated by Pope Francis in the Bull of Indiction, the document outlining the theme of the Jubilee, entitled, "Hope Does Not Disappoint."

As Councils of Catholic Women develop plans for their 2025 Council year's activities, please include

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your Son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise forever. Amen

NCCW Tree of Life

At the August 2024 NCCW Convention, the NCCW Education Committee presented the NCCW TREE OF LIFE. Each Council of Catholic Women is part of this tree, because the bishops planted the tree in 1920. Over time, the roots of the tree have become more deeply rooted in spirituality due to an increase in the number of bishops supporting and promoting the NCCW. The NCCW Tree of Life needs continual nurturing and care provided by the NCCW Board of Directors and Affiliate and Individual members. The tree is always growing and changing due to the development of new programs for leadership, service, and spirituality. The tree is always in need of attention, love, and new members to continue growing!

Continued on the next page.

continued

The Campaign for Mary's Garden

NCCW is collecting funds from Sept. 2024—May 31, 2025 to rebuild Mary's Garden located on the grounds of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Washington D.C. Mary's Garden, vandalized in May 2024, needs restoration and rebuilding. While insurance will cover the cost of the Statue, \$80,000 is needed to cover the costs of the fountain, stonework, and landscaping. I encourage Affiliates and Individual Members to consider donating to the campaign. Add some fun and challenges to this campaign by having a unique basket raffle, baking contest, or fundraiser to build excitement for the Campaign. Donations can be sent directly to the NCCW Office at 10335 -A Democracy Lane, Unit 201, Fairfax, VA 22030, ATTN:

Mary's Garden Campaign or call the NCCW Office: 703-224-0990.

The start of the New Year brings NEW RESOLUTIONS!

How about resolving to share your story of Council with a lady in your parish and invite her to attend a ladies' meeting with you? Personal invitations work the best!

Upcoming events:

Catholics at the Capitol will be on April 9, 2025. The Province of Omaha Board meeting will be held the night before, April 8, 2025.

I will be attending the March for Life in Washington DC on Friday January 24, 2025. My daughters, Beth Keizer and Karen Benzel will be accompanying me.

The NCCW Board of Directors meeting via zoom will take place on January 31, 2025.

The Province Director NCCW Report and Questionnaire was submitted on January 4, 2025 {due January 5th}

Sharing Gratitude and Thanksgiving

To the Archbishop, Bishops, Spiritual Advisors, Priests, Deacons, and all the many ladies in the Council of Catholic Women – thank you for all you do to promote the Council of Catholic Women! Every moment of every day you make a difference in the lives of others!

I continue to keep you in my prayers,

In Christ Jesus,

Tricia Ferguson, Province Director



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



Judy Weston
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