

NewsNotes



Weeds and Flowers

Thank you God for the rain! I love looking out my front door and admiring the beautiful roses. Along with rain, we also have weeds. My husband hates weeds with a passion and is quick to pull out the weed killer. I literally have to run outside to start pointing out my flowers so he doesn't go spray crazy. My raised beds are simple, tomatoes, peppers and green beans. This year I experimented planting wildflowers. Naturally, pigweed is thriving and Bill was quick to point out I didn't pull them all. Teaching moment, I told Bill weeds and flowers are like sin, sometimes you have to wait to see how they grow before you pull them. (Read Matthew 13:24-43) What might be a small problem sometimes has to get a little bigger before you can recognize and you are ready pull it out by the roots. I find great satisfaction pulling a weed, root and all.

We can work the garden of our lives in the same way, by studying what we need to pull or what we need to tend. Small weeds or problems in our lives are tolerable until they are out of hand, then pulling can take the beautiful flowers with them.

Healthy fellowship, Bible or book studies are all a part of learning what we need to do and how we can recognize the weeds that might pop up in our garden. It takes time to study what is a fledgling flower versus a quickly growing weed.

How can you tend to your soul this summer? By the time of this writing we will have started a study of the "Foundations for Discipleship." This is a study on Zoom. My prayer is we will learn through discussion, as to how we can best grow our faith. Check the information as to how to join. Find a Bible study in your parish. The opportunity to engage and have fellowship with other Catholics will help foster the growth of your beautiful garden of faith. These opportunities tend and nourish the garden of our souls.

Now onto my little raised bed, today, I was reminded I have to make time to tend to that garden and monitor the weeds and make sure they don't get away from me. I think I can say the same for my own faith journey.

Judy Weston
President

P.S. The Eucharistic Pilgrimage was blessing to participate in. We can continue adoring Him in our own parish. Jesus loves to listen to you!



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**Most Rev. James D. Conley
Bishop of Lincoln**

Message from Bishop James D. Conley

July 2024 LDCCW NewsNotes Article

Dear Ladies of the Lincoln Diocesan Council of Catholic Women,

In June, the faithful of the Diocese of Lincoln had a unique opportunity to journey with the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage as it traveled from the West coast through Nebraska on its way to Indianapolis for the National Eucharistic Congress! We had the wonderful blessing of celebrating a special time of Eucharistic Adoration and Mass at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ.

Gazing on the Lord in silent Eucharistic adoration is a powerful way to revive our own love, understanding, and gratitude for the gift of Jesus, in the Holy Eucharist. When we adore Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, we adore God, who is love. Because we can see the Sacred Host, under the appearance of simple bread, we are looking at love made visible. We are reminded that God came down from heaven and was made flesh in the womb of the virgin. He lived, suffered, died, and rose from the dead, in order to lead us to heaven. The incarnation reveals to us our full identity as beloved sons and daughters of the Father and true brothers and sisters of Jesus.

A favorite Marian image of mine is entitled, "The Virgin Adoring the Host." by the 19th century French artist Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres. In this painting, Mary gazes on the Eucharist as if she was looking upon the face of her newborn babe. She casts her eyes downwards, in a peaceful and devout gaze at the Sacred Host, suspended on a paten, covering a chalice, which rests on an altar. Mary's look draws our attention to the Holy Eucharist, the real presence of Jesus Christ, body, blood, soul and divinity, the Word made flesh in the Sacred Host. It is as if Mary is beckoning us to adore her son, Jesus, and to gaze with her on the Sacred Host. As we look upon the humble and demure face of Ingres' virgin, we see the Blessed Mother caught up in the love and adoration of her son Jesus, the Eucharistic Lord, the "source and summit of our Catholic faith." Her gaze leads us to Jesus just as her whole life leads us to Jesus.

Mary was appointed to be the ark of the New Covenant, to carry the bread of heaven in her womb. She was appointed to nurture, protect and teach Christ in her home. She was appointed to stand at the foot of the cross and freely offer her son to the father for the redemption of souls. She was appointed to be his permanent helpmate, to lead all people to salvation through a knowledge and love of her son, Jesus. As you pray about what God has appointed you to do, think first of your family, your children and grandchildren, your friends and coworkers. These are your primary relationships, where love is nourished and faith can be shared. How will you lead the people in your life to the Lord? How will you model for them the love of Christ and the joy of living in a deep and faithful relationship with their savior? I encourage you to nurture a great love for the Blessed Sacrament and spend time in adoration of our Eucharistic Lord. Turn to the Blessed Mother as your role model. She will always lead you to Jesus!

With my blessing and prayerful esteem for the Ladies of the Lincoln Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James D. Conley".

The Most Rev. James D. Conley
Bishop of Lincoln



Fr. Thomas Lux—Spiritual Director
Phone 308-995-4950
Email Address— fr.thomas-lux@lincolndiocese.org

Dear Newsnotes Readers,

The *Friends of NCCW for WUCWO* help support the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations. In 2006, WUCWO was erected by the Holy See as a Public International Association of the Faithful (www.wucwo.org). My Spiritual Advisor message for the Friends summer newsletter is:

Dear Friends of NCCW for WUCWO,

I look forward to meeting with you at the 2024 NCCW National Convention in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. The theme *Called to an Encounter with Jesus* goes along with much of what has filled my days lately. The Lincoln Diocese CCW is reading & discussing *Foundations for Discipleship* by Curtis Martin and Edward Sri. This process used by FOCUS teams on college campuses of *Win, Build, and Send* helps answer basic questions each person has and needs to answer, as well as, their need for relationship. The Priests of the Lincoln Diocese were blessed by the ministry of Fr. John Riccardo and his Acts XXIX team. They summarize the Gospel with the words *Created, Captured, Rescued, and Response*. I see many similarities in these two approaches to Jesus' call to follow Him. Key to both is relationships: a serious prayer life, complete dependence on the grace of our good and loving God, and a love for other people. I look forward to what will come in my journey of faith and recommend these resources to you.

I was in the seminary in the 1980's. It was hard to get reliable news about things happening in Central America. Who could you trust? My training in school counseling and administration and in responding to emergency and crisis situations emphasized the importance of communication. Inter-agency relationship building is important in the non-emergency times so that you know the people in other agencies and a mutual trust is established. You also know what each agency can bring to the situation. Being in the center of the December 2006 Nebraska ice storm which took out multiple high power electrical trunk lines serving Holdrege highlighted this. Main power was not restored to our parish buildings for a full month. Response from agencies to rescue and to recover was striking. *Catholic Social Services and multiple other agencies "set up shop" in the hall of a local non-Catholic congregation where people could come to get assistance. It was a beautiful response to people in need.*

WUCWO, as a worldwide network, helps committed Catholic women get to know others from around the world. The members of WUCWO can share what they each know of their respective country's people. Friends of NCCW for WUCWO is important to support opportunities to build relationships depending on the Lord's grace, the Blessed Mother Mary's intercession & working with the Holy Father.

I am blessed to be going to the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis along with the pilgrims from the Lincoln Diocese travelling by bus. This reminds me of the *Omaha Province taking the bus to Indianapolis for the 2016 NCCW National Convention. Maybe see some of you there.*

May God bless all of us with safe travels here and hereafter.

In Christ,

Fr. Thomas Lux, Spiritual Advisor *NCCW Friends for WUCWO*



Fr. Thomas McGuire, Assistant Spiritual Advisor
Phone No. 402-759-1392
Email address: frthomasmcguire@gmail.com

TO PRIESTS – Catholic Women Authors

Some years ago, I went to the Christian bookstore in Grand Island. I noticed how many Christian books were written by women. None were Catholic. It seemed 30% or more of the authors were women. Most seemed to share how faith in Jesus transformed their struggles. I tried to think of contemporary Catholic women who wrote books from a Catholic viewpoint. I only recalled Alice von Hildebrand at the time. Of course, there were classics, like “The Story of a Soul”, “Interior Castle” “The Dialogues” and others. Most of those were written centuries ago. Why were there so few Catholic women authors about faith? I did a search and found a few more Catholic women authors. They also shared how faith in Christ could transform their daily struggles. So, I let the Lincoln Diocesan Council of Catholic Women know about them. I’m glad a few were familiar with them. Most, like me, were not.

Since then, I have seen more books published by Catholic women authors. For example, *Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus* by Sherry Weddell; *The Thrill of the Chaste* by Dawn Eden; and *My Sisters the Saints* by Colleen Carroll Campbell.

I’d like to mention a few more books, their Catholic women authors, and what is said about them.

With All Her Mind edited by Rachel Bulman. This collection of essays, written by Catholic women of diverse backgrounds and vocations, is a call to pursue what is too often excluded from our picture of femininity: the intellectual life. Following Mary, the “Seat of Wisdom,” who “treasured” the words of the shepherds and “pondered them in her heart,” *With All Her Mind* shows how the feminine genius involves both affectivity and active intellectual engagement. Full of practical advice and personal testimonies and featuring a foreword by celebrated scholar Tracey Rowland, this collection opens readers to the endlessly unique ways for a woman to follow the first and greatest commandment: to love the Lord with all her soul, with all her heart, and with all her mind.

In **Wisdom from Women in Scripture**, you will journey with ... The woman with the alabaster jar, who pushed past fear to worship Jesus. The woman at the well, who generously shared the love of God. Ruth, whose faithfulness led to a great legacy. Rahab, who was saved from the disorder of her life. Esther, the queen who dared see her position as an opportunity to save lives. Mary, who became exactly who she was meant to be—the mother of God. Each chapter includes a personal reflection from six leading Catholic women, each of whom has a deep love of Sacred Scripture and is a leader and evangelizer in her own right. The individual chapters articulate the author’s perspective, thought, or experience, and offer rich insights into the deeper wisdom of God. Authors: Kelly M. Wahlquist, Teresa Tomeo, Elizabeth M. Kelly (Liz), Mary Healy, Melissa Overmyer, and Alyssa Bormes.

Saintly Women of Modern Times by Joan Carroll Cruz. Most female saints familiar to Catholics today belonged to religious orders and lived long ago. But a number of lesser-known women of more recent times have also achieved exemplary holiness as lay Christians who made an impact on the world. They serve as role models for women today who struggle with the difficulties of everyday life in secular surroundings. In *Saintly Women of Modern Times*, best-selling author Joan Carroll Cruz presents portraits of seventy-five Catholic women from the past century whose extraordinary holiness set them on the path to sainthood. But all of them lived and died for the love of God and others. Included are Saint Gianna Beretta Molla, Servant of God Concepta Bertoli, Servant of God Dorothy Day, Venerable Edel Quinn, Servant of God Elisabeth Leseur, Martyred Women of the Spanish Persecution, and many more. Women today, and men..., will find inspiration, comfort, and companionship in *Saintly Women of Modern Times*.

Manual for Woman by Danielle Bean. *Manual for Women* is for women who seek to grow closer to Christ and his Blessed Mother, for women who seek to discover or rediscover what it means to be a woman after God’s own heart. In Part I, noted Catholic author Danielle Bean, using examples from Scripture, the lives of the saints, and modern life, reminds women of today to embrace and cultivate their distinctive gifts: Receptivity, or an openness and welcoming spirit toward others. Sensitivity, or an ability to see and understand the needs and feelings of others. Compassion, or an instinct to suffer with and alleviate the suffering of others. Beauty, or the recognition that the female body is a reflection of her great capacity for nurturing, whether she ever becomes a mother physically or not. Generosity, or an extraordinary capacity for self-giving love. She also reminds readers that they will embrace those gifts most perfectly if they imitate that most immaculate of women, Mary of Nazareth. Bean concludes with practical advice which every woman, whatever her state in life, will benefit from. In Part II, readers will be nourished by the depth and richness of the Catholic tradition’s teaching on women. Church documents, wisdom of the saints, relevant passages from Scripture, wisdom from today’s Catholic women, prayers, and hymns will inspire, delight, and edify women, young and old, single and married, consecrated to God in the religious life or a member of the laity. Now, perhaps more than ever, women need to be women. But what it means to be a woman has been so distorted by the various ideologies that the modern world imposes.



Val Able
President Elect
402-274-3088
ldccwpreselect@gmail.com

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Like many of you, I love to read. As I cleaned out my basket of magazines the other day, I found it hard to throw away those magazines that had such delicious looking recipes on the covers. They were, however, several years old and I had not made any of those recipes, so out they went. I discovered that I had back issues from Woman’s Day, Midwest Travels, Taste of Home, etc. etc. All of which I just looked at the recipes or titles of articles, but never really read through them. Then I came across the Catholic Woman. I could not discard a single one of them. This, my dear sisters, is a wonderful quarterly magazine that you can only get by being a member of the National Catholic Council of Catholic Women.

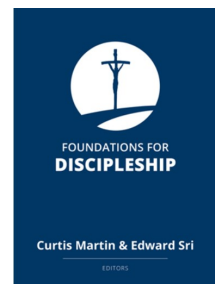
I read my last issue from cover to cover and was spiritually enriched to hear stories of other’s faith journeys, the upcoming Eucharistic Congress, St. Clare of Assisi, the National NCCW Convention in Oklahoma City, and each of the commissions of Spirituality, Service, and Leadership. Ladies, so many of these articles made me think of our members in LDCCW. Especially the article on charisms. In 1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-11 there is a beautiful depiction of our spiritual gifts. Different gifts are given to each but we are all one spirit. This certainly is the case in our organization.

One personal highlight was reading an article on the Sacrament of Marriage. My husband, Leroy and I had just celebrated our 50 th Anniversary on May 26 th . The article was written by Bernadette Corso, a young woman that was preparing for marriage and talking about their marriage prep. On the opposite page was a beautiful picture of Mary and Joseph reaching out their hands to one another, with a priest reading from a book. Obviously, a wedding! I showed my (half asleep husband the picture) and said, “Isn’t this the most beautiful picture.” His response was, “where was that taken.” I had to laugh!

The Catholic Woman magazine is printed quarterly and can be yours if you become a member of the NCCW. An individual membership is \$50 and well worth the money. There are several easy ways to join: you can go to nccw.org and sign up online or call 703.224.0990. I encourage you to join and start receiving this wonderful publication!

Your sister in Christ,
Val Able, President-Elect

Foundations for Discipleship Book Study
July 21, 6:30-8 pm
[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81291348737?
pwd=Oy2bW9pQhQVH2DJsUrPhm6ziitM8ay.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81291348737?pwd=Oy2bW9pQhQVH2DJsUrPhm6ziitM8ay.1)
August 11, 6:30 - 8 pm
September 8, 6:30-8pm
Email ldccwpreselect@gmail.com for question





Hello everyone! Last month I shared information about doing a Daily Examen. The Examen as outlined by St. Ignatius of Loyola. The Daily Examen is a technique of prayerful reflection on the events of the day in order to detect God's presence and discern his direction for us. There are five steps in The Examen

1. Give thanks. Spend a few moments in gratitude for the gifts and blessings of the day.
2. Ask for Light. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what He wills.
3. Examine the day... How did your heart move in consolation and desolation, etc (this is a great time to review the 14 Rules for the Discernment of Spirits)
4. Seek forgiveness

Renewal

This month, I would like to share information regarding one of my favorite Saints. St. Benedict lived by his **RULE. What does your Rule of life look like? Have you made a Rule of Life?**

Here is more information about St. Benedict:

St. Benedict of Nursia

Feast Day: July 11

Patron: of students and Europe

Birth: 480

Death: 543

Canonized: Pope Honorius III in 1220

St. Benedict is believed to have been born around 480, as the son to a Roman noble of Norcia and the twin to his sister, Scholastica.

In the fifth century, the young Benedict was sent to Rome to finish his education with a nurse/housekeeper. The subject that dominated a young man's study then was rhetoric -- the art of persuasive speaking. A successful speaker was not one who had the best argument or conveyed the truth, but one who used rhythm, eloquence, and technique to convince. The power of the voice without foundation in the heart was the goal of the student's education. And that philosophy was reflected in the lives of the students as well. They had everything -- education, wealth, youth -- and they spent all of it in the pursuit of pleasure, not truth. Benedict watched in horror as vice unraveled the lives and ethics of his companions.

Afraid for his soul, Benedict fled Rome, gave up his inheritance and lived in a small village with his nurse. When God called him beyond this quiet life to an even deeper solitude, he went to the mountains of Subiaco. Although becoming a hermit was not his purpose in leaving, there he lived as a hermit under the direction of another hermit, Romanus.

One day, during his time living in a cave above a lake as a hermit, the Devil presented Benedict's imagination with a beautiful, tempting woman. Benedict resisted by rolling his body into a thorn bush until it was covered in scrapes. It is said through these body wounds, he cured the wounds of his soul.

After years of prayer, word of his holiness brought nearby monks to ask for his leadership. He warned them he would be too strict for them, but they insisted -- then tried to poison him when his warning proved true. The story goes, the monks attempted to poison Benedict's drink, but when he prayed a blessing over the cup - it shattered.

So, Benedict was on his own again -- but not for long. The next set of followers were more sincere and he set up twelve monasteries in Subiaco where monks lived in separate communities of twelve.

He left these monasteries abruptly when the envious attacks of another hermit made it impossible to continue the spiritual leadership he had taken.

But it was in Monte Cassino he founded the monastery that became the roots of the Church's monastic system. Instead of founding small separate communities he gathered his disciples into one whole community. His own sister, Saint Scholastica, settled nearby to live a religious life.

After almost 1,500 years of monastic tradition his direction seems obvious to us. However, Benedict was an innovator. No one had ever set up communities like his before or directed them with a rule. What is part of history to us now was a bold, risky step into the future.

Continued on page 5

Benedict had the holiness and the ability to take this step. His beliefs and instructions on religious life were collected in what is now known as the Rule of Saint Benedict -- still directing religious life after 15 centuries.

In this tiny but powerful **Rule**, Benedict put what he had learned about the power of speaking and oratorical rhythms at the service of the Gospel. He did not drop out of school because he did not understand the subject! Scholars have told us that his Rule reflects an understanding of and skill with the rhetorical rules of the time. Despite his experience at school, he understood rhetoric was as much a tool as a hammer was. A hammer could be used to build a house or hit someone over the head. Rhetoric could be used to promote vice ... or promote God. Benedict did not shun rhetoric because it had been used to seduce people to vice; he reformed it.

www.catholiconline.com

New Ballot Initiative Provides Opportunity to Vote for Life and Protect Nebraska from Abortion after 1st Trimester

Nebraska Right to Life (NRL) supports the Protect Women and Children ballot initiative that was released today. This life-affirming effort would create a constitutional amendment to protect preborn babies in the second and third trimester, except for in cases of rape, incest and medical emergencies.

“What was revealed today is a pro-life ballot initiative that is consistent with the Nebraska law that went into effect last May which prevent most elective abortions after 12 weeks gestation, with exceptions for rape, incest and life of the mother, which we supported,” Danek said. “Since 90% of abortions in Nebraska occur within that first trimester, the pro-abortion initiative to amend our state’s constitution is not only extreme, it is unnecessary,” added Danek.

Citing a few examples of what she considers “extreme” measures in the pro-abortion initiative, Danek pointed out that while parents would have no legal say, or even know, of their minor daughter’s abortion, they would be financially responsible for any needed physical or mental post-abortive care that their daughter might need. “It is also very troubling that the person determining fetal viability as well as the health of the mother – defined broadly enough that nonmedical factors such as financial or mental state could be considered – would be the one performing the abortion,” Danek said.

“Nebraska Right to Life has created educational materials to help people unpack the extreme language in the pro-abortion initiative which could legalize abortion through all nine months of pregnancy,” said Sandy Danek, executive director of Nebraska Right to Life.

“Our hope is that voters will avail themselves of the multiple educational tools they can find on our website and social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, X) or they can contact our office and we would be happy to send them printed materials,” Danek said.

More information at <https://nebraskarighttolife.org> and <https://necatholic.org>



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Dangerous. Deceptive. Demeaning.
Too Extreme for Nebraska.

DEFEAT THE PRO-ABORTION BALLOT INITIATIVE

THANK YOU LDCCW for the many ways you support the faith formation of our youth across the Diocese.

Totus Tuus is in full swing. Teams began going to parishes the first week in June and will continue to mid-July!

Steubenville Conference is July 12-21st in Steubenville, Ohio

SKY CAMP, LEADERSHIP CAMPS, MARIAN SISTERS Camps all well underway in June and July at Camp Kateri

Last but not least the Diocese Canoe trip will be held July 7-11. Check out the promo YouTube!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2jROR7FQOk&t=4s>

We are always in need of adults (who are young at heart) to be drivers and chaperones, cooks for this event.



The definition of service is “The action of helping or doing work for someone.” Service to others is a big part of what the Lincoln Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (LDCCW) is all about. But are we just “doing” as someone suggested? Our service can be, should be, is much more than just doing. It is stated in our Resource Manual that the LDCCW provides an association of all Parish Councils of Catholic Women/Altar Societies (PCCW/AS) to unite them in their efforts to grow in their faith through service to their families, their parishes, their communities, and their world. So how can doing something help us grow in faith?

We grow in faith when we give of ourselves for the good of others and allow our service to become the outward work of our Lord’s love for others shining through us by our actions and words. To love someone is to put their joy and needs before your own. Service without love is drudgery and can breed resentment and/or pride. St. Theresa of Lisieux said, “Do little things with great love.” Love for God purifies our service and lightens our load. Pray humbly and sincerely for the ability to love as Christ loves. Become servants of the Lord. St. Francis says, “It is in giving that we receive.” We have the opportunity to grow in our faith!

When we perform the Corporal Works of Mercy, we are fulfilling one of the objectives of the LDCCW. The word mercy is derived from misericordia which means a heart that gives itself to those in need. Sr. Marilyn Sunderman said, “Mercy is being attentive and sensitive to the needs of others; mercy is heartfelt, compassionate love in action.”

How can we perform the Corporal Works of Mercy? There are many ways. Here are some ideas and current projects many PCCW/AS are doing. Don’t be overwhelmed by the possibilities. Choose and do what your PCCW/AS deems relevant to your parish, community or other places as the Lord stirs your hearts into action.

1. Feed the hungry – Is 58:17

Collect and/or donate food for the local food pantries, CSS, Backpack programs, holiday food drives. Organize Meals on Meals or volunteer to deliver them. Prepare and serve a monthly dinner for those in need.

2. Give drink to the thirsty – Mt 10:40-42

Donate bottled water or other beverages to food pantries, CSS, or as needed following natural disasters, etc.

3. To clothe the naked – Lk 3:11

Thanksgiving clothes drives; donate to CSS, Thrift stores, St, Gianna’s. Eyeglass collections are donated to organizations that distribute them to those in need here and to the Missions.

The LDCCW supports Birthright and pregnancy centers throughout the Diocese with a budgeted cash donation and through the annual parish diaper drives held in October with donations of diapers, wipes, and cash. The Diaper Drive began in 2010 and has distributed over one million diapers. We also support these efforts through the Apostles for Life program which is a financial support program that aids pregnancy centers of the Diocese. It asks \$12/yr for one member with a goal of 12 members from each parish. Monies are distributed 3 times a year to the pregnancy centers.

Service Commission—Joyce Reich

joycereich@hotmail.com

Phone: 402-616-0334

4. To shelter the homeless – Heb 13:2

Support local homeless shelters with monetary or physical donations; provide for those displaced by natural disasters, fires, etc. Support refugee programs including those whose safety is at risk due to human (labor, drugs, sex) trafficking.

5. To visit the sick – Jm 5:14-15

Give comfort, hope and encouragement to those in hospitals, care homes, in long recoveries in their homes by providing companionship, food, prayer blankets, or other things to ease their suffering.

6. To visit the imprisoned – Mt 25:26

When we hear “imprisoned” we think of being “in prison.” Several religious in our Diocese have a prison ministry. Reach out to them and find out what they need – prayers, books or holy cards to distribute, etc. But remember those imprisoned in their own homes because of physical conditions, inability to drive, isolation because of circumstances, etc.

7. To bury the dead – Ps 116:15

Support the family of the grieving by prayer, attending the funeral Mass, helping at or providing food for the meal provided by the PCCW/As, etc. Visit the lonely widow/widower. Deliver a meal or otherwise help where needed such as shoveling the sidewalk or mowing grass.

There are many other ways the LDCCW supports our Diocese. The Bishop’s Pastoral Plan for Pro-life sponsors many activities that we can be a part of. Among these are the annual March for Life in Washington D.C. and the Walk for Life in Lincoln, both occurring in January. Programs such as Engaged Encounter, Marriage Encounter, Healing Hearts Grief Program, Retrouvaille, Project Rachel, and Compassionate Care are some of them. More information can be found on the Diocesan website. Lincolndiocese.org

Other activities or events PCCW/AS have participated in are Life Chain in October, World Marriage Day in February, National Children’s Day to honor Mary, Missionary Childhood Association and the Society for Propagation of the Faith (both of which support Catholic Missions), and Catholic Relief Services which has partnered with the National Council of Catholic Women since 1946 as well as those around the needs in our communities. The Pink Sister Auxiliary is worthy of our consideration as our membership in that supports the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters by helping provide food, healthcare, repairs, etc. as they spend their time praying for us. In addition, donations to the Funds for Nuns program helps women pay off any (school) debt in order to enter various convents in the Diocese of Lincoln.

A new program we will introduce this year is Box of Joy sponsored by Cross Catholic Outreach. Box of Joy gifts are Christmas gifts sent to children in developing countries like Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Filled with toys, clothing, school supplies, and a rosary, these gifts represent Christ’s love. Your donation will demonstrate Christ’s compassion to a child who may never before received a Christmas gift. Donate money and the organization fills the box or collect and donate items for in the shoebox-sized boxes as a fall service project for your PCCW/AS, church, school, or family. More information will be coming.

In the words of Pope Benedict XVI, “There will always be situations of material need where help in the form of concrete love of neighbor is indispensable.” Anticipate serving the Lord and growing in faith. The way we serve people shows them who Jesus is. Let us not grow tired of doing good. While we have the opportunity, let us do good to all. – Gal 6:9-10. Ask God to give you opportunities.

To sum it up simply, in the words of 6-year-old Theo, “Helping is sharing God’s love.”

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



LEADERSHIP COMMISSION: JANE POTTS

July is a fun, hot and busy month in Nebraska! As we begin the month, just a friendly reminder that it is the month for the FAIRBURY DEANERY to pray the Prayer to St. Monica. Pray that all members of our family “Come Home” to the faith.

It is also the 4th of July! On this Independence Day we are reminded of all those who have sacrificed for our freedom. “Blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord” – Psalm 33:12
Our Holy Father’s July Intention: For the Pastoral Cure of the Sick-We pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick confer to those who receive it and their loved ones the power of the Lord and become ever more a visible sign of compassion and hope for all.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE:

Governor Pillen remains firm in vowing to “call as many special sessions as it takes” in pursuit of reducing local property taxes by 40% before year’s end or about \$2 million of what is collected annually.

UPCOMING ELECTION:

July 3rd is the deadline for the Pro-Life and Pro-Abortion petitioners to collect enough signatures to put their initiatives to amend the Nebraska Constitution on the November Ballot. It appears that both will be successful. Having both initiatives on the ballot could make it very confusing to voters. If during the election they both pass, the proposal that receives the most votes is the one that would go into Nebraska’s Constitution. You can learn more about these ballot initiatives by going to www.NEcatholic.org. Here you will find all the information you need to learn and discuss the dangers of the pro-abortion effort. How can we support Pro-Life and DEFEAT the Pro-Abortion ballot initiative? First of all, turn to God and ask for His help. STOP and PRAY! The Holy Spirit is with you. Join the “5 for Life Club” and be a part of the community seeking to impact voters. If 5,000 join the 5 for Life Club, we will be able to speak to more than half a million people between now and Election Day. If you want to join the Club, email nabrcc@necatholic.org and write: Count Me In! We have the POWER to make a DIFFERENCE!! Our Lady of Guadalupe, Pray for us!

Upcoming Events

Fairbury Deanery—St. Monica Prayers

July 4 - Independence Day

July 15 - Omaha Province Meeting Resurrection Parish Grand Island 8 am—3 pm

July 16 - [Our Lady of Mount Carmel](#)

July 17– 21 National Eucharistic Congress

July 21 - **Foundations for Discipleship Book Study** 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Zoom link

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81291348737?pwd=Oy2bW9pQhQVH2DJsUrPhm6ziitM8ay.1>

July 28 - World Day of Grandparents

Pope’s Intentions for July

For the pastoral care of the sick

We pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick confer to those who receive it and their loved ones the power of the Lord and become ever more a visible sign of compassion and hope for all.

Join the “5 for Life Club”

We need your help to make a tangible impact against the pro-abortion ballot initiative in Nebraska. So, how can you do this?

Join our recently launched “5 for Life Club”!

Together, we can defeat the dangerous, deceptive, and demeaning pro-abortion ballot initiative. This can be done through meaningful conversations that matter and expose the extreme nature of the ballot measure.

The plan is simple: each week, we challenge you to reach out to just 5 new people.

Imagine the ripple effect if each of us talked to 5 or more new individuals each week about the pro-abortion ballot initiative and why it is bad for Nebraska. Our voices can echo throughout our communities, sparking conversations, changing minds, and transforming hearts. This is an incredible time to be an disciple and evangelist for the Gospel of Life that calls us to speak up for women, girls, and babies who are at risk of a predatory abortion industry.

These conversations are about lives.

When you talk to 5 new people a week, you’re planting seeds that can flourish into meaningful change. It might be hard to believe, but you have the power to make a difference right where you are with this low-effort, but high impact effort.

The first step in this effort is very simple: take a moment to turn to God, and ask for His help to identify five new people you can speak to this week about the pro-abortion ballot initiative.

Maybe it’s a colleague, neighbor, family member, fellow parishioner, or even just a stranger you meet in the checkout line of the grocery store. No matter who, your conversation could be the turning point for them.

When we think about being an evangelist for the Gospel of Life, we can look to the example of St. Paul the Apostle. St. Paul made three missionary journeys to spread the message of the love of Jesus Christ. He visited community after community, spending time with God’s people, and letting them know the saving power of the Gospel.

Like St. Paul, we have a chance to go on missionary journeys within our own community. We can go from house to house, meeting to meeting, social gathering to social gathering, and proclaim the beauty of human dignity. We can spread the message that no woman, girl, or baby should be subjected to a predatory abortion industry that is seeking to gain a further foothold in our state through the pro-abortion ballot initiative.

But just like St. Paul, we need the courage and grace from Jesus Christ to engage in this battle.

This is precisely why we are calling you to stop and pray, and ask God who He is pointing you to speak with.

If you are afraid you don’t have the words, don’t be afraid.

First of all, go to www.NEcatholic.org. There you can find our ballot initiatives webpages which include our one-pagers. These one-pagers are brief summaries of the pro-abortion ballot initiative, and they can give you all the information you need to learn and discuss the dangers of the pro-abortion effort.

Second of all, the Holy Spirit is with you. You are a baptized Christian, with the grace of Confirmation and all the other Sacraments at your service. The Holy Spirit will come to you as an advocate and provide you the words you need to speak the truth about the inestimable value of human life and how we can protect women and children in Nebraska.

So, like I said, join our “5 for Life Club” and be part of a community across the state which is seeking to impact voters across the state.

If 5,000 of us join the 5 for Life Club, we’ll be able to speak to over half a million people between now and Election Day. This is no small number and could be the difference between a Nebraska that chooses life or a Nebraska that adopts a culture of abortion.

If you want to join the Club, please e-mail nebrcc@necatholic.org and write: Count Me In!



Greetings from the National Council of Catholic Women and
Province Director, Kay Wessel
July 2024

Thank you for the kindness you've shone me over the last two years. This written greeting is my last as your Province Director. Tricia Ferguson will become your new Province Director at the National Council of Catholic Women Convention in August.

The Province of Omaha will hold the annual meeting at Resurrection Catholic Church in Grand Island on Monday, July 15, 2024. The meeting venue is moving this year from Blessed Sacrament in Grand Island to Resurrection Church in Grand Island. Pre-registration is required. If you have not seen the tentative meeting schedule and pre-registration form please contact me (402) 817-8842.

The National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) Convention, is August 13 to 17, 2024 at the Omni Hotel in Oklahoma City. Convention theme is "Called to an Encounter with Jesus". I am hopeful many of you plan to attend. Registration closed June 14, 2024. Angela Copenhaver, from Nebraska, founder of WeTeachThink will be a Vendor. Great speakers will join us on Thursday and Friday. The Province Dinner is planned for Thursday evening. On Friday evening this fundraiser was usually entertainment that could have been musicians, singers, dancers, etc. This year the Friday fundraiser will be the purchase of a trolley ticket so you can go to 'Bricktown' and take advantage of a canal ride in addition to dinner, on your own, at one of the local restaurants/pub. Sounds like a great time!

I'm hopeful, if you are planning to attend the NCCCW Convention, you have already made your travel arrangements, but in the event you have not here is the information regarding the planned bus trip to Oklahoma City. Fr. James Kramper, former Spiritual Advisor for the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, has arranged for a charter bus trip. The bus will start in Norfolk, pick up in York and then on to Oklahoma City. \$148.00 each will reserve a seat for the round-trip experience. The bus will leave Oklahoma City for Nebraska right after the Saturday banquet and drive through the night. I have bus trip registration forms if you need them.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your Province Director. I value the friendships made and thank you for inviting me to your Spring Assemblies and Conventions. May you always turn to Our Lady of Good Counsel for guidance?

God Bless you All!

Join the Province of Omaha, Council of Catholic Women



Annual Province Meeting

Monday, July 15, 2024

For Women of Archdiocese of Omaha, Lincoln and Grand Island Dioceses

Resurrection Catholic Church

4110 Cannon Street, Grand Island, NE 68803

Theme: "I Am With You Always" Matthew 28:20

Registration and Coffee 8:15 a.m.

Dismissal 3:00 p.m.

Speaker: Trafficked Survivor

Pre-registration required. Please complete the following and mail, with your payment (**before Monday , July 8, 2024**) to:

Teresa Koch, 815 Walnut, Odell NE 68415

Name	Phone
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Address	City	State	Zip
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Email: _____

Registration \$20 (includes Continental breakfast and lunch) Make checks payable to: LDCCW
Dietary Restriction? _____

If you have questions, please contact Province Director Kay Wessel at 402-817-8842

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
707 N Brass Ave
Juniata NE 68955