



July NewsNotes



Here we are in July and no where am I seeing a relaxing summer. Family reunions and ball games in addition to the gardening and pulling weeds that constantly occur have kept all of us on the go. This summer, I recently completed another LDCCW training in Geneva. I have now completed two LDCCW Trainings in the diocese. There were concerns and frustrations shared, and the lack of participation in the councils. I think this recently discovered poem from a Facebook post from 10 years ago on our LDCCW page holds true to what we are asking of our members, and if you are the person asking for someone to be an officer or participate in council, you have heard many of the excuses!

The poem, "He pointed his finger at me," found on a Texas CDA website has several pointed questions that we, as council need to think about. I took the liberty of paraphrasing the message.

(My Council) asked me to do help in the work of the Church
I said, "Oh no, I couldn't do that."
But God pointed His finger at me."

(My Council asked me to hold an officer position.) I said, "My talents are very few,
A leader I shall never be." (But God) said, "(Your talents) shall be multiplied."

(My Council asked me to volunteer.) I said, "My family demands all my time so they
will be happier. He said, (In your volunteering) "You'll grow in patience and love.
"And He pointed His finger at me.

(I told my council I have too many things on my plate.) I said, "My cross is too heavy
now,
From worries, I am never free."
He told of the cross on which He died,
And He pointed His finger at me.

I have no extra money to give to Church activities,
And I have many demands, you see."
He said, "All that you have, I have given you."

So, I said a prayer and answered, "Yes"
To this opportunity. My life has been blessed in many ways,
Since He pointed His finger at me. If you are called, the Lord's work to do
Say, "Yes, I will give all to Thee."
And you too will be glad, as I have been glad,
That God pointed His finger at me.

As you prepare yourself for the upcoming fall meetings, how are you going to invite new members to council. As president, I will admit, I am more likely to let them make an excuse than to challenge a woman to join. Recently, I was in need of filling four positions! It was a huge request. I took all these positions to prayer and placed the information in the Council Connect and today all the positions are filled! One call came immediately after I was talking to Jesus about this position. Place an ad in your church bulletin and spice it up with something that will interest a woman seeking to fill her life with something. Do a personal invitation and pick her up for the meeting. Remember a smile is a wonderful invitation. Make a friend and you know you will touch her and bless her by bringing her to other women in Christ.

President Judy Weston

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Bishop James D Conley
Lincoln Diocese
Southern Nebraska Register Article from Bishop Conley
June 13, 2025

Renew this summer – with Christ at the center

As the summer sun begins to warm our days and the calendar eases somewhat from its hurried pace, many of us naturally begin to look for opportunities to rest, travel, and reconnect with family and friends. Summer offers a season of refreshment and renewal. As vacations or barbecues nourish our bodies and relationships, it's also the perfect time to nourish our souls.

Summer can be a great time for spiritual renewal. As things slow down and more leisure time tends to emerge, these summer months can be an ideal season to step back, reflect, and re-center our lives on Christ. In the Diocese of Lincoln, this summer also brings us a unique opportunity to enter more deeply into the Jubilee Year of Hope—a year designated for rediscovering the beauty of our faith, the power of God's promises, and the joy that comes from walking in hope.

With nine pilgrimage sites offering a way to obtain an indulgence and the chance to participate in the "One Book + One Diocese project (read "Fire and Light: Learning to Receive the Gift of God" and join the discussion Aug. 26), there are many ways for you to intentionally take advantage of the jubilee year this summer. Please visit our website (lincolndiocese.org/jubilee) to learn more.

A summer of strengthening: don't take a vacation from Mass

As our summer plans fill with trips, sporting events, and relaxation, it can be a temptation to let Sunday Mass slide into the background. But there is no better way to anchor your summer than by keeping the Lord's Day holy.

The Eucharist is not an obligation we check off our list—it is the source and summit of our faith, a true lifeline to God. It is where we encounter and receive the living Christ, who shares His divine life with us, refreshes our weary spirits, and strengthens us for the journey ahead. When we choose to attend Mass, even while traveling, we proclaim that God is at the center of our lives.

This is especially vital in a culture that often disconnects leisure from the Lord. True rest is found not in distracting entertainment, but in communion with the One who made us. So, whether you're home, at the lake, or on a road trip, make Sunday Mass a non-negotiable part of your summer plans. Let it be your weekly act of thanking God for all the blessings you'll enjoy this summer.

You can find Mass times for our diocesan parishes at www.lincolndiocese.org/directory/parishes.

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Bishop James D Conley
Lincoln Diocese
Highlights from the letter from Bishop Conley
June 13, 2025

A summer of hope: entering the Jubilee

Pope Francis inaugurated our current Jubilee Year in 2025—a special year of grace and renewal for the entire world—with the theme “Pilgrims of Hope.”

Hope, one of the three theological virtues, is more than mere optimism. It is the desire to be with God eternally and the firm trust that, no matter the trials we face, God will help us persevere because He is faithful to His promises. As the Catechism beautifully explains, “The virtue of hope responds to the aspiration to happiness which God has placed in the heart of every man; it takes up the hopes that inspire men’s activities and purifies them so as to order them to the Kingdom of heaven; it keeps man from discouragement; it sustains him during times of abandonment; it opens up his heart in expectation of eternal beatitude. Buoyed up by hope, he is preserved from selfishness and led to the happiness that flows from charity” (CCC 1818).

This summer, during this Jubilee Year, we are all invited to meditate on this virtue. As we see new growth in creation, so too we can ask God to increase the virtue of hope within us and cooperate with Him in cultivating hope in our hearts. The Lord invites each of us to live with the confidence that He is working all things for our good.

At the nine Holy Year pilgrimage sites across the diocese, you are invited to pray, reflect, and receive special graces through a plenary indulgence. These pilgrimage opportunities are tangible reminders that our faith is a journey—a walk toward God, who is our eternal happiness. The Cor Mariae Schoenstatt Shrine is featured in this issue of the Southern Nebraska Register, and you can view a full list of the pilgrimage sites and learn how to make a Holy Year pilgrimage at our diocesan website (lincolndiocese.org/jubilee).

I encourage you to consider making a pilgrimage part of your summer plans. Whether as a personal retreat or a family road trip, a pilgrimage can be a powerful act of faith and a source of spiritual renewal. These churches across the diocese are doorways to hope, inviting you to trust again in God’s mercy and providence.

A summer of grace: try something new

Beyond pilgrimage and weekly Mass, summer also offers a slower pace that can open the door for deeper prayer, study, and acts of service. Consider committing to one of the following:

- Daily prayer outdoors, 10–15 minutes each day to take a walk outside to lift up your heart to God and enjoy His beautiful creation.
- Reading a spiritual classic, such as “Introduction to the Devout Life” or “True Devotion to Mary.”
- Volunteering as a family, perhaps at a parish food drive or local outreach.
- Praying a weekly rosary as a family, or perhaps with friends or neighbors.
- Going to confession.

These simple steps can transform the way we experience summer—not as a break from our faith, but as a deepening of it.

A summer of invitation: be bold

Lastly, summer is a season of encounter. We see old friends at reunions, connect with neighbors at cookouts, and welcome visitors into our communities. This is the perfect time to step out of our comfort zones and extend an invitation: invite someone to join you at Mass; bring a friend along on a pilgrimage; share your story of hope—how God has worked in your life and why you continue to trust in Him.

The world is in desperate need of the hope we possess in Christ. Let us not keep it to ourselves, especially in this Jubilee Year of Hope.



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Dear Newsnotes Readers;

Habemus Papam! Pope Leo XIV. Praise God for the many blessings upon His people through the funeral of Pope Francis, the Conclave, and the first months of Pope Leo XIV's papacy. May God bless our Holy Father.

Recently, I was blessed to put together a brief life of St. Barbara with a prayer for her intercession for the safety of a dozen fireworks stands in Lincoln and Southeast Nebraska staffed by Catholic parishes and organizations as very successful fundraisers. I first heard of her as patroness for protection against fires from a former parishioner of St. John Catholic Church of Smithfield who procured a statue for the church in light of the history of a lightning caused fire burning down the old church in the mid 1990's. You might look into St. Barbara's story and ask her intercession for safety in this dry season and time of fireworks. Monsignor Andrew McLean Cummings gave the priest's retreat during the first week of June at Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House. There were about 40 of us priests there, most from our diocese but some from elsewhere. Monsignor is a priest from the Archdiocese of Baltimore and currently the Director of Spiritual Formation at Mount Saint Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland. A number of our priests took their last years of seminary formation there.

Monsignor Cummings has an interesting life history. One thing that surprised me was that he served as a missionary priest outside of Moscow and in St. Petersburg, Russia. Subsequently he served in the dicastery in Rome that serves Eastern Rite churches around the world. We were blessed with insights from him on the Priestly Heart of Jesus especially through the perspective of St. John the Apostle & Evangelist, the Beloved Disciple.

One insight helpful to me is: Jesus is never recorded as asking St. John, "Do you love me?" as He did St. Peter. St. John refers to himself as "the disciple Jesus loved". This is not exclusive. Every disciple of Jesus can describe themselves as loved by Jesus. Monsignor noted that we each need to recognize that "I am, therefore I am loved". Think about that. Pray with that. St. John was eye witness and ear witness as one of the three who Jesus included in more events than others. St. John knew Jesus' love, he loved Jesus and others in Jesus' name. He lived a long time and though his enemies tried to silence him, even by trying to kill him more than once, and he suffered much for the Lord and to proclaim the Gospel, he persevered to the end and he would emphasize the need to love one another.

Pope Leo XIV on May 28, 2025 said to the French Bishops' Conference on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the canonizations of Sts. John Eudes, John Vianney and Thérèse: The

late Pope Francis left us, rather like a testament, a beautiful encyclical on the Sacred Heart in which he states: "That stream which is never exhausted, never passes away ... offers itself time and time again to all those who wish to love as he did. For his love alone can bring about a new humanity" (Dilexit Nos, 219). There could be no more beautiful and simpler program of evangelization and mission for your country: to help everyone discover the tender and devoted love that Jesus has for them, to the point of transforming their lives.

May the world-wide Church's Jubilee of Hope remind us that Hope does not disappoint. May the Eucharistic Revival in the United States help us to grow in our appreciation of the Gift of the Eucharist and bring that appreciation to others as we evangelize (bring the Good News to) them. Check out Walk With One | Eucharistic Revival Initiative for the Year of Mission (<https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/walk-with-one>). From that page we read: "This Eucharistic Examen is designed to be used as part of your "Walk with One" journey (see [www.eucharisticrevival.org/walk-with-one for more info](https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/walk-with-one-for-more-info)). Throughout each stage of the journey, pray this examen to help you discern the path the Lord is calling you to follow in accompanying another person towards Jesus." And "A Simple Guide- Spirit-led accompaniment has four natural stages, briefly outlined below. Download this guide to find out more about each stage and the discernment process."

National Eucharistic Revival Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you give us your flesh and blood for the life of the world, and you desire that all people come to the Supper of the Sacrifice of the Lamb. Renew in your Church the truth, beauty, and goodness contained in the Most Blessed Eucharist.

Jesus living in the Eucharist, come and live in me.

Jesus healing in the Eucharist, come and heal me.

Jesus sacrificing yourself in the Eucharist,

come and suffer in me.

Jesus rising in the Eucharist,

come and rise to new life in me.

Jesus loving in the Eucharist, come and love in me.

Lord Jesus Christ, through the paschal mystery of your death and resurrection made present in every Holy Mass, pour out your healing love on your Church and on our world. Grant that as we lift you up during this time of Eucharistic Revival, your Holy Spirit may draw all people to join us at this Banquet of Life. You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of the Eucharist,

Pray for us.



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TO EVERYONE – LIFE IS SO PRECIOUS

Many issues are “pro-life.” Abortion is first, of course. Also, there is the IVF issue (suspended life/unborn slavery), decades or more of a drug epidemic in the US, human trafficking worldwide, the oppressive force of poverty amid wealth, climate change (no matter how it happens), migration, terrorism, nuclear arms, war, etc. Now that I’m older, I see them all as “life” issues because they affect someone’s human life, often many lives, significantly. Not a new idea.

Over the years, I’ve noticed many of these issues and others can impact the lives of young people disproportionately. For example, a promising future can be taken away from someone who may be unaware of the effects of fentanyl within a less dangerous drug. It is terribly sobering to see a very good, normal young person become psychotic to the point of needing the ER and eventually be diagnosed with having it in their system; and to need the proper meds and treatment to recover. Sometimes recovery is only partial. It’s frightening. Life is so fragile, and so precious.

I write this to us older folks. Years ago, when I was working a summer job while in the seminary, a guy I worked with offered me a brownie with marijuana in it. I never knew you could take it that way. It was tempting but I said, “No, thanks.” Weed in brownies! I like brownies! I almost tried it because I liked brownies. But I didn’t take it.

Well, today, what used to be thought of as a relatively safe drug can easily destroy the life of a person or at least be very dangerous to their health. So, protect young people. Let them know you care about them. And let them know the very risky dangers of modern-day marijuana. It isn’t harmless and maybe never has been harmless.

**Faith Sharing
New Topic!!!**

Love Made Visible - A pastoral letter on adoration of the Most Holy Eucharist
Past President Trudy Burenheide will lead us on a Spiritual Journey of the Most Eucharist.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84558052750pwd=mubybUU41pPGZ4C1yktxQBBorR7Ya59.1>

Email ldccwpreselect@gmail.com for questions

About the Presenter

Trudy Burenheide and her love of the Eucharist introduced the letter to the LDCCW during her term and will now lead a study for the women of the LDCCW.

Zoom will open up at 7 pm.

You can review the letter by going to

<https://www.lincolndiocese.org/lovemadevisible>





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Dear Sisters in Christ,

Every church has that one person that they can call the heart of their parish. They are always volunteering to serve in whatever capacity is needed, they sit in the same place every Sunday, they greet strangers with a smile and live their faith openly. At St. Clara we had one such lovely woman and her name was Margaret. If you wanted to know anything about the church or a member of the parish you could rely on Margaret to know and always end your conversation with a “God bless you sweetie.”

As time passed, and Margaret grew older, and she physically could not get down the steps to the basement she was wise enough to pass on her job of taking care of the altar to a younger woman. It seemed like right before our eyes this beautiful, strong woman became weak and fragile. Her son started bringing her to Mass in a wheelchair. Then there were a couple of Sundays when she didn’t come, and the church just didn’t feel quit the same.

The priest was called to her home and asked to administer “last rites”. When he arrived, he was met by her pet rooster. Yes, she loved animals and had a pet rooster that she kept inside her home. He went into her bedroom and as he looked up, he saw a life-sized statue of St. Clare of Assisi standing in the corner.

When he had finished, he asked the son where she had gotten such a large statue. He was told that many, many years ago the statue was going to be discarded due to being in disrepair. So, Margaret had moved her to her home, and the statue had been there since his youth. The priest asked that once Margaret was called home that the statue be brought back to the church. Here are a couple of pictures of St. Clare of Assisi when she was returned:

I am excited to say that she has been repaired to her original beauty and will be returned in the next couple of months. Thanks to Margaret’s caring for all things beautiful and some generous volunteers St Clare of Assisi will once again have a place of honor as our patron saint.

Saint Clare was a very beautiful woman born into the royalty of Assisi on July 16, 1194. She was a life long friend and follower of St. Francis of Assisi. After hearing him preach she left home to follow her desire to live only for God. She founded the Poor Clares, a contemplative community for women that empahsized a life of simplicity, humility, and serve to God. We celebrate her feast day on August 11th. Id like to encourage you to read more about her in the book, *The Light of Assisi, The Story of Saint Clare* by Margaret Carney, OSF.

St. Clare is shown holding a monstrance, which represents her devotion to the Eucharist and her role as a guiding light of faith. This statue is dated 1923 and was given to the St. Clara Catholic Church by the Catholic students attending Peru State College.



Before



Before



After



After

Discipleship

As I read the introduction in a passage from the Magnificat for the month of June, the word that struck me was “Disciple”. What does it mean to be a disciple of Christ? When I taught 2nd grade CCD back in the late ‘90’s, the other teachers and I posed that question to the students, and all year long we would refer back to the definition. To be a disciple is to be a follower of Christ. We even referred to each student using such a title, calling on them as, “Disciple Tiffany or Disciple Ethan”. We wanted to stress that they are truly loved by God and whatever actions they do, or things they say, reflect what type of a follower they are for Jesus. Being a disciple is more than just saying it, you have to live it. So now I pose the question for you to pray about, “What type of disciple am I?”

Am I the type of disciple who just follows Jesus on Sunday mornings for one hour during Mass? Do I include Him in all I do throughout my day? Am I Jesus to others? On the road to Emmaus, the two had their hearts burning with the love of Christ. After the breaking of the bread, they couldn’t keep it to themselves, they couldn’t wait till morning even though it was getting late. They immediately ran back to the others to share what they encountered, or rather “Who” they encountered. Are we that way?

This summer, I challenge you to really take the time to be with Jesus and bring Him to all you meet. We will probably be having family reunions or vacations. Be Jesus this summer. Bring Him to wherever you go. Let others see Jesus’ love in you. Don’t just be a one hour a week disciple, be a lifelong follower of Jesus.

The month of July has some beautiful feast days of saints and martyrs who were true disciples for Christ. Be sure to ask for their intercessions to help you grow in love and discipleship this summer.

- July 1 – St Juniper Serra, Priest and Missionary
- July 3 – St. Thomas, Apostle
- July 11 – St. Benedict, Abbot
- July 14 – St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin and Martyr
- July 15 – St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- July 16 – Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- July 22 – St Mary Magdalene
- July 25 – St James the Great, Apostle
- July 26 – Sts. Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- July 29 – Sts. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus
- July 30 – St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- July 31 – St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest





Divine Mercy Chair
Bonnie Damrow bdamrow6@gmail.com

The Three o'clock Hour of Mercy

Jesus instructed St. Faustina, At three o'clock, implore My Mercy, especially for sinners; and, if only for a brief moment, immerse yourself in My Passion, particularly in My abandonment at the moment of agony. (Diary, 1320). He also encouraged her, try your best to make the Stations of the Cross in this hour, provided that your duties permit it (Diary, 1572).



Given our own circumstances, we can discern with the Holy Spirit's help what it is possible to do at the Great Hour of Mercy every day. It may be uniting our heart to the Lord in His Passion for a brief moment. It may mean praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet or making the Stations of the Cross or Holy Hour.

May these passages from the Diary inspired you to observe the Hour of Great Mercy, the hour Jesus died for you in the Cross.

Divine Mercy Minutes with Jesus, by Rev. George W. Kosicki, CSB

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!

I have heard there are those who need more of the holy cards. Please email me at ldccwpresident@gmail.com



Sustain me, my God, according to your promise, and I will live; do not disappoint me in my hope. - Psalm 119:116 We are pilgrims of Hope. We pass through this life only once; remember to pray that with God's help, we decide how He wants us to make a difference.

You all are making a difference, either individually or as a Parish Council of Catholic Women. Keep up the good work that you do and do not become discouraged. We all have human frailties and that sometimes get in the way. We don't always know what others are going through that may be behind what they say or do. Give them grace and a smile, remember them in your prayers, and "offer it up." Did your mom ever say that to you? Mine didn't say it; she just has lived her life that way.



It's not too early to be thinking of the Box of Joy program offered through Cross Catholic

Outreach. You can order your materials (boxes, promotional materials, etc.) in August or September. Boxes can be packed in October and delivery to the collection site is usually the first week in November. We will again host a delivery site at the John 23rd Center in Lincoln.

Please continue to collect old eyeglasses and bring them to the fall meeting.

Hopefully, each PCCW is supporting a pregnancy center in some way. This can be done spiritually, financially, materially, or by volunteering your time or talents.

Remember, performing the Corporal Works of Mercy is fulfilling one of the objectives of the Lincoln Diocese Council of Catholic Women. Each parish has the flexibility to do what is needed in their parish or community. Look to other parishes for ideas but don't compare. Every parish has different needs and capabilities. Whatever your PCCW does is very much appreciated and fills a particular need in your community.

The Corporal Works of Mercy

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- To clothe the naked
- To shelter to the homeless
- To visit the sick
- To visit the imprisoned
- To bury the dead

Too often, we underestimate the power of a touch, smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. - Leo Buscaglia

One, Two, Three Strikes you're OUT!

How many nights have you heard that all the ballpark this summer? But we all know that we can count on Christ to be with us at all times, in all circumstances. "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of age". Matthew 28:20 During this "summer quiet time" in our parish, I find myself searching for new and exciting ideas and ways to help our parish grow. But then I decided maybe I should try to find my inspiration in a new direction. We have stressed being leaders in our deanery and parish councils of Catholic women, but maybe summer is now a good time to focus on our families. It is in our homes we need the light of Christ to burn brightly. Our faith teaches that the family is the central place for God's plan for a fundamental unit of society and faith. The love of Christ in our families differs in every phase and in every challenge we may face. Our family role and responsibility are shaped by teachings on love, sacrifice and service. The Eucharist is central to Catholic life. Receiving it strengthens the family's bond with God. The Eucharist anchors family responsibilities. Catholic families have a mission to serve society. Their love and faith should influence their community and parish life. Our faith, love and charity show God's truth. Families that shine, draw others to God. Keep that light burning. BE THAT LIGHT!



Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events

St. Monica Prayer

July - Fairbury Deanery

August-Falls City Deanery

September-Grant Deanery

October - Hastings Deanery

July 21, 2025 Omaha Province Meeting– Resurrection Parish 4110 Cannon Road Grand Island NE

September 12 - LDCCW Executive Board Meeting Assumption Parish Assumption NE

September 13 - LDCCW Full Board Meeting Sacred Heart Parish Roseland NE

Begin to plan your LDCCW Recognition Sunday.



**Legislative Chairman
Alice Licht-Anderson
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I'm excited and honored to be asked to serve as your Legislative Chairman beginning this July. This came at the request of my long-time friend Shirley Huss (St. Michael's, Lincoln.) I'll try to live up to her and your expectations. For many years my husband and I owned an association management company. Associations are much like the LDCCW in that they provided services to a group of like interests. We represented agri-businesses, hotels and motels, auctioneers, auto recyclers, physician assistants, pest control operators and other small business groups. We provided newsletters, lobbying, convention management, member employee training, problem solving and other services. My predominant role was in government relations and event management. I have since retired and my husband passed away three years ago. This opportunity seemed like a good fit to re-use some skills and stay active in the Catholic mission of service. It's been a number of years since we sold our company, so bear with me as I brush up on my skills and get up to speed on issues relevant to our LDCCW members. I look forward to working with you, hearing from you and getting to know you. I am a member of Cathedral of the Risen Christ and have been active on the Stewardship Committee. I also know many of you from my prior career as we represented groups from across Nebraska. Some of you have suggested I report not only on legislation applicable to priorities of our Diocese, but to add information applying to all citizens of the state. We'll give that a shot this time.

Legislature Adjourns June 2 Closing 2025 Session The Nebraska Legislature adjourned the 90 working day session on June 2 - one day early. They will return to complete the second session in January for 60 working days. Any bills not indefinitely post-poned or passed this year carry over to the 2026 session along with more bills to be introduced by members of the Legislature. Special sessions (during the interim) may be called should emergency issues arise, issues deemed high priority at times by the Governor and other needs. No rumors have surfaced at this point of possibilities one being called between now and January.

Women Playing in Sports Top Priority in 2025 Session Senator Kathleen Kauth (Legislative District 31 Omaha) championed LB 89, which provides for only women playing in women's sport competitions in Nebraska. Introduced on behalf of the Governor, the original bill contained provisions for the use of bath/locker room by females and males based on their gender, but due to opposition by one senator to acquire the 33 votes needed to break a filibuster, it was removed from the bill. Senator Kauth has indicated returning in the 2026 session to address this part of the issue.

Pope's Prayer Intentions

For formation in discernment

Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life, and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.

Questions on Property Tax Evaluations Most of you have probably received your property tax evaluations for this year from your county. Each Assessment Notice should contain information to allow for you to protest the valuation and the appropriate location to file your protest should you disagree with the new valuation.

High Property Taxes Continue to be Major Issue for Nebraskans Although nearly every legislative session is opened with senators and government officials touting property tax relief, major legislation to significantly reduce reliance on property taxes did not pass this year. Nebraska relies on property taxes, sales and use taxes and income taxes to fund both local and state government. Unlike many other states, Nebraska does not have other sources of revenue such as severance taxes on oil, coal or other natural resources to rely on for revenue. Some states tout tourism taxes like Nevada or marijuana and gambling taxes as revenue sources. Much of state government is also funded by fees for licensing, taxes on products such as fertilizers and other programs. These fees provide for administration of various regulatory programs and agencies. Nebraska's mainline state budget is about 30 percent each for K-12 education, Higher Education and entitlement programs for a total of about 90 percent. Thus, cutting spending in those categories becomes highly lobbied by the interest groups representing those areas. The reliance on property taxes at the local level provides additional funding, predominantly K-12 education. Making changes to this structure is highly controversial each year. Efforts to replace property tax revenue with increased sales taxes has drawn significant criticism. Governor Pillen has announced he intends to run for a second term in 2026. Property tax reduction remains a top item on his agenda.

One License Plate for Your Motor Vehicle Beginning January 1, 2029, one license plate for your motor vehicle will take affect. LB 97 was the "Christmas Tree" bill (several bills amended into one) of the Transportation Committee toward the end of the session and included the license plate provisions. The bill also allows for renewing your plates for up to 3 years at a time, with all fees for those years being paid in the year you license your vehicle. The license shall appear on the rear of the vehicle. Many newer car models do not provide a place for a license plate on the front of vehicle. Some states already have gone this route for many years, such as Kansas.

Other Resources To keep you up to date on activities of the Nebraska Catholic Conference, you may join their network by visiting their website at Nebraska Catholic Conference and go the Join Our Network Nebraska Catholic Conference. Or, you may contact them directly by telephone and ask them to enroll you at 402/477-7517. The UNICAMERAL UPDATE is also a great, free (mailed to you) weekly publication from the Legislature during the session. It provides a listing of all bills introduced, hearing schedules, updates on legislation and recaps of the previous week's hearings and floor debate. You may contact the Unicameral Information Office at uiosubscribe@leg.ne.gov to subscribe or simply call and ask to be put on their mailing list at 402/471-2788. Have a great 4th of July Holiday. God Bless America. Till next newsletter, Alice Licht-Anderson

Social Media Manager
Heather Lipovsky
402-768-3472



Summer is moving along very quickly! Before we know it the kids/grandkids will be back in school. Some of you may even be empty nesters in next month with kids going to college. Are you wondering what you are going to do next? Transitions can be hard for mothers, and while our children/grandchildren are starting new chapters in life, so are you!

Filling your new life chapter with a community of wonderful women in your parish, deanery, or LDCCW organizations is a great way to grow deeper in your faith and serve others. Reach out to your parish PCCW President or LDCCW chairwomen to learn more about the possibilities in our organization.

I would encourage you to visit our website at [https://www.lincolndiocese.org/lincoln-diocesan-council-](https://www.lincolndiocese.org/lincoln-diocesan-council-of-catholic-women/about-the-ldccw)

[of-catholic-women/about-the-ldccw](https://www.lincolndiocese.org/lincoln-diocesan-council-of-catholic-women/about-the-ldccw) and Follow/Like our [Facebook page](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/LDCCW> for current happenings and special days of our Catholic faith.



Lincoln Diocesan Women on the go!

A trip to Lincoln to deliver money to Villa Marie and Bishop Conley for the Our Lady of Good Counsel Seminarian Burse.



Province Director Report

NCCW Board of Directors Report

May 28, 2025

Tricia Ferguson, Omaha Province Director

This Province Director has responded to all the emails sent from NCCW and keeps up on the information from “Catholic Women Magazine”, newsletters, emails from diocesan presidents and NCCW. She keeps in touch with her Orientation Team mentor, Linda Clark and is continually learning and gaining knowledge of duties as a province director.

She continues to participate in the zoom meetings for PD Orientation Meetings, Spirituality Commission.

- NCCW Monthly Rosary Call, faithfully praying for Prayer Request from President Beth Mahoney, Debbie Keller Spirituality , the Bishops, Spiritual Advisors, and for all the Women in the Omaha Province.

As Province Director, she attended the Spring Assembly on March 24-25 in North Platte NE at Holy Spirit Catholic Church.

- Province Meeting April 8, 2025, St. Michael Catholic Church, Lincoln NE
- Catholics at the Capitol, April 9, 2025, State Capitol, Lincoln NE
- Communicating with the diocesan presidents NCCW information

The Omaha Province continues to support Seven Sister Apostolate, Boxes of Joy, Diaper Drive, Seminarian funds. The struggles we have is to engage the younger women to participate in the Council of Catholic Women, to support our spiritual advisors, as well as to educate the women and priest what Council of Catholic Women are and what they do!



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

“The God of power and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin, given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and welcomed you into his holy people.”
The Catholic Rite of Baptism

Dear Child of God,
Welcome to the Lord’s family! May he increase his grace in you each day of your life.
With my blessing for you,

Most Rev. James D. Conley
Bishop of Lincoln



Date of Baptism

Hurray!!

We are so blessed!
The Chancery designed
new cards for
Baptisms!
Eileen Childerston will be
distributing the cards.



Province Day Meeting

July 21st, 2025

Resurrection Catholic Church

4110 Cannon Rd. Grand Island, NE 68803

National Council of Catholic Women

Theme: Believe in the Eucharist Blessed, Broken, Shared

Registration Fee -- \$25

Registration: 8:00 a.m. Coffee -Juice/Rolls etc.

Living Rosary: 8:45 a.m. Mass 11:15 a.m.

The Full Agenda Provided July 21st

Scripture for Meditation John 6: 53-54

“So Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you: “he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.” RSVCE

**Registration Fee of \$25 includes the Morning Coffee/Rolls/ LUNCH/
Speaker**

PLEASE RSVP: by July 10th (for Lunch count)

TO: Leonarda Arens -OACCW President (OACCW Hosting)

402-253-5120 (Call or TXT)

Please be prepared to pay the Registration Fee of \$25—on July 21st

GOD BLESS

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