

Due to living in SE Nebraska, I decided to drive to the NCCW Convention. I was blessed to have two travel companions, Fr. Lux, the LDCCW Spiritual Advisor and Joyce Reich, LDCCW Service Commission Chair. We had decided to stop and visit the Fr. Kapaun Museum and church in Pilsen, Oklahoma (about a halfway point to Oklahoma City). My GPS told me to turn down a side road. I didn't think too much about it until suddenly, it was no longer rock but a dirt road. Not just any dusty dirt road, oh no, it was a soft, sticky, VERY muddy dirt road. Well, my farm girl experience kicked into gear, and I remembered my husband saying to me, "once you start down a muddy road you can't turn back." So, I proceeded to plow my way through swerving to the right and left, going through standing water, and seeing thick mud dripping from my mirrors. I know it was only by the grace of God and Fr. Lux's prayers, we finally made it to pavement and found the chapel and museum. It was just one of the many grace filled moments that we experienced enroute and at the NCCW Convention.

The Fr. Kapaun Museum and chapel were very worthwhile, and we had a museum docent explain Fr. Kapaun's life. Fr. Kapaun was named a Servant of God in 1993, signifying that his cause for sainthood could begin. I learned there are three paths to sainthood: Martyrdom, Heroic virtue, or Offer of Life. Each has strict requirements for a candidate to meet. Fr. Kapaun's cause is being pursued as the Offer of Life path. This is reserved for a person who lived a virtuous life while alive and offered his life for others as a supreme act of charity. As Christ himself said at the Last Supper; "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (Jn15:13) I would encourage you to read more about his life on frkapaun.org.

Other grace filled moments outside of convention were visiting the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine in Oklahoma City and the Oklahoma City Memorial. The convention was one of the best I've attended. Each morning, we were greeted with smiling faces and over 450 Catholic women on fire for their faith. The convention speakers were a delight, and the Commission sessions were all very informative. I would encourage all members to join us next year in Florida.

Finally, a note of thanks. I sincerely appreciate the support of the LDCCW in budgeting the President and President-Elect to attend the NCCW Convention. I promise you that I will use what I learned in my own PCCW and throughout our Diocese. God bless you all for your generosity!

Val Able, LDCCW President-Elect

