

Spiritual Advisor's Message



A new beginning...

The start of this new year is a new beginning and an opportunity given to us by God.

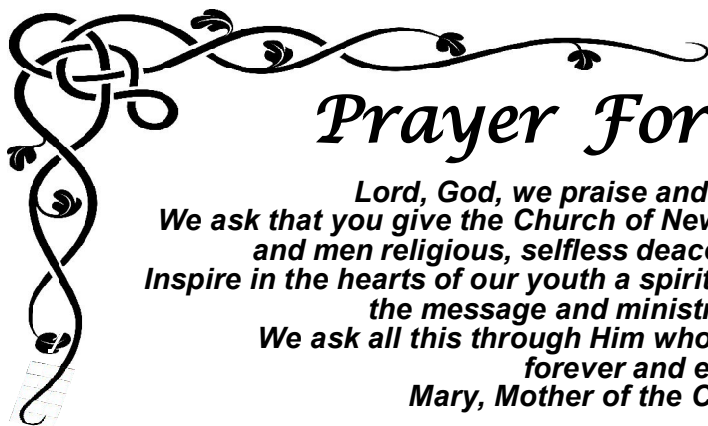
In some, if not many of our parishes in the Diocese, our CCW councils are struggling. Our councils are having difficulty recruiting women to accept leadership positions. Often times we find women serving in several positions at the same time: for example, a woman will be president of their local council in a parish and at the same time be president on the region level or Church commission on the parish level and the same on the region or diocesan level. While this certainly helps keep our councils alive and the organization viable and indicates a high level of commitment on the part of many of our ladies, it does indicate that we are struggling. Many of our councils do not have monthly meetings, often times preferring to have quarterly or even semiannual meetings. The numbers of women attending our parish meetings and our regional meetings have diminished in the last number of years as well.

While the picture that I have described above may seem bleak, it can stifle us or spur us on to revitalize CCW. I hope that we see this as an opportunity to revitalize and even reshape CCW. None of us wish to see our CCW councils less than what they can be. CCW councils play a major role in our parishes, dioceses and across our nation. A women's organization is a great asset for our parishes and diocese. Women are so important for our parishes and in the Church. In the last ten years there has been much creativity displayed in our councils. Numerous creative approaches to strengthening our Councils have been tried. This is good. We need to continually strive to reform and perhaps one day we will find a structure that will better service the needs of Catholic women in today's society.

There are some things that are essential to our Councils and the first of these is **Prayer**. A clear commitment to prayer needs to be the foundation of whatever we do with our councils or structure. As Catholic Council of Women we need to be about spirituality. We need to be known most of all as women who pray. Prayer is our lifeline with God. It is the foundation of our faith life. Through prayer there develops a desire to learn more and come to a greater knowledge of our God and our Church, how God works in our lives and in the world today. We need to be councils that continually promote study of our faith and we need to continually grow in the knowledge of our faith. A greater knowledge of the faith will help us in our prayer as well as in our service projects.

As we begin this New Year with CCW I pray that each council will dig deep within their faith filled souls and strive to find the strength to carry on and do the work that God expects of us in promoting His Kingdom here on earth. May God bless our efforts.

Msgr. Eugene L. Lozinski
NUDCCW Spiritual Advisor



Prayer For Vocations

**Lord, God, we praise and bless your holy name.
We ask that you give the Church of New Ulm holy priests, dedicated women
and men religious, selfless deacons and zealous missionaries.
Inspire in the hearts of our youth a spirit of generosity to commit their lives to
the message and ministry of Jesus, Your Son.
We ask all this through Him who lives and reigns as our Lord,
forever and ever. Amen
Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.**

From the Editor

A start of a new CCW year is here. A newsletter is to provide information and this newsletter has lots of information and ideas for our parish CCW's from your Diocesan CCW Board members. Besides receiving a copy by mail, the finished copy is also located on our DCCW website www.nudcw.org. I will also be sending the newsletter electronically to all the presidents that I have emails so it easy for you to share with your parish CCW members.

Our goal is always to have this newsletter be one of the vehicles of communication to our parishes providing ideas and be a resource to help the women in our diocese grow in knowledge and faith. Thanks to all of you for your efforts in carrying out the work of the Lord in your parishes. We are Catholic Women United in Prayer, Study, & Service.

Again if you have any comments or any questions for anyone on the board and you don't know who to ask, please feel free to address them to me and I will forward to the appropriate person to respond to you.

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SPIRITUALITY

By Marianne Schotzko

Commission

As we look forward to the fall season, many of our CCW groups reorganize for the coming year. As Spirituality Commission Chairman, I want to emphasize the importance of daily prayer. Your prayers can take any form. A very good way, is to greet our God when we awaken. Offer thanks for another day; offer up your work; ask for guidance, patience and energy to accomplish your tasks; pray for those in need. Just TALK TO GOD. Rather than listen to the radio in the car, pray the rosary. Attend daily mass whenever you can. There is always an endless list of people to pray for, but remember to thank God for all the blessings he provides. Study a saint every month. Pray for our nation and the upcoming election.

Individual prayer is important, but we also need a community of prayer. What better place than at CCW meetings. Begin and end your meetings with a prayer. It can be the same each time, or it can be varied by the season. I personally think there can be a balance with some old familiar prayers and new readings, etc. Pray the official prayer of the church, the Liturgy of the Hours occasionally with your CCW group. It seems everyone struggles to get women to attend CCW meetings. They don't have to be all boring business; appoint committees and then use your gathering time for speakers (informational or just plain FUN). We all need to fill our bucket once in a while.

Our National Convention is coming up in September in Indianapolis. I am lucky to be attending. I hope to come back with inspiration to pass on to you. I have put together a presentation about the Rosary. I am willing to come to speak to your CCW if we can arrange a date. In October we will be celebrating CCW Sunday. Your parish really should do "something" to toot your horn. Just make a list of all the things you ladies do for your parish. You will be amazed. Print this list in your Sunday Bulletin and amaze the rest of your parish! Make the mass special that day. Have an explanation of what your CCW commissions do. Name the women who are officers and chairman in a short presentation before Mass. There are a thousand ways to CELEBRATE.

The Jubilee Year of Mercy will be coming to an end this fall. We should continue to concentrate on the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. Our Meal Ministry Program falls right in line with this, as do our funeral luncheons, etc. Our Shepherd of the Field Program assignments are coming out this fall. Each parish is assigned a "shepherd" to uplift and pray for....what better act of mercy is that? We each need to be comfortable with our God to evangelize our faith. There are many avenues available to educate ourselves. I believe that the way we live our life is the best way to evangelize. A positive attitude goes a long way to leading others to God.

Our Dear Heavenly Father: Help us to see JOY each day for You have given us Your grace and promise of everlasting life. May that joy be etched in our heart for all to see. May our joy be a light to those in darkness and hope for those in despair. Help us to spread the Joy of the Gospel to all people. In Thy name. Amen

LEADERSHIP

By Jan Noyes

Commission

A Leadership Commission Chair supports the current President and other Committees. How to begin this tall task? With prayer! I encourage all to pray daily for the continued success of the Council of Catholic Women. Be sure to include the *Prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel*. As the prayer says, "God has given us Mary, Mother of Jesus, to be our guide and counselor." Let us ask her to "intercede for us, that we may be wise, courageous and loving leaders of the Church!"

Leadership emphasizes membership. This can be done by inviting women to become involved in a council activity, attend a speaker or help on a fundraising project. The best invitation is a personal one. This year, invite a woman who has not attended a CCW event to a Fall Gathering. Share with her your reasons for being involved in the Council of Catholic Women, and it's mission. Let her know how much you enjoy seeing friends you have made from throughout the diocese. Offer her the chance to feel the fellowship, experience the worship at Mass and the opportunity to grow spiritually.

Follow up on invitations and keep accurate records of visitors at your meetings. A hand written note thanking a woman for attending or helping at an event will brighten her day and make her feel her time was well spent. Just a few years ago I thought about attending my parish CCW functions (that I read about in the bulletin) for over a year. It was not until I received a personal invitation to become involved that I took that first step! Now, I cannot imagine living without the Council of Catholic Women, the many lifelong friends I have made and the countless experiences that have led me closer to Christ. As Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 3:9, "For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building". Ask Blessed Mary who you should invite – then do it!

Become as knowledgeable as possible of all that is happening in CCW. Make use of available resources such as the *Catholic Woman* magazine, the monthly NCCW *Connect*, this diocesan newsletter, e-newsletters, the National website (nccw.org) and the Diocesan website (nudccw.org). Listen in on the monthly NCCW Membership call – date and time can be found at nccw.org. Become a Facebook friend with NUDCCW or NCCW. To see all of the NCCW posts, go directly to the National Council of Catholic Women's Facebook page.

REGION FALL CCW GATHERINGS

Each Gathering will begin with Registration at 5:30 PM, Mass at 6 PM with Meal and Speaker following Mass.

Region 1 Thursday September 15 St Gregory Lafayette

Speaker: **New Ulm Medical Center Hospice**

Theme: **Hospice: An Act of Mercy**

Region 2 Tuesday September 27 St Raphael Springfield

Speaker: **Sue Thayer, Former Manager for Planned Parenthood**

Theme: **The Power of One**

Region 3 Monday September 26 Holy Redeemer Marshall

Speaker: **Les Hickey – Heartland Girls Ranch**

Theme: **Healing Broken Hearts with Prayer & Mercy**

Region 4 Tuesday October 4 St Michael's Madison

Speaker: **John Verly, Cancer Survivor**

Theme: **I was Loved so that I may Share Love**

Region 5 Monday September 19 Holy Redeemer Renville

Speaker: **Heartland Girls Ranch**

Theme: **Healing Broken Hearts with Prayer & Mercy**

Region 6 Thursday September 22 St Pius X – Glencoe

Speaker: **Kathy Langer, Director of Social Concerns, Catholic Charities in St. Cloud**

Theme: **Mercy in a World of Fear**