

HISTORY OF THE NEW ULM DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

The women of our parish are ALL members of this organization. The following information is taken from the 50th Anniversary edition of the Diocese of New Ulm book 1957-2007.

In March of 1958, Bishop Schladweiler requested that every parish women's society in the diocese was to be affiliated with the National Council of Catholic Women. This was the inception of the New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. The Reverend Monsignor Joseph Ettel, rector of Holy Trinity Cathedral parish in New Ulm, was appointed the first Diocesan Spiritual Moderator. Organizational meetings were held in the five deaneries in March and the first diocesan organizational meeting of the New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (NUDCCW) was held June 11, 1959, at St Aloysius Church in Olivia. Mrs. Karl Clay of New Ulm was appointed the first president. Committees established at this organizational meeting were: Spiritual Development, Organization and Development, Cooperating with Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Libraries and Literature, Foreign Relief and Missions, Rural Life, Public Relations, Civil Defense, Scholarships and Burses. The Constitution and By-Laws were adopted on May 12, 1960, at the first diocesan annual convention of the NUDCCW. In early 1970's the committee structure was changed to six commissions: Church, Community Concerns, Family Concerns, International Concerns, Legislation, and Organization. Two special committees of Reverence Life and Scholarship have also been created. The Council of Catholic Women has played a vital role in the history of the diocesan Church by providing many leadership and educational opportunities for women. This ended the article in the book.

Over the years, the five Deaneries were changed to six Regions. Each Region had a Board to plan Regional Programs and meetings. Approximately 12 parishes made up each Region. The Regions gathered at least twice a year. Around 2011, the six Commissions were streamlined into three Commissions. The Church and Family Commissions were combined into the Spirituality Commission. The Organization and Legislative Commissions were combined into the Leadership Commission. The Community and International Commissions were combined into the Service Commission. Reverence Life and Scholarship have continued on as Committees. In the last couple years, the Legislative area was again given its own Commission Chairman as there are many important issues facing us.

Due to the priest shortage, parishes have combined into Area Faith Communities. Also, due to the Diocesan Structure Change, decided upon at the Priest Pastoral Council last spring, it was decided to change from six Regions to three Deaneries. Deanery #1 is made up of the former Region one and two; Deanery #2 is made up of the former Region three and four; Deanery #3 is made up of the former Region five and six. Due to these changes there is much reorganization occurring. Women may have to travel further distances to attend meetings and Conventions. The Board members are aware of this and encourage ALL WOMEN to attend the gatherings that are informative and prayerful.

Each parish CCW should be getting information about important topics from their Deanery (previously Regional) representatives. The Deanery representatives get their information from the Diocesan representatives. The Diocesan representatives work from information generated at the National level. Our Diocese has a very active Diocesan CCW Board and many attend the National Conventions to get pertinent information to pass along to our parishes.

It is every person's responsibility to evangelize. We need prayers and accurate information to carry on the work of the women of the Church. The fellowship offered by the Council of Catholic Women helps us to follow the path of Mary, the Mother of our Church.