



**NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCHDIOCESAN
COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN**

SAINT PAUL / MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

From the Desk of our President . . .

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Carol Shukle

Dear Women of ACCW,

This fall it was privilege to travel to the meetings at all the Provinces, Dioceses and Deaneries. I participated in their celebrations of liturgies, their meetings and the tasty meals. Each area is beautiful and it was a joy to watch the women doing God’s work with energy and prayer. Please, keep inviting me.



On October 17, 2011, I was listening to Relevant Radio and heard Pope Benedict XVI as he announced a special ‘Year of Faith’ to begin October restoring the strength of the Catholic faith in traditionally Christian countries now dominated by secularism. America is one of them. The Pontiff beseeches us as Catholics to recapture our faith and belief in Jesus by living a loving and joyful life and reinvigorating our concerns for others.

When we express our faith with outward joy, we encourage others to come closer to faith. We don’t have all the answers to the many problems that exist in our communities and worldwide, but we are willing to seek solutions and to pray fervently for resolution. I see the joy in the faces of ACCW women and feel their happy simple faith. It is contagious. Let us say, “Yes” to our Holy Father during the celebration of the “Year of Faith.’

I invite each of you to make specific plans to attend the 80th Biennial Conference on May 3, 2012 at St. Olaf Church and the Hilton Hotel in downtown Minneapolis. The mass, rosary procession and our conference meeting will give witness to the world of our Catholic fervor, compassion and faith. Food, fun, and camaraderie will highlight our day. It will be a time to worship, a time to learn and a time to be joyful. This is a celebration of 80 years, a time for Lay Women Awards, honoring our officers and members and taking time to look within ourselves and to reach out for direction in defending our Catholic Faith. Jesus, teach us to become more compassionate and introspective with our thoughts, feelings and faith so we can better serve the great needs of all your hurting people.

I recommend reading NCCW President Patty Johnson’s NCCW “Life is a Gift” in September/October 2011 Catholic Woman ~ It is a perfect pattern for all Catholic women to follow.

Faithfully,
Rose Anne Hallgren
ACCW President

Advisor's Corner



**Fr. David Kohner,
ACCW Spiritual Advisor**

REFLECTIONS ON A HISTORIC CHANGE

The weekend of November 26/27 is one that will make liturgical history. Yet, for those of you who were at Mass that weekend - it really wasn't so bad, was it? I am referring to the first weekend of the implementation of the changes of the New Roman Missal. As I looked out from the altar, I saw a lot of smiles, a lot of focused concentration and a lot of frustrated looks as people missed the cues for the lines of the new responses. We are such people of habit, are we not? It is hard to change a response that we have lived with for the last forty or so years. When we hear the line, "The Lord be with you," our minds instinctively answer back "and also with you."

In a way, perhaps it is in that very sense of a habitual, autonomic response that we find a clue to one of the blessings of the new translation. To be forced every now and then to stop, slow down and consciously think about what we say or do in prayer is not a bad thing – in fact it is to be desired. I have to admit that in reciting the new version of the Nicene Creed for instance, it struck me that by simply speaking the words I BELIEVE at the beginning of each paragraph rather than the former WE BELIEVE, it gave me a much deeper sense of personal ownership of, and commitment to, the tenets that followed.

On the Monday morning following "implementation weekend" I simply attended Mass – sat in the pews and participated like everybody else - at an 8AM Mass in an unnamed parish in the Minneapolis half of the Archdiocese. I too experienced, along with all of the other attendees, the difficulty in coming up with the right response at the right time. As I looked around at the rest of the congregation, it seemed as though about 50% of the people were not even trying to follow along. Although the parish had response cards in the pews, many of the people didn't even bother to pick them up and use them. The celebrant was a retired priest, I'd guess about 75 years of age. It was clear that he was struggling a bit, like the rest of us priests, in finding the proper page in the new missal, but overall he did what I thought to be a very good job of offering "the new Mass." I had to laugh to myself because at the end of the Mass, he apologized to the people for being slow at times, in the offering of the Mass and with an Irish twinkle in his eye he said, "After all, I've

spent all of my life as a priest being an "American Catholic Priest", its hard now to change and become virtually overnight a "Roman Catholic Priest." What an insightful observation, I thought, and it probably explains why it is so difficult to make some of these changes.

From the time of the Second Vatican Council, (which I remember well, even though I was in grade school), we as an American church have experienced a prolonged period of experimentation in the liturgy, followed in these last 20 or so years by a gradual "drawing in of the reins." We had become somewhat accustomed to a sort of "if it seems relevant to me, I should do it" approach to liturgy. But we are not, and never have been, a Congregational church where beliefs and practices are put to a vote of the people. We believe instead that the Holy Spirit guides and directs our Church, in the areas of key beliefs and practices, under the leadership of the Holy Father and Bishops, and in unity with the rest of the Catholic (meaning universal) Church around the world. Our Masses in Minnesota may not look exactly like a Mass offered in Africa, because some legitimate diversity is allowed for cultural differences. However, the core beliefs and the core rituals that make up the Mass remain essentially the same worldwide in the Roman Catholic Tradition.

Perhaps a beneficial Advent/Christmas practice would be, in addition to looking at each day's Scriptures, to also take 5 or 10 minutes to pray through a small section of one of the revised Eucharistic Prayers (I, II and III are the most commonly used) which can be found on the USCCB website (www.usccb.org/romanmissal). What better way to ready ourselves for Christ's coming and birth, than to update ourselves about the way that we pray to Him. May the blessings of this Holy Season rest with you and your loved ones. Happy Advent/Christmas!

**JOY
TO THE
WORLD**

It's Official!

Dates to Remember!

2012

November 27 Roman Missal implemented in the US
December 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception
December 23-26 Office closed for Christmas

2011

January 1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
February 2 ACCW Board Meeting
February 22 Ash Wednesday
March 29 ACCW Board Meeting
March 27 Chrism Mass
April 1 Palm Sunday
Holy Thursday
Good Friday
April 8 Easter Sunday
May 3 80th Biennial Conference Celebration
May 5 Ordination to the Diaconate
May 26 Ordination to the Priesthood

If you would like to have a date included on the calendar, contact the ACCW Office 651-291-4545.

Don't Forget - We are on the web!

www.accwarchspm.org

“Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright.” — Joseph Mohr (1818)

Merry Christmas from the ACCW board
and staff

2012 Membership Dues

Parish Affiliate ACCW Dues \$40.00

Individual Dues

NCCW \$30.00

MAIL MEMBERSHIP DUES TO:

ACCW

328 W. Kellogg Blvd.

St. Paul, MN 55102

DEANERY MEETINGS:

St. Paul contact 651-481-1012

February 16 Holy Spirit

April 19 St. Francis de Sales

Minneapolis contact 763-576-0563

January 23 St. Patrick, Edina

March 26 St. Timothy, Blaine

Northwest contact 763-497-4344

Southeast contact 507-263-2705

March 8 St. Pius, Cannon Falls

April 12 St. Michael, Pine Island

Southwest contact 507-332-8976

West contact 952-472-6928

April 24 St. Boniface, St. Bonifacius

In Memorium

Millie Peddycoart and Mary Helen Swartzner, ACCW board members

Ellie Suchy, ACCW Past President

May perpetual light shine upon them



Leadership

Organization Commission

Shirley Willenbring, Chair

651-453-0770 sswillenbring@comcast.net

“Leaders are not born, they are made” At least that was the philosophy of former Green Bay Packers football coach, Vince Lombardi. While many think that leadership skills are inherent and an individual either has them or he/she does not, Mr. Lombardi thought that observation, trial-and-error, and practice could turn run-of-the mill people into great leaders. Who are we to argue with the man who won the first two Super Bowls in NFL history?

How many times have we been approached to take a leadership position in an organization, and we turned it down because we felt a lack of leadership skills? We are all aware of an organization that has recently disbanded, primarily because no one felt qualified to accept a leadership role. How does one develop the skills to become a successful leader? Let’s look at some of the simple and best ways for anyone to develop leadership abilities.

First, it is important to always treat others with respect. Nobody is going to be seen as a leader when they are constantly disrespecting others. Respect is not given, it is earned, and respecting others is more likely to lead to gaining respect. And make sure you respect yourself. Demonstrating a high level of confidence is a common trait found in a good leader. Do not allow confidence to become arrogance. There is a fine line between the two – confidence is a virtue while arrogance is a character flaw.

Next, putting yourself on the front lines and observing the strengths and weaknesses of an organization and its leader is a great way to develop leadership skills. For instance, are they helping the organization to grow, or allowing it to become stagnant.

Taking responsibility for your mistakes and faults is another aspect of good leadership. In order to get credit for your successes, you must be able to take credit for your failures.

Finally, real leaders do lead by example. All the ideas you conceive will not matter a bit if you are not putting in the time and effort yourself. People are more likely to rally around somebody who is working just as hard (if not

harder) than they are. If it is not something the leader is willing to do, then it is unreasonable to expect others to be there for you.

John C. Maxwell, an internationally respected author and speaker on leadership says, “Leadership is not the dream of a lifetime, it is the dream that takes a lifetime. It takes time to grow as a leader. It takes trials to grow as a leader. It takes God’s help to grow as a leader.”



In the future, if you are approached to take on a leadership position, whether it is your parish CCW, or another organization, do not hesitate to say, “Yes!”. Remember, ACCW is there to answer any questions you might have and help is only a phone call away. Any ACCW board member can be reached at their telephone number listed in this IMAGE Newsletter.

Parliamentarian Report

Pat Reymann 651-454-4702

KEEPING CURRENT

In September a new edition of Robert’s *Rules of Order, Newly Revised* was introduced to the world. It is the 11th edition, written by the authors sanctioned by the Robert’s Rules Association - one of whom is the esteemed Henry M. Robert III, a grandson of the original author. Mr. Robert helped unveil the new book with much fanfare at the recent National Association of Parliamentarians Convention held in St. Petersburg, Florida (which I attended).

There are several (about 120!) notable changes from the 10th edition, including:

- After the President restates a motion that has just been made, she may ask, “Is there any debate?” This less formal wording is now permitted as an alternative to “Are you ready for the question?” (pages 38, 44)

Legislation Commission

Denise Haaland, Chair 1-507-334-2781

• *Request for Information* is now the correct name for an interrupting question, replacing *Point of Information*. As you may recall from past NCCW Conventions, some people incorrectly claimed to have a *Point of Information* and were given priority at the microphone. However, instead of asking a question when they were recognized, they gave information - which is actually a form of debate and does not entitle anyone to jump ahead in line. (pages 294-95)

• The section of the new book pertaining to *Amend* has been expanded to give a better explanation of the wording that the president should use as she processes an amendment. Several examples are given to illustrate the steps to go through to make sure that everyone is clear about the effect of the amendment and what is being voted on each time. (pages 142-145.)

• In the tinted pages in the back, there is an additional table: Table of Rules for Counting Election Ballots. It gives the page references for more information on elections and tellers reports.

• Even the index looks different!

If your bylaws state that the “current” or “most recent” edition of Robert’s is your Parliamentary Authority - and if you personally want to keep up - then you should consider purchasing one of the 11th edition books. One source of this and other parliamentary materials (such as Robert’s *Rules in Brief*) is the NAP website, www.parliamentarians.org This edition is attractively published with a black cover framed in gold with a red banner across the top.

As always, it’s important to keep current!



I am inviting all to the 2012 Legislative Day February 23, 2012 at the Hayden Building in St. Paul on Kellogg Blvd. It is a change from the previous venue but we hope it will be a good location for our work of the day. We are working on the speakers now and know there will be representatives from the Minnesota Catholic Conference. Marriage will be the foremost topic of the day and to help us in our support of the Marriage amendment to come on the ballot November of 2012.



I am working on speakers on how we can voice our opinion of the amendment. There will be questions on how we can leave out the same sex couples, but we hope to address this as well.

The cost will be the same, parking will be at the Cathedral on top of the hill going up John Ireland Blvd. and across from the Chancery Office. We will offer shuttle service from our ACCW Board members to and from the lot to help in the parking for the event. This is why we will need to have registration for an accurate count to help for the shuttling. Please look for a flyer on Legislative Day in this issue of the Image.

We hope to see you at the event for 2012.



5 Pat Reymann, right, is the NCCW parliamentarian as well as our ACCW parliamentarian. She is shown with Elaine Monitor, left, ACCW treasurer, at the recent NCCW convention.

Debbie Keller 651-787-0266
Second Vice President

“Celebrating 80 years as an Organization!”

“Campaign for Human Dignity ~ Love in Action”

80th Biennial ACCW Conference

Thursday, May 3, 2012

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

It’s time to celebrate our 80th year as an *Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women!* Mark your calendars to “be there” on **Thursday, May 3, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.** Celebrate Mass, be served an elegant brunch, nurture your spirit with educational workshops, and treasure the connections you will make with other Catholic women of our Archdiocese. This is an event you won’t want to miss!

Following is the schedule for the Mass & Conference:

8:00 a.m.	Information table open at Minneapolis Hilton for walk-in registrations
8:15 - 8:45	Confessions at St. Olaf Church, Minneapolis
9:00 - 10:15	Mass & Lay Women Awards at St. Olaf Church with Archbishop Nienstedt
10:15 - 10:45	Rosary Walk led by Archbishop Nienstedt, priests, & seminarians Skyway from St. Olaf to Minneapolis Hilton Hotel
10:45 - 3:00	Exhibits, information table, walk-in registrations
11:00 - 12:15	Brunch, Annual ACCW Meeting & Installation of Officers Symphony Ballroom - Minneapolis Hilton Hotel
12:30 - 1:15	Workshop Session 1 - Hilton conference rooms Exhibits – Hallway outside of Symphony Ballroom
1:30 - 2:15	Workshop Session 2 - Hilton conference rooms Exhibits – Hallway outside of Symphony Ballroom
2:30 - 3:00	Closing Remarks & Closing Prayer - Symphony Ballroom

Watch for the Conference registration flyer on our ACCW website in early January at www.accwarchspm.org. Registration details and the flyer will also be included in February’s edition of the *Image*. Come celebrate with us!

Lay Women Awards

The ACCW’s 80th Anniversary Conference will include the presenting of Law Women Awards. Every two years the ACCW recognizes Catholic Lay Women who have made outstanding contributions as volunteers.

The Lay Women Award nominations forms are in this issue of the *Image* and will not be mailed in January. Please save these forms. You may also copy the forms.

The forms are also located on the ACCW website and can be filled out there and electronically submitted. The Deadline for nominations is February 24, 2012.



Rita Parsons, Chair
507-364-5164

See Rita's article in the special section of reports from the NCCW Convention.



The Architecture and Spirituality of Churches

A tour of Chicago's beautiful churches was a highlight of the NCCW 2011 Convention for several ACCW members. The side altar at Holy Trinity Polish Mission Church, below, features the "Black Madonna."



Vocations

Cindy Prior 651-777-6642

It is November and it is time for my next article in the A.C.C.W.'s "Image" newsletter. As a new member of the Board for Vocations I was thrilled to hear about the record increase in the number of seminarians beginning their studies at St. Thomas this fall! According to the local Twin Cities news reports and the "Catholic Spirit" newsletter, they actually had to open another dormitory to house all these new students. This makes me think the Holy Spirit is hearing our prayers.

As a member of Transfiguration parish in Oakdale I am happy to report that Thursday mornings are now being devoted to 6:30a.m. Mass and Prayer for Vocations. The Mass concludes by 7:00 a.m., and is followed by the daily Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m., with the second mass of the morning at 8:00 a.m. During Eucharistic Adoration on Thursdays, from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. there is a special focus of praying for vocations. Each Thursday, copies of a short meditation or article regarding vocations are available at the entrance of the Church at the beginning of Adoration, and the Holy Hour concludes with the recitation of the Archdiocesan Prayer for Vocations found below. Please share this prayer with your local parish if it is not available yet. Prayer is powerful!!

The Archdiocesan Prayer for Vocations

O God, we earnestly ask You to bless this Archdiocese with many Priests, Sisters, Brothers and Deacons who will love You with their whole strength and gladly spend their entire lives to serve Your Church to make You known and loved.

Bless our families, bless our children. Choose from our homes those needed for Your work.

Mary, Queen of the Clergy, pray for us. Pray for our Priests, Religious and Deacons. Obtain for us many more.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Family Concerns Commission

Mary Alice Hargarten, Chair
952-473-9266

See Mary Alice's article in the special section of reports from the NCCW Convention.



Respect Life

Jean Buchmann 651-633-1560

The presidential election is a year away but we must be alert and vigilant and pay attention to the candidates and the debates. We can't rely on the media for our information. We must pray, pray, pray and pray more and urge our friends and neighbors to vote and to vote for pro-life candidates. That's the only way to turn around the current situation of our eroding freedoms.

As Father Frank Pavone says, "It is the duty of citizens to inform themselves about where the candidates stand on the issues. Where do they stand on violence against human beings, because if public servants can't tell the difference between serving the public and killing the public, they don't belong in public office. It's not only the position of candidates that matters, it's also the position of the political party to which the candidate belongs. Elections bring not only candidates but parties into power."

We are called to strengthen our commitment to protect human life at all stages and against all threats. We must shout "It's great to be alive!"

More and more reports are surfacing about the long range effects of abortion on women and men, but the media chooses to ignore these studies and the general public has no clue! And the killing continues!

Media Resources

Muriel Failor 651-405-0459

On Reveleant Radio there was an interesting topic of information about a group of organization called "Movie to Movement." This group wants to use movies to promote a culture of beauty, love and life. They are currently about to release a movie called "The Greatest Miracle." I called the catholic contact George McGraw, director, and inquired on it. There is nothing close to us yet, but October 21 it opens on 3D film in LaCrosse, Wisc. I will keep in touch for updates on material and information. Starting October 21, there is a DVD at Wal-Mart, a family movie call Snowmen by McAbee about a boy with cancer. It won the Dallas film festival awards.

As ACCW members who are trying to bring an awareness of ways to live in God's plan for us, I thought this might be a fun and inspiring way to do it.

Military Resources

Mary Ann Maggi 651-771-9976

Our friendly Veterans Governor was not re-elected. I'm hoping he will still help us out with the items and laws that Veterans are in need of.

I attended one Yellow Ribbon Meeting in Cottage Grove. This is just starting there, the information I got was it's to help returning veterans and also the families of Veterans at home, like mowing grass, raking leaves, repairs on things they can fix plus some financial aid or taking members to doctor's visits, etc. It seems to be a good organization. I wonder if this will take returning Veterans away from Our Veterans of Foreign Wars – the VFW? To raise money they plan many money making things, pig roasts, etc.

My visits to the Veterans Home in Hastings are coming to an end. The Cracker Barrel (lunch etc.) finances have run out. We have one more get together on the 3rd Wednesday in December. I as well as the Veterans will miss it but that's what the economy brings. Maybe at a later date we will figure something out.

8 Remembering our country is free because of these men!

Service

Community Concerns

Lucy Johnson, Chair
651-224-7102



See Lucy's article in the special section of reports from the NCCW Convention.

Family Commission continued

Family Life and Education
Harriet Taus 612-521-3031
What is your background?

My father was the first white man to go up and live with the Indians in the BWCA in 1911. He learned how to live off the land; how to build log cabins; make birch bark canoes and the ways of the Indians. He picked out the most beautiful lake up there and bought land on it. He went back to Milaca and married my Mom and they started the first resort on the Gunflint Trail in 1915, **Clearwater Lake Resort**. He built the large resort in 1924-26 that still stands there today. I was born and raised there. The resort is the only resort on the Gunflint Trail that is on the National Historic Registry. I have a lake home about six blocks from the resort where I spend the summers. I go over to the resort every Tuesday evening and tell stories about my Dad.

What is your background? Have you talked with your grandparents, how they were raised, what they did for a living, where they were raised etc.? This is so important for your children. So many times they don't ask these important questions until it is too late. I know I didn't ask my parents so many questions that I have today.

A tourist lady who my Dad took on canoe trips wrote a little story about my Dad called "The Gunflint Trail-blazer." I learned a lot about my Dad from her book and then stories that my older brothers and sisters told.

Human Rights & Dignity for All
Vickie Dzieweczynski 651-644-7724

A special non-partisan committee of United States Senators and House Representatives are looking at "the budget". The deadline for finalizing decisions and presenting their report is only a few weeks away and yet there seems to be no negotiating going on. Huge cuts are proposed in healthcare, social security, funding for mental health services and many other services that will make life more difficult for many of the citizens in our country that are most in need, but there are no plans for increasing revenues so that cuts won't have to be so deep.

We read about the protests that are occurring in many of our cities throughout the country, but what about those of us who cannot protest the practices of those who seem to make life more difficult for the elderly, the sick, the mentally ill, the jobless and homeless? We can't sleep on the cold street or walk long distances in protest marches, and for many of us that seems like such a foreign way to accomplish goals. What can we do? We can write letters and/or call to our representatives and senators. We can join organizations that lobby for people who cannot speak for themselves, organizations like NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) or AARP (American Association of Retired People). One of the most important things that we can do is to make sure we keep abreast of the issues (and there will be many this next year) and vote!



Cathy Evans, left, president of the St. Paul Deaneries, and Rose Anne Hallgren, ACCW president, were among those attending the NCCW Convention in Chicago.

Environmental Concerns

Mary Androli 507-362-4655

I am hoping to help you make sure you are safe in your homes and your cars for the upcoming winter season. It is time to have your furnace checked or at least be certain filters and registers are clean. This not only makes it safer but also makes your furnace operate more efficiently. Manage your thermostat as best fits your family but keep in mind that every little bit you save helps economize your heating too. Be sure smoke, heat, and other detectors are equipped with fresh batteries. Keep a supply of food and water on hand in case of a storm that will keep you home for several days or cause an electrical interruption. Don't allow needed prescription medications to run out in these instances.

This is a time when depression gets the best of some people so if you feel that your safety is threatened by anyone in your home be sure to tell someone before it is too late. Help is available from many different sources and safe is better than sorry. Even telling a friend can make a difference. Leave an unsafe situation if necessary.

It is also time to make sure your car is in safe winter driving condition. Tires should have the correct amount of air and tread for snowy and icy roads. Radiators and window washing tanks need to be filled with antifreeze liquids to avoid freezing. Always have at least a quarter tank of gas in the event that you would get stalled or caught in stopped traffic. Don't run your engine if you are stuck in snow, the exhaust can back up into the car. Carry an emergency kit and blankets or extra coats. All these things can save you money or more importantly save your life. Use extra caution and lower speeds when driving conditions are not good, and if you have a passenger issue which makes you feel unsafe stop until it is under control. Don't use your cell phone unless it is necessary and pull over when you need to. We all want to enjoy the Holidays to the fullest so help to make it safe for your family and friends.



The main altar at Holy Trinity Polish Mission Church in Chicago was an example of the classic church architecture viewed on a tour of Chicago churches at the NCCW Convention.

Music, Movies and Merriment ~ Move MCCW/ACCW/NCCW Members Joellyn Soler

There is a saying when you sing, you pray TWICE! So, here is a lovely singing exercise for all of us to practice daily, and offer as a fun prayer to God.
(sing to the tune of Frère Jacques)

IN MY LIFE NOW - IN MY LIFE NOW
WHEN I'M STRESSED - WHEN I'M STRESSED
TAKE THE ROAD I'M GIVEN -
TAKE THE ROAD I'M GIVEN
I SAY-YES, I SAY-YES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

This was presented at our Women of Epiphany Fall Rally, and it was so much fun, the speaker was fun and motivational, and lifted our spirits to realize every day God has a perfect plan for our lives. Thank you. Jane Leyden Cavanaugh. She can be reached at the Vineyard 612-865-9152.

Also please check out these movies. THE WAY and COURAGEOUS both are excellent to take your friends and family to see, I want to see them over and over, we CAN find good 10 films and also thank the producers of these good films, so we keep them making MORE!! See you at the MOVIES!!

International Concerns

**Agnes Dynes,
Chair
651-644-9911**



Elena Segura, Director of the Office for Immigrant Affairs, Archdiocese of Chicago, oversees programs that educate Catholics and the public about the dignity and value of every immigrant and recognize the benefits immigrants and immigration make to our nation. Working with other Catholic and civic groups, her office advocates for compassionate immigration reform and empowers immigrants to help their own communities through ministries of service.

In her presentation at the NCCW Convention, Elena introduced a man who is a Polish immigrant. He talked about a group of priests who were meeting to find ways to help the people. Their parish priest wasn't interested but he went to the meeting and found out the problems the immigrants were having. Classes are taught by volunteers for the people to learn English and get their citizenships papers and jobs.

The Statements of the US Bishops:

1. Persons have the right to find opportunities in their homeland.
2. Persons have the right to migrate to support themselves and their families.
3. Sovereign nations have a right to control their borders.
4. Refugees and asylum seekers should be afforded protection.

The human rights and the human dignity of undocumented migrants should be respected.

As we welcome the stranger into our midst, we welcome Christ Himself, for in the face of the migrant, immigrant, and refugee, we must see the face of Christ.

**Look for more reports from the Nov. 9 – 12
NCCW Convention beginning on the next page.**

Domestic Missions

Olive Hupf 1-507-263-2705

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all the wonderful families that donated to this wonderful program to help the people in three different areas of Kentucky. I want to thank first the families that donated, thank the people that delivered small single parish boxes, truckers that came with trucks with boxes and donated not only their time but their trucks, and thank the Terminal Transport and Warehouse for their over 30 years of donating their semi and driver to transport our gifts. We would not be able to have such a wonderful program if it wasn't for all the great donations. I plan on getting a thank you to all the people that signed the book this year. I also want to thank Christine from the ACCW office for sending out the letter to all the parishes in the Archdiocese, as I do believe we had a lot of new parishes participating this year. Thanks again.

The semi was here from Wednesday, October 26th through November 7th, 2011. On Thursday, November 2nd the semi came from the Brainerd/Duluth area with all the 400 family boxes for Fr. Hoppenjon's families in the mountains. The Randolph FFA students came for one hour and had them transferred and stacked from that semi to ours.

The semi left here on a Sunday morning and arrived in Kentucky on Monday. I have not at this time heard back from Mary Montgomery in Kentucky but will very soon, as I know that they are very busy with all the unpacking and organizing. The parishes in Kentucky fill in the best that they can to have enough for all the families to come in and pick out their gifts. The money that is sent to the parishes is used to buy Christmas dinner fixings for the families. College students as well as parish members come in and help the people pick out their gifts and have them ready for Christmas. What a wonderful way to get all the people involved with this great program.

Again, Thank You to everyone who participated in our Appalachia Christmas Program.

May the Blessings of the Christ Child be with you and your families during this most Holy Season of Christmas and through out the coming year. God Bless all of you.

Reports from the NCCW Convention

The National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) had its annual convention Nov. 9 through 12 in Chicago, Ill. A number of members of the board of the St. Paul and Minneapolis Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (ACCW) were able to attend and submitted the following reports:

Rose Anne Hallgren (ACCW President)

At the NCCW convention in Chicago, the moderators voted to change the title of Moderator to Spiritual Advisor. The change took place immediately.

Outgoing President Patty Johnson stressed the importance of the following ideas:

1. Promoting Wednesdays at 8 a.m. as prayer for Catholic Women
2. Supporting the Campaign for Human Dignity
3. Partnership with United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, www.usccb.org
4. Promoting membership in NCCW. It is a faith-filled woman's organization

Be positive to get new members. Why? Two shoe saleswomen were sent to an isolated island. The first said she couldn't sell shoes because everyone was barefoot and did not wear shoes. The second saleswoman was positive and excited. She said send more shoes. No one here has shoes, YET!

Technology is here to stay, just like the car that replaced the horse and buggy. Purchase it and learn to use it, and encourage others to do so too. There are many spiritual materials available that have been adapted.

Having trouble knowing who is a member and who has not renewed? Tracking forms to assist you are available from the ACCW Office.

NCCW is seeking individual memberships just like AARP does and also promoting various forms of donations. Watch the Catholic Women and your e-mail for further details.

Cathy Jarboe is "director of information and issues management" at NCCW. She is available to members for any questions or concerns, or resources for DCCW's, parish affiliates, and individual members. Contact her at nccw01@nccw.org

Marcia Simon (First Vice President)

I would like to thank you for giving me the honor of representing you as First Vice President of the ACCW at the NCCW Annual Convention in Chicago on November 9th – 12th. I attended many Workshops but this one was special I would like to share some of the ideas with you. The workshop was called LTD Techniques for Successful Councils: Forming Effective Leaders. Mentoring and S3 Leadership.

Mentorship refers to a personal developmental **RELATIONSHIP** in which a more experienced or more knowledgeable person helps a less experienced or less knowledgeable person. Something to Think About: We would not have to work as hard as we do on Membership **Recruitment** if we put enough emphasis on Membership **Retention** and we would not have to worry about **Retention** if we put a little work into **mentoring** all Members!

S3 Leadership

Servant – one must **Serve** before they lead

Steward – Jesus saw his and ultimately our role as a steward

Shepherd – Jesus cared for his disciples as a Shepherd cares for his sheep

A Servant Leader Leads with their Head, Heart and Habits

We are honored to have two of our ACCW on this group: Pat Reymann and Maureen Wilenbring. We do have our group **On the Road** if you are interested in giving your group some new life.

Many the Blessings of the Lord help you each day to be a Special person on Your Journey.



Joan McGrath

Business Session

NCCW President Patty Johnson opened the NCCW Annual Convention Business Session, held on November 12, 2011, with the prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Regular business meeting agenda items followed. The Credentials Report listed 675 Delegates with 557 of them voting. The Financial Report stated we were making good progress with our finances and likened it to “a slow turn of a cruise ship.” Steady and on course. Annual Giving was above its target mark. The President and Vice President reports followed. Special reports were then given by the NCCW Associates President and the NCCW Representatives to WUCWO and the United Nations. Since 1971, the Associates have donated \$276,000 to NCCW for special projects.

The NCCW Chair of Moderators reported a name change for Moderators. They will now be called Spiritual Advisors.

The “Cross International Catholic Outreach” on the 2011 Women Helping Women Campaign report was given. Many CCWs have elected to work with and donate to this new NCCW partnership program.

Greetings were given by the National Regent of Catholic Daughters of the Americas and the Catholic Women’s League of Canada President.

Three Resolutions were adopted. They are: “The Promotion of Catholic Social Teachings”; “Education and Support for the Implementation of the Revised Roman Missal”; and “A Call To End the Use of the Death Penalty - Building a Campaign for Human Dignity”.

The Province of Atlanta invited all to the 2012 NCCW Annual Convention in Myrtle Beach.

New NCCW Officers were installed. President Judy Powers, Florida; President Elect Rebecca Woodhull, Illinois; and Secretary, Pam Kennedy, Oklahoma. Province Directors were installed. Shirley Nowak, New Ulm Diocese, will serve for St. Paul & Minneapolis. The seven member Nominating Committee was introduced.

The meeting ended, as it had begun, with prayer.

Enjoying the NCCW closing banquet were, from left, Marcia Simon, Joan McGrath and Elaine Monitor.

Elaine Monitor

(Treasurer)

My assignment at the NCCW Convention in Chicago was the workshop, Be Faithful Even Unto Death, presented by Thomas Brejcha, President and Chief Counsel of the Thomas More Society and Executive Director, Peter Breen. The Thomas More Society was founded in 1997 as a Pro-Life Law Center and is a not-for-profit public interest law firm based in Chicago dedicated to fighting for the rights and dignity of all human life. The Society vigorously defends clients in state and federal courtrooms around the country, addressing vital issues across the pro-life spectrum, including pregnancy discrimination, end-of-life health care, the right of conscientious objection for medical workers, and freedom of speech for peaceable nonviolent protest.

We were informed that Physician Assisted Suicide (PAS) is now legal in three states. The Catechism proclaims the dignity of dying, euthanasia is morally unacceptable. Death for all of us is a reality and the greatest gift we can give our loved ones is clear direction on our end of life wishes. It is not enough to say “they know what I would like,” it needs to be expressed verbally and in writing. You can name several people to act as your agent. Decisions made with a clear mind with the full knowledge of our loved ones will foster unity and peace at a difficult time.

It was surprising to learn that being in a Catholic facility is not a guarantee that your wishes will be followed. Mr. Breen stated that there is incredible pressure inside the legal system against keeping you alive. He encouraged families to avoid the court system. If necessary it may be difficult to get into court quickly when an issue arises.



Maureen Willenbring

“LTD Techniques for Successful Councils: Facing Today’s Challenges”

I was asked to report on the above workshop presented by the NCCW Leadership Training Development (LTD) Team. (It was an easy one for me, as I also serve as the NCCW LTD Team Chair.) LTD Team Trainers, Jane Carter, from Tennessee, and Ellen Bachman, from Florida, presented two topics to give those attending a sample of what scheduling a 1 or 2 Day LTD Program could bring to their members back at home.

“PROBLEM SOLVING”:

This topic was designed to teach effective problem-solving strategies that can help address some of the key challenges facing CCW organizations today. Jane Carter walked us through a very effective step by step process of problem solving, one that can easily be used in many different situations. She stressed how important it is to first make sure you have identified the correct problem. That seems only logical, but it can be very common to head in other directions, with the main problem still facing you. She advised not only asking yourself the right questions to get to the right answers, but to involve others and what they think is the right problem, then solve identifying it as a team.

Two different scenarios were given to the attendees to practice identifying the correct problem, sharing what they discovered. The process involves eight different steps that lead to successfully solving problems. Two quotes provided offered a balance: “We can’t solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.” (Albert Einstein) and “Never let a problem to be solved become more important than the person to be loved.” (Barbara Johnson)

“DEALING WITH DIFFICULT PEOPLE”

This topic was designed to teach us how to engage in a positive and spiritual way with difficult personalities in Councils, in our place of business, or in our personal relationships. Ellen Bachman, LTD Trainer, began with a PowerPoint slide of a group of seashells and the comment “Some of us are broken, like seashells on a beach.” Then she asked how many of us knew a difficult person? All raised their hands. Then came the question, “How many are a difficult person? There was a hesitation, then, almost everyone raised their hands, causing a good deal of laughter. We all may be difficult people at one time or another. Just ask our husbands, our children, our friends, etc.!

But, there are those who think they are powerless, that

their ideas go unheard, or believe that they are not valued. Their feelings can turn into difficult behavior. One of the purposes of this presentation was to learn how to behave in a positive and spiritual way with difficult personalities.

We learned several strategies for handling difficult people; that we cannot change the other person’s behavior; but we can change the way we react. We were provided with information on what our responses could be to many different types of difficult personalities. What stood out was how based this presentation was in spirituality, and what was most important, was to develop a new perspective to better understand the person, and rather than reacting with anger or impatience, was to practice reacting with love.

Rita Parsons

As I write this It is two days since I attended the National Council of Catholic Women in Chicago, and I am still flying high. WOW! What an inspirational and fun four days. Francis Cardinal George, Archbishop of Chicago, celebrated our opening liturgy. Cardinal George praised all CCW members for their spiritual and corporal works of mercy. As I attended meetings all over the Archdiocese I see all the work our CCW do. The truly are the backbone of our parishes. Good Job! Keep it up! The girls choir was from Mother McAuley High School. They were fantastic. Now add 675 convention attendees and about forty priests singing who also concelebrated the mass. IT WAS SURREAL!

In one of my sessions I heard Reverend John Cusick, Director of Office of Young Adults in the Archdiocese of Chicago. He called himself the ‘street smart priest.’ His topic was “Why Should I Go to Church?” SO WE DON’T FORGET WHO WE ARE!! We all are children of God!

Father Cusick suggested that once a month we should have a family meal of reconciliation, asking forgiveness of each other. In practically all the sessions it was stressed that we have to get back to family life. Parents and grandparents should continue to be involved in their familys’ spiritual lives. The NCCW requested that very morning at 8:00 we should pray for the members of the NCCW.

Yes, when you are reading this we will be preparing for Christmas. Advent is another time our prayer life can mature and grow when we pray for things outside ourselves. Don’t let the joy of Christmas get lost in the wrapping of a hectic holiday. The best gift of all is one of you. Remember to use religious stamps on your Christmas cards. Above all love and enjoy your families. HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Lucy Johnson

Why choose marriage? What is the meaning of marriage? How has society's attitude toward marriage changed over the years? These are questions that Sheila Garcia, from the USCCB, addressed in her presentation "*How to Become a Marriage-Building Parish*" at the NCCW 2011 Annual Convention.

Sheila divided her talk into three parts: the history and why of marriage, the US Catholic Bishops position, and strategies for a church to become a marriage building parish.

Marriage as an institution is in crisis. Sheila explained that marriage has declined by 50% from 1970 to 2007. Couples are waiting until they are older before getting married, more people are choosing to remain single, and more are cohabitating.

In the past, couples got married in order to have children. Marriage was recognized as important service for society.

Today, marriage has become a choice. Will marriage be of personal benefit? There is an increase in the "soul mate" marriages. But what happens when one person doesn't meet all the needs of the other? They think that they've married the wrong person. The primary goal of marriage is happiness. What happens when the couple is no longer happy? Then it's ok to bail, and the marriage ends. Marriage is becoming more about the couple not the contribution to society or to raising children.

The decline in marriage is seen among Catholics. In 1972 there were 8.6 marriages per 1000 Catholics; in 2010, there were 2.6 marriages per 1000 Catholics. Only 26% of Catholics think it is very important to get married in a Catholic Church. Sheila concluded that most don't understand that marriage is a sacrament.

Next, Sheila talked about the USCCB's Pastoral Letter entitled "Marriage, Love and Life in the Divine Plan". Parishes can study this letter. There is also a website: ForYourMarriage.org. This website offers daily marriage tips, wedding readings, and much more.

Lastly, Sheila focused on strategies to become a marriage building parish. She acknowledged that "one size doesn't fit all" but encouraged parishes to build on what is in place such as websites, bulletin announcements, petitions at Mass; focus on a specific group, for example young parents or empty nesters; or try something new such as a day of reflection or a series of workshops.

She concluded with what a simple five point plan could look like:

1. Celebrate World Marriage Sunday 2/12/12
2. Publicize ForYourMarriage.org in the bulletin or link it to the parish website
3. Recognize and bless engaged couples at Sunday Mass
4. Promote NFP awareness week
5. Offer accurate information about annulments through parish bulletin and website.

Mary Alice Hargarten

The annual National Council of Catholic Women's Convention took place at the Chicago Marriot Hotel November 9th through 12th. The theme was "Campaign for Human Dignity – Love in Action"

All the Liturgies were very beautiful with beautiful choirs and wonderful homilies. The Province dinners were held one evening with all five Minnesota Diocese performing a skit at our Province dinner. ACCW's skit was about our 80th anniversary next year.

The convention featured many good speakers and workshops covered by other articles in this section. Among them were Faith & Media by Sister Helena Burns which presented a comprehensive approach to all media. And "Current Trends in Religious Behavior & Beliefs" concerned young Catholic adults of today and how their behavior and beliefs differ from previous generations. "Creations Relations" by the Franciscan Action Network was a fuller understanding of taking care of creation. The Friday Liturgy was celebrated by Bishop James B Johnston, Jr. Episcopal Moderator.

The annual business meeting was held Saturday morning. The new NCCW President, Judy Powers, was introduced. The year-end financial report was given, which was much improved from last year, and resolutions were passed. Many other reports were also given. Further workshops were presented in the afternoon on Immigration Reform, Welcoming the Third Addition of the Roman Missal and Authentic Womanhood – this workshop exhorted women to act on their specific mission, so that they may ultimately affect society for the better.

The closing Mass was celebrated by Mnsgr. Robert Serafatus, Chair of the NCCW Moderators. The Convention ended with a wonderful banquet and entertainment.

**Campaign for Human Dignity —
Love in Action**

Stella Lundquist

Domestic violence is defined as a violent family relationship in which physical and/or sexual assaults occur. An environment of fear exists that is caused by a family member, usually a male. Domestic violence crosses all socioeconomic, racial, ethnic and religious lines. Counseling for the couple together is inappropriate because the batterer might become more enraged by the revelation of sensitive information from the victim. Therefore, therapists must be wary of a batterer's refusal to have individual counseling. Ending the violence is solely dependent on the batterer's motivation and commitment to do so because he usually thinks that he can get away with violent behavior within his family.

The majority of domestic violence victims are women. They are involved with a partner who uses violence in order to maintain control over them. The victims usually become dependent upon their batterers economically and emotionally. Because they feel embarrassed, they isolate themselves from family and friends. Many of them are helpless and suffering from a loss of confidence so they become depressed, sad and stressed out. They can lose control of their lives with feelings of shame, embarrassment and helplessness, yet they have the constant hope that things will get better. Finally, they are at risk of substance abuse in order to dull the emotional and physical pain.

Why do victims stay in an abusive relationship? It is mostly because they fear that they will disturb the delicate balance of family relationships and friendships. In addition, they don't know what the future will bring, but constantly hope that things will change. Because they are dependent on their abusers for money, there is the concern for survival. Other reasons for staying is for the sake of holding the family together and not disrupting the children's lives. Finally, many women feel bound to remain because of religious, cultural and socially learned beliefs.

What can you do for the victim? First of all, believe her and/or her children if they tell you of physical and/or mental abuse. Do not minimize the danger. She may never tell any one else. You may be the only reality check for her. Listen with compassion and suggest resources. Be supportive by offering to go with her to a "safe house", the police, hospital and court. Finally do not abandon the victim during the healing process. This support is necessary for a good conclusion because if it might involve mourning the loss of family relationships.

What can you do to help educate your community and

church? First, know what resources are available such as: the contacts for safe homes and help lines. Learn where counseling is given. Volunteer for a "help line". Have domestic violence speakers at your meetings, adult education programs and premarital counseling classes. Display brochures from crises centers and local shelters in church pamphlet racks and restrooms.

Liz Hocutt

In attending the NCCW session on "Welcoming the Third Edition of the Roman Missal," my expectations were moderate. They shouldn't have been, as I was bowled over by the speaker! Sr. Rene Simonelic, O. S. F., infused her presentation with the energy she feels for the revised Roman Missal. At the time I write this, we have only begun using the changes in the Mass. While some of the presentation identified some specific changes that might be harder than others, the main focus introduced the treasures these changes open to us and help us to realize the opportunity to deepen our prayer of the Mass. The big focus was to understand how to invite these treasures into our minds and hearts!

Recovering much of the Scriptural references of the Latin Text of the Mass, these changes bring forward some of the spirit of Vatican II, enlivening the Christian life of the faithful - preparing us for mission and strengthening our power to preach Christ. The revised text invites us to PRAY THE MASS, not just pray during the Mass. We are all working together on the changes...there is much community support as we meet these challenges, along with shared humor as we each struggle to avoid backsliding into familiar responses (even our pastors, sometimes!) This is moving us to be one in holiness, drawing us into the love of God.

Sr. Rene, with her boundless enthusiasm, infused us with her wish that all will "Be present" at Mass, understanding the new music adds delight and fosters unity. Her final message to us was, "Go and preach the gospel always...and if you need to, use words!"

The Power Point presentation should be available at some point on the NCCW website. I encourage everyone to review it as I was unable to keep up with many points Sister identified for helping all to embrace the revised Roman Missal. Sr. Rene is the Director of General Programming, Office for Divine Worship, Archdiocese of Chicago.



Carol Rusinko

Friday, Nov. 11, the second day of the NCCW Convention in Chicago began with a Breakfast General Session with guest speaker Robert Wicks, PsyD, Pastoral Counseling Department, Loyola, University Maryland.

The description in our program of Dr. Wicks' presentation said, "Possessing a healthy spiritual and psychological perspective and knowing how to regain it when we lose it is a wonderful gift. Knowing some of the primary streams of contentment in life helps us to uncover and prize this very gift."

Dr. Wick's offered approaches and stories on some of the best ways to accomplish this; but he had only twenty minutes and I couldn't write fast enough so I bought his book with the same title and learned: Know who you can be now. Be clear about what is truly essential. Practice a little faithfulness. Don't let go. . . choose! Appreciate more fully everything and everyone in your life now. Know what a renewing community really is. Beware the tyranny of hope. Don't be fooled by the winters of your life . . . lean back. When in trouble, first get the details. Stop thinking you are grateful . . . then see what you inherit. Recognize that a little silence and solitude is no small thing. Mind your own negative predictions and evaluations. Mine the criticisms you receive from others, but don't get carried away. Make new friends with failure. Appreciate the real meaning and power of your own "Self-Whispers.

In summary, "contentment is found through simplicity, gratitude and compassion." I think this could lead to world peace and ethnic understanding.



At the NCCW closing banquet the Minneapolis deanery was represented by, from left, Joellyn Soler, Harriet Taus, Carol Rusinko and Carol's niece.

Jo Petron

As I was listening to Lisa Martinez speak on "Authentic Womanhood" at the NCCW Convention, I couldn't help but think how the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne exemplified this when they opened the Cancer Home.

Lisa spoke about Pope John Paul II's body of work on the nature and dignity of woman.

John Paul viewed women as essential in a true authentic transformation of culture. He says, "Women first learn and then teach others that human relations are authentic if they are open to accepting and loving the other person because of the dignity which comes from being a person.

The gift of self is manifested in woman's natural capacity and inclination to being empathetic to the human person. John Paul believed that women acknowledge the person because they see persons with their hearts. They see others in their greatness and limitations. They try to go out to them and help them. He believed that it is through this insight into womanhood that enriches the world's understanding and helps to make human relations more honest and authentic.

One more quote from John Paul, "Jesus Christ, the Son of God, allowed himself to be educated by a woman, his mother."

Barbara Breen

Sister Helen Prejean gave the talk on the Death Penalty at Convention. She gave the talk as she experienced it and walked with the inmates to death row.

In Sister's talk she said some people, particularly men, were unjustly sent to death row because of their race or because of the color of their skin. In the eye's of God, we are all equal, no matter the race.

It also seems that poverty plays a BIG factor into the crimes committed by those who are put to death, according to Sr. Helen. Poverty reduces life's choices.

Sister Helen wrote "Dead Man Walking" after she accompanied six men to their deaths. She is working on now another book called "River of Fire: My Spiritual Journey" She said the life of every person is important from the day we are conceived to of natural death. That's why we choose life.

Around the Deaneries

Minneapolis Deaneries

Joellyn Soler, President 763-767-0563

Many thanks to the Immaculate Conception CCW led by Pres. Julie Thompson for hosting our fall meeting on Sept. 26, 2011 and to the International Concerns Commission for planning the day which was attended by 123 ladies. Millie Peddycourt one of our past presidents, passed away Sept. 22, and her funeral was the same day as the deanery day so it was a bittersweet day for all of us --but we feel her prayers and presence from above.

Our morning speaker was Jeremy Stanbary from Epiphany Productions, with his own acting company who has been to many World Youth Days and told of his experiences there, and encourages youth to attend whenever possible to enrich their faith. Also Agnes Dynes spoke on Appalachia and the Madonna Fund.

Our next meeting will be Nov. 28, 2011 at St. Helena's in Minneapolis. Community Concerns Commission has two speakers, one on "FRAUD". The other on "Raising Awareness about Mental Illness." Please bring a non-perishable food item for the food shelf.

It was an honor to represent you at the NCCW Convention in Chicago. The topic I was to report on was Creation Relations : Prayer, Principles and Practice-by Christy Elliot. She did say a lot about how we are to care for the earth, air, water and help countries in need to provide food and basic survival items, and discussed global warming, water shortages and other problems.

However, I was wondering why she never addressed how artificial birth control pills, and these devices, are harming our women in this country as well as poor countries. There is much documentation on this and needs to be addressed as well. Many deaths have been attributed to all forms of artificial birth control devices and in 2011, this must be as important as recycling and good sanitation. I would think much more important as we are talking about protecting human life, which is God's greatest creation. As He said "We are made in His image." Have a blessed, Advent, Christmas, and New Year-2012.



ACCW — join us on Facebook

Northwest Deanery

Judy Beaudry, President 763-497-4344

The NW West deanery Fall Meeting was held Monday, October 10, 2011 at St. Ignatius Parish in Annandale, Minn. Rosary was at 5:30 pm, followed by 6:00 pm Mass which celebrated by Fr. David Kohner. His GPS Jack and Jill story was entertaining and applicable to our journey on earth. A Potluck supper was held in the church basement following Mass. Rose Anne Hallgren, ACCW president, was introduced and addressed the group. Theresa Cermak, past ACCW president, spoke on the Works of Peace and the Religious Awards program. We felt Millie Peddycourt's approval, from above, when her topic of Works of Peace was discussed. Our main speaker for evening was Joellyn Soler, Mpls. Deanery CCW President. Her testimony about growing up, and her sidewalk counseling was interesting and captivated the evening attendees.

Our NW Deanery Appalachian Christmas Project was completed on Oct. 27 with 173 boxes sent to the two mission churches in Kentucky. Our Deanery suffered the loss of its co-Deanery president, Mary Helen Swartzler who died on Oct. 30. Her funeral was Nov. 2 at St. Francis Xavier parish in Buffalo, MN. Many ACCW, Deanery, and parish women attended her funeral, recited the Rosary, and formed an Honor Guard to the Hearse after the completion of Mass.

West Deanery

Carol Shukle, President 952-472-6928

The West Deanery Council of Catholic Women had its fall meeting Friday, Sept. 23 at St. George Church in Long Lake. Like several other deaneries, we enjoyed hosting Ann Zemke and hearing her speak on the Orphan Train and the quilt she made recalling the life of her grandmother, as well as seeing her beautiful quilts.

Plans for a Lenten Spiritual Event have not been finalized. Our spring meeting will be the evening of April 24 at St. Boniface in St. Bonifacius. The speaker will be Patrick Mader, local author and boyhood St. Boniface parishioner. He even said his mother was a member of the West Deanery!

Southwest Deanery

Betty Berge, President 1-507-332-8796

The last gathering of our Deanery members was held on October 20, 2011 for our annual Mission event. At least 325 members were in attendance. Members brought religious items such as rosaries, small statues, etc. to be sent to Haiti. Each parish of the deanery donated several worthwhile items for the raffle which earned us more than \$ 4,600.

Our speaker was Keith Kozerski from St. Joseph's Home for Children in Minneapolis. A donation of \$ 2000. was given to Mr. Kozerski for St. Joseph's home following his informative talk. Over \$ 1000 was given to each- the Hand to Hand program in Southern Minnesota and the Susquehanna Free Clinic in Pennsylvania. Our International Commission chair, Barb Kinniry did a great job coordinating this event.

I truly appreciate the opportunity to have attended the 2011 awesome National CCW Convention in Chicago held Nov. 9-12. Our keynote speaker was Sister Helen Pejean, a dynamic lady, who shared insights from her 25 years of work to end the use of the death penalty including personal experiences ministering to men on death row. I truly enjoyed her inspiring talk. Another speaker, Rev. John Cusick of Chicago answered a most important question "Why Should I Go to Church". His straight forward answer is this - "So we don't forget who we are! Sharing the Liturgy of daily Mass with 675 other catholic women was awesome! Sixty -plus clergy attended our opening liturgy. It warms your heart to respond in word and song together with a group of this magnitude.

After a winter break for the month of January to Arizona, I will return refreshed for our February Board meeting at Most Holy Trinity parish in Vesli.



Southeast Deanery

Olive Hupf, President 651-292-0439

The SE Deanery held our fall meeting at St. Mary's Church of New Trier Our speaker for the day was Mr. Bill Bradley and he spoke about the new changes in the Mass. He gave a wonderful talk about these changes and the women were very happy to hear it in the way he presented the program

We were honored to have members of the ACCW Board present. They all gave their reports during our new luncheon. We welcomed Rose Anne Hallgren, President; Debbie Keller talked about the coming 80th ACCW Conference in the spring. Rita Parsons talked about Spirituality, Denise Haaland reported on the Legislative area, The ACCW Moderator, Fr. David Kohner gave a wonderful little talk about the beautiful church of St. Mary's, how it is taken care of so well and explaining the windows in the church could be a retreat. He was very impressed with St. Marys.

The women of St. Mary's served a delicious lunch, door prizes were given out and we were on our way home. We thank the CCW for a great day for our Fall SE Deanery meeting.

Our next meeting will be our November board meeting to be held on Thursday, December 1st, 2011 at St. Pius V of Cannon Falls. We will start at 9:00 am and serve a soup and sandwich lunch at noon.

Our Day of Reflection will be held at St. Pius on Tuesday, March 6th and our speaker for the day will be Fr. Jim Perkl of St. Elizabeth Anne Seton of Hastings to be speaking on the Stations of the Cross. Our speaker will begin at 10:00 am in the proper of the church. The Rosary and Mass will follow the speaker. Lunch will be served in the lower level. Everyone is welcome,

Our spring meeting will be the 2nd Thursday of April but the place is to be determined yet.



Betty Berge, left, with Marcia Simon and Denise Haaland at the NCCW Convention.



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The St. Paul and Minneapolis area delegation to the NCCW convention in Chicago in November included, from left, Agnes Dynes, Maureen Willenbring, Rose Marie Barton, Cathy Evans, Rose Anne Hallgren, Theresa Cermak, Elaine Monitor, Jane Rosner, Barbara Stalsberg and Lucy Johnson.

