



**OUR LADY  
OF GOOD COUNSEL**

# ***THE LEAVEN***

## **SPRING 2017**

### **OUR DCCW MISSION**

*To promote Christ-centered spirituality for Catholic Women, empowering them to serve the mission of Christ to the world in their daily lives.*

**NEWSLETTER OF THE DES MOINES DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN (DCCW)**

Website: <http://www.desmoinesdccw.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/desmoinesdccw/>

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

People say to me, "What is the Des Moines Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) and why should I join and pay \$20 for our parish group? Until five years ago I didn't know what it was either, but it is a well kept secret. So I thought I would take this opportunity to tell you about it.

In 1920, the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) was started by the U.S. Catholic bishops, who had witnessed the important work done by Catholic women's organizations during World War I. The NCCW is very active today, joining 3000 Catholic women's groups together to be a voice for all. Presently, the NCCW board belongs to WUCWO (World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations), and are a presence at the United Nations and the United States Council of Catholic Bishops. They actively partner with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Cross Catholic Outreach, protesting for and sheltering women in other countries. In fact, CRS was started by NCCW 70 years ago. CRS works to prevent mother and child mortality in third world countries, which is due to substandard housing and water supplies.

NCCW attends the March for Life and sits on committees on evangelization, human trafficking, immigration, pornography, women and child abuse, social media, and legislation. They work as our representatives to uphold the sanctity of life from birth to natural death.

Every Catholic woman is a member, but NCCW needs our financial support. Individual memberships are \$50 a year or \$100 for a parish membership. Membership includes a subscription to Catholic Woman magazine and monthly newsletter updates on women's concerns. All Catholic women's groups (guilds, altar and rosary societies, CDA's) are invited to be spirituality enriched at this year's annual NCCW convention in Dallas, Texas, September 6-9.

From National (NCCW), to our province director who unites the state of Iowa, to the Des Moines DCCW, then to the six regional areas, then to our parishes (PCCW), the things above are handed down via the Des Moines board, regional committees, and the NCCW website sharing great ideas for women's groups.

In 1929 the Bishops of Iowa formed the Des Moines DCCW. Our mission is to promote Christ-centered spirituality for Catholic women, empowering them to serve the mission of Christ in their daily lives. This is done through our yearly diocesan convention, retreats, newsletters, and this year, through our leadership training.

See the flyer for our diocesan convention on page seven. All who attend the convention on April 1 are invited to support area pregnancy centers with donations of layettes and diapers, homeless shelters with personal care boxes, and CRS's Water for Life with a contribution. The offertory collection will go to Drake University Newman Center. We also support the Catholic radio stations KWKY and KVSS. Check us out at [desmoinesdccw.org](http://desmoinesdccw.org).

This year we hope to reorganize the six regions/deaneries of the Des Moines Diocese: Red Oak, Portsmouth, Osceola, Des Moines, Council Bluffs, and Adair. We are looking for women who want to serve on these regional boards helping to get resources out to your parishes from NCCW and DCCW. Maybe you have a calling for some of the programs above. Please pray about it and if you feel led to join us contact me, Nancy Larson, at [bnlarson@mchsi.com](mailto:bnlarson@mchsi.com) or at 712-326-4330.

I will be praying for all of you as you head into this Lenten season, that you may see what the Holy Spirit is calling you to do. May our patron, Mary, Our Lady of Good Counsel, be present to you in this time of spiritual growth. God bless you.

**Nancy Larson**  
**President, Des Moines DCCW**

## 2017 CONVENTION INFORMATION

### HONORING WOMEN AT CONVENTION

Again this year, at our convention, we will honor women from parish Councils of Catholic Women (Guild, Altar and Rosary Society, Catholic Daughters, etc.) who go above and beyond to keep things going. We hope those nominated will be able to be present to receive awards. We encourage the president or contact for your CCW to come and bring along others from your parish to help honor her as well.

Please complete the form provided in the Call to Convention letter and submit it for one or more in your CCW who deserve to be honored. Or mail the information (name, parish, and a paragraph on why they should be honored) to Marilyn Alferts at 26345 Sycamore Rd, Neola IA 51559.

## QUILT FOR CONVENTION



This beautiful Log Cabin pattern, queen-size quilt, in shades of brown and rust with cream was made and donated by Alice Buman of Saint Michael's in Harlan. It was hand-quilted by Bev Kohles and friends. Some lucky lady will take this beautiful quilt home following the drawing at convention on April 1 in West Des Moines.



**"If you judge people,  
you have no time to  
love them."**

**- Mother Teresa**

## LENTEN BOOKLET REFLECTS ON IOWA'S ENVIRONMENT

With the season of Lent approaching, parishes and schools across Iowa are invited to journey towards a greater understanding of our state's ecological and environmental issues, with the help of a new reflection book titled *Caring for our Common Home: A Lenten Reflection for Iowans*. Inspired by Pope Francis's ecological encyclical *Laudato Si'*, this new work takes a uniquely Iowa perspective in exploring the science of the world around us, while contemplating God in the web of creation.

*Caring for our Common Home: A Lenten Reflection for Iowans* delves into the science, reflects on the encyclical letter *Laudato Si'* (Praise Be to You), and explores small and large ways to grow in faith and act for the goodness of our common home. Each day of the Lenten journey sheds light on a different ecological concept, ranging from water and wetlands to agriculture, soil, biodiversity, and climate change.

Go to [www.iowacatholicconference.org](http://www.iowacatholicconference.org), then click on Care For Creation to download the booklet.

*The urgent challenge to protect our  
Common Home*  
**INCLUDES A CONCERN TO BRING THE  
WHOLE HUMAN FAMILY  
TOGETHER TO SEEK A SUSTAINABLE  
AND INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT...**  
**-POPE FRANCIS (LAUDATO SI')**

## 2016 DCCW CONVENTION RECAP

Dixie DeBlauw of St. Michael Parish in Harlan was the winner of a beautiful handmade quilt at our convention last April. Dixie and her husband Deacon Jim are fairly new to the diocese having moved here in 2010 when Jim retired from school administration in Nebraska. Dixie and Jim feel blessed to be living nearer to their children and grandchildren.



## HUMAN TRAFFICKING “We are all responsible...”

In 2000, the United States Congress, in passing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, found that human trafficking is the most prevalent form of slavery in the world today. Pope Francis has declared human trafficking to be “an open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the body of Christ . . . a crime against humanity.” The United Nations, in 2016, estimated there to be 48.5 million victims of human trafficking, and that human trafficking is a \$152 billion a year business, second only to drug trafficking. Stephen Patrick O’Meara, former Assistant U.S. Attorney, Iowa and Nebraska (Ret.), subsequently the Coordinator of the Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force (Ret.), and currently associated with the Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking (Des Moines/Iowa) and the Coalition On Human Trafficking (Omaha, NE), who has fought against human trafficking throughout Iowa and Nebraska for going on ten years, has stated that human traffickers literally kidnap people and also intentionally prey upon people in positions of weakness in our society, including minor children, the mentally and developmentally infirm, the poor, persons from other countries, and others in situations which isolate them from the community.

Human trafficking, that is, sex trafficking or labor trafficking, exists on any given day virtually anywhere in Iowa and Nebraska. State or Federal convictions for sex trafficking have occurred,

among others, regarding cases in Omaha-Council Bluffs, population centers under 25,000 in central Nebraska, a town of about 6,700 in western Iowa, and a town of about 800 in eastern Iowa. Statistics from the Human Trafficking Initiative at Creighton University indicate that in any given month, there may be about an estimated 2,000 unique people in Iowa and Nebraska advertised on the internet for commercial sex, and that about 42% or more of these people are at high or moderate risk of being victims of sex trafficking, with over 70% showing some signs of being victims of sex trafficking.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stated in a 1962 speech decrying invidious discrimination which denies people their freedom, “. . . When a man is robbed of his freedom, the very nature of his life is altered and his being cannot make the full circle of personhood because that which is basic to the character of life itself has been diminished.” The consequences of sex trafficking can be severe and long-lasting. According to a study published by the Chicago Loyola School of Law in 2014, these include, among other adverse consequences, over 90% of the survivors suffering serious physical injury and serious neurological and psychological damage, as well as about 55 - 80% variously suffering STDs/STIs, substance abuse, dietary ailments, and abortions (and noting that death is also a consequence).

Human trafficking, especially sex trafficking is part of a system of social evils which plagues our society. According to Stephen Patrick O’Meara, we must enhance the prosecution of traffickers and the treatment of victims/survivors, but that prosecution and treatment are not alone sufficient to stem this rapidly growing situation. We must also, now, seek cultural change. Faith communities are in a special position to engage in this struggle. We are all responsible to effect cultural change regarding the system of social evils which includes human trafficking . . . and we all do, positively or negatively, by omission or commission. (Stephen Patrick O’Meara has presented for years in Iowa and Nebraska and is available to present a program regarding this system of social evils and attacking this system, especially through faith communities. He may be reached by telephone 402-881-7697, or email [spopa49@ymail.com](mailto:spopa49@ymail.com).)

Check out the USCCB website ([usvrb.org](http://usvrb.org)) and NCCW website ([nccw.org](http://nccw.org)) for more human trafficking information.

## COMMISSION REPORTS

### SERVICE COMMISSION

With so much talk on the border, the fence, the migrants, the undocumented, I again picked up the book, *Just Coffee*, by Mark Adams and Tommy Bassett III; these are two very special people in my life and we walked the border together for many years.

On page 14, titled *Motivation for Crossing Into the U.S. I read*: "Why do people who live south of the U.S. border leave their homes, their friends, their aunts, siblings, parents, yes even their wives and their children, risk trekking their way into our country, across the desolate and dangerous U.S./Mexico border beset with a multitude of hazards?

Why? Is it because we are such a great country with such warm and friendly people they just can't stand not to be with us? No, not really. A few come for the adventure of the young man's quest. A few bring drugs. Most, however, come because they need work.

The single most powerful reason that young male Mexicans leave the home they love and, with great risk, cross the border into a strange land . . . is that they need money to support their families. They come here to work . . . and then to send their paychecks back home to their loved ones."

As I read these pages I thought to myself, what has changed? People are arriving from all over the planet. Are we welcoming the migrants as Pope Francis speaks in his encyclicals?

The overview of Catholic Church teachings on the rights of migrants and refugees (USCCB Catholic Social Teaching on Immigration), or as Christ said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Mt 25:35, are:

**First Principle:** People have the right to migrate to sustain their lives and the lives of their families. (When a person cannot achieve a meaningful life in his or her own land, that person has the right to move.)

**Second Principle:** A country has the right to regulate its borders and to control immigration. (No country has the duty to receive so many immigrants that its social and economic life is jeopardized. Those who work to enforce our nation's laws often do so out of a sense of loyalty to the common good and compassion for poor people seeking a better life. We should work to make it unnecessary for people to leave their own lands.

**Third Principle:** A country must regulate its borders with justice and mercy (A country's regulation of borders and immigrants must be governed by concern for all people and by mercy and justice. A commitment to the needs of all must prevail. Immigration policy that allows people to live and contribute to society for years but refuses to offer them the opportunity to achieve legal status does not serve the common good.

While in ministry as volunteer Border Chaplain, I journeyed with many border crossers through the southwest desert. In my office at Panama, Iowa, hangs a cross with the name of Luis \_\_\_\_\_ born 1980 and died 4-3-2001, just one of over 3,000 who crossed the desert and died on the journey. Let's continue to pray that, little by little, we become a welcoming community.

**Sr. Joyce Blum, FSPA**  
**Service Commission Co-Chair**

encounter  
*Lent*  
Encounter ourselves.  
Encounter our neighbors.  
Encounter our God.

**This Lent, answer the call to build a culture of encounter through CRS Rice Bowl.**

We are called to build a culture of encounter. Jesus made that clear from the way he lived, the message he preached. Pope Francis makes that clear by his own daily example. And we have a host of holy men and women who have come before us, who have gone to the margins of society so that every member of our human family might know the love of God.

Now, it's our turn. With the spiritual pillars of Lent to guide us, we set out on a 40-day journey, a journey of encounter with ourselves, our neighbors and our God. Join more than 13,000 faith communities in 180 dioceses around the U.S. in prayer, fasting and almsgiving through CRS



Rice Bowl this Lent. Together, we will serve our brothers and sisters most in need around the world while forming families and faith communities in global solidarity.

Free CRS Rice Bowl materials are available at [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org). Allow at least three weeks for shipping. Downloadable resources are available online in English and Spanish for various ministry audiences including diocesan leaders, parish leaders, elementary school teachers, high school teachers, youth ministers, catechists, university students, families, and more. You may also wish to download the CRS Rice Bowl app in English and Spanish for iOS and Android devices!

Catholic Relief Services is the official international outreach agency of the U.S. Catholic Community, founded by the U.S. Bishops in 1943 to respond to global needs after WWII. Catholic Charities is the sister agency that works on poverty inside the U.S. Both are agencies of the Caritas Internationalis Network. Catholic Relief Services partners with NCCW to provide "Water for Life". Come visit their booth at the DCCW Convention in West Des Moines on April 1, 2017.

For information about CRS and/or the CRS Rice Bowl Program, please contact Teresa Dunbar at 312-471-8933, or email [teresa.dunbar@crs.org](mailto:teresa.dunbar@crs.org).

## **SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION**

I read a wonderful reflection column by Sister Joyce Rupp for January 2017. (If you ever get a chance to spend a morning, an evening, or an anytime retreat with Sister Joyce, to sure to do so. I have heard her several times and have read most of her books. She is a true spiritual gift and is headquartered in Des Moines!)

The online reflection piece was on JOY. The first line poses this question: "Where do you find your joy?" In this very divisive culture we have been experiencing the past few years, it is a good time to ask ourselves this question. Sister Joyce quotes award winning broadcaster Krista Tippett in her book, *Becoming Wise*, "I have yet to meet a wise person who doesn't know how to find some joy even in the midst of what is hard, and to smile and laugh easily, including at oneself. A sense of humor is high on my list of virtues, in interplay with humility and compassion and a capacity to change when that is the right thing to do. It's one of those virtues that softens us for all the others."

It is easy to become discouraged and to lose our sense of perspective and sense of humor when there is so much turmoil and sadness in the world. But it doesn't take too much to see the joy around us: The laughter of a child, the toothless smile of a baby, the newly fallen snow, the sunrise and sunset each day, the gift of friendship, and most importantly, the knowledge that God is always with us and around us.

Resisting Happiness, a book by Matthew Kelly, was a gift from our pastor to his parishioners. Our Thursday morning book study group is reading it now; it is another good spiritual book from Matthew Kelly. His publishing group also has an online Lenten program. Register for this free program at [DynamicCatholic.com/BestLentEver](http://DynamicCatholic.com/BestLentEver).

My sister gave me a book by Father Austin Fleming called, Good Morning, God! Prayers to Start Your Day. He also has a daily reflection one can receive online called The Concord Pastor.

I found the following prayer and thought it was fitting for this article.

### ***You Never Fail Me, Lord***

*What a shame, Lord, if my burdens and fears  
Keep me from the simple joys and blessings  
You'll offer me today.*

*Help me see that in the hardest of times,  
You don't hold back, but rather  
You multiply the ways you care for me.*

*Let nothing keep me from seeing and hearing,  
Tasting and touching, knowing and enjoying  
The gifts You spread along my path.*

*Though this day may have its troubles, Lord,  
Let nothing keep me from the peace and  
refreshment,  
The grace and delights,  
That come my way from your hand without fail.  
Amen.*

**Carolyn Smith  
Spirituality Commission Co-Chair**

**ARE YOU COMING TO OUR DCCW  
CONVENTION IN WEST DES MOINES  
ON APRIL 1?**

***DON'T MISS OUT!*  
IT'S FOR ALL CATHOLIC WOMEN.  
SEE REGISTRATION INFO ON PAGE 7.**

## LEADERSHIP COMMISSION

Leadership report 2016/2017

During the Year of Mercy as designated by Pope Francis, NCCW challenged us to perform a million works of mercy. In sending many requests to CCW members we accomplished that goal before the appointed time.

This chair invited Renee Carney to join the DCCW board as Portsmouth Regional Chair and she has graciously accepted. I also invited Helen Julesgaard to be our historian and she also agreed with the request for us to work toward acquiring artifacts of former board members. We are working toward that goal.

**Joan Gubbels**  
**Leadership Commission, Co-Chair**

### ***We Welcome Our New Leadership***

#### **Red Oak Region**

Sandy Bugg - St. Patrick, Imogene  
Kate Roberts - St. Mary, Hamburg  
Connie Sampers - St. Mary, Red Oak  
Kathy Hopkins - St. Clare, Clarinda  
Julia Aguero - St. Mary, Shenandoah

#### **Portsmouth Region**

Renee Carney - St. Anne, Logan

#### **Des Moines Region**

Elaine Gardner - St. Pius X, Urbandale

#### **New Board Members**

Pat Aust, Parliamentarian - St. Mary, Shenandoah  
Helen Juelsgaard, Historian - St. Patrick, Walnut

We are looking for more women in all regions of the diocese. Contact Nancy Larson at [bnlarson@mcshi.com](mailto:bnlarson@mcshi.com) or 712-326-4330 for more information.

## COUNCIL BLUFFS REGION

Council Bluffs Region Annual Report 2016/2017

This chair promoted a pilgrimage to the Holy Doors during Pope Francis's designated Year of Mercy. She drove CCW members to St. Joseph, Earling, Saint Patrick, Bayard, into Des Moines where we attended Mass at the Basilica of St. John and on to the Cathedral of St. Ambrose and Our Lady of the Americas. We drove toward the next destination and stopped at a local diner for lunch then continued to Holy Spirit, Creston and on to St. Patrick at Imogene. Along with the designated prayer at each Holy Door we enjoyed fellowship along the way with pastors and parishioners at the sites.

Our region is involved again practicing for our annual "Roaring 20's" basketball game to help fund Phoenix House and Birthright and Gabriel's Corner. We will have our exposition game at a future date.

On January 29 we honored our Bishop, priests, sisters and deacon couples at the annual Appreciation Dinner. This year we had no Mass but vespers service followed by each parish CCW offering a piece of the menu for the meal.

On May 13 we will celebrate World Union of Catholic Women Organization Day of prayer on the one hundredth anniversary of Fatima. We will use the prayer service provided by WUCWO along with the rosary prayed in five languages by our CCW membership. This event will be held at Holy Family worship site, at 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and Avenue B, in Council Bluffs.

**Joan Gubbels**  
**Council Bluffs Region Chair**

### **Individual Ways to Help End Human Trafficking**

- Read one article each month on this topic
- Share something you've learned with another person
- Be alert for ads featuring the **Objectification of Women**; express your objection to the company
- Sign petitions for passage of stronger laws against human trafficking
- Promote **FAIR TRADE**
- If you see something that looks suspicious, call the **HOTLINE** at 888-373-7888
- Pray for all victims of human trafficking

**Resources:** *Polaris Project:* [www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org) | *Braking Traffick:* [www.brakingtraffik.org](http://www.brakingtraffik.org)  
*Stop Trafficking Monthly Newsletter:* E-mail [jeansds@stopenslavement.org](mailto:jeansds@stopenslavement.org)



**Human Trafficking is one of the world's largest crimes against humanity. Yet it goes unnoticed by the majority of society.**

Des Moines Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

# Pope Francis's New Beatitudes:

What We Are Called To Do Today, As Jesus Did

Saturday, April 1, 2017 | 8:30a.m.-3p.m.

Sacred Heart Parish

1627 Grand Ave, West Des Moines, IA 50265

*Grab a friend and register today!*

The event includes shopping, quilt drawing, continental breakfast, and lunch. **Space is very limited!**

Please fill out, cut off, and mail in the form below.

Cost is \$25 by March 15, \$30 at the door / Students \$10

**For more information, contact**

**Marilyn Alfes at 712-485-2043 or malfers1@wiaw.net**

**Lin Brinker at 712-744-3206 or ladyb@fmctc.com.com**

## Support the Poor In Their Need

- Baby blankets, clothing, diapers for Birthright & Gabriel's Corner
- Shoebox Project toiletries for domestic abuse shelters
- Cash donations to Catholic Relief Services *Water for Life*

**NOTE: Donations will be accepted at the convention**



Proud Sponsor



Pope Francis  
Offers New Beatitudes



Sr. Lucy Slinger,  
FSPA, is a noted speaker  
on EcoSpirituality and  
Cosmology with a rich  
understanding of science and  
theology and will be key  
note speaker.

**EVENT REGISTRATION** — Please fill out form, cut off and mail.

**Make checks payable to:** Des Moines DCCW Cost: \$25 per person

Financial assistance available—call Julia Aguero at 712-246-2369

**Mail to:** Marilyn Alfes, 26345 Sycamore Rd., Neola, IA 51559

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Friend's Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
# OF PEOPLE TOTAL COST



- CUT OFF

## Calendar of Events

April 1	Des Moines DCCW Convention
April 16	Easter Sunday
April 23	Divine Mercy Sunday
April 26	Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel
May 14	Mother's Day
May 13	WUCWO Day
Sept. 6-9	NCCW Convention in Dallas, Texas

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