



**OUR LADY
OF GOOD COUNSEL**

THE LEAVEN

SPRING 2016

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

Since joining our Diocesan Board I have learned so much about the National Council which was formed in 1920 by the Bishops Council wishing to assure that all Catholic Women be united in faith at times of hardship and war times. An amazing group of ladies provides leadership and programs for all. It is our wish to inform and encourage all ages so their faith can be the gift it was intended to be. I have met many great women in the ten years I have been a part of Council and hope to share many more years with them and others to come.

Plans have been made for our Annual Convention in Council Bluffs on April 30 and a bus trip to Sioux City in June. Hope you will be able to join us for a fulfilling time for your heart and soul.

**Shirley Chamberlain
DCCW President**

QUILT FOR CONVENTION

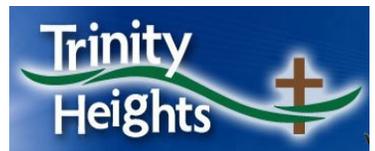


This beautiful Triple Irish Chain pattern queen-size quilt in shades of *green and gold with brown* was made by Alice Buman from Saint Michael's in Harlan and hand-quilted by the ladies at Saint Mary's in Panama. Some lucky lady

will take home this beautiful quilt home the day of the convention.

COME AWAY FOR A DAY WITH US!

Our DCCW invites you on a fun-filled day-trip to Sioux City, Iowa, on **Thursday, June 23**. The special



feature of our day will be a visit to **Trinity Heights** which offers more than two dozen shrines, memorial garden spots and quiet corners for prayer and reflection amidst 14 acres of spacious walkways and soft green spaces. If you haven't been to Trinity Heights recently, you will find that many new things have been added.

Following lunch at **Bev's on the River**, we will visit the **Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center** and the **Palmer Candy Company Shoppe and Museum**.

We will travel on a deluxe motor coach with pickup at Council Bluffs and Harlan. Cost of the trip is \$35 by May 20, and \$40 after that date. A flyer with details for this wonderful day will be coming to your parish in May.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

We traveled to St. Augustine's in Des Moines on October 17 for a presentation by Kathy Reardon on Manifesting Love – Becoming Living Prayer. Kathy is a spiritual director, a holistic nurse and educator from the Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center. St. Augustine's is a beautiful church and they have an amazing chapel. We had a small group but it was a good day. Wish more could have joined us, maybe next time.

Shirley Chamberlain

WELCOME TO FR. JOEL MCNEIL



Father Joel McNeil has graciously accepted the invitation of Bishop Pates to be the Spiritual Advisor for the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women for the Diocese of Des Moines. Father Joel is pastor at Dunlap, Woodbine and Mondamin. We are excited to have him join us. We also want to thank

Fr. Don Bruck for leading and supporting us since 2001. We will miss him and his hospitality.

2016 CONVENTION INFORMATION

Plan now to attend the 87th Annual DCCW Convention at Queen of Apostles Church hall, 3304 4th Avenue, in Council Bluffs, on April 30. Our theme for the convention will be **“Sowers of Hope and Mercy: Living As Women in the New Evangelization.”**

These items that your Council of Catholic Women (Altar and Rosary, Catholic Daughters, Women’s Guild, etc.) has been collecting may be brought to convention:

- Layettes and/or baby blankets and clothing for a pro-life pregnancy counseling service
- “Shoe boxes” with toiletries for daily needs for a homeless shelter
- Any Water for Life collections your organization may have collected. Read about that program on the Catholic Relief Services website.

We also ask that each parish bring a silent auction item worth about \$25. You will have an opportunity to bid on silent auction items and purchase religious items.

Cost for the convention is \$18 until April 15. After that date or at the door the cost is \$20. Please send checks payable to “Des Moines DCCW” to: Marilyn Alfors
26345 Sycamore Rd
Neola, IA 51559

HONORING WOMEN AT CONVENTION

Again this year, we will honor women from local parish Council of Catholic Women (Altar and Rosary Society, Catholic Daughters, Guild, 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 Alfors at 26345 Sycamore Rd, Neola IA 51559. Nominations are needed by April 15.

NEWS AROUND THE DIOCESE

We are saddened at the deaths of three staunch supporters of DCCW: Mary Ann Kenkel of St. Peter Defiance CCW, Toni Anin of Our Lady of Carter Lake CCW, Yvonne Shildburg and Mary Bricker of St. John of Greenfield CCW. Each of these women were rocks in the foundation of Des Moines Diocesan Council. Eternal rest grant unto them, oh Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

WE NEED YOU!

Can you give a few hours a year to help the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women grow? We are looking for Catholic women who would like to join us. Please contact vice-president Nancy Larson at bnlarson@mchsi.com or at 712-326-4330 to learn more.

**ARE YOU COMING TO OUR DCCW
CONVENTION IN COUNCIL BLUFFS ON APRIL 30?**

**DON'T MISS OUT!
IT'S FOR ALL CATHOLIC WOMEN.
SEE REGISTRATION INFO ON PAGE 6.**



2015 DCCW CONVENTION RECAP

Barb Tillinghast of St. Pius X Parish in Urbandale was the winner of the quilt. Barb had a birthday that day, the day her name was drawn from the box, and did not attend the convention. But she received a wonderful surprise the next morning after Mass when she was given the unbelievable prize of the DCCW quilt. She promptly put the quilt on her bed and thinks of DCCW daily! Barb said that she would have attended the convention if it had not been her birthday. Hopefully she will make it to the convention in 2016.



OPEN TO GOD'S MERCY

Pope Francis declared a Holy Year of Mercy December 8, 2015 until November 20, 2016.

In the past a Holy Year was highlighted by a pilgrimage to Rome to churches with designated holy doors through which the mercy and profound love of God is experienced. Pope Francis wants all to be close to a designated holy door so he has asked that churches in each diocese be designated to visit in pilgrimage and thus benefit from the rich blessings of this special Year of Mercy. The eight designated churches in our diocese are St. Ambrose Cathedral, Basilica of St. John, and Our Lady of the Americas in Des Moines, St Patrick in Council Bluffs, St Patrick at Bayard, Holy Spirit at Creston, St Joseph at Earling, and St. Patrick at Imogene.

God's mercy has no bounds. Holy Year plenary indulgences are available to all. All are encouraged to participate in the Jubilee Year of Mercy and may that experience spill out to reach the poor, the abandoned, the lonely. To those caught in the web of evil may God's love be experienced through others' hands and hearts.

Shirley Chamberlain

2015 NCCW REPORT

It was our privilege to represent the Des Moines Diocese at the 95th annual convention of the National Council of Catholic Women in Orlando, Florida, last September. The convention theme was **"We Are Sowers of Hope."** Nearly 700 women attended from across the country.

NCCW works so hard to protect and encourage women in their daily lives. Look on the internet and search www.nccw.org. Our faith is a gift a treasure and the NCCW offers much and protects many. NCCW is a partner with Catholic Relief Services, whose president and CEO, Carolyn Woo, spoke to us. She said, "We believe that the people we serve are placed in our care by God and therefore calls for the best we have to offer." Ninety-two percent of donations to CRS goes to care for those in need, so you can feel very safe in donating to CRS collections.

We attended a workshop on assisted suicide – a true danger to our society. A great young speaker, Brandon Vogt, spoke on "A Reason for Our Hope." Visit his website and share with your kids and grandkids. He is an award winning writer and blogger and also the Content Director for Bishop Robert Barron's Word on Fire Catholic Ministries. It was a faith-filled event.

Mary Beth Hicks, a young author and media commentator Director for Faith Catholic said modern culture makes it challenging for younger Catholic women to weave their religious identities into the fabric of daily life.

Mary Ann Reuther of the Sioux City Diocese, was installed as Iowa's new Province Director. Eleven ladies and one spiritual director represented Iowa. We attended Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary Queen of the Universe.

Father Dom of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is always an asset at National Convention. He mans a booth selling good wine with a portion of all his profits going to young adults with cancer and other threatening diseases. He is an entertaining and inspiring speaker and would be available to any organization who would like to call upon him. He also entertains us at the purse auction with his antics. His phone number is 262-224-3145.

Shirley Chamberlain

COMMISSION REPORTS

SERVICE COMMISSION

The DCCW, at our convention, will continue to collect money for Water for Life (read about it at Catholic Relief Services); “shoe boxes” with toiletries for daily needs for homeless shelters; and layettes, baby blankets and baby clothing for pro-life pregnancy counseling services.

Many of us are serving funeral dinners, working at food banks, visiting the sick, clothing the naked and helping our priests with projects. Sometimes we need think outside the box and look for ideas.

One lady we can look to is Aurora Lumidue of St Theresa Parish in Des Moines. She was honored in November 2015 for her years of Hispanic leadership in family, the culture, spirituality, and global presence in the exhibit at the art museum. Sister Joyce Blum, FSPA, worked with the family in making a film to highlight the story of Aurora’s dedicated life following her death.

Other great NCCW resources can be found at www.nccw.org:

- Mothers Outreach to Mothers - mentoring and support program for women who choose life.
- NCCW Respite Program - for those taking care of the elderly
- Domestic Abuse - women healing women
- Human Trafficking - victims are children, teens, men and women, and are in plain sight. They are exploited for commercial sex or forced labor
- Fair Trade
- Media on family and marriage
- Pornography - save our future generations
- Feeding the poor

A wealth of great ideas for your parish is available at the NCCW website.

Have a blessed year of mercy.

Sr. Joyce Blum
Service Commission Co-Chair

SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION

“We are invited this extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy year to receive God’s merciful love, available to all through reconciliation and by taking a pilgrimage to one of eight churches in the Diocese of Des Moines with a Holy Door.” (THE CATHOLIC MIRROR December 18, 2015)

As we begin the Year of Mercy, it is an appropriate time to reflect on how our spiritual journey is progressing. Are we stuck in a rut? Are we hungry for more spiritual nourishment? Do we feel God’s nearness and His constant relentless mercy and love? This Year of Mercy is a wonderful opportunity to revisit both the spiritual and the corporal works of mercy as a possible course of action to pursue and expand our spiritual life.

<u>Spiritual Works of Mercy</u>	<u>Corporal Works of Mercy</u>
Advise the Sinner	Feed the Hungry
Instruct the Ignorant	Clothe the Naked
Console the Doubtful	Give Drink to the Thirsty
Comfort the Sorrowful	Visit the Sick
Forgive all Injuries	Bury the Dead
Bear Wrongs Patiently	Shelter the Homeless
Pray for Living and Dead	Visit the Imprisoned

We are blessed with many great resources available to us in a wide variety of ways. For those with a computer and/or smart phone or iPad, there is a great APP to download for free from OUR SUNDAY VISITOR called 365 Days to Mercy (and the internet has so many other sites from which to choose our spiritual message). There are retreat opportunities throughout our diocese; wonderful inspiring books to read and share, book studies and bible studies as well as other adult faith formation in our own parishes. We are blessed at Holy Rosary in Glenwood to have Adoration daily from 5:00 AM to midnight—what an amazing gift for us. Check with your parish offices as they are sure to have DVDs and CDs that you could check out for use in your home or to share with family members. Don’t forget to check out Spirit Catholic Radio for great programming while in your car or EWTN in your home.

Speaking of books, my book study group in Glenwood will be doing THE CHURCH OF MERCY by Pope Francis during Lent. We did BETWEEN HEAVEN AND MIRTH by Father James Martin, SJ before Christmas. I am reading FLY WHILE YOU STILL HAVE WINGS by Sister Joyce Rupp, a beautiful book about her mother. So many options—so little time!!

The Diocese of Des Moines has 34 thought-provoking bulletin announcements on their website. This one is so pertinent in today's world: "How does one live joyfully? Pope Frances says it's by letting go of anger, wrath, violence, and revenge. Forgiveness is the key." How true!

We look forward to seeing you at the Convention in April. May your winter, Lenten, and Easter seasons be peace-filled ones.

Carolyn Smith
Spirituality Commission Co-Chair

When we join the National Council of Catholic Women we are part of a group that speaks for our Catholic values and supports, empowers and educates all Catholic women in leadership, spirituality, and service education.

There are so many wonderful resources from our NCCW (National Council of Catholic Women). I invite you personally to go to www.nccw.org and look under Commissions and then Spirituality to find the following:

- Domestic Violence Resource—you can save someone's life
- New evangelization program—with Easter activities
- Mary's Mantle—a parish ministry of spiritual support for brides
- Novena to the Innocent—those lost through abortion (December 19-28)
- Novena to St. Josephine Bakhila—prayer and awareness of human trafficking (February 8)
- Spiritual adoption of the unborn—praying for nine months to save a baby's life
- Become familiar with the Liturgy of the Hours
- Pray for vocations

Then explore leadership and service

Nancy Larson
Spirituality Commission Co-Chair

LEADERSHIP COMMISSION

It is that time of year: Des Moines Diocesan Council of Catholic Women annual dues have been sent out, most parish CCW dues are due and goals are being presented by your parish CCW's. It is always a growing time at NCCW. If your local president doesn't usually bring to the meeting, or post on your web page, or send e-mails to keep you informed with what is happening at NCCW, please ask her to do so. If your parish is paying the dues it is for the entire parish to profit from the information. And to be sure you are personally kept up to date on all programs etc.

please consider becoming an individual member. It is two-fold. You get immediate information, the Catholic Woman Magazine, and Connect and you are participating financially to keep this great source of education alive for all Catholic Women.

As you probably know, though it deserves repeating, the National Council of Catholic Women was established by the then National Conference of Catholic Bishops, now known as USCCB. This was in 1920, so soon we will be celebrating our centennial. The purpose was to unite ALL CATHOLIC WOMEN. Most of us are already united in our own parishes by our own CCW, that is: Altar and or Rosary Societies, Women's Guild's, Catholic Daughters, etc. The bishops recognized the value of women in the parishes and asked all to be united to share their expertise and offer communication throughout the entire nation. Our mission statement: **The National Council of Catholic Women, acts through its membership to support, empower and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. NCCW programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world.**

Most Reverend Gregory L. Parkes, Bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee was appointed as the new Episcopal Liaison to NCCW by Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, President of the USCCB to replace Most Reverend James V. Johnston, Jr. who served in this capacity for five years. Bishop Johnston has recently been installed as Bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph and was elected to the Board of Directors for Catholic Relief Services.

We are aware that many are still downloading and using "We Are Called To Witness," which was published by the Leadership Committee of NCCW a year ago. As of last year, "Follow Me! Called to Serve, Chosen to Lead" is this committee's newest publication. It consists of these topics: Listening, Empathy and Healing, Commitment to the Growth of Every Person, Building Community and Relationships, Vision and Foresight, Persuasion and Consensus, Quotations and Prayers for Servant Leaders, Activities to Enhance Service Leadership and suggested resources. Both of these are well worth your while as individuals, but even more so for growth of your parish CCW with many quotes of Pope Francis in this Year of Mercy.

Joan Gubbels
Leadership Commission Chair

Continued on page 6

COMMISSION REPORTS

Continued from page 5

COUNCIL BLUFFS REGION

With the DCCW annual convention being held in Council Bluffs this spring, I have been working to involve many of the CCW's within this region.

The USCCB has moved National Vocations Week from January to November. We celebrated the priests, sisters and deacon couples who serve and are retired in the Council Bluffs region with cocktails and dinner on November 11.

We are practicing for our annual Golden Gems Basketball game to help support several local charities. Each year we "gain some new and lose a few." It is great camaraderie.

Joan Gubbels
Council Bluffs Region Chair

POPE FRANCIS ON WOMEN'S ROLE

A Church without women is like the college of the Apostles without Mary. The role of women in the Church is not simply that of maternity, being mothers, but much greater: it is precisely to be the icon of the Virgin, of Our Lady; what helps make the Church grow! But think about it, Our Lady is more important than the Apostles! She is more important! The Church is feminine. She is Church, she is bride, she is mother. But women, in the Church, must not only... I don't know how to say this in Italian... the role of women in the Church must not be limited to being mothers, workers, a limited role... No! It is something else! But the Popes. Paul VI wrote beautifully of women, but I believe that we have much more to do in making explicit this role and charism of women. We can't imagine a Church without women, but women active in the Church, with the distinctive role that they play... I believe that we have not yet come up with a profound theology of womanhood, in the Church. All we say is: they can do this, they can do that, now they are altar servers, now they do the readings, they are in charge of Caritas (Catholic Charities). But there is more! We need to develop a profound theology of womanhood.

(7/28/13, Press Conference)

NATIONAL CONVENTION THIS FALL



The 96th Convention of the National Council of Catholic Women will be held September 7-10 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The convention theme will be **Catholic Women: Instruments of Mercy**.

Join other Catholic women for four days of inspiring workshops, fellowship and celebrating our faith. Helping us learn to do merciful works during this Year of Mercy. Details will soon be available at www.nccw.org. Iowa may be taking a bus.

The National Council of Catholic Women is the voice for all Catholic women, for the unborn, the poor, the marginalized, the sick, and the dying. Your parish dues help NCCW represent women at the United Nations meeting, USCCB (United States Council of Catholic Bishops), WUCWO (World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations), Religious Alliance Against Pornography, Catholic Climate Covenant, Center for Missing and Exploited, Cross Catholic Outreach, and Catholic Relief Services plus educating us on service, spirituality, and leadership.



**How are you doing
with your Corporal
Works of Mercy?**

Find us on the web at
<http://www.desmoinesdccw.org/>

or on Facebook at
<https://www.facebook.com/desmoinesdccw/>

Des Moines Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Presents

Sowers of Hope and Mercy:

Living as Women In the New Evangelization

Saturday, April 30, 2016 | 8:30a.m. - 3p.m.
Queen Apostles – 3304 4th Ave, Council Bluffs, IA 51501

Come learn why women are pivotal to the new evangelization.

Pope Francis proclaimed that women make an indispensable contribution to the Church and to society. **So, what is this distinctive skill set that we women tend to possess that makes us indispensable?** Join us for *Sowers of Hope and Mercy* and you'll find out!

Grab a friend and register today!

The event includes a silent auction, raffle, shopping, continental breakfast, and lunch. **Space is VERY limited!** Please fill out, cut off and mail in the form below. The cost is \$18 per person before April 15. \$20 on site.

For more information, contact Shirley Chamberlain at 402-490-4433 or email at bnsch@fmctc.com



NOTE: Donations accepted – like baby blankets, clothes and diapers for Birthright and Gabriels Corner and Shoebox Project toiletries for domestic abuse shelters.

SPEAKERS:



Kelly Wahlquist is a dynamic Catholic speaker and author. She is the Assistant Director for the Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Catechetical Institute, and founder of WINE.



Barbara Heil is a former Pentecostal minister and now an inspirational Catholic speaker, sharing the richness of faith. She is the founder of "From His Heart Ministries".

--- CUT OFF

EVENT REGISTRATION – Please fill out form, cut off and mail in.

Make checks payable to: Des Moines DCCW **Cost:** \$18 per person

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

Name: _____

email: _____ phone: _____

Address: _____

Friend's Name(s): _____ \$18 x _____ = _____
OF PEOPLE TOTAL COST



Calling All NCCW Members

NCCW is asking Catholic women to perform one million works of mercy from April 3, the Feast of Divine Mercy, to November 20, the feast of Christ the King. Go to www.nccw.org for ideas and the form to fill out monthly and email to mercynccw@gmail.com or mail to Jane Carter, PO Box 4756, Oak Ridge, TN 37831.

Calendar of Events

Dec. 8, 2015-Nov. 20, 2016 Year of Mercy
April 3 Divine Mercy Sunday
April 26 Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel
April 30 DCCW Convention
May 8 Mother's Day
May 13 WUCWO Day
Sept. 7-10 NCCW Convention
Sept. 24-25 Christ Our Life Conference

Martha's Kitchen

Mandarin Orange Cake

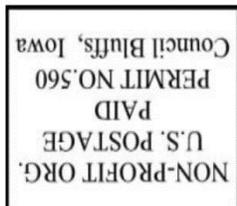
1 yellow cake mix
4 eggs
2/3 cup oil
1 can mandarin oranges, including juice

Mix all together and bake in 9 X 13 pan at 350 for 20-25 minutes.

Frosting

1 package instant vanilla pudding mix
1 small can crushed pineapple
1 large cool whip

Mix together and spread on cooled cake.



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Corpus Christi
3304 4th Ave
Council Bluffs IA 51501