



Winona Diocese Council of Catholic Women

CONNECTING CATHOLIC WOMEN

November 2016



From our President Cindy Meling



Dear Sisters in Christ,

Life takes us all down different paths. I became a live-in grandma for 2 ½ weeks to help my son while my daughter in law was gone to England. I was so blessed to have this time with them. Usually it is just a weekend and time runs out and I must go home. We had fun, interesting conversations, learned to live with each other and learn from each other. The things they talk about and how they think about things are so amazing, they grow up so fast and you seem to miss part of their lives. I wished that I lived closer so I wouldn't miss out on them growing up.

The WDCCW Workshop was a success according to the evaluations that I read. We had 120 people attend and they enjoyed the fact that we had 6 speakers with an assortment of ideas that were presented. Every speaker had a unique way of presenting their topics, which made them interesting and informative to use at CCW meetings at their parishes. I hope those who attended will share their experiences with their parish ladies and invite them to the next WDCCW meeting in their area.

I want to say "THANK YOU" to St. John Vianney parish and the CCW ladies for all the hard work they did in planning. Everything was so organized and well run. I would like to thank everyone individually but I am sure I would forget someone and that would be terrible. The Blue Earth Area CCW ladies and Ruth Sonnek who is the Area President, also helped with the food and not sure if they worked, but THANK YOU also for your help. Ruth helped so much and relieved me of some worries, Thank you.

We are changing the times that the newsletter will be published from a monthly to a quarterly newsletter. It will be e-mailed to you the month of the WDCCW meeting that will be held for information on when the meeting will be. It usually is the second week of the month. The next meeting will be in January but this is just a Board meeting only because of the weather that may be a problem. The next meeting will be in April on a Wednesday the 12th in the Worthington Area. The Leadership/Organization commissions will be planning the speakers for the day.

For me, this is a depressing time of the year. When the harvest is done and the fields plowed, there is no color at all, it seems to be black and white. The

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Mission Statement:

The WDCCW acts to support, empower and educate at Catholic Women of the Diocese in spirituality, leadership and service. The Council unites Catholic organizations of women, diocesan areas and parish affiliates for the purpose of producing activities, providing service and education, fostering spirituality by responding with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world.



sun doesn't seem to be as bright and of course it doesn't stay around that long anymore, so it makes me sad. So what am I going to do about it, just sit around and read a book or watch TV, it doesn't sound like fun either. But you know reading a book about God and watching EWTN or Christian movies doesn't seem like a bad choice. You can get educated on many subjects from all sources of media and most of the time somebody else has a far worse life than you, so maybe it won't be depressing and it will take my mind off of me. For you see being self centered is where we all get into trouble, everything is just for me, where is the Christian attitude when you live in a me world. Start doing something different every week that you have never done before, maybe you have thought of doing something but were afraid to do it, well now is the time. Advent is just around the corner so you can start by inviting people over for meals or taking them out for a meal or shopping or a movie, whatever strikes you. Doing things for people will always lighten up your day and theirs also. Be a happy person instead of depressed.

This is the Day the Lord has made, let us Rejoice and be Glad

International Service Commission

November 2016

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Thank you to Diane Wagner, Manager from the Rochester Medical Missions and Directors Dale and Joyce Grabarkiewicz from Sacred Heart Haiti Missions for bringing trucks to St. John Vianney's Catholic Church on October 8th to collect the hundreds boxes of donated goods from our parishes across the Diocese. Thank you to all who donated the many boxes of items to fill the trucks. A special thank you to the volunteers who helped with the transfer of the boxes to the trucks. Thank you to the ladies of St. John Vianney's Parish for hosting our Workshop. It was a special day for all who attended.



Joyce Grabarkiewicz Co-Director of Sacred Heart Haiti Missions was one of the speakers who spoke at the Workshop. Joyce and her husband Dale have lived in Haiti and have made many trips back. They work with the Bishop and all of his workers. The sisters care for the destitute and dying, aids patients, handicapped children, mentally ill and feed and nourish malnourished children. She spoke of the poverty in Haiti and the need for so much. Haiti has a population of 7 million people in a country as big as the Diocese of Winona. It is one of the poorest

countries in the world. They have not recovered from the earthquake of 2010 and now have more devastation with the hurricane which occurred in early October.

There are many needed items for Haiti but Joyce mentioned several items that they really need. Religious items such: Stations of the Cross, Incense, Crucifixes, Altar Linens and candles. They need bicycles, tricycles, toys, wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, musical instruments, lotions, shampoo and they like Ivory soap. They have shipped several cargo containers this year with one recently in October and will be shipping one in November. It costs \$8000 to ship a cargo container. A cargo container contains approximately \$100,000 worth of goods. They accept monetary donations and 100% goes to Haiti. The items are distributed by the sisters and priests. She is very proud of the Catholic nuns and priests for their love and care for the Haitian people. God Bless you for all the good work you have done this past year for the missions and other charities. The world makes us look toward ourselves, our possessions, our desires. The Gospel invites us to be open to others, to share with the poor.

Pope Francis



POPE’S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR NOVEMBER

Universal: Countries Receiving Refugees

That the countries which take in a great number of displaced persons and refugees may find support for their efforts which show solidarity.



Evangelization: Collaboration of Priests and Laity

That within parishes, priests and lay people may collaborate in service to the community without giving in to the temptation of discouragement.

November 7, 2016 **Connecting Catholic Women**



“The Prostitution and Trafficking of Native Women in Minnesota”

Presented by Christine Stark, writer and women’s rights advocate, and co-author of “Garden of Truth: The Prostitution and Trafficking of Native Women in Minnesota.”

6:30-7:45pm – Rochester Public Library Auditorium – 1st Floor

Co-sponsored by: Greater Rochester Area Dakota Supporters (GRADS), Mission 21, Rochester Public Library and Rochester Franciscans as part of their Human Trafficking Awareness Education Efforts

Keeping Ourselves Christ-Minded During this Season of Advent

Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning ‘arrival’ or ‘approach’. Just as the world waited for 4,000 years for the coming of the Messiah to redeem and save the human race, and restore our relationship with God; we also experience this same longing for the coming of Christ. We long for the coming of Christ into our hearts during Advent and also for His physical return to earth (as He has promised) when He will restore all things to Himself.

Through Advent, we become spiritually connected with God’s whole plan of redemption through Jesus Christ. It can seem easy, at times, to get caught up in the fast-paced, hustle and bustle of shopping and other events; although, there are certain things that we can do to keep our focus on the impending arrival of Christ.

An Advent Wreath is a wonderful tradition and it is especially exciting for children who will look forward to seeing this constant reminder in their home. The Advent Wreath is made up of 4 candles (each representing 1,000 years that the world waited for the birth of our Savior).

The 1st Week – The Prophet’s Candle is purple and symbolizes HOPE

The 2nd Week – The Bethlehem Candle is purple and symbolizes FAITH

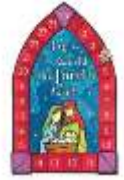
The 3rd Week – The Shepard’s Candle is pink and symbolizes JOY

The 4th Week – The Angel’s Candle is purple and symbolizes PEACE

There is a 5th white “Christ” Candle which is added to the center, symbolizing PURITY, and is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.



Here are some other suggestions for ways to prepare our hearts and minds, and the hearts and minds of our children or grandchildren, during Advent.



- Advent Calendars are especially popular with children. Counting down the days to Christmas helps children to anticipate patiently and to focus on waiting for the Baby Jesus to be born. They can either be purchased or created during a fun craft time with children.
- Nativity Scenes are a classic tradition and are great to display during Advent! To make your display more meaningful, wait to place the Baby Jesus in the manger until Christmas Eve or Day.
 - Bambinelli Sunday takes place on the 3rd Sunday of Advent and is when the priest has all of the families in his parish bring in their Baby Jesus figures from their Nativity Scenes to have them blessed. If your parish doesn't already do this, you could consider asking your parish priest if he would!
 - "Small Sacrifices for the Christ Child" are a way to get children more involved. They can create a Baby Jesus Crèche by adding a piece of straw for each good deed done during Advent. They add up like presents for the newborn King and when the Baby Jesus is placed in the crèche on the straw, the prayers and sacrifices have prepared Him room in our hearts. It is a beautiful visual for children!
- Make the Sundays of Advent into something more special by inviting friends and family over for a nice meal or potluck. Then, use that time to light the candles on the Advent Wreath and join in the prayers for that week together.
- Get a good Advent book and take time for devotional reading daily.
- Adopt special prayers during the Advent season. They are often present in the Advent devotional books. The St. Andrew Christmas Novena is traditionally prayed from the feast of St. Andrew (November 30th) through Christmas Eve. (see the Spirituality report for a copy of this prayer)
- Listen daily to Christmas music, especially music that anticipates Christ's birth.
- Attend your parish Advent penance service which prepares our hearts to receive Christ at Christmas (and always).



CHURCH COMMISSION – SPIRITUALITY

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A *pilgrimage* is a dedicated journey to a sacred place or shrine and recently my youngest daughter and I had the opportunity to accompany my parents on one. At its core, the goal of a pilgrimage is a deeper encounter with the Risen Lord, and I believe that we experienced healing and returned renewed and refreshed. In August, my then two and a half month old daughter and I had the pleasure of accompanying my mother and father on a pilgrimage to three National Shrines in Wisconsin. The pinnacle of our pilgrimage was to celebrate Mass at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help on the Feast of the Assumption of Our Blessed Mother on August 15th. This feast is the largest annual celebration held at this shrine and easily draws a crowd of thousands!



Our first stop was The National Shrine of St. Philomena in the small town of Briggsville, WI, located just northeast of Wisconsin Dells. Construction of the outdoor shrine began on the church grounds of St. Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church in 1949 and was completed September 1st, 1950. The outdoor shrine is a replica of the dungeon where she was kept and tortured for the 40 days before her martyrdom. A six foot and three inch Carrera marble statue of St. Philomena stands in the center of the "dungeon" with her eyes fixed on heaven. Inside the church, to the left of the altar where the Tabernacle is kept, stands a statue of St. Philomena. On the shelf next to her is the 1st Class Relic which was originally obtained in Naples, Italy in 1937. www.saintphilomenashrine.org

Continuing our journey, we came to The National Shrine of St. Joseph, previously located at the St. Norbert Abbey, now located in Old St. Joseph Church. The church and shrine are located on the campus of St. Norbert College in De Pere, WI, a suburb of Green Bay. In 1888, Fr. Joseph Durin became the second pastor of St. Joseph parish which was only established a few decades before. He brought a strong personal devotion to St. Joseph with him and fostered it in his parish and in the diocese. The statue of St. Joseph with the child Jesus in his arms received a solemn blessing by Bishop Katzer at the request of Fr. Durin. He then initiated a weekly novena to St.



Joseph that is still conducted every Wednesday of the year. Located down a corridor off to the side of Old St. Joseph Church, we passed through the Doors of Mercy before entering the shrine. The beautiful statue stands behind a wrought iron gate which is opened in the morning and closed in the evening. A prayer intention book sits on a pedestal next to a votive candle stand. <http://www.snc.edu/parish/shrine.html>



The National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help is located just outside Champion, WI and is the site of the *ONLY* church approved Marian apparitions in the United States. Witnessed by Adele Brise, the three apparitions, which took place in 1859, were deemed “worthy of belief” in 2010. Entering the chapel, we passed through the second set of “Doors of Mercy” on our journey. The main altar inside the chapel stands directly above the site where Our Lady appeared to Adele and identified herself as the Queen of Heaven. The third and final time Our Lady appeared, young Adele asked, “What more can I do, dear Lady?” Mary’s directions were simple, “*Gather the children in this wild country and teach them what they should know for salvation.*” “*But how shall I teach them who know so little myself?*” Adele asked. Mary replied, “*Teach them their catechism, how to sign themselves with the sign of the Cross, and how to approach the sacraments; that is what I wish you to do. Go and fear nothing. I will help you.*” Adele dedicated her entire life to this calling. We were fortunate enough to be present on August 15th, 2016 when the announcement was made that USCCB had officially raised this shrine to the status of National Shrine! Tens of thousands of pilgrims flock to this sacred place each and every year.

<https://www.shrineofourladyofgoodhelp.com/>


The entire pilgrimage was a very moving experience for us all. My mother’s knees have been steadily getting better since and *we all* gained a certain sense of peace. We took all of our special intentions to each shrine, ultimately offering all that we are and all that we have to Jesus through Mary.

Sadly, statistics show that for most of the Catholic faithful, weekly participation at Mass is not a priority. The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) suggests that 23% of all Catholics attend Mass on a weekly basis while only 17% of those born after 1981 attend Mass weekly. <http://cara.georgetown.edu/CARAServices/FRStats/mattend.jpg> CARA also indicates “About one in eight Catholics (12 percent), participate in Reconciliation once a year and an identical proportion do so several times a year. Two percent report that they participate in Reconciliation at least once a month.” <http://cara.georgetown.edu/CARAServices/FRStats/reconciliation.pdf> It seems the engagement of the Church’s sacramental life on the part of the Catholic faithful is seriously lacking.



Our Lady’s message is more urgent now than ever. **PRAY PRAY PRAY!!!** Pray, as she has instructed us, for the conversion of sinners. Take the time to renew and strengthen yourself in your calling by making a pilgrimage of your own. Invite others to go with you as well. You will forever benefit from this experience and will want to plan more journeys of faith in years to come!

*Some special dates and Holy Days to remember for the month of November 2016:

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|---|--|
| 1 st - All Saints Day | 20 th - Our Lord, Jesus Christ, King of the Universe |
| 2 nd - All Souls Day | 21 st - Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary |
| 4 th - First Friday | 24 th - Thanksgiving  |
| 5 th - First Saturday | 27 th - First Sunday of Advent |

8th– ELECTION DAY



LEADERSHIP

TERI ROSENDAHL, VICE PRESIDENT

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Commissions, Commissions, and more Commissions! Why do we need them in our organization? It is all about empowering women with knowledge, spirituality, and service. How do we do that?

Well, I guess we all need to pray first as to what our organization needs and if God wills it we will find people to fill these areas of need. I think the easiest way is to start with the Service Commission where there is always a need to save or do something good for the poor or needy, whether it is local or International. When you get a group together doing mission work there is nothing more rewarding.

One of the biggest mistakes anyone can make is thinking you have to start BIG....just start doing something is the key and always involve a group so you are not doing this alone. The more the merrier is so true! We will be discussing the other commissions in future writings but for now I am starting small! God Love You, Teri Rosendahl

-----*Eleanore Jones*-----

Over 600 women from across our Nation attended the National Council of Catholic Women's (NCCW) convention in Indianapolis, Indiana September 7 -10, 2016. The theme was "Instruments of Mercy." The Mission statement of NCCW is to act to support, empower and educate all Catholic Women in spirituality, leadership and service. The Council unites Catholic organizations of women, diocesan areas and parish affiliates for the purpose of producing activities, providing service and education, fostering spirituality by responding with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world. Eight women from the Winona Diocese and our Spiritual Advisor Msgr. Tom Hargesheimer of Winona, were in attendance. Various Bishops celebrated Mass daily and a rosary was said each day. Being merciful often depends on our willingness to be open to God and to be open to those around us. Speakers were very informative on pertinent issues which are facing our society today.

One speaker, Judy Hehr is a speaker, coach, trainer and radio host and resides in Wisconsin with her husband and 4 children. Her topic was "A slave in her kingdom to a servant in His." Her personal testimony is an opportunity for all to know the infinite love and mercy of our God. It is never too late to become all God has created you to be and that He is faithful to complete the work He has begun in all His children. She stated that "the way in which God has created a message from the mess of my life is nothing short of a miracle. He has made beauty from the ashes and redeemed a life of unworthiness to a spirit filled existence leading souls to His son Jesus and our mother Mary. A life from the highest highs to the lowest lows and search for significance that only God knows. Bankrupt at 20, to a millionaire at 30. Single homeless drug addicted at 22, a healthy mother of 4 at 34. College dropout at 22, a seminary graduate at 42. Scorned, broken almost divorced at 37, sanctified in a thriving marriage at 45. The story of being captive to a life of freedom includes a journey that encourages and inspires all who hear it. Women of all ages and stages of faith and being will fall in love with God and be reminded of the tremendous privilege and responsibility of living lives worthy of the call we have received. My history has truly become my destiny."

The topic: There is HOPE for Me was given by Katarina (Kat) Rosenblatt PhD. She is a survivor of human trafficking and related her personal experience as well as told us of her work with trafficking survivors and with local and federal law enforcement agencies. Her story was compelling, gripping, heart-wrenching, and uplifting as she related how her faith in God carried her through terrible experiences in life. She now exhibits His mercy as she tends to rescued trafficking victims and alerts the general population to the fact that human trafficking is a problem everywhere in the US and is not isolated to big cities or developing nations. The book *Stolen* is the true story of a sex trafficking survivor, Kat herself. There is HOPE, even on the darkest of days.

Minnesota ranks third across the states in trafficking; one reason is Interstate 90 and 94 which cross the state and makes it easy for traffickers.

There were also many other speakers at this convention with great messages.

The beauty of the Masses which were celebrated by Bishops and the Spiritual Advisors were breathtaking. There is nothing that can compare to the glory of God.

Thank you to the WDCCW for sending me to this convention!



Spirituality Commission

Legislative, Anti-Pornography & Respect Life

Eleanore Jones

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November 2016 E-news

The Minnesota Medical Association (MMA) is considering going neutral on Assisted Suicide. This will be introduced to the State Legislatures in 2017.

We need to get on our knees and PRAY as we have never done before for a good outcome in this election.

At the NCCW Convention Katarina Rosenblatt, PhD. Spoke on her years of being trafficked. This last week I went to a talk by Jerome Elam who was trafficked until age 17 when he joined the Marines. Only 1% of children trafficked come out of being trafficked. The average life span of a trafficked victim is 7 years. Trafficking is most prolific in Minneapolis. Boys will stuff it and deal with it and go to use drugs and alcohol. For boys social workers should be female because when being trafficked males are the enforcers. The trafficked victims need to reclaim their dignity. Get involved in legislation on trafficking. "Traffickers should never see the light of Day!" For information you can go to www.traffickinginAmericaTaskForce.org.

I was fortunate to go to the preview of the movie "Voiceless" when it showed in Rochester. It is powerful film and Rev. Paula Ellefson, who does Forty Days for Life was there, and she informed us that the first week of their praying in front of Planned Parenthood they saved 100 lives. This is very encouraging.

When attending our WCCW Workshop on Oct. 8, I heard speakers who were very informative. Andria Rue from MCCL had a power point presentation on Life issues and where candidates stand on life issues. Ann Full talk on Finding Hope: Trusting God's Plan for Our Family in Suffering. She told of her loss through miscarriages and how God helped her husband and her through this grieving time and sent them on another path of child foster parenting. Father Paul Breza spoke on the Polish museum and the Winona Diocese relics which is located in Winona. We were also privileged to have Father Seitz celebrate mass and his homily was a workshop in itself. He spoke on Mary and the role she had and has in our lives. He spoke on 30 Days to Morning Glory and the Consecration of us to Mary. He is willing to speak to anyone anywhere on this. This was a very full day and very informative. I thank God for being a part of the WCCW and all that they do for women in the diocese.

Giving to MCCL: Give to the Max Day is Nov. 17. They have someone to match your giving and this is a good way to give and maximize on it. You may give between now and Nov. 17, whatever amount, and mark it for give to the Max. Day.

Love Life! Respect It! Protect It!

KATHY WILMES

Secretary, WCCW

A Very Special Time

Last month I and seven ladies from our diocese joined Msgr. Tom Hargesheimer in a trip to Indianapolis, Indiana for the annual convention of the National Council of Catholic Women. Minnesota is always well represented at convention time and we were honored to represent the ladies of the diocese at this special event.

Three of us left Winona early on the sixth and traveled by car to our Indianapolis hotel. Our province director, Bev McCarvel, was already there, busy getting ready for our arrival, and after a long trip, we were looking forward to the first day of convention.

Convention is a time of new beginnings as well as a time to remember what our current officers and religious have done for us. The morning of our first day began with Mass which was celebrated by the Spiritual Adviser chairman whose term ended with this event. His wonderful sermon concerning our task as leaders and the work we do made me wish that he could stay longer; as it worked out, he will continue to serve as Spiritual Adviser for the World Union of Catholic Women' Organizations, of which National Council of Catholic Women is a member.

I had the opportunity to be at the Leadership Luncheon that afternoon. I like events such as this because it gives me a wonderful opportunity to network with my council sisters all over the country; many times being a leader is a lonely job and it's great to know that we have great people who are willing to "have our back ". The speaker for the ladies was also a leader who was not afraid to lead using genuine Catholic values; listening to her was very inspiring.

There are many things that are very official about convention. The first day included a Board of Directors meeting that was open to anyone who wanted to attend. On Friday was the business meeting in which we set our resolutions for action for the coming year as well as heard from our commission chairs and executive board. This part of any convention is an exciting time to set our priorities for the coming year as well as to learn what has happened during this past year.

We passed four resolutions in this session. The first concerned Child Abuse which I felt bad about; I did not have a chance to adapt this to include child exploitation which I wanted to do to honor the memory of Jacob Wetterling; I promise to do better next year if I get a chance. The resolutions concerning Human Trafficking and Immigration were debated quite strongly, but each passed.

The resolution that I was most excited about concerned expanding our membership to include high school and college-aged students. This passed after some discussion, giving each diocese and archdiocese the ability to start CCWs at the collegiate level as well as to include our high school girls in our parish organizations and to invite them to area and

diocesan events at a reduced price. Please keep our young people in mind when planning your meetings and make it a point to invite them whenever you can.

The speakers spoke from the heart and touched our hearts with their sincerity and desire to do as the Lord commands. There was at least one speaker each day on topics that ranged from immigration to human trafficking to the qualities of a great leader. The speaker that touched me deeply, however, was a woman who became a committed Catholic Christian after many years of suffering that included drug abuse, homelessness, bankruptcy and, ultimately freedom, happiness, motherhood and a blessed marriage. To listen to the many times that she chose paths that were not in keeping with God's plan for her life and the consequences that followed was a very moving event that had many of us in tears, such as she was shedding as she related her experiences to us.

There were opportunities for Mass and Penance each day. As usually happens at events such as this, we filled the room with song and prayers and listened to great sermons that filled us with the gift of the Holy Spirit that we now take home to share with you.

If you have the opportunity to attend convention, as well as the funds, I do urge you to go. The chance to meet great people and learn great things is one you will never forget.

This is a letter that Gail Buckley, President of the Catholic Leadership Conference received from Donald Trump that he wanted read at the conference. This explains his stand on several issues that are important to us as Catholics.

October 5, 2016

Gail Buckley, President

Catholic Leadership Conference

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Charlotte, NC 28210

Dear Friends:

Unfortunately, my schedule precludes me from meeting and talking with you at the Catholic Leadership Conference today in Denver.

First, I would like to send my warm greetings to the Denver Archbishop Samuel Aquila. In discussions with my Catholic Advisory Group, it is clear Archbishop Aquila's leadership in the Denver Archdiocese has been exemplary, as was the leadership of his predecessor, Archbishop Charles Chaput.

Second, should I be elected President, I look forward to working with these two respected leaders of the Catholic Church in America, their brother bishops, and Congress, on issues of critical importance to the Catholic Church and Catholics.

Catholics in the United States of America are a rich part of our nation's history. The United States was, and is, strengthened through Catholic men, women, priests and religious Sisters, ministering to people, marching in the Civil Rights movement, educating millions of children in Catholic schools, creating respected health care institutions, and in their founding and helping the ongoing growth of the pro-life cause.

I have a message for Catholics: I will be there for you. I will stand with you. I will fight for you. As First Lady, US Senator, Secretary of State, and two-time presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton has been hostile to the core issues and policies of greatest concern to Catholics: life, religious liberty, Supreme Court nominations, affordable and quality healthcare, educational choice and home schooling.

For instance, Hillary Clinton supports forcing The Little Sisters of the Poor who have taken care of the elderly poor since 1839, pay for contraceptives in their health care plan (even though they have never wanted them, never used them and never will), and having the government fine them heavily if they continue to refuse to abide by this onerous mandate.

That is a hostility to religious liberty you will never see in a Trump Administration.

Hillary Clinton’s hostility to the issues of greatest importance to Catholics is made worse by her running mate Senator Tim Kaine.

Once pro-life and against partial birth abortion, Kaine now has a 100% voting record from the National Abortion Rights Action League. Kaine once was for traditional marriage, even saying "it is a uniquely valuable institution that must be preserved", but as of 2013, Kaine no longer supported traditional marriage. And on religious liberty? Shockingly, even Kaine supports forcing the Little Sisters of the Poor to pay for contraceptives in their health care plan, and to have the government fine them heavily if they refuse.

On issues and policies of greatest concern to Catholics, the differences between myself and Hillary Clinton are stark. I will stand with Catholics and fight for you. Hillary Clinton has been openly hostile to these core Catholic issues for a long time, and is only going to be worse with Tim Kaine now following her lead.

On life, I am, and will remain, pro-life. I will defend your religious liberties and the right to fully and freely practice your religion, as individuals, business owners and academic institutions. I will make absolutely certain religious orders like The Little Sisters of Poor are not bullied by the federal government because of their religious beliefs. I will protect and work to expand educational choice, the rights of homeschooling families, and end Common Core. I will repeal and replace Obamacare so you can have better and more affordable health care. I will keep our country and communities safe while respecting the dignity of each human being. I will help Catholic families and workers, and all families and workers, by bringing jobs back to our country where they belong. And I will appoint Justices to the Supreme Court who will strictly interpret the Constitution and not legislate from the bench, like Justice Clarence Thomas and the late and beloved great Catholic thinker and jurist, Justice Antonin Scalia.

We are at a crossroads in our country. Much like 1980. But the stakes are higher now – the highest they have ever been. We have two candidates representing entirely different agendas for our country that will take it in two completely different directions for generations to come. And our direction offers a much brighter future for our beloved country.

Thank you for giving me the time to share my thoughts with you on some of the critical issues facing us today. Please keep me and my family in your prayers.

God bless you and may God bless the United States of America.

Sincerely Yours,
Donald J. Trump



-----**IMPORTANT NOTICE**-----

The e-news is going to a quarterly newsletter. The January issue of the e-news Connecting Catholic Women will be sent out on December 26th.

Cut off dates for	April	articles need to be sent in by Mar. 26
	July	articles need to be sent in by June 26
	October	articles need to be sent in by Sept. 26

Anyone is welcome to contribute articles to this E-news. Please send your submission to wdccw@dow.org. Our President reviews all items and reserves the right to decline them before they are printed.

Fran Berreau
Communications Committee for the WDCCW

