



Winona Diocese Council of Catholic Women

CONNECTING CATHOLIC WOMEN

November 2015

From our President Cindy Meling



The Winona Diocese Council of Catholic Women Convention was a success with over 100 women register for the event. The speakers did a marvelous job of giving us ideas and keeping us thinking about joy in our lives through our faith in God. We had Bishop Harrington celebrating Mass with us. He presented the Bishop's Medal to Harveen Gluf for all the work she has done for the Winona Diocese CCW and the work she does for St. Catherine's in Luverne. She also does open her home to priests to have a home away from home. We are proud for her accomplishments.

Harveen Gluf presented the Seminarian Scholarship for \$2000 to Thomas Riplinger during the Mass. He also helped Bishop Harrington serve the Mass.

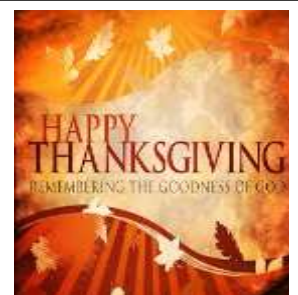
Installation of Officers occurred also during the Mass. The slate of officers is as follows: President-Cindy Meling; Vice President-Teri Rosendahl; Secretary-Kathy Wilmes; and Treasurer-Kitty Kerrins. Chairmen of the different committees are: International-Linda Thesing and Roseann Bueler; Family/Community-Nancy Back; Church-Valerie Ehlenfeldt; Organization-Teri Rosendahl; Legislation/Pornography/Respect Life-Eleanore Jones; Parliamentarian-Katie Kozolik; Historian-Liz Boler; Connecting Catholic Women (e news-newsletter)-Fran Berreau. You will get to meet each of these officers and chairmen as the next two years go forth.

Open my eyes Lord and help me to see. Open my eyes Lord and see what you see.

Wouldn't it be an interesting world if the Lord was with us in the flesh? What would he say about the world today and the problems that are occurring all over the world? What are we as Christians doing to really open our eyes to what is happening in the world and what can we do about it. We are his hands and feet, we need to help the poor, the hungry and those who need his mercy. It is placed in our hands, what are we going to do about it?

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LEADERSHIP COMMISSION

Teri Rosendahl

St. Joseph's Parish, Rushford, MN

Phone: (507) 498-3250 Email: udderdairy@gmail.com

Every Member is on the Membership Committee!

Membership begins with relationship.
Membership is strengthened by diversity.
Membership grows one by one!



#1. Each One Reach One

Every member brings a friend to the next meeting and the attendance doubles---but the membership is unlikely to be diverse!

- If the group welcomes and embraces her, she will come again.
- If the group has fun and a spiritual focus, she may join.
- If the group listens to her ideas and suggestions, she will become ACTIVE.

This is GOOD----but not complete.

#2. Parish Wide Membership Meeting

Announcements and good public relations work attract women who are comfortable jumping into a group---the “joiners”---but might leave the others in the pew!

- If the group welcomes and embraces her, she will come again.
- If the group has service opportunities and community outreach programs, she may join
- If the group listens to her ideas and suggestions, she will become ACTIVE

This is BETTER when added to #1!



#3. Membership Outreach Plan

The membership committee enlists the help of every member in an ongoing effort to bring potential members into the group throughout the year.

- If members of the group issue personal invitations and potential members are accompanied to meetings, everyone will be more comfortable.
- If the group's varied activities and scheduling make membership possible for women of all ages, everyone will feel welcome.
- If the group shares the success of programs and service projects, everyone will want to help.
- If the group is willing to adapt and change in response to new ideas and suggestions, everyone will benefit.

This is BEST when added to #1 and #2!

SPIRITUALITY - CHURCH COMMISSION

Spirituality – Church Commission

Valerie Ehlenfeldt - 507.440.8629

ehlenfeldt.valerie@yahoo.com

P.O. Box 83 Ostrander, MN 55961

Hello Everyone! My name is Valerie Ehlenfeldt, Val for short. I grew up in a large family and am the ninth of eleven children born to William and Eleanore Jones. Yes, that is the same Eleanore Jones whom you are all familiar with. As I was growing up, my mother was always involved in service to the Council of Catholic Women and has served at various levels for many years. I have grown to see and understand just how important this wonderful community of women truly is and I am especially excited to be on board as the new Church Commission Chair.

I grew up in the rural Spring Valley, MN area and moved to Winona, MN in 2004. I first met my husband, Blake, in 2005. We began dating in 2007, and on August 30, 2008 we were married at our parish, the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Winona. We welcomed our first child, Lydia, in 2011, and have since welcomed Vincent (2012), Magdalynn (2014), and are currently awaiting the arrival of our fourth blessing in May of 2016. I am able to be a Stay At Home Mother (SAHM) because my husband works tirelessly to be the sole provider for our growing family. I wouldn't have been able to take on this commission chair if it weren't for his constant love and support either. Thank You Blake! Our life may be a bit chaotic at times, but through the intercession of the Holy Family, we ALWAYS make it through!

There are some special dates and Holy Days that we should remember for the month of November 2015:

1st - All Saints Day

22nd – Our Lord, Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

2nd – All Souls Day

26th – Thanksgiving Day

11th – Veteran’s Day

29th – First Sunday of Advent

21st – Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary



In light of the Feast of All Saints and All Souls this month, a very fitting Saint to reflect on is Saint Gertrude the Great. Gertrude was born on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6th, 1256 in what is now modern day Germany. She entered into a monastery school at the age of 5 and her charge was given to (now Saint) Mechtilde, younger sister of the Abbess of the school. She had become a half-hearted nun at best but that all soon changed. On January 27th, 1281, when Gertrude was only 25, she received the first in a series of visions that continued for the rest of her life. Jesus appeared to her in the form of a marvelous adolescent and said to her “I have come to comfort you and bring you salvation.” After this first vision, she abandoned her worldly studies and devoted herself entirely to the study of scripture, writings of Church Fathers, and theology. Throughout her life, Jesus revealed through apparitions the Infinite Love of His Divine Heart and asked that she spread it among the people with love for the suffering and for sinners. St. Gertrude battled her last illness for a lengthy 5 months, but just as the pain grew, so did her love for Christ! She is believed to have entered the eternal gates of heaven on November 16th or 17th in the early 1300’s. St. Gertrude had a great love and prayed much for the poor souls in purgatory. In one of her visions, Jesus told her that the following prayer would release 1,000 souls from purgatory each time it is said. The prayer is even extended to include LIVING sinners as well!



“ETERNAL FATHER, I OFFER THEE THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD OF THY DIVINE SON, JESUS, IN UNION WITH THE MASSES SAID THROUGHOUT THE WORLD TODAY, FOR ALL THE HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY, FOR SINNERS EVERYWHERE, FOR SINNERS IN THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH, THOSE IN MY OWN HOME AND WITHIN MY FAMILY. AMEN.”

Eye-Opening Fact: If you were to say this prayer just 50 times, 50,000 or a FULL baseball stadium of souls would be in heaven praying for you NOW and FOREVER MORE!!! The Communion of Saints is a precious thing we have, utilize it!

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR NOVEMBER



November

- **Universal:** That we may be open to personal encounter and dialogue with all, even those whose convictions differ from our own.
- **Evangelization:** That pastors of the Church, with profound love for their flocks, may accompany them and enliven their hope.



THE WDCCW AWARDED THOMAS RIPPLINGER, A THIRD YEAR SEMINARIAN AT IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY SEMINARY A \$2000.00 SCHOLARSHIP. THE SCHOLARSHIP WAS GIVEN TO THOMAS AT THE WDCCW CONVENTION ON OCT. 10TH IN AUSTIN, MN



THOMAS IS FROM ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER PARISH IN MANKATO.

Remember to keep all the seminarians in your prayers as they study and complete their formation for the priesthood. The back page of the October Courier contains all the pictures of the IHM seminarians.

Corinne Melvin, Rochester Area

RESPECT LIFE

Eleanore Jones
17434 Co. 14
Spring Valley, MN
507-937-3460 eleanor_j@hotmail.com

On Oct. 23, the House passed a bill through the “reconciliation process” by a 240-189 vote. This means the bill deals exclusively with the budget, and only requires 51 votes to pass in the Senate. The bill is aimed at repealing portions of Obamacare and eliminating \$400 million of federal funding for Planned Parenthood. We know Obama is sure to veto the bill. However the exercise is far from a waste of time. Votes put politicians on the record so voters can be told the truth on Election Day. Vulnerable Senators and Representatives who prey on voter confusion won’t be able to hide. Moreover, votes demonstrate momentum for legislation that could one day become law when Obama is gone.

Did you know that one-third of the House and Senate’s make-up are Catholic. We need to pray



that they live their faith in accordance with the Catholic Church and vote as such.

In the House, Bill HR 3251 is against Biased “Advanced Care Planning” under Medicare. The Obama Administration is proposing to use executive power to revive it as a regulation to take effect 01-01-16.

American taxpayers send millions and millions of dollars to China to subsidize their horrific one-child policy by way of the so-called United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Since taking office, President Obama has showered the UNFPA with over \$227 million dollars of your tax money. And his most recent budget inked in \$35 million of our already stretched tax dollars to go to forced Chinese abortions. Our tax dollars should not be funding abortions here or anywhere else.

If committing assisted suicide is “death with dignity,” then are those who die naturally undignified? The disability rights movement is almost unified in opposing assisted suicide precisely because they know that disabled people are the prime targets of the death movement.

Anti-Pornography

October 25 is WRAP (White Ribbons Against Pornography) Week. Go to endsexualexploitation.org/wrap for more information. They have white ribbons, pins, magnets, bumper stickers, t-shirts and brochures you can purchase and distribute.



Dawn Hawkins, Executive Director of National Center On Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE), shares about her experience Presenting at Whole Women Weekend 2015. She thought she would be teaching women about the realities of pornography and how to help protect children and families, she realized she had a very different crowd. All 8 of the women in one small group discussion shared how pornography had impacted their lives. All these real life examples gave voice to what the research says. There is a public health crises from pornography. It is beyond the capacity of any one person or family to overcome and protect against alone. We must address these issues.

Resources:

- * Find resources to help address these issues at the NCOSE Resource center - <http://endsexualexploitation.org/resources/>
 - * Learn more about the conference host and organizer Dirty Girls Ministries - <http://dirtygirlsministries.com/>
 - * Check back for details about future Whole Women Weekend retreats here - <http://www.wholewomenweekend.com/>
- NCOSE was formerly Morality In Media.

Amnesty International has betrayed the cause of human rights through the looming policy in favor of decriminalizing prostitution. Decriminalizing prostitution is a gift to pimps, sex traffickers, and sex buyers that confers a right to buy and sell other human beings. Such policies would not protect the persons in prostitution, but rather guarantee that their exploitation will continue. NCOSE launched a new campaign, on October 8, entitled **No Amnesty For Pimps** to oppose Amnesty’s policy and to educate the public about how prostitution is an inherently exploitive system that requires abolition, not social sanction. Coalition Against Trafficking In Women (CATW) is also speaking up in opposition to Amnesty. We must continue to expose the seamless connection between all forms of exploitation wherever and whenever we can.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY CONCERNS COMMISSION

Nancy Back

catholic.mom630@gmail.com

[815-275-2360](tel:815-275-2360)

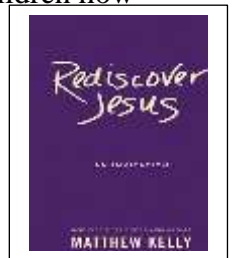
I am Nancy Back, your new Family Concerns chair for the Winona Diocese. I just wanted to tell you a bit about myself to start with. I grew up as the middle child in a family of 11 children. I was married at 21 and moved to IL to raise my family. I was an instant mom, as he had a 5 year old daughter from his previous marriage. We had 3 children together. I became a lay minister in the Rockford Diocese. However, life threw some curve balls at me. I divorced and moved back to MN in 2011. I am a single mom to three teenagers. My stepdaughter was married by a Justice of the Peace and still needs to reconcile it in the Catholic Church. They are expecting their first baby in May, and I hope that God will use that as an opportunity to bring her back. I tell you these things about myself to let you know that I can relate to many of the hardships that face today's families. Please feel free to contact me with any concerns that you would like to see addressed. I am honored to be in this position of service to you.

Now for some things that I would like to make you aware of:

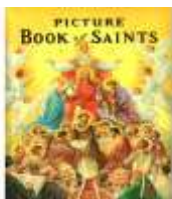


There is the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis in November of 2015. This would be a great opportunity to instill the faith in our youth. Planning to take your family shows your children how important your Catholic faith is to you.

Matthew Kelly has a lot of good information out there. His website, dynamiccatholic.com, has motivating, educational, and interesting information. I had taken my teenagers to his talk when he was in Stewartville, MN. They really enjoyed the talk and said they would see him again. He has a great way of engaging his listeners.



November is a good month to remember Saints and Poor Souls of those who have passed. One way we can do that is reading from a Lives of the Saints book. They have short page stories of the Saints. Incorporating that as a bedtime story after praying the Eternal Rest Prayer would be a powerful way of demonstrating the Communion of Saints.



Prayer: Eternal rest grant unto (insert name of deceased), O Lord, and let Your perpetual light shine upon (him/her/them). May their soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Kathy Wilmes

The joy of Philadelphia—and the Invitation to Spread the Word at Home



I am home now from what could easily be described as a week that I will not easily forget. There were 20,000 pilgrims from 100 different countries; for me this was the best part of my trip, other than the knowledge of 26 people from my own diocese as well as a diocese in New York that I will always take with me wherever I go for the rest of my life.

I had the opportunity to talk with people from Nigeria, Mozambique, Mexico, Vietnam and China. I heard stories of joy as well as struggle from all over the U.S. I saw sisters in full habits; something I hadn't had the opportunity to witness since the 60's. I saw costumes that showed regional and country pride; during the procession at Tuesday's opening liturgy, I saw one priest pointing to the beautiful stoll he used in his native country, bouncing as if to say "Pinch me, I'm actually here!"



If you cherished having your own personal space, this was most definitely not the place to be; thousands of people meant instant crowds and people bumping into each other. And yet, what struck me is the complete lack of frustration and complaint when the occasional bump occurred. Even as evening came, and it seemed like the time to be alone was most acute, a more than occasional bump, followed by an apology, was met with a "that's OK". I have to admit hearing more than occasional frustration during the four-hour wait on Sunday, but there was no chaos; for the most part peace reigned and people strove to help one another, even broadcasting the Mass on their smartphones so people could listen to the Holy Father.

The speakers at the Convention Center were excellent. From Bishop Barron at the beginning to Rick Warren and Cardinal Sean O'Malley at its unofficial completion, were committed to uplifting family and community. In the end, the message was clear; we have taught you, now go out and share what you have learned with others, make life better because you were here.

It was in this high spirit that I returned home, finally arriving on Tuesday. Less than twenty-four hours later, the news of the shooting in Oregon hit the breaking news wires. What broke my heart most about all of this was the news that the victims said to the gunman "Please don't shoot-I have a family". Not only did the gunman fail to heed these pleas, but for many, their lives were either ended or unalterably changed as a result. I kept remembering our Holy Father talking about the importance of family life, his words to Congress and the U.N as well as ourselves. These words were spoken only such a short time ago, yet seemed like ages as we now witness the shattered families as well as a grieving community because of the decisions of one.

I have but one week left in my term as Commissioner of Family and Community Concerns. I pray that we, together, make a pledge to make our nation a more peaceful place, even if times are difficult and the road leads us on a path where others may disagree. I pray that we have the courage to see our struggling brothers and sisters in need and to give them a "hand up". And, most of all, I pray that we unite in our resolve to never put weapons in the hands of those whose purpose is to destroy people and, in so doing, our homes and communities. We have been uplifted by the conference words. Now is the time to roll up our sleeves and make this world a better, safer, more peaceful place.

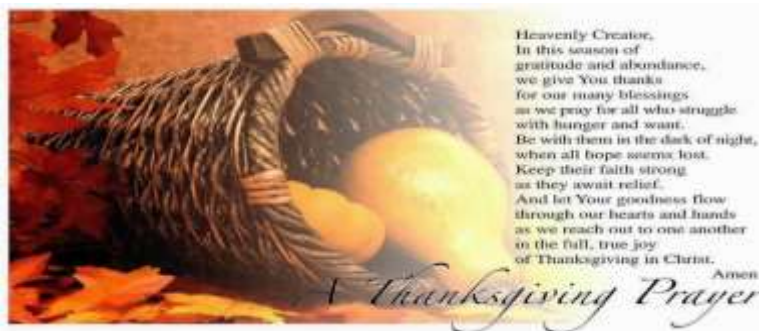


**SERVICE COMMISSION
INTERNATIONAL
Teri Rosendahl**

St. Joseph's Parish, Rushford, MN
Phone: (507) 498-3250 Email: udderdairy@gmail.com



Hello to all Newsletter followers! We had an excellent turnout for the trucks at the convention in AustinRochester Medical and Salvatorians were very happy with what they received for donations. In January we will decide if we will monetarily continue to support the Salvatorians and discontinue trucking there and add the Sacred Heart Haiti Mission which brings their own truck and is also located in Rochester....We have many new ideas coming out for the missions and will introduce Roseann Buehler and Linda Thesing as the co-chairs. Roseann currently holds the International position at LaCrescent and Linda Thesing is on the leadership team also. Thanks to all who helped with all the mission work this past year. Teri Rosendahl



Nov. 2015 Spirituality Commission
Respect Life
Eleanore Jones
eleanore_j@hotmail.com
507-937-3460

From the Silent No More Awareness Campaign the "Healing Pro-Lifers" will be the theme for November. Pro-lifers are part of a counter-cultural movement that faces ridicule, derision and sometimes even violence as we insist on civil rights for the unborn. In November, when the hopeful season of Advent begins, we offer healing resources for those with us on the front lines.

In 2014, Online for Life brought on their first two pro-life pregnancy resource centers. As a result, more than 3313 babies have been verifiably saved from death in the womb since 2010. Again, these aren't just numbers - they are people who now have a hope and a future.

Planned Parenthood (PP) Lies:

- * "Abortion is only 3% of the services PP provides" - but in reality, it accounts for over one-third of PP's annual revenue.
- * "Women will be hurt if their taxpayer funding is cut off" - but more than 13,000 health clinics would be eligible for the \$500,000,000 of your taxpayer dollars PP currently receives. Not a single dime would be taken away from women's healthcare! In fact, more health clinics would offer more services with that money.
- * "The video footage exposing organ harvesting from abortions was doctored" but a forensic analysis came out stating the footage was authentic and showed no evidence of manipulation.

Combating these lies is important because the abortion industry is using every heinous tactic imaginable to cover up their crimes and the horrors of what they do.

Time and time again, PP puts abortion before the victim, sweeping child sex-trafficking and sexual abuse under the rug if it means raking in more blood money through abortion. In multiple clinics across four different states, PP employees willingly offered to help pimps continue to keep children in slavery, giving them access to abortion, birth control, and STD testing - all without notifying law enforcement, as required by law. Many human trafficking victims report having abortions during their time as a sex slave. The majority of these women who get abortions did not want them - they were forced into the abortion by their captors so they could be quickly placed back onto the market. PP keeps that fact quiet, though. Instead of helping victims get to freedom, PP perpetuates human trafficking, inflicting more violence on women and children, and then sends them right back into the hands of their captors.

PP can be replaced: Health clinics outnumber them 20 to 1.

Pope Francis rejected population control as a means of saving the environment, and extended his defense of the preborn to human embryos destroyed during stem cell research: "There is a tendency to justify transgressing all boundaries when experimentation is carried out on living human embryos." "We forget that the inalienable worth of a human being transcends his or her degree of development." He said "[W]hen technology disregards the great ethical principles, it ends up considering any practice whatsoever as licit."

In his recent address in Philadelphia, Pope Francis noted that "various forms of modern tyranny seek to suppress religious freedom, or [.....] try to reduce it to a subculture without right to a voice in the public square." Powerful political and cultural leaders often do not oppose religious freedom outright. Rather, they seek to relegate religion to a private sphere. They claim that religious freedom permits us to worship, but people of faith must shed their religious convictions when they leave the sanctuary and serve the public. This is a severely restrictive understanding of freedom. He has said, "Religious freedom certainly means the right to worship God, individually and in community, as our consciences dictate. But religious liberty, by its nature, transcends places of worship and the private sphere of individuals and families." The Holy Father has repeatedly reminded the public that religious freedom is not merely private. It is a freedom to serve in public, and indeed, in the healthcare setting, a freedom to care. Faith in the Lord who calls us to service forms the bedrock on which many of the Church's greatest contributions to the world have been built. We serve the poor, the vulnerable, and the sick because of our religion, not in spite of it. We cannot compromise the principles on which our institutions are based.

COMING EVENTS

2015 WDCCW AREAS **Schedule of Meetings**

June 14, 2016

Province Conference
Monticello, MN



Anyone is welcome to contribute articles to this E-news. Cutoff date for articles is the 26th of each month. 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