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Spark action





Lent Requires Time

Msgr. Eugene Lozinski
Diocesan Spiritual Advisor to the NUDCCW



Lent 2026 is upon us and we know its purpose. The only question is, how are we going to live in those 40 days? How are we going to use this sacred time to make us better disciples of Jesus? What determination and willingness do we have to deepen our love of Jesus or and allow the love Jesus to completely fill our lives?

It has always seemed to be a question of the use of our time. We all have been given the same God given time, 24 hours a day. Of course, none of us is guaranteed a certain amount of time, perhaps except for this moment, that is in God's hands. God is giving us time this Lent 2026 as a grace and favor to us. Without a plan formed beforehand, our time will undoubtedly be wasted, and we will have lost a valuable opportunity to deepen our friendship with the Lord Jesus. That is why I ask each of us to take stock of our lives, to reflect on what is happening in our relationship with God and to his Holy Church. This may give us a good idea where we need to concentrate our efforts on this Lent. I might suggest there may be more advantages to doing one or two things well rather than trying to do too much and becoming discouraged and frustrated.

Perhaps this Lent is a time to develop a deeper prayer life. Time is one thing that is essential to any prayer life. We simply cannot pray without setting aside time for the Lord. For most of us we have few things that are more precious in our lives than our time. We have been allotted only so much by the Lord, who is the Lord of all time. Would it be a great sacrifice to give up some of that time and devote it totally to the

Lord? Taking time is the beginning of the deepening of our faith.

The "Seven Sisters Apostolate," is a powerful prayer program, where women commit to try to pray an hour for priests while at church. If it isn't possible to be done in church, another location is allowed. The best place to pray is in church, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, but if that is not possible, another location will need to be found and utilized. It is fundamental for our prayer life that we take time to pray, we find a place conducive to prayer and learn the importance of silence. God often speaks to us, not so much in the thunder but in the silent breeze.

This Lent I suggest to more attentive to listening to the Lord. Even if we are unable to participate in daily Mass, resources such as "Word Among Us" or "Magnificat" are available to read and reflect on the sacred scripture readings that the church gives us each day in the daily Mass. We believe that those readings are from the voice of the living of God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Pondering those words will undoubtedly open for us more clearly the will of God in our lives.

It will take some real sacrifice and commitment to remove ourselves from the very fast-paced and noisy society that seems to dominate our time. Lent gives us time to slow down to a pace of joy and focus on God.

May each of you have a happy and fruitful Lent filled with the joy of the Lord.

For more information on "Seven Sister Apostolate" goggle their website at sevensisterapostolate.org.





Believe in the Eucharist

By Sharon Illikman, NUDCCW President

I was blessed to attend the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) Convention August 2025 in Orlando, Florida. The convention theme was “Believe in the Eucharist: Bread, Broken and Shared.”

Roughly 500 women, clergy, and spouses from across the U.S. attended the NCCW Convention, including 10 women from our Diocese. The attendees were inspired by the keynote speakers and Mass homilies throughout the convention. I would like to share with you some of the information that was delivered.

Mary was the first tabernacle of Christ and we, too are tabernacles of Christ because we receive Him in the Eucharist. Even in our broken-ness, He shines through us as we share Him with others through acts of kindness and words of encouragement.

We journey with Mary through the lens of the Eucharist: she believed, she hoped, she received. We can be like Mary by receiving him with faith and trust, “let it be done to me according to your word”; adore like Mary did in the Nativity by looking at the Eucharist with awe and wonder; persevere like Mary by remaining steadfast in faith and “be not afraid.” We are encouraged to cultivate hope by rediscovering the truth of God’s word in the Gospels. We can share hope with others by keeping conversations positive. We are to be hope to others.

The NCCW Commissions and Committees offered interactive sessions and useful tools for us to consider for our affiliate (parish) councils.

The Spirituality Commission held an interactive experience of “Our Lady, Ribbons of Hope,” an exercise in offering prayers to Our Lady for those suffering from mental health issues.

The Leadership Commission led interactive exercise on speaking to others in a loud, distracting environment. We learned that it is important to use good listening and speaking skills in our meetings.

The Service Commission demonstrated utilizing the NCCW website for projects and information for our CCW’s such as “Walking with Moms,” “Prayer Partners,” “Affiliates and Happenings,” and “Holy Women on the Pathway to Canonization.”

The Education Committee held an interactive session on “Mary’s Garden,” an event utilizing all members of council and showing how all are crucial to our memberships and using members as parts of the garden. Some people represented the seeds of the garden and others the water, representing how we can sow the seeds of love in growing our membership. There were many other examples which we hope to share with our Diocese at our convention in April.

The Leadership and Development Team focused on how we can better utilize these commissions by incorporating faith and worship in our meetings. Remember that our leaders are our members and our members are our leaders; and that there are many ways to serve and use our talents.

“Not all can do great things, but we can all do small things with great love” -- St. Teresa of Calcutta.



Left to right:

- Kathy Urban**, St. Anastasia, Hutchinson
- Jackie Doom**, Sts. Peter and Paul, Ivanhoe
- Donna Sanders**, St. Mary’s Cottonwood
- Jane Steffes**, NUDCCW Deanery 2 President, Sts. Peter and Paul, Ivanhoe
- Shirley Nowak**, NUDCCW Parliamentarian, Holy Family, Silver Lake
- Msgr. Eugene Lozinski**, NUDCCW Spiritual Advisor, Holy Cross AFC, New Ulm
- Sharon Illikman**, NUDCCW President, St. Mary’s, New Ulm
- Marianne Schotzko**, St Paul’s, Comfrey
- Arlyce Anderson**, Holy Rosary, N. Mankato
- Barb Mathiowetz**, NCCW Treasurer, St. Aloysius, Olivia

Celebrating

CCW

Sharing Our Stories



Who is NUDCCW?

By Shirley Nowak,
Resource Development Committee

WHO ARE WE? We are a member of NCCW. The first diocesan meeting was held on June 11, 1959 at St. Aloysius Church in Olivia.

BACKGROUND: NCCW was founded at the request of our U.S. bishops in 1920.

PURPOSE: To unite the efforts of Catholic Women throughout the country and serve as a channel through which the Catholic Women of our nations, in harmony with Church teachings, might utilize their unique talents in service to God by service to their fellow man and thus through Christian witnessing win souls to Christ.

GOALS:

- To give Catholic women of the country a common voice and an instrument for united action.
- To ensure proper Catholic representation to national committees and movements.
- To stimulate the work of existing Catholic Organizations to greater service in meeting the needs of the times.

Although its programs have changed through the years to meet shifting needs in society, NCCW faithfully adheres to its original mission—responding with Gospel values to the needs of Church and Society and always keeping prayer as the center of our being.

NCCW's strength resides in parish based Catholic Women who:

- Serve the poor, the elderly and the forgotten,
- Advocate at state and national legislatures,
- Support one another in the various circumstances of their lives
- And join voices in prayer and worship.

Council of Catholic Women Opportunities

By Carolyn Keller, Vice President



Before I joined the New Ulm Diocese Council of Catholic Women Board (NUDCCW), I was unaware of how large the organization of the Council of Catholic Women is. Our parish Council of Catholic Women (CCW) organizations are critical to the functioning of our parishes, but are you aware of how they are a part of a much larger organization? Of course, if you are reading this article, you probably are. Since I joined the board, I have been to Deanery events, Province events, conventions at other diocese, and a national convention. And I met a lot of truly wonderful women that I would never have met had I not joined our diocesan board.

I encourage you to join the leadership of CCW in your parish, your deanery, our diocesan board, become an individual member of NCCW or just volunteer. Organizations can't exist and thrive without people willing to step up and lead. It will expand your world!

Join us for the NUDCCW Convention at St. Michaels in Morgan on April 25th, 2026. Learn more about this great organization of ours and continue to grow in understanding of your faith, the Catholic Church, and what you can do to make this world a better place for your family and your neighbors. Please consider joining us at the Province Conference Friday, June 26, 2026, at the Church of St. Victoria, Victoria, MN. If you are adventurous, the National Convention is being held in Michigan, August 26 – 29 this year. Hope to see you all soon!



REVERENCE LIFE

Respect For All *by Joan Wiering*

The start of 2026 gave us an opportunity to participate in the “March for Life” on Thursday, January 22, 2026 in St Paul. I hope you were able to join others who oppose abortion.

“40 Days for Life” starts February 18 and goes through March 29. Our closest site for this event would be St Cloud. If you are interested in being a prayerful, peaceful presence and would like more information, www.40daysforlife.com or contact Judy at judy4life@meltel.net or call her at 320-453-7592. Please continue to pray for all the people who do witness their love as they walk and pray for life at the St Cloud planned parenthood.

Looming always on the horizon is the “Assisted Suicide Bill” (HF 1930/SF 1813). The “Minnesota Alliance for Ethical Healthcare” states its serious side effects:

-No Mental Health Evaluation Required. Patients are not required to receive a psychological evaluation before the life-ending prescription is written.

-No Witness Required. The current bill has removed that safeguard.

-No Way to Predict an Accurate Prognosis. People who were given the “6 months” prognosis and refused life-ending treatment, often lived years beyond their prognosis.

-No Safeguards for People with Disabilities. The vulnerable may be coerced into a decision that they don’t fully understand.

-No Doctor or Nurse Must be Present. Once you ingest the lethal dose, you are on your own.

-No Family Notification Required. No law requires patients to inform family members.

-No Safeguards against Elder Abuse. This legislation allows a beneficiary of the patient’s estate to be one of the signers on the request for the lethal drugs which leaves room for fraud and coercion against the vulnerable elderly.

-No Conscience Protection for Doctors. Doctors who do not wish to provide assisted suicide face discharge or suspension if they do not refer patients to a doctor who will write the lethal prescription.

This twists the function of the Doctor from “to heal and do no harm” to “expire the patient as soon as they or their beneficiaries, will it.” This could also be based on fear of future discomfort, lack of understanding, or economic concerns.

Just as with abortion history, we are heading down a slippery slope. Protecting our most vulnerable is of the utmost importance. We need everyone to relay their concern by contacting their representatives, Senators, and the Governor.

I remember a quote given in the 1980’s by Fr. Al Ludwig in Alexandria pertaining to abortion. “This generation of young people, as we choose whether they will live or die, will someday, be choosing whether we will live or die.”

Province of St. Paul/Minneapolis Announcement

By Carol Shunkle 2026 Conference Chair

The National Council of Catholic Women Province of St. Paul and Minneapolis, which includes our (Arch)Diocese, will host its biennial conference on Friday, June 26, 2026, at St. Victoria Church, Victoria, MN. The theme for the day is “We Shall be Changed.”

The keynote speaker will be Bishop Daniel Felton of the Duluth Diocese, and the day will feature other engaging speakers on topics such as coming to the Catholic Faith, the American Female Servants of God from our Province, and helps for strengthening your CCW organizations. Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Bernard Hebda of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and Bishop Felton.

Morning refreshments, lunch and time for fellowship will be included, and we will be celebrating the 250th birthday of our nation a few days later. In addition, there will be a gathering the evening before that will include a Rosary in the beautiful Mary Garden of a local winery. St. Victoria is near attractions such as the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Paisley Park and the Chanhassen Dinner Theater.

Consider making it a weekend! Cost of the day is \$65.

Registration and hotel information will be coming soon.

SERVICE



Care 4 Nigeria

By Margaret Wambeke

The generous people of the New Ulm Diocese have shown us what service means. This last year, “Care 4 Nigeria” was able to send three cargo containers to help the community of Onitsha Archdiocese, Nigeria. The three main items in the shipments were agricultural (such as tractors), bicycles, and medical supplies. Any free space was filled in with other types of items that are needed.

In 2026 the plan is to ship a container with vehicles for priests to use. We already have one donated vehicle and would be very appreciative of having other vehicles to fill out the cargo container. All of this takes a large amount of service time and effort to help our neighbors across the globe. To see videos of who are receiving these supplies and see the power of service and goodwill, go to YouTube and type in Care For Nigeria 2025.”

Fr. Cornelius, who oversees this project, has had a change of mailing address. You can reach him at: Fr. Cornelius Ezeiloaku, P.

O. Box 310, Tyler, MN, 56175. His phone number: 320.224.3385 and email address: fadamebeogo@gmail.com. To help cover shipping and other expenses, checks can now be written out to NUDCCW with a note **Care4Nigeria** on the memo line and mailed to Amy Waibel, 1000 North Franklin St., New Ulm, MN 56073.

Lent is upon us and service to our neighbors is certainly good practice anytime. During this Lenten season perhaps, we can focus on carrying the cross of service and sacrifice. Jesus came into this world to serve and save all and He sacrificed His life for us so that we may join Him in the Heavenly Kingdom. Are we willing to sacrifice some of our time, talent, and treasure with our neighbors so we can carry out God’s agenda of love, mercy, service, and forgiveness? Simple acts of kindness, helping with a task, volunteering, spending time at a “Holy Hour,” fasting more than just the required days during Lent, or monetary donations to food shelves are just a few ways to carry the cross of service and sacrifice.



“For the yoke I will give you is easy, and the load I will put on you is light.” Matthew 11:30. May your Lenten season be one of heartfelt service and sacrifice.

How Scholarship Works



Did you know our scholarship program can help defray the registration cost for educational courses, seminars, conventions, and/or workshops. The maximum request amount is \$200 unless you attend the NCCW convention which the registration cost request will not exceed \$350. The scholarship award amounts are dependent on parish CCW donations. The applicants’ parish must support the NUDCCW Scholarship Program and provide a financial donation to be considered. All CCW and parish members who are involved in parish ministries and/or employed at a Catholic educational facility are eligible to apply within the New Ulm Diocese area.

How to Apply

Please reach out to your parish CCW board to obtain a copy of the scholarship program and the application form. The information can also be found on the NUDCCW website at <https://nudccw.org/scholarship-committee>. All applications must be post-marked stamped by March 1 each year to be considered.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:

Jane Imker,
NUDCCW Scholarship Coordinator
Phone: 507-317-2916
Email: jane.imker@gmail.com



SPIRITUALITY

Surrender Novena *By Mary Koralewski*

This month's spirituality newsletter focuses on the "Surrender Novena," a powerful and consoling prayer given to the Servant of God, Don Dolindo Ruotolo. In a world filled with uncertainty, this novena gently draws our hearts back to a place of peace, trust, and abandonment to the loving care of Jesus.

The "Surrender Novena" is a remedy for anxious hearts. It speaks directly to those who feel overwhelmed by family responsibilities, work, health concerns, relationships, or the future. Jesus' words in this novena remind us that worry closes the door to peace, while surrender opens the soul to grace.

Those who pray this novena often experience:

- A deep interior calm rooted in trust
- Freedom from constant fear and overthinking
- Renewed confidence in God's providence
- Strength to carry daily crosses with hope

Jesus reassures the soul throughout the novena that He knows every need and desires to act—but He asks us to place everything

fully into His hands. "O Jesus, I surrender myself to You, take care of everything."

I encourage you to promote this prayer among the women of your parish and within your own families. It is beautiful to pray individually, with your family, or together with others inviting Jesus to truly take care of everything.

You can find the novena by googling "Surrender Novena". <https://catholicexchange.com/the-surrender-novena-let-jesus-take-care-of-everything/>



LEGISLATION



By Paula Curry

A new Minnesota Law which aims to protect vulnerable adults from financial exploitation became effective January 1, 2026. (MN Statute describes vulnerable adults as anyone 18 or older who, because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, cannot fully care for themselves or protect themselves from harm.)

The goal of this new statute is to stop the financial exploitation and scams that are happening increasingly often to our vulnerable adults. Over 15,000 cases of fraud were reported in 2025.

Highlights of the new law:

- Victims and/or their trusted contacts can file a petition with the court to separate the alleged perpetrator from the victim and protect their assets.
- Assets can be secured or transactions reversed if they have already taken place or are in process.
- Previously the only option was to file an emergency conservatorship, and this could often take weeks or months. Now immediate injunctive relief is available.
- Assets can be frozen to stop the fraud while the victim still has access to their money to pay expenses.

According to the Vulnerable Adult Maltreatment Dashboard, reports of vulnerable-adult maltreatment rose 20% from 2021-2024 and financial exploitation allegations increased 22% during this same time. It is estimated that 1/3 of the cases of financial exploitation are perpetrated by someone the victim knows. It could be a family member or known loved one through either misusing the power of attorney or misusing fiduciary responsibility that they must help someone manage their money. Other cases often involve online romance scams and strangers online.

Red flags to watch for include:

- Large or unusual withdrawals
- Checks written to "cash"
- Sudden secrecy around money
- Behavior changes, including fear, confusion, or isolation
- A new "friend" caregiver, or romantic interest influencing financial decisions

Please continue to pray daily for our Legislators, State, Country and the world!

LEADERSHIP



Pro-Life Hero *By Arlene Woelfel*

Mary Haag of Eden Valley, Minnesota, is a member of the Church of Our Lady in Manannah. Mary, a pro-life activist was honored on Monday, August 11, 2025, at the “People of Life” awards held during the “Diocesan Pro Life Leadership Conference” in Arlington, Virginia. The award is for significant contributions and dedication to the pro-life cause and whose efforts have profoundly impacted the promotion of respect for human dignity and the culture of life.

Mary was recognized for her former work over 30 years as a long-term care nurse and for her more than 50 years’ activities as a pro-life advocate. Mary stated that political battles seem overwhelming at times, but she is willing to face these battles head on. Mary is one of several who on the first Friday of the month, go to the State Capitol (when the legislation is in session) from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. and pray for the legal protection needed

for the “right to life” from conception to natural death. Praying in the presence of our government representatives demonstrates their dedication to pro-life causes.

Bishop Zielinski was in attendance and extended his admiration on Judy passion and gentle interacts with many people, honoring each person’s unique dignity bestowed upon them by God from the moment of conception. The Bishop pointed out that as a nurse for decades, Judy accompanied those in long-term care. She saw them as a blessing to society and encouraged them amidst struggles as they neared the end of their earthly journey.

This prestigious award recognizes Catholics who have answered the call outlined by Saint John Paul II in “The Gospel of Life” by dedicating themselves to pro-life activities and promoting respect for the dignity of the human person.

Congratulations Mary!

St. Genevieve CCW, Lake Benton

By Barb Krog

St. Genevieve, Lake Benton is part of “Christ the King” Area Faith Formation. The Council of Catholic Woman (CCW) work every month to create times of fellowship and elevate our worship.

We are involved in the May Crowning, Easter Vigil, and Patriotic Masses. On CCW Sunday, we recognize new families and the newly baptized. Proceeds from the annual “Soup and Sandwich” and sale of 86 donated quilts are given to local charities, pro-life causes and “Care 4 Nigeria.” After Mass Sunday breakfasts and Saturday night potluck suppers promote fellowship. In October, the “Parish Festival” brings us together.



The picture of the lighting of the candles is also Fr. Beschi.

In January, we celebrate St. Genevieve. On the weekend of her feast day, January 3, we helped coordinate the dedication of a new “Grotto of St. Genevieve” in our little white church on top of this Minnesota mountain.

Our parish is blessed with a dedicated Council of Catholic Women

DEANERY SPRING GATHERINGS

Deanery 1

Thursday, March 12
St. Mary’s Church, New Ulm

Speaker:
Deacon Michael - “Freeing Yourself from Perfectionism”

Deanery 2

Tuesday, April 14
Sacred Heart Church, Murdock

Speaker:
Representative from “Safe Avenues” in Willmar

Deanery 3

Saturday, March 21
St. Aloysius Church, Olivia

Speaker:
Fr. Joshua Bot - “The Step to Priesthood”

Celebrating CCW - Sharing Our Stories

Sacred Heart Catholic Church CCW, Murdock

by Judy Hoffer CCW President

Sacred Heart CCW sponsored the Diocesan CCW Service Project, “Care for Nigeria,” during Lent, coordinating collections from the St. Isidore the Farmer Area Faith Community. The AFC includes Sacred Heart Church, St. John’s Church, Appleton, and St. Francis Church, Benson. The shared effort of volunteers from all parishes organized the collections (including bicycles), packed them up, and hauled loads to the New Ulm collection center. Getting to know the energies, fellowship, and

appreciation of Fr. Cornelius is an extremely uplifting pleasure! In addition to donating \$3,000 towards the shipping cost (of \$10,000 per container) to Nigeria, our council donates annually to several other missions.

Sacred Heart CCW sponsors a “Food and Fellowship” social time after Mass. As Mass times rotate 3 times per year, there could be coffee and rolls, brunch, or a light evening meal. In support for San Lucas, we serve Café Juan Ana at CCW functions and funerals.

Our CCW sponsors a fundraiser for San Lucas Toliman towards a specific project such as health care, water for San Lucas, housing, etc. This event includes CCW providing a bake sale, Sacred Heart Mission Ladies donating quilts to sell with Catholic United Financial providing coffee and rolls. These mission projects have been very successful with generous people giving a larger donation in support for San Lucas.

Our grand social time of the year is our “Family Style Turkey Dinner,” with the youth in grades 2-12 as the waiters. This is always a huge success.

In October, my husband Phil and I were fortunate to travel to San Lucas Toliman. We were thrilled to meet with Edy, CCW’s “Unbound Sponsored Child.” We also met Edy’s Mother and

brothers who had driven 3 hours down the mountainside to San Lucas. We gave a lot of presents, and it was wonderful to see them being unwrapped. We walked to a Central Park so the boys could play soccer with the new ball they just received. This was an immensely touching, memorable, happy day together!

Our end of year event in December includes a fun Christmas party and our annual “Dinner for San Lucas” fundraiser.

We are proud of the women parish who willingly share their time talent and treasures. God bless our CCW.



The group picture, left to right: Pam Nibbe, Jody Nomeland, Mary Caraway, Fr. Beschi, Margret Anderson. Seated are Monica Northrop (left) and Deann Schindler.



Celebrating CCW - Sharing Our Stories

Deanery 1 - Fall Gathering

By Tracy Meyer, Deanery 1 President

The Deanery 1 Fall Gathering at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in North Mankato was held Thursday, September 25, 2025. After the celebration of Mass with our Spiritual Advisors, Fr. Sam Perez and Fr. Paul Van de Crommert, the women of Holy Rosary served a wonderful meal to 75 attendees.



The program included two speakers from the “Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus” located in New Ulm. Sr. Cecilia and Sr. Ancilla Joy spoke about “Feminine Genius.” They shared their personal reflection on the value, dignity, and vocation of womanhood.

They also talked about the Charisms of their order. The order lives in imitation of Mary serving as spiritual mother in the Diocesan Church. These two young women were informative, enthusiastic, humorous and very joyful.

It was a wonderful evening of faith and fellowship.



Deanery 2 - Fall Gatherings

By Jane Steffes Deanery 2 President

Deanery 2 held the Fall Gathering on Monday, September 15, 2025, at St. Peter and St. Paul Catholic Church in Ivanhoe. Attendance was around 77 with many Deanery and Diocesan Board members.

The guest speaker was John Drown whose theme was “Prayer Stitches God’s Will into the Fabric of Our Being.” John shared his story of cancer and the power of prayer. A donation of \$100 was given to “First Choice Pregnancy” in Marshall in honor of Mr. Drown. Prior to mass, Jackie Doom from Holy Redeemer, Marshall sang the “Divine Chaplet.” There were many positive comments since many had never heard the “Divine Chaplet” song.

Our Spiritual Advisor, Father John Hayes, gave us a lesson regarding the ceremonial cloth used to cover the chalice. It serves as multiple purposes, including symbolizing the separation between God and humanity, protecting the sacred vessel and being a sign of reverence for the consecrated body and blood of Christ. A veil is used to cover the chalice when it’s carried to and from the altar during the celebration of Mass. It is usually the same color as the vestments. The veil in marriage symbolizes the holiness of God’s presence with the bride.

St. Peter and St. Paul Catholic Church in Ivanhoe is part of the Area Faith Community of “Christ the King.” Their CCW purchased a “Lady of the Prairie” canvas which was displayed this year to shine over the Nativity Scene at Christmas.

“Christ the King” students from Sts. Peter and Paul and from St. John Cantis, performed a “Nativity Program” followed by a roast beef commercial dinner.

Scholarship Helps Teacher Feel More Equipped

By Jane Imker

The NUDCCW “Scholarship Program” has helped many women grow in their faith and Catholic ministry. These scholarships are available for women to attend seminars, conferences, or classes to help them on their Catholic journey. We ask the recipients to send a response as to how the scholarship they were awarded helps them in their ministry. The following is one of those letters:

Hello!

Thank you so much for the CCW Scholarship!

I wanted to share my takeaways from attending the Steubenville Conference. I had never attended one of these conferences and probably would not have been able to afford it if not for the scholarship that I was awarded. I was very much inspired by the atmosphere of Eucharistic Adoration

and have been reflecting about how to enhance the experience for the students at St. Mary’s by perhaps using some of the same music as at the conference. I was also able to grow in my own faith with the different speakers and feel I am more well-equipped to share and discuss faith in my classroom.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity!
Elizabeth Strandberg

Information about the scholarship program and the application are on the website: nudccw.org/scholarship-committee.

Celebrating CCW - Sharing Our Stories

Deanery 3 - Fall Gatherings *By Ruthann Hansen*

Our Deanery 3 Pilgrimage on October 13, 2025, to New Ulm and Sleepy Eye was a tremendous success, with 78 adults and 10 children in attendance.

The day began with Monsignor Lozinski offering inspiring insights on indulgences and pilgrimage, setting a meaningful tone for our journey. Confession times were available at 10:30 a.m. and again at 6:00 p.m. We all enjoyed a delicious catered soup and sandwich lunch at Leifeld Hall.

Throughout the day, we were blessed with rich experiences. The “Handmaids” shared information about their apostolate, Sharon Illikman led us in viewing and learning about our “Lady of the Prairie” painting, and Monsignor Lozinski guided us through the “Way of the Cross” under beautiful sunny skies. Deacon Mike McKeown provided a tour of the Pastoral Center, and at 3:00 p.m., we gathered at the Chancery’s chapel to sing the “Divine Mercy Chaplet,” led by Ronda Mathiowetz and Fr. Jeff Horejsi.

We then traveled to “Schoenstatt on the Lake” in Sleepy Eye, where Tracy Meyer led us in praying the Rosary. The day concluded at the Church of St. Mary in Sleepy Eye, where Chris Heiderscheidt shared the church’s history before we celebrated Mass at 5:30 p.m. with Fr. Nathan Hansen and Fr. Jeff Horejsi.

It was a beautiful and prayerful day, blessed with gorgeous weather and a true spirit of fellowship as we helped one another along the way—signing passports, sharing rides, and offering helping hands. Thank you to all who participated in any way; God’s grace was truly with us! Thank you, Lord Jesus, for such a beautiful day!



WOMEN’S MORNINGS OF REFLECTION
HOSTED BY THE HANDMAIDS

Blessed Among Women:
FINDING FRIENDSHIP WITH THE SAINTS

Breakfast | Talk
Holy Hour | Small Group
Saturdays 9 - 11:30 AM
8:00 AM Mass
& Confessions available



CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY TRINITY- NEW ULM
Sep 6 . Oct 4 . Nov 1 . Dec 6
Jan 3 . Jan 31 . Feb 28 . May 2

To receive text reminders: 

2026 NUDCCW CONVENTION
Grow in God’s Love
His Love Stands Firm Forever
Saturday April 25, 2026
Church of St. Michael • Morgan

Keynote Speaker: Jessica Bartholomew
Founder & Executive Director of ACT United
(Anti Child Trafficking)

Cost: \$40 (before April 13) or \$50

Register with the QR Code or the link:

<https://forms.gle/2ca4fDf6pV5wweP6>





Sharon Illikman
NUDCCW President
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Blessed Is She - blessedishe.net
Council of Catholic Women: New Ulm Diocese CCW
www.nudccw.org
Province CCW
provinceofstpaul-minneapolis.weebly.com
National CCW - www.nccw.org
The Church: Diocese of New Ulm - www.dnu.org
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Catholic Rural Life - www.catholicrurallife.org
Catholic Mobilizing Network - www.catholicmobilizing.org
Society of St. Vincent de Paul - www.ssbpusa.org



CCW Events >>>

Deanery Gathering

*Deanery 1 - March 12
St. Mary's Church, New Ulm*

*Deanery 2 - April 14
Sacred Heart Church, Murdock*

*Deanery 3 - March 21
St. Aloysius Church, Olivia*

**Scholarship donations, applications,
and reimbursements deadline**
March 1, 2026