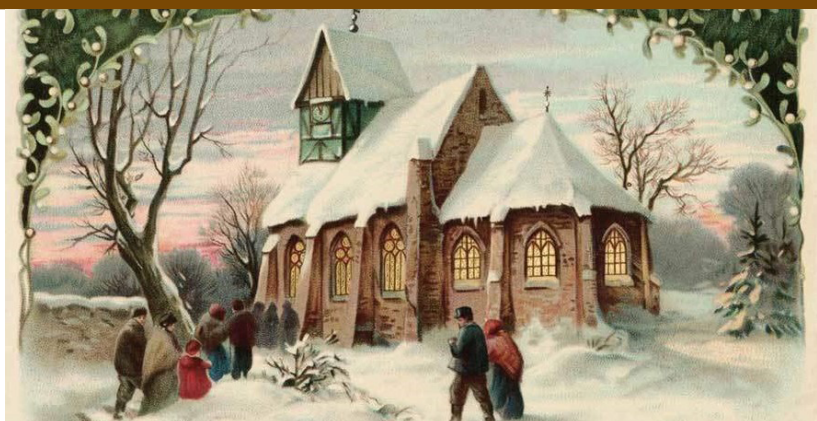




THE CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY Diocese of Amarillo



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National Council of Catholic Women



Patron Saint of the NCCW 5

The story of the Our Lady of Good Counsel image dates to 1467 when pilgrims witnessed a miraculous image descend from the sky in the little town of Genazzano, Italy. The image was accompanied with a beautiful melody and came to rest on the wall of a partially-constructed church to be dedicated to the Mother of God. The painting above is based on this original image, which still hangs in the original church and has stood the test of centuries.

Since that time, the fresco has been said to have been the cause of countless healings and other miracles. In the image, it is said that Mary is pondering the words of the prophet Simeon, that a sword will pierce her heart. Mary looks down at the Christ child, seeming to seek his counsel, but the little Jesus looks up to his mother, with His hand on her heart, directing us to look for counsel and guidance in His Mother.

The National Council of Catholic Women: WHO ARE WE? Women of Prayer and Action: Provide a Common Voice for All Catholic Women, Promote Catholic Values and Principles, Provide greater Service and Have a Greater Impact The National Council of Catholic Women was established on March 4, 1920, under the guidance of John Burke, as an initiative of the Lay Organizations Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference. Burke wrote a letter to the 114 Bishops of the United States and requested that they each send one to three women diocesan representatives. Nearly two hundred women gathered that first weekend, and officially voted on the constitution and the executive committee. The bishops put forth a threefold purpose for this unified group. First, it would give a common voice to all Catholic women in the United States in matters of national welfare and issues of concern to the Church. Secondly, a large, unified, national group would ensure that national committees and national movements would recognize our Catholic values and principles, especially in the areas of religious, moral and general welfare across our country. In addition, the

Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

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What Has The NCCW Accomplished?

- Emphasis was given to the education and formation of Catholic Women so they could exercise their new found civic duties granted them as the “Right to Suffrage” in 1920.
- Under the direction of the National Catholic Welfare Council, the NCCW participated in an inaugural program called Immigrant Aid to assist Catholic immigrants with their relocation experiences.
- Focused on the promotion of Catholic education and the establishment of Parent Teacher Associations, catechetical instruction, and affiliation with university Newman Clubs.
- Created and funded the National Catholic School of Social Services in Washington D.C., now housed at Catholic University of America.
- Endorsed the work and actions of the Children's Bureau and the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor
- Diligently promoted social justice and world peace and the diminution of armaments among all governments of the world.
- Promoted the sanctity of marriage and the threat to the family structure posed by divorce and birth control.
- Affiliated with the International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues now known as World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO).

1945-1969

- Pledged support for the United Nations and its affiliated international organizations.
- Focused on international relations, just peace treaties, human rights and the opposition of genocide.
- Started an International Affairs program and collaborated with the National Catholic Welfare Council's War Relief Services now known as Catholic Relief Services (CRS).
- Endorsed minimum wage , social security and health insurance legislation.
- Promoted the Catholic Press and “healthy reading habits” through the establishment of parish libraries and subscription to diocesan newspapers.
- As a result of Vatican II women began to fill lay ministry roles in the Church. The NCCW established training programs and developed resources to help them fulfill these roles.
- Launched the Military Council of Catholic Women.
- Developed a formal leadership training program known as the Leadership Institute : Fashion Me A Person.

1970-2000

- Commenced working toward an end to abortion and euthanasia.
- Created and implemented the RESPITE program to provide support for caregivers.
- Addressed the issue of domestic violence through education and advocacy programs.
- Collaborated with Catholic Relief Services to establish the Refugee Women Emergency Fund.
- Created and funded Mary's Garden at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

2000—Onward

- Created the Water for Life Fund and Madonna Plan to support the ongoing efforts of Catholic Relief Services .
- Implemented Vocation Purse Club to assist women seeking to enter religious life with their financial obstacles.
- Formation of a mentoring program, Women Embracing Women.
- Implemented and continue to implement new communication strategies, through on-line and digital media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, new databases and updated web presence.
- Worked to end Human Trafficking with affiliated organizations and US Catholic Sisters.
- Established outreach program with children in the Holy Land and students in the USA.
- Established CCW levels for high school and college age women.
- Provided formal program of formation in our faith for members.

- Developed series of mini-retreat resources.
- Established Leadership Training and Development program.
- Members noted more than 2 million spiritual and corporal works of mercy performed during the Jubilee of Mercy year in our Million Works of Mercy Program. A certificate noting this was presented to Pope Francis in April 2017.

The DCCW Comes to the Amarillo Diocese - The Early Years

The Council of Catholic Women, soon to play a familiar part in the lives of the women of the Amarillo Diocese, was called to attention when the Texas Panhandle Register of August 30, 1936, announced that His Excellency, Bishop Robert E. Lucey, had appointed Mrs. J. J. Lane, Amarillo, to serve as president of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, which was to be organized throughout the diocese.

The Register article stated “that organizations of Catholic Women in all parishes are expected to join the council and thus be federated with the National Council of Catholic Women which has its headquarters in Washington, D. C. Representatives of parish, diocesan and state-wide societies will meet regularly in their re-spective districts, and the diocesan officers will hold their quarterly meeting in one of the districts to encourage local initiative. Five standing committees will be formed to direct the work of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Parent-Teacher Associations, Study Clubs, Immigrant Welfare, and Girls’ Welfare. Committee chairmen and other officers will be appointed soon.”

The diocesan council was to operate in four districts, following those of the clergy and being centered in the following towns: Amarillo, Lubbock, Big Spring and San Angelo.

His Excellency, Bishop Lucey, secured the services of Miss Lenna Wilson, field worker from the national staff, who spent part of September 1936 in the Diocese. Large groups of clergy and women attended the organization meetings in Amarillo, Pampa, Big Spring and San Angelo. Miss Wilson explained the history, purpose of the organization, departments, social service school and achievements of the NCCW at each of the meetings. Bishop Lucey who addressed each conference and expressed the need for a council of women. He stated that such an organization was not only some help to the lay people but to him, since it brought the women in closer contact for the discussion of problems of local and spiritual welfare. Chief activities, he said, would be study clubs, vacation schools, girls’ welfare work and lay retreats.

The organization effort was climaxed by a banquet held in the Amarillo Country Club the evening of September 24, 1936, with more than 200 women delegates, and their friends attending, and with many of the diocesan clergy and his Excellency, Bishop Lucey, present.

A National Convention attended by the Amarillo Council was held in Galveston, Texas, as one of the youngest members of the NCCW family to take part.



Bishop Robert E. Lucey,

They had been organized September 24, 1936 with 16 parish affiliations represented out of 23 parishes affiliated. Mrs J. J. Lane addressed the convention as President of the Amarillo Diocese. “This, our Centennial Year is of special interest to us and with Catholic History and Tradition as a background the women of this state, whether native or by adoption, rejoice in its celebration. Out in Northwest Texas, from the windswept plains to the more verdant hills and valleys, we are awakening to the beauty and sublimity of Catholic Women’s participation in the mind of the Church. With our successful beginning, we pledge to stand firmly, and to cultivate and develop all that is fine and inspira-

At the AMARILLO DISTRICT MEETING of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, held at the Herring Hotel the photographer appeared during the luncheon hour. 1941



The Women's Retreat held at St. Mary's academy last year drew the crowd shown in this picture. With the women is shown the Rev. Leo P. Burns, S.J., the 1940 retreat-naster. The 1941 spiritual exercises will be conducted at St. Mary's from Aug. 17 to 21.—(Photo by Edwards.)



tional in life, bring into the sunshine, the good seeds of idealism, Truth and Principle, that they may mature and blossom forth, radiate the Joyous Philosophy of Catholic living, Beautiful and Mystic as the Dawn, Magnificent and Vivid as a Prairie Sunset. And may I here pay tribute to his Excellency Bishop Lucey, whose inspiration and zeal has led us forward to the realization of our part in the realm of the Catholic Woman's World. And, to the faith and courage of the women of the Amarillo Diocese who undaunted by five years of drought, floods and the universal depression, listened to and answered the call of their shepherd." -Mrs. J. J. Lane. In the early years the Bishop was also the Moderator, In the Fall of 1937, The Amarillo Diocese Council of Catholic Women was officially organized and became affiliated with National Council Although a number of priests were reluctant to accept changes and some of the women were wedded to altar societies, the council had tremendous growth. At a Diocesan Convention just 3 years after it was formed, Bishop Lucey congratulated the women on their progress and said they were as well organized as most were after ten years growth. The year following, he organization of the Council, His Excellency set up a committee of study clubs. In 1939 Study Club enrollment in the Amarillo District 767. Later, when the committee system of NCCW was more clearly understood, the committee was known as Religious Discussion Clubs and functioned under the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. Bishop Lucey made it possible at this time for retreats to be conducted for the laity, the first one in Amarillo with about 40 women in attendance. In 1939, Clean Literature was discussed across the country to clean up the newsstands, drug stores, etc. This drive was under the sponsorship of the National Council of Catholic Women. Youth of the Diocese were organized and called the Catholic Youth Organization or CYO. The CYO was a very active group and accomplished a great deal before WWII curtailed its activities. Bishop Robert E. Lucey then introduced social action. During the war years, efforts centered on service both at home and overseas. Service flags, USC efforts, correspondence, sending packages and later sending clothing, etc., to war torn countries. Tons of supplies were sent, DCCW worked through committees-reporting at meetings, giving and receiving ideas and taking them back to our parishes. These were Public Relations, Libraries and Literature, Youth Spiritual Development and others added through the years to as many as 18 committees. In 1941, Bishop Lucey was chosen to head the Province of San Antonio due to the death of Arch-bishop Drossaerts. A gala banquet was held to bid Bishop Lucey God's speed and although we rejoiced in knowing that we would still be under his jurisdiction as part of the Province of San Antonio, we said goodbye with regret.

Bishop Laurence Fitzsimon was then assigned to Amarillo in 1941. During his tenure we all became more aware of the two cultures in our diocese as many Hispanics were coming to this area. The third Bishop to be installed, he was a native Texan, born in San Antonio. He was consecrated Bishop there on October 22 just prior to his installation on November 5, 1941, as Bishop of Amarillo. A little more than 30 days after he arrived in Amarillo came the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Shortly, 15 military bases were established in this diocese. Bishop Fitzsimon urged the laity to work in the



USC and Red Cross or in any way to help young service men who were far from home. The most worthwhile projects undertaken were arranging retreats for service men. In this endeavor the Bishop asked the help of Amarillo DCCW. Retreats were financed with the help of women's parish organizations and held at all 15 military bases. The war effort of the women in this diocese was tremendous. After the war, they welcomed 'displaced' persons and helped them to become integrated into parish and community life. All the while performing their duties on the various committees.

In all, 50 buildings were erected during the time Bishop Fitzsimon administered the diocese. The roots of Catholicism were now deep in the wide-open plains of Texas. The Holy Year took place in 1956. With the Family of the Year named and also the Mother of the Year. 1954 was the year named the Marian Year. Modesty in dress was stressed to all youth. About this time, we began hearing about the "Lay." 1954 was the Marian Year with its theme "Keeping Practices of the Marian Year in Existence," A list of women's pattern numbers published in the Register was found of dresses recommended as being modest.

Diocesan Rural Life meetings began and the God, Home and Country award recognizing outstanding youth sponsored and assisted by DCCW rural Life. Catholic Relief Services became a partner with NCCW.

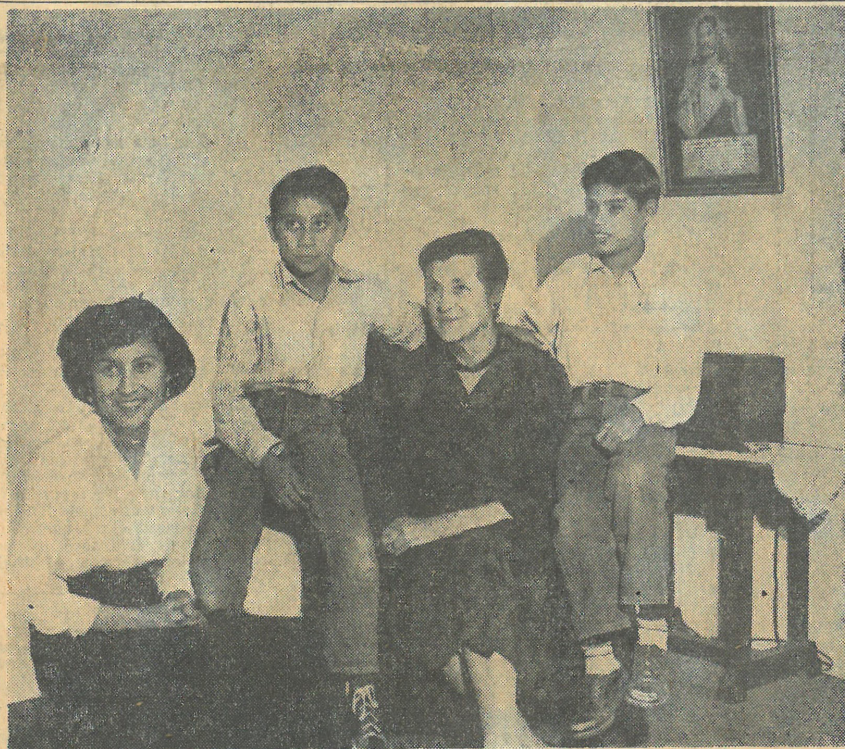
Bishop FitzSimon continued his strenuous Episcopal duties - visiting, planning, and building - until he suffered a stroke. He was hospitalized for many months. He was finally able to attend to some of his duties but not a full schedule. He was given an auxiliary in 1956. The Third Bishop of Amarillo served the Diocese for almost 17 years. His work came to an end on July 4, 1958.

Now We Want Your Blood!
We do, literally! The Catholic women's organizations that are affiliates of the National Council of Catholic Women are urged to co-operate fully in the "National Blood Program" to provide for the total blood needs of the nation, both military and civilian.



'We want your blood'

'Mother of the Year'



MEET MRS. JOSEPH HYLAND of Holy Family parish in Nazareth—with Frances, Refugio, and Felix Escalera. See the story about West Texas' Catholic "Mother of the Year" by Mrs. C. H. Mihm below.—(Register photo)

Mrs. Hyland of Nazareth, Parent of 15, Is Chosen 'Mother of Year' by DCCW

By Mrs. C. H. Mihm
Mrs. Joseph E. Hyland of Nazareth, the mother of 15 children, one of whom is a diocesan priest, one a lay brother, and three nuns, has been named "Catholic Mother of the Year" by the Amarillo Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

Selected from nominees throughout the diocese, in a project to inspire high ideals of motherhood and to increase interest in religious vocations in the diocese, Mrs. Hyland's record will be a stimulant to all women devoted to the upbringing of children.

The 70-year-old member of Holy Family parish in Nazareth, of which the Very Rev. Peter Morsch is pastor, has 13 children living. Two daughters died in childhood, one in 1917 and one in 1923. Her husband died on Feb. 13, 1949.

The Rev. Fredric Hyland, pastor of St. Philip's church in Pep, is Mrs. Hyland's son. Brother Gerald Hyland, S.M., another son, is at Maryhurst in Kirkwood, Mo.

Her three daughters who are Benedictine nuns are teachers. They are Sister M. Roberta, Ft. Smith, Ark.; Sister M. de Chantal, Little Rock, Ark.; and Sister M. Cabrini, Atchison, Kans.

Amarillo air base is the temporary home of one son, Patrick,

who is a member of the U. S. air force.

Other sons are G. S. Hyland, Grand Prairie; and B. J. Hyland, Nazareth.

Mrs. Paul Tingle is a daughter married to an engineer at Ft. Worth. The other girls are married to men engaged in farming: Mrs. Anton Koster, Amarillo; Mrs. Mark Homan, Arcadia, O.; and Mrs. Charles Braddock and Mrs. James Schwaller, Nazareth.

Nine of the Hylands have completed college educations. Two of the girls are registered nurses. Four of the boys and two of the girls served in the armed forces.

This mother of 15 (who wishes "I had 20") is not alone in her little green house across the road from Nazareth's Holy Family church. Nowadays she has three "part-time children" who live with her from Monday through Friday each week to attend school in Nazareth. On week ends they go home to their parents, who live 12 miles away and

could not transport them to Nazareth daily.

Mrs. Hyland's first daughter in religion, Sister Roberta, did the oil painting of the Sacred Heart, which is seen in the picture that accompanies this story. She painted it 25 years ago. The fifth member of the family in religion, Brother Gerald, also is a painter and a sculptor.

Asked for advice to Catholic mothers, Mrs. Hyland replied: "We say the Rosary daily. Mothers should say the Rosary just as often as they can."

Mrs. M. F. Roche of Pampa, diocesan chairman of the committee on family life and parent education, directed the "Catholic Mother of the Year" project. The final decision was made by the Most Rev. Laurence J. Fitz-Simon, Bishop of Amarillo.

Mrs. Roche comments: "There were so many nominations sent in with such outstanding examples of Christian motherhood that it was impossible to choose those deserving honorable mention.

"Our choice is such that it may serve to bring out the purpose of this project—to stimulate Catholic mothers to do God's will and His work, and to foster religious vocations in Christian homes—more than any words could do."

SECRET OF SUCCESS

"Have the family say the Rosary every day. Our Blessed Mother will do the rest," says Mrs. Joseph E. Hyland of Nazareth.

Above is my paternal grandmother. sg

The DCCW 25Years



Attend DCCW Convention

Archbishop Robert E. Lucey of San Antonio, left, a former Bishop of the Amarillo Diocese; Mrs. J. E. Healy of Odessa, president of the DCCW; Mrs. P. L. Bottoms of Amarillo, a past president; and Bishop John L. Morkovsky exchange comments at the 25th

annual convention of the Diocesan Council Catholic Women held in Lubbock Oct. Archbishop Lucey was Bishop of the Amarillo Diocese when the diocesan council was organized. — (Photo by Manicapelli Studio)

He departed this life truly a 'beloved bishop' by all who knew him.

Msgr. John R. Morkovsky of San Antonio had come to Amarillo to share the burden of the diocese. He was in-stalled Auxiliary Bishop of Amarillo in Sacred Heart Cathedral February 22, 1956. He served as Auxiliary Bishop for two years, and on the death of Bishop FitzSimon, he was ordained Bishop of the Diocese. He was keenly aware of the need for Catholic Education. He encouraged the building of Catholic Schools with attached gymnasiums taking precedence over a church if a decision had to be made. The gym served as a church until financial problems were overcome. As many thousands of people were coming from Mexico and Catholic Faith was the heritage, they held most dear, the Bishop had in recent years created the committee for the Spanish speaking. To strengthen religious and family life for all Catholics, he promoted the Cursillo Movement, "Little Courses in Christianity." Bishop Morkovsky worked on the organizational phase. More workshops were introduced, and reports were minimized. Pat Poundstone began writing a newsletter for affiliates entitled NOW (News of the Organization of women). This was an invaluable tool for the women. Bishop Morkovsky was named Coadjutor - Bishop of the diocese of Houston - Galveston in 1963 to assist Bishop Nold who was in failing health. He left Amarillo with regret but went on to his new post to help Bishop Nold in his tremendous work. On November 3, 1961, the diocese was divided with the establishment of San Angelo Diocese.

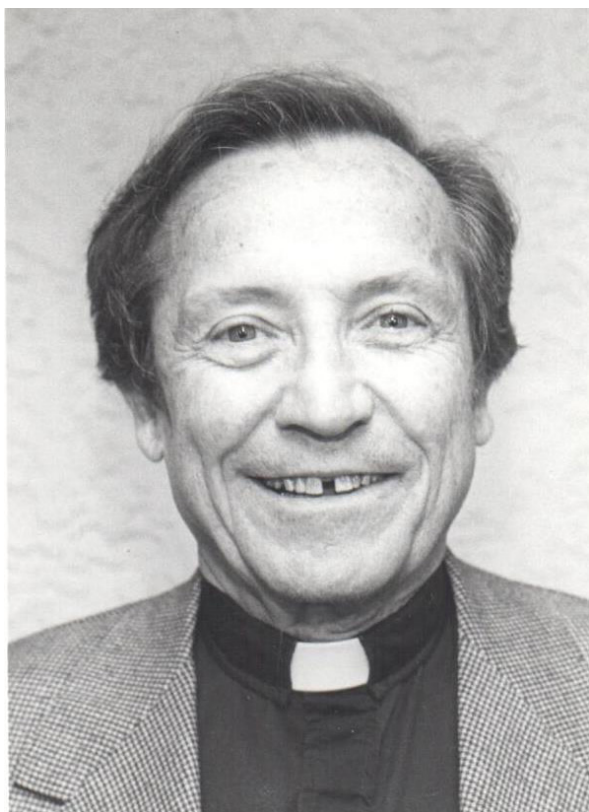


Bishop John R. Morkovsky

Msgr. Francis Smyer became Moderator of the Amarillo DCCW. He always called the ladies 'his girls' and urged them to 'hang in there.' In all the years of DCCW we have had but three Diocesan Moderators. Fr. Thomas Drury, who was moved to San Antonio in 1961 and Msgr. Francis Smyer who inherited us and became DCCW Moderator. Msgr. Smyer retired due to illness in 2006 when Msgr. Rex Nicholl became our Moderator. Msgr. Smyer died on July 12, 2007



Rev. Thomas J. Drury



Msgr. Francis Smyer was the DCCW moderator from 1960 to 2006. He always called the ladies "his girls."

In 1962, Bishop Laurence DeFalco became our leader and remained so for the next 16 years. He was installed Bishop of the Diocese on June 13 by Archbishop Lucey of San Antonio. He was a late bloomer for us since the first years he was in Rome with the Second Vatican council at the time of our Fall convention. When he returned, DCCW helped to implement the works of the II Vatican Council. Most of us knew him and loved him and remembered the accomplishments while we worked together.



Spring Meeting Plans

Discussing final arrangements for the spring meeting of the Amarillo deanery, Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, are, from the left (seated), Mrs. Hal G. Riddle, president, and Mrs. Earl Hill, secretary, and (standing), Mrs. Curtis Ellison, historian and treasurer, and Mrs. John Horgan, vice president and program chairman. The meeting will be held Wednesday, April 4, in Blessed Martin mission, Amarillo.



Leadership Training

Present at a leadership training institute at St. Laurence School, Amarillo, were, seated, Mrs. R. E. Luken, secretary; Mrs. Jeff Henderson, vice president; Mrs. C. H. Mihm, conductor; and Mrs. Walter Kale, president; standing, Mrs. Jerry Melabir, parliamentarian; Mrs. Gerald Keller, auditor; and Mrs. Haskell, Spears, historian.

In January 1962, Rev. Thomas J. Drury was consecrated a Bishop of the newly established Diocese of San Angelo. He was consecrated by Archbishop Lucey of an San Antonio, who had ordained him a priest. Msgr. Drury was the first priest of the Amarillo Diocese to become a Bishop. He had been or first DCCW Moderator. Recognition of woman of the Year began in 1962-63. Beginning in 1963, Leadership Institutes were

held annually. "Through the years, NCCW has provided a medium through which the Catholic women may speak and act as a unit when the Church or country demands such expression. When we were first organized, our programs were outlined by the Bishop and the Moderators. We have learned to recognize the needs for the Church and the ties and make our own plan of work, conventions, general assemblies, Province Meetings and publications: Our Lady of Good Council 'Monthly Message,' 'Word and People.' Council Contacts has been for many years a regular feature in the Panhandle, established July 1936. An annual study week of the Southwest Liturgical Conference addressed Church - Ministry - Service. Women's Outreach to Women and WICS began. In 1967, Committees were not called Commissions. Bishop DeFalco asked that the DCCW elect eight delegates to serve along with eight men as part of the steering committee for the establishment of a Diocesan Pastoral Council. Bishop De Falco was very much in favor of parish councils, particularly elected in a National capacity on the Rural committee and International respectively. They were Mrs. M. F. Roche, Mrs. J. J. Berg and Mrs. Edith Haiduk. Mrs. Haiduk also served as third Vice President of NCCW.

Msgr. Smyer said he was delighted for Msgr. Matthiesen to be present at a DCCW Board Meeting in January 1980, stating "this could be an education for him." Msgr. Matthiesen asked the women to "go easy with the new Bishop and make him feel welcome, whoever the new Bishop might be."

He also told the ladies "DCCW needs a bishop. Without a bishop there would be no DCCW." The new Bishop turned out to be Msgr. Matthiesen. He was ordained Bishop in 1980, a priest many of us had known for many years. Important issues addressed were Right to Life, Drug Abuse, Child Abuse, the Elderly, Safety and the International Year of Woman. Thousands of women traveled from all over the US to Houston, Texas to protest women's right to choose abortion. DCCW Women all the while remembered the goals of Christian unit and self-sanctification. A gathering of church women United and the Week of Prayer for Christian unity took place each January. In the 1980's the Amarillo Agency for Women was established



and the Annual Walk for Life each January 22. Publications now include "Catholic Woman Magazine," "Bulletin Board for Commission Chairs," "FYIs" and "Blue Books" from the NCCW. The Bishop was outstanding in addressing problems related to nuclear age. Years later, after his retirement, Bishop Matthiesen received the Peace Award

for his opposition to nuclear armament. At age 88, he was given the Teacher of Peace award from PAX Christi USA which promotes non-violence disarmament and human rights. He retired as Bishop Emeritus in 1997 due to his age and health., but remained active with his writings, etc. until his death March 22, 2010. On March 29, 1983, the Diocese of Lubbock. During the 1980's, areas of work included encouraging high blood pressure and breast cancer testing, child immunizations, parish outreach program, battered women, child abuse and the International Year of the Child. Baby layettes for the Pope's storehouse were collected Rose lapel pins were distributed and English and Spanish workshops were presented at conventions. Listings for abortion Alternatives were listed in phone books and they continue to be. Respite care training began. Farmer Masses were held in four Deaneries. Constitution and By-laws were revised and updated in October 1956, October 1967, April 1978, June 1983 and October 1985. Renew began in the Diocese in January 1987 with five to six weeks sessions progressing through 1989. Groups meeting in homes processed through sharing, caring, and praying for the Renewal of the face of the earth. Stewardship of all natural resources' resolution was composed by the Rural Life committee.





Meeting the First Lady

Margaret Mealey, left, executive director of the National Council of Catholic Women, introduces NCCW President Mrs. John D. Shields, center, Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson at a White House reception. Mrs. Shields presented Mrs. Johnson a copy of the NCCW board's statement calling for effective crime prevention measures.



Woman of the Year

Woman of the Year — Mrs. Robert Greener was named Woman of the Year and is presented the award by the Most Rev. Lawrence DeFalco, Bishop of the Amarillo Diocese. The award was made during a banquet for the 33rd annual convention of the Amarillo Diocesan Council of Catholic Women when 200 were on hand.

Mrs. Greener

1986 the 50th Anniversary of DCCW was celebrated at Pampa, Texas at St. Vincent de Paul Parish. The real gratification, the satisfaction, the growth,

the maturity has come through the programs and works that we have followed through the years. All of our efforts at helping the many causes we have funded could never have been accomplished as well except for our annual silent auctions. These began in 1988 and are ongoing. Before that time, we were subsidized by the Diocese. For a time before silent auctions, several items would be auctioned. Soon, that was not sufficient. Seminary Burses were underway. There was strong opposition to pornography in all media forms. The Prison Ministry began for the Amarillo Women's Prison. A DCCW effort was the Clothesline Project for women prisoners to express themselves through t-shirt messages and the violence they had experience. DCCW was asked for 25 dozen cookies for the Sunday each month to be used for open visitation hours of prisoners with their families. Mary's Garden was built on the grounds of the National Cathedral in Washington with donations from DCCW members across the Nation.



Works of Peace continue to address the needs of poor women and children around the world, through the Madonna Plan, (Help a child and Refugee Women Emergency Fund). Workshops on Building Membership, Catholic Conscience, Legislative Issues and the Eucharist were given. Rosary vigils outside Planned Parenthood were held weekly. Four

Planned Parenthood offices were eventually closed down. This effort is ongoing.



Bishop John W. Yanta

Bishop John W. Yanta was consecrated our 7th Bishop on March 7, 1997, at St. Thomas the apostle Church. He is known throughout the US as one of the most passionately Pro-Life Bishops in the Nation. He was in great demand as a speaker and spiritual strategic director of Pro-Life bishops in America. The Bishop was director of "Today's Catholic" from 1981 to 1983 and founder and first executive director of Catholic Television in San Antonio. The first Province Meeting of the Province of San Antonio was held in Amarillo in 2000 with the theme "Open Wide the Doors." One hundred eighty-two members attended from around the state and Kay Laverne Redden, a National Council President.

The Texas Panhandle Partnership in solidarity with Honduras began in response to the terrible effects of Hurricane Mitch in 1998. Scholarships for school children, uniforms, adoptions and the building of huts took place assisting the work begun through Sr. Ann Miller and Fr. Mi-

chael Colwell. One-thousand-gallon bags of school supplies and personal hygiene items were collected for children by the DCCW members. In 2000, a Year of Special Grace was proclaimed throughout the Diocese. Three Pilgrim Churches were designated for people to visit on pilgrimage. The Jubilee Day for Women was observed on March 25, 2000, the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord. Ladies were asked to commit themselves to Pope John Paul II's Jubilee pledge for "Charity, Justice, and Peace" to honor and remember all women for their contribution to society and the church and to reflect with on challenges of the new century. Twenty-four delegates for the Diocese along with Msgr. Rex Nicholl attended the National Convention in Tennessee. The Work of Human Hands program was introduced following the National Convention in Wisconsin. Two thousand dollars in items ordered for third world countries were all sold at our Diocesan Convention in 2000. This work is ongoing as is the Water for Life Pitcher through CRS bringing water wells to third world countries. Catechists of the Good Shepherd began and was taught in English and Spanish. This is also ongoing. 2001 theme was "Women, Treasures of the Church." Children's vitamins were collected by members for Honduras. Our ancestors were also Treasures and should be used as examples of how we must encourage and support the faith in our families. Msgr. Waldow, Amarillo Deanery Moderator gave a presentation on "Women: Authority and Power in the Church." In 2001, the 75th Jubilee Celebration of our Diocese began with Ascension Mass celebrated in Palo Duro Canyon. 750 attended the liturgy and dinner. Each deanery contributed and helped serve the meal. Mass was scheduled to be celebrated in the Grand Plaza of the Civic Center on August 25, 2001, and a Eucharistic Congress closed the celebration August 24, 2002.



Bishops attending the 75th Jubilee Celebration

Msgr. Smyer Activity Center was dedicated on October 19, 2002. Msgr. Smyer referred to DCCW members as spiritual pillars in our church. Stations of the Cross walkways were donated to the DeFalco Retreat Center by the four deaneries. Appliances were given to young people leaving Foster Care and going into college or the workforce. DCCW gave a helping hand to Catholic Family Services caring for refugees from Hurricanes Katrina and

Rita. Daily Rosaries, Masses and Eucharistic Adoration were held in the diocese for the rights of the unborn. On September 27, 2004, Linda Doerfler of our Diocese was named director of the Province of San Antonio. During this time monies were raised by DCCW members to help with purifying water for Tsunami victims in Sri Lanka, Indonesia and India.



Cardinal Gregory praises National Council of Catholic Women for steadfast witness of faith in challenging times



2011 DCCW Woman of the Year , Teresa Sarzynski at the 75th Fall Convention on Oct 2011 at St. John's Borger, TX.



2014 Convention



Linda Doerfler named woman of the year in 2009



Amarillo members at the National Council of Catholic Women 2015 Annual Convention, Orrlando, Florida



South Deanery President Ventura Ramos with Monica Ramirez from the U.S Dept of Justice at the immigration conference in Salt Lake.



Bishop Patrick Zurek was installed as our New Bishop on February 22, 2008. Bishop Yanta was retired and named Bishop Emeritus. Gift certificates are now being given to new priests and Permanent Deacons. Why Catholic is the current focus. Celebration of the Liturgy at 5:00 pm began the 73rd Annual fall Convention at St. Thomas Parish in Amarillo. Bishop Zurek, main celebrant and homilist beautifully brought together the convention theme of "The Church Moving Forward with Faith and Joy" and the message of preparation for the Diocesan Assembly of 2009 - Moving Forward with Faith, Joy and Unity. - Education of the church family in Faith Formation and prayer is his focus. Keynote Speaker Fr. Tony Neusch told the ladies to search for the true and beautiful, develop and nurture a relationship with Christ and the Church and put the needs of others before our own. Msgr. Nicholl, our moderator, having attended still another National Convention said he had seen NCCW in action, with wonderful workshops and challenging topics. He visited the site of the first Mass on the North American continent in Florida at the Jacksonville Convention. Socks collected

the Fall Convention in 2010 filled a pickup camper in the Socks for Soldiers effort to be sent to those serving in Afghanistan. Catholic Diocesan Radio EWTN 1360 became a reality on February 14, 2006.



Lori Wilhelm, left, of St. Hyacinth's Church, Amarillo, and Barbara Kline of St. Ann's Church, Canyon, were among women who participated in a fashion August 3rd during the inaugural Hots Off to DCCW fundraiser at St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral, Amarillo. Wilhelm served as Mistress of Ceremonies for the show, while Kline modeled the attire made famous by Carol Burnett in her Went With the Wind segment that originally aired on The Carol Burnett Show Nov. 13, 1976. "I saw it in the window, and I just had to have it."



Synthia Christiansen, center, embraces Carla Keiber, left, and Jeanie Burney, right, while performing a routine to the Kelly Willis remake of the Kendall's country classic Heaven's Just a Sin Away July 21, 2018, during the fifth Hats Off To DCCW event at St. Hyacinth Church, Amarillo.

DCCW Garthers For 80th Annual Fall Convention



Maria Johnston, Province director for the Province of San Antonio, was among the guests who attended the 80th annual Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) Convention October 21-22 at St. Mary's Cathedral, Amarillo. To the left is former DCCW president Jeannie Friddell, who concluded her two terms as president at the convention. (WTC Photo)

Gloria Carlile, a parishioner of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Amarillo, was named the 2016 Diocesan Council of Catholic women (DCCW) Woman of the Year during the organization's 80th annual fall convention at St. Mary's Cathedral.

This year's convention was hosted by the Central Deanery, with the theme of Catholic Women instruments of Mercy.

Carlile was one of three nominees for the honor. Also nominated were Donna Almond of St. Ann's Church, Canyon; and Wynell Neusch of St. Theresa's Church, Panhandle.

During the convention, new officers were installed to serve two-year terms. Officers are:

President Julie Neusch of St. Theresa's Church, Panhandle.

Vice President Monica Musick of St. Joseph's Church, Amarillo.

Secretary Mary Lou Schmucker of Holy family Church, Nazareth;

Treasurer Barbara Kline of St. Ann's Church, Canyon; and

Historian Debbie Batenhorst of St. Mary's Church, Umbarger.

The Convention featured presentations from Bishop Patrick J. Zurek, Father Hector J.



The three finalists for the 2016 Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) Woman of the Year pose for a photo prior to the annual banquet during the 80th annual Fall Convention at St. Mary's Cathedral, Amarillo. Left to right, are Wynell Neusch of St. Theresa's Panhandle; Gloria Carlile of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Amarillo; and, Donna Almond of St. Ann's Church, Canyon.



New officers for the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) were installed during the organization's 80th annual Fall convention at St. Mary's Cathedral, Amarillo. From left to right, are Debbie Batenhorst of St. Mary's Church, Umbarger, historian; Monica Musick, St. Joseph's Church, Amarillo, vice-president; Barbara Kline of St. Ann's Church, Canyon, Treasurer; Mary Lou Schmucker of Holy Family church, Nazareth, secretary; and, Julie Neusch, president. The new slate of officers will serve two-year terms.

Madrigal and Deacon Robert Smith. Speakers included Shelley Sample and Kelly Frick.

The 81st annual Fall Convention will take place next fall, with the East Deanery scheduled to host the event at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Groom.

86 Years and Going Strong



The 86th annual Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) Convention took place Oct. 7 and 8 at St. Ann's Church, Canyon. Photos by the Diocesan Office of Communications.

2021- It is wonderful to meet again for our DCCW convention. The past year and half praying and working through the Covid pandemic has been challenging. I am very grateful for all of you that persevered.

Three of the four deaneries in our diocese are active. I attended all three conventions. I know our South Deanery is struggling with only two of the parishes participating. Fr. Spinhirne gave good information concerning our Church in the Future. The East Deanery is maintaining their activity even during the pandemic. The Central Deanery also has been busy, but some of the parishes are not as active as in the past.

Msgr. Rex Nicholl, Teresa Sarzynski and I attended the NCCW convention in Washington D.C., they celebrated the 100th plus 1 anniversary of the NCCA. The 100th anniversary was unable to be celebrated in 2020 due to the Covid restrictions. However, the convention had great speakers, inspiring liturgies and wonderful camaraderie among the attendees. The theme "A Vision of the Future" was very appropriated after revisiting the past 100 years. The voice of the Catholic woman has been strong, and we must be committed to continue being the voice for the voiceless. A Resolution for Healing Racism was submitted to the council. It was passed. Prayer cards were provided.

The past year has not been without its challenges. Many of our deanery commissions have vacant chairs. Membership is still the biggest challenge. Providing people with the opportunity to volunteer to serve on commissions may some-times test us, but we must persevere. I am very grateful for those of you that have stepped up.

to fill some of these positions. I am also grateful to those of you experienced women that continue to encourage those of us in new positions. Many of you wear multiple hats - may God bless you!

After 85 years, I believe the Amarillo Diocese Council of Catholic Women will persevere. How we gather may at times look different but gather we will. Many of the injustices that the people of God suffer, especially women and children, must be combated. We will continue to pray for others and work to build up God's kingdom. We are the Vision for the Future!



2022 – what a wonderful theme we have this year -Wide Open Hearts – abiding in faith, Hope and Love. This is so very appropriate for the Council of catholic women. In fact, I believe this comes very naturally to us women. At the foot of the cross, we abide/we stand with Mary as she too believes in the promise of eternal life, even as she watches her son offer himself to the Father.

The Book of Wisdom extols the four cardinal virtues: prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance. These human virtues that "govern our actions, order our passions and guide our conduct according to reason can be.

(CCC 1840) can be attained through reason and repetitive action.

Grace elevates and perfects them and gives us strength to persevere in them. These virtues are distinct from the moral (theological) virtues of faith, hope and love, which cannot be gained by human effort and repetition. They are pure gifts from God, infused directly into our souls at Baptism.

After attending the deanery conventions, it is very evident that you women continue to abide in these virtues. We face a constant and growing battle with the forces of evil, coming into our homes from formerly 'safe' environments (specifically schools and now Disney and other social internet sources). Throughout our history, we have taken on pandemics, wars, changing home environments and other disasters that inflict pain in our families. The church, too, abides at the foot of the cross and will continue the mission of spreading the Good News and she will not fail.

Pope Paul VI said to women in his closing speeches of the second Vatican Council - "Women, you do know how to make truth sweet, tender and accessible, make it your task to bring the spirit of this council into institutions, schools, homes and daily life. Women of the entire universe, whether Christian or non-believing, you to whom life is entrusted at this grave moment in history, it is for you to save the peace of the world".

We have a big task ahead of us, but I know we are up to the battle. After 86 years, I believe the Amarillo Diocese council of Catholic Women will continue to abide in the spiritual virtues of Faith, Hope and Love with our hearts wide open! Monica Musick

Oh, Little Town of Nazareth

By Jim Steert December 2012

Photos by Neal Hinkle



Stage crew members, from left, Norman Gerber, Danny Schilling, Edwin Huseman and Levi Cline unload platforms used to assemble a stage in front of the altar for the 2011 pageant at Holy Family Church.

The basement of Nazareth's Holy Family Church buzzed. Cast and crew of the community's cherished Christmas Pageant bustled in 30-minutes-to-showtime preparation. Villagers from ages infant to 80 had roles in this December 23, 2011, performance, closing the 18th season of a holiday heirloom.

No reason to be nervous, but I was, strolling among performers, camera ready, having already done my publicist job. Lurking behind the scenes fit better than a pew upstairs.

Eyeing a shepherd on a step, I photographed him—texting—thumbing technology I hoped he'd silence lest it chirp while tending flocks by night. Young angels clad in snowy white perched 'round a table, glittered faces sparkling. Tinsel wings flexing, they fixed rapt attention on Nicole Schulte. The co-director was altering a scene. Tall, trim, intense, Nicole paced, humming, seeking a cue for angelic arrival.

Close by, Harvey Milton, robed as Zacharia, fretted. Once he fell to his creaky knees in fear of Angel Gabriel, he might not be able to get up. "Spray your knees with WD-40," I advised. "Nah. I already told Angel Gabriel he may have to work a miracle," mustachioed Harvey countered.

Joe Hochstein, towering, luminous Angel Gabriel, had his own issues. Head

costumer Cince Hoelting Schulte noticed a wing askew, grabbed him by the arm, hauled him next to a stair case--and with safety pins clamped in her lips, eyes squinted—mumbled, "Be still, be still." Cince, on tiptoe atop the third step, fixed Joe's flight gear.

Wise men Matt Olvera, Derrick Schacher and Mark Kleman mashed crowns atop their heads, fiddled with sashes and floor-length robes, practiced majestic bearing.

In a corner, farm boys and bankers shucked boots and jeans for the bare-limbed look of short pants, gold lamé cloth armor, imitation leather skirting, sandals. Norman Gerber, Troy Ramaekers, Marcus Brockman and Curtis Durbin wrapped lengths of leather-looking cloth around their calves—legionnaire leggings. Mercifully, long scarlet capes would block backside drafts.



Surrogate soldiers gamely slumped into school desks and endured daubing with makeup and lipstick.



Sharing a quiet moment before their scene, Mickey Hochstein, playing Joseph, cradles son Cash. Couples with a new baby traditionally have filled the role of the Holy Family in the Nazareth Christmas Pageant.

Baby Cash Hochstein, infant Jesus this year, was passed among an adoring entourage. If they kept him awake just a little longer, he might lie quietly in his mother Meredith's arms, gazed upon by his dad, Mickey, during Nativity scenes.

After a pre-performance group prayer, I sprinted around the building and slinked through the main church doors into the dark sanctuary. A restless crowd waited. I took a right turn and headed up stairs to the softly lit choir loft for more pictures.

Friends from growing-up days—Darlene Birkenfeld Schulte, her brothers Bob and Alan, Glenn Ramaekers, Kathy Acker Birkenfeld—on the choir riser flashed smiles.



Stage crew members, from left, Norman Gerber, Danny Schilling, Edwin Huseman and Levi Cline unload platforms used to assemble a stage in front of the altar for the 2011 pageant at Holy Family Church.

Bean counter Henry Ramaekers and farming brothers Rex and Brian Ramaekers waved from behind narration microphones. Farm neighbor Jim Hoelting and Nazareth Mayor Ralph Brockman hunkered beside slide projector spotlights. Mary Lynn Wilhelm Olvera, playing behind a screen, still never having seen an official performance in all her years of playing, fingered the first organ chords. Warmth welled with the singing: "Welcome, welcome, child of Bethlehem, welcome newly born king."



Mary Lynn Wilhelm Olvera (seen in the background) has played the organ music accompanying scenes from behind a light screen for many years—without having seen an actual performance. Angela Fulkerson adds flute accompaniment.

This Christmas story, told through a village's commitment, unity and pride, was almost lost.

Nazareth's first Christmas Pageant in 1972 culminated a dream of the late Father Stanley Crocchiola, former pastor of Holy Family Church. Artist, author, pageant adviser, cast and crew encourager during the early years, Father Stanley was delighted that Nazareth, named for Jesus Christ's childhood hometown, shared a Christmas pageant with the Panhandle. He worked with the late Donna Benke Birkenfeld, gifted homegrown writer and musician, who originated and directed the first pageants, writing the script, selecting and arranging music, composing the haunting "Soldier Search" and "Magnificat" music.

Noreen Kleman Carson, sister of current-day director Nicole Schulte, later directed the fifth through eighth pageants and wrote the music "Chosen by God."

Father Stanley's art students painted stage backdrops—brushstroke Bethlehem. Timeless stitchers Rosemary Wilhelm, Lucille Drerup, Ann Heck, Ann Schulte—all passed on now—as well as Judy Lange and Norita Hoelting made costumes. Crowns for wise men were crafted from plastic bleach jugs, their robes from priest vestments and communion rail cloth. Fire helmets became soldier headgear. Garbage can lids were shields; canning jars and funnels formed lanterns.

Many generations of parish families became choir and musicians, set and lighting crew, carpenters, welders, electricians, actors, and narrators depicting Christ's life from the Annunciation in the Galilean village of Nazareth, through his birth in Bethlehem, and the Holy Family's flight to Egypt and return to Nazareth. Fourteen scenes, 14 songs, faithfully rendered.

Staged annually from 1972 to 1982, and intermittently from 1984 to 1994—the pageant's initial run was 16 years. The effort was exhausting, even for this close-knit congregation. A year off turned into two, five, a decade, 15 years.

Word of revival came at a German festival in July 2009. I was leaving Nazareth's Community Hall when Lisa Lacy Schulte, who grew up just down the road from our family farm between Hart and Nazareth, motioned me over.

"Did you know we're talking about bringing back the Christmas Pageant? We'll meet about it next week and decide," she said excitedly.

Lisa and Nicole Kleman Schulte had talked at a family reunion about resuming it.

"Watching as a child left memories of the sweetness of the story, songs that fit scenes perfectly, sense of tradition. I wanted to see the pageant revived so my children and other children could know the true story of Christmas," Nicole explained.

"A generation of our youngsters had never experienced the Christmas Pageant. Realizing that was all it took to get rolling," Lisa said.

Parish priest Father Ken Keller urged his flock to take up the project only if they were committed.

"So many people called, took over a committee, jumped in with both feet. They wanted their kids and grandkids to see and one day remember the pageant," Lisa recalled. Veterans of pageants past and eager new volunteers pitched in. Jim Hoelting, a director at Deaf Smith Electric Cooperative, has worked in every pageant.

Though willing to shinny up street-light poles as in days past to disconnect lights that might ruin the pageant's indoor aura, this time he borrowed a bucket truck. Jim and fellow technical crew veteran Ralph Brockman found the original slides—made of duct tape, aluminum foil and washers—that made carousel projectors into affordable spotlights. "Big washer hole, large beam; small washer hole, small beam, way simpler and less costly than high-dollar lights," Jim told me during a rehearsal.

"This is a fantastic homespun show that everybody missed, a hometown production worth doing. People have to want to do it," Jim mused.

Norita Hoelting, enduring pageant seamstress, stitched new costumes and repaired and altered old ones. Ilona Schilderink upgraded angel wings with new tulle over wire frames and added garland etching. The first performance night in 15 years was December 20, 2009, at 7:30. I arrived at 6 to an already half-full sanctuary. By 7, a relay was passing folding chairs for overflow seating.

Alan Birkenfeld leaned close as we

hauled chairs, smirking. “You think we had too much publicity?”

A sanctuary that seats just over 700 was crammed—with people from Amarillo, Tulia, Dimmitt, Hart, Hereford, Friona, Plainview, Olton, even Lubbock. The dear old pageant shone anew. In a follow-up meeting, volunteers agreed to alternate years of staging the pageant. The next performance is in 2013, tentatively scheduled for December 22 and 23.

Memories of pageants past flowed with the music during the final 2011 performance. As the choir voiced “Cherry Tree Carol” in the last scene before the closing acolyte processional, the church was dark. “On a bright Christmas morning,” they sang. Decorated trees and the crèche beside the stage instantaneously twinkled to life. Silent night ... love’s pure light.

From the choir loft, the manger and its renewed story of hope are not so far away.



Meredith Hochstein, portraying Mary, gazes at son Cash as the newborn king.



The heart and soul of Nazareth's Christmas Pageant is its rich music—14 numbers in all, performed in the subdued lighting of the loft by a hometown choir that for the 2011 performance included, from left, Mary Ruth Verkamp, Darlene Schulte, Karleen Hoelting, Beverly Schulte and Sandra Carpenter.

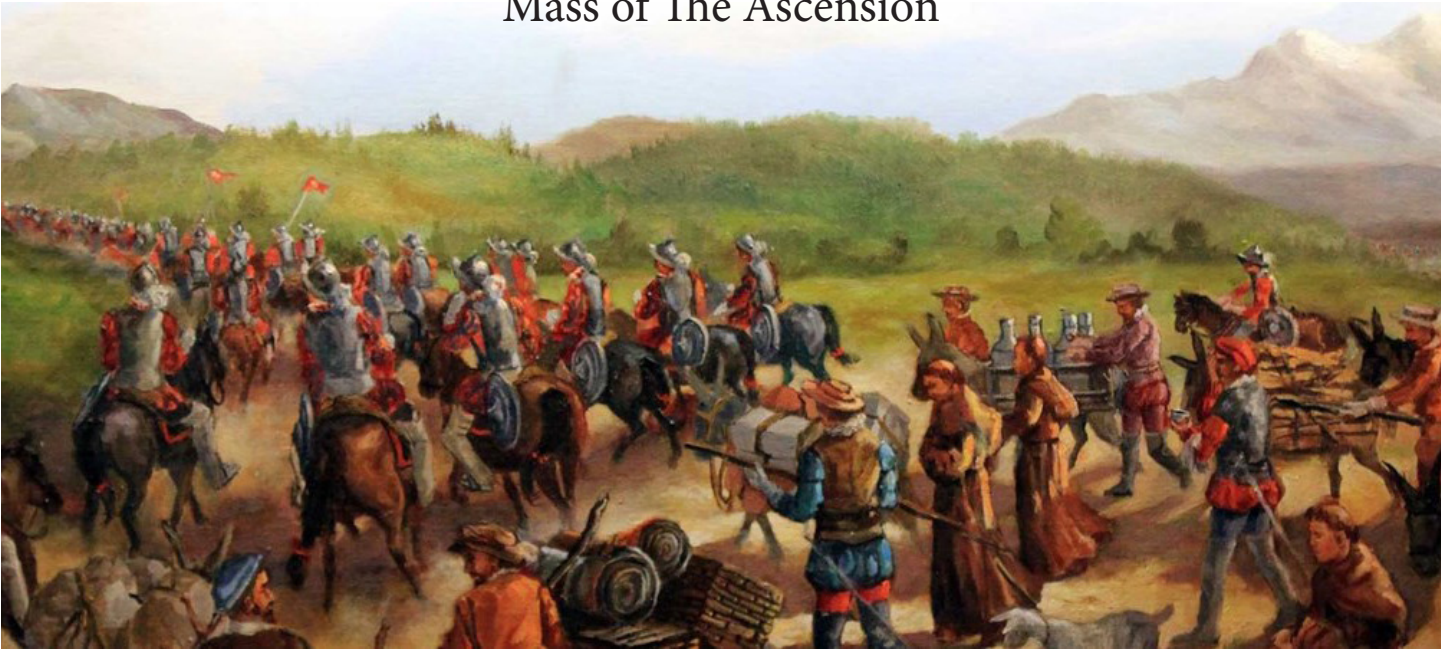


Men of the parish used carpentry and metalwork skills to design a raised stage platform that can be assembled and disassembled. From left, Harold Venhaus, Gerber, Clyde Schulte, Huseman, Cline and Schilling work on the stage.



Women and children who will flee soldiers of King Herod in an intensely dramatic scene—from left, Vanessa Welps and son Oren, Tausha Schacher, Selena Brockman and son Ethan, and Dianne Heitschmidt—share a relaxing moment with Kyla Acker.

Mass of The Ascension



History changed in May 1541, when Europeans entered the Panhandle plains for the first time. The Coronado Expedition had three purposes. To extend the district of Spain in the New world. On foot and horseback, the members traveled from the corner of California to the middle of Kansas to check out stories of gold north of Mexico. They did not find gold. To make a settlement. The settlement failed. To evangelize the Indians. Franciscan Father Juan de Padilla stayed with the Indians and became the first Christian martyr on United States territory. But Coronado had led the way for future development.

The first Christian Catholic worship on our plains, by this amazing expedition, was on Ascension Thursday, May 26, 1541. On May 9, 2024, we will celebrate a memorial Mass for that event. It has both historical and religious meaning for our area.

We welcome all of you to join in celebrating the Mass, our Eucharist, or Thanksgiving, to God for his blessings, as the Spaniards and their Indian allies thanked him for the shelter, and water, and fruit, of this beautiful canyon.

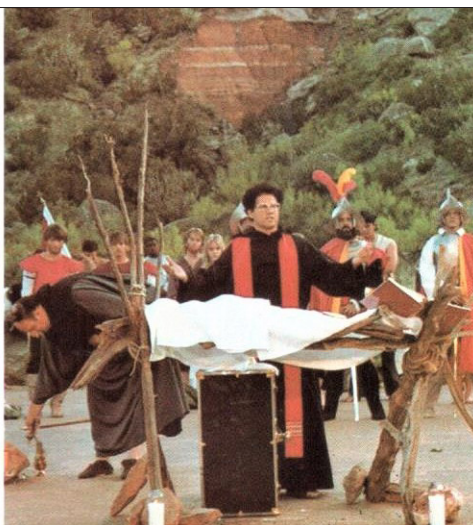
In the past (late 70's to late 90's) the Ascension Thursday Mass had a special connection with Thanksgiving Square of Dallas. Thanksgiving Square is a foundation whose purpose is to draw people of differing faiths together through the American theme of Thanksgiving. Mr. Peter Stewart of Thanksgiving Square suggested to our former Bishop DeFalco that he sponsor this Mass. The bishop did so, and Bishop Matthiesen continued it.

The music for this Mass is Gregorian chant, which members of the Coronado Expedition would have been singing in their day. It is part of the ancient Latin music of the Catholic Church, and is some of the most prayerful music ever devised.

Preceding the Mass is a pageant, "Coronado in the Canyon," which depicts the expedition as it may have been there in 1541, at a point where it is determining its future direction.

The Ascension Mass and pageant ended in the late nineties. I know that the Ascension has moved from Thursday to Sunday, but in the museum, we deal with the past. For next year's open house, we will reenact the Mass and the pageant on the grounds of the Pastoral Center followed by Night at the Museum. The children from Holy Cross Catholic Academy will be acting in the pageant. Please mark your calendars for May 9, 2024, beginning at 6 PM. Watch for coming announcements.

Mass in the Canyon 1984



December - February CONTRIBUTIONS

Don & Judy Allen	50
Robert & Marilyn Archer	150
Roxann Axhqwernwe	25
Loretta Britten	100
Elaine A. Clarke	25
Lois Macha	50
Veronica Matejko	25
Albert Quinto	50
Linda McCommon	25
Dee Ramirez	50
Sandy & Steve Riney	125
Jane Roberts	50
Roxann Schwertner	50
Ramon Carol Saldana	250
Steve Barbara Thomas	100
Iris Upchurch	50

1175

MEMORIALS

Michelle Moylan Quinto by Sharon Moylan	50
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Museum Open House

Coming May 9, 2024

Mark Your Calendars for the next Museum Open House which will feature a Mass and pageant reenacting the first Ascension Mass in 1941.

More information to come.



"After the season is over, the Christmas lights come down, the fragrance of pine dissipates into the air, and the Christmas music no longer plays on the radio, we may ask, 'What happens next?' The wonder and awe of Christmas is just a beginning. Christmas reminds us that the babe born in Bethlehem has given us purpose for living, and what happens next to us largely depends on how we embrace our Savior, Jesus Christ, and follow Him."



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You may stop by daily (Monday through Thursday) to view the museum. For a guided tour it is recommended that you make an appointment. The museum is open by appointment for church and school groups. This includes evenings and weekends.

Susan: (806)383-2243 Ext. 120 or even better: sgarner@dioama.org

Did You Know?

This Newsletter and all the displays in the museum are made possible solely by your donations!