

# the LINK

The Official Publication of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women

Archdiocese of Dubuque Council of Catholic Women  
An affiliate of the

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF  
CATHOLIC WOMEN

Volume 66, No. 1 | Spring 2023



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SERVICE



The Dubuque Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (ACCW) is a volunteer organization for women. We are united for apostolic action at the request of the Archbishop of Dubuque. We are affiliated with the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) and the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO). We are a voice for the women of the Dubuque Archdiocese to speak and act as a unit on matters of mutual interest.

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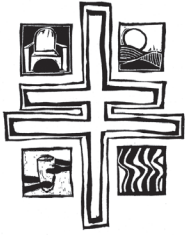
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Deacon Tom Lang

# ACCW Membership Sunday - April 23, 2023



ARCHDIOCESE OF DUBUQUE

## OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

1229 MOUNT LORETTA AVENUE • DUBUQUE, IOWA 52003

I am pleased to announce that Sunday, April 23, 2023, is Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (ACCW) Sunday. This date has been chosen for its proximity to the feast day of Our Lady of Good Counsel, the patroness for the Council of Catholic Women.

I would encourage all parishes to celebrate by recognizing and taking up a collection for the ACCW. Some parishes have an envelope for this collection as part of their yearly envelopes, and others do not, and a few parishes have never scheduled an opportunity for women to contribute.

The ACCW supports the goals of the Archbishop by empowering and educating all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership, and service. This mission can be recognized in the ACCW sponsorship of the *Beauty in Christ* Women's Conference, support for our seminarians, newly ordained priests and other religious, an annual retreat day, and coordination of numerous service projects.

Thank you for your continued support of the Dubuque Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Michael O. Jackels  
Archbishop of Dubuque

This letter can be viewed in Spanish here:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1\\_XCwgjscTYZeOt9xgpZFabR-gUlsHIh/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_XCwgjscTYZeOt9xgpZFabR-gUlsHIh/view)

### How Will Your Parish Observe ACCW Membership Sunday?

This year, ACCW Membership Sunday is April 23. Many parishes collect their annual ACCW membership dues in various ways during this Sunday, and also recognize the many wonderful contributions of time, talent, and service provided by ACCW members at the local and archdiocesan level. In celebrating Mass on Membership Sunday, consider inviting parishioners to pray the Litany of Loreto, invoking the Blessed Virgin as Mother of Good Counsel. Have a Meet and Greet after Mass, and personally invite new members. Consider the many ways your parish or cluster might recognize the work of ACCW members in your area, and invite women of all ages from your faith community to join the ACCW! Both electronic and printable membership forms can be found at: <https://dbqarch.org/council-of-catholic-women>.

## ACCW Membership

### Individual Membership

Membership for individuals is \$10, which includes your subscription to *The Link* and one vote at the Annual Meeting. Register online or with a printable form available on the website:

<https://dbqarch.org/council-of-catholic-women>  
(Scroll down the page to find "2023 ACCW Printable Membership Form.")

### ACCW Dues Paying Parish Membership

Dues paying parishes have two votes at the Annual Meeting. Cost of parish dues follow a scale according to the number of women in the parish. This cost of parish dues is listed in the online form at:

<https://dbqarch.org/council-of-catholic-women>

### Checks may be made payable to ACCW.

Individual and parish membership dues and forms may be sent to:

Lisa Hemesath, ACCW Treasurer  
1116 240 th Street  
State Center, IA 50247



# President

Monica Fulton



The Archbishop of Dubuque meets biennially with the incoming ACCW President, Past President, Spiritual Advisor, and Dubuque Province Director. He is reminded of past accomplishments, and learns about future objectives. This gathering took place on Tuesday, January 10. Over lunch, our group reviewed copies of materials which had been emailed to Archbishop Jackels.

At the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, Florine pointed out the ACCW historical display cabinet. We were ushered into a conference room, where the Archbishop sat at the head of the table.

I described my goals: encouraging women in the Archdiocese to participate in Council at all levels, and keeping women involved if there is no local Council; visiting parish and deanery Councils, encountering members and learning their needs; supporting Archdiocesan ministry priorities, especially in promoting priestly vocations; endorsing the Archbishop's advocacy of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in parishes; and assisting with any special service project suggested by the Archbishop.

Joanne presented a summary of the many ways ACCW supported Archbishop Jackels and the ministry priorities of the Archdiocese during her presidency. Florine shared the goals she has for her term as Dubuque Province Director. Fr. Knipper provided a list of Deanery Spiritual Advisors; permanent deacons fill that role in some deaneries. He suggested that I contact the Council leader in each deanery, asking about their goals, and how their spiritual advisor can be of assistance.

Archbishop Jackels reflected on our reports, then replied: 11 priests from other countries serve in 16 parishes; Knights of Columbus and permanent deacons could partner with ACCW in promoting priestly vocations; and seminarians who discern a vocation outside of priesthood deserve support. He concluded with an observation from the Synodality listening posts: women could fill more leadership and decision-making positions than they do now.

After receiving the Archbishop's blessing, we went our separate ways. The meeting provided much to discuss on the return trip!

Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us!



ACCW Board members recently met with Archbishop Jackels to discuss the important role of women in the Archdiocese of Dubuque. Pictured (left to right): Archbishop Michael Jackels, Immediate Past President Joanne Pohland, ACCW President Monica Fulton, Past President and Dubuque Province Director for NCCW Florine Swanson, and ACCW Spiritual Advisor Fr. Dan Knipper.

# President-Elect

Billie Burhite



My family and I want to extend our gratitude for all your prayers for little Jameson, my grandson. While he has had many challenges, with God's grace he is still surviving and overcoming obstacles. Little Jameson is still breathing with the aid of a ventilator, and he receives dialysis on an hourly basis. Jameson has been diagnosed with cerebral palsy, but to what extent is unknown. Some good news is that his echo came back showing that he has no pulmonary hypertension. With any luck in the next month, he may be strong enough for his care team to attempt to extubate him from the ventilator. Thank you for your continued prayers for Jameson and for our family!



# Past President

Joanne Pohland



On behalf of the Archdiocese of Dubuque, I want to thank the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women for their support of the 2023 Archdiocesan Women's Conference *Beauty in Christ "Fiat! Saying Yes to God"*. We had over 35 groups gather

women to participate in this year's event with a reach of over 900 women in total!

Enjoy the many photos, highlights, and articles about the Women's Conference throughout this edition of *The Link*!

Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us!



Join women from all walks of life as we  
*Say Yes!* *and Walk with Mary to the Cross*

Friday, March 24, 2023

**6:30 - 8:30 PM**

Mt. Mercy University | Cedar Rapids, IA

Please join us on the eve of  
the Feast of the Annunciation  
for this fantastic offering for  
women from across the  
Archdiocese of Dubuque!

This social event and presentation  
will help us grow closer to Jesus  
and His Blessed Mother!

Register Online

**COST \$25**

[www.dbqarch.org/say-yes-womens-event](http://www.dbqarch.org/say-yes-womens-event)



**Beauty  
In Christ**

Archdiocese of Dubuque Women's Conference



**DR. EDWARD SRI**

- Theologian
- Author & Speaker
- Professor at the Augustine Institute

[www.edwardsri.com](http://www.edwardsri.com)



# Highlights from 2023 ACCW Women's Conference

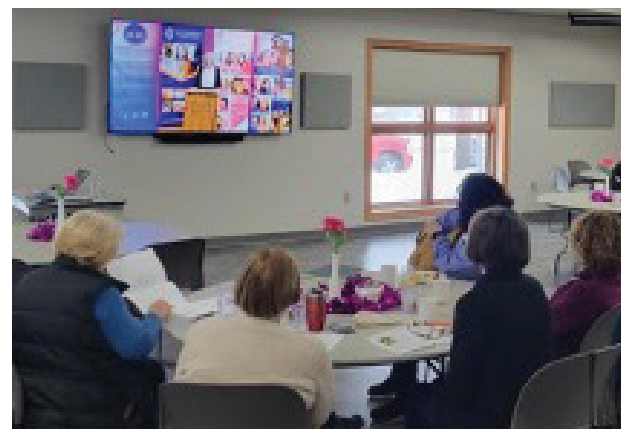
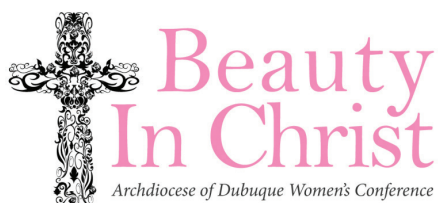
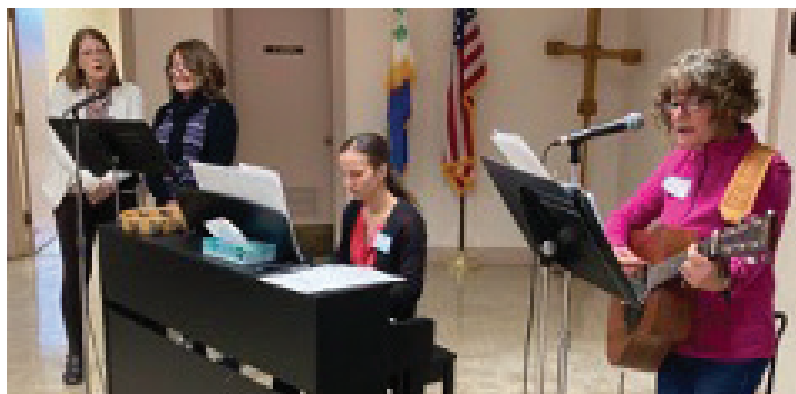
## *Beauty in Christ - Fiat! Saying YES to God!*





# Highlights from 2023 ACCW Women's Conference

## *Beauty in Christ - Fiat! Saying YES to God!*



# Spiritual Advisor

Fr. Daniel Knipper



One of the wonderful works of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women is to pray: for vocations to the priesthood, for the priests in their ministry, and for the repose of the souls of those who have died. In order that we can carry out this admirable work, I have included the name of the departed since our last issue, and a list of those priests who are celebrating anniversaries this year. Thank you, ACCW women, for your work and your prayers! God bless you all!

Pray for the repose of the soul of: **Fr. Mark McGovern**

Born: 3/4/1941    Ordained: 6/3/1967    Died: 1/11/2023

Fr. McGovern was very supportive of the Dubuque ACCW. He concelebrated at several Annual Meeting Masses, and also served as a confessor at our in-person *Beauty In Christ* events. ACCW Past President Margaret Kolash was Fr. McGovern's housekeeper/caretaker for a number of years. May Fr. McGovern now rest in eternal peace.

## Pray for and celebrate with those who are observing anniversaries of ordination this year:

**Golden Jubilarians:** Rev. Marvin J. Bries,  
Rev. Louis M. Jaeger, and Rev. Dennis D. Juhl

**Silver Jubilarians:** Rev. Francis Anane,  
Rev. James W. Dubert, and Rev. David G. Kucera

**70 Years:** Rev. Donald J. Hawes, Rev. Richard W. Kuhn,  
and Rev. Msgr. W. Dean Walz

**65 Years:** Rev. George W. Karnik

**60 Years:** Rev. Ardel H. Barta

**55 Years:** Rev. Bernard C. Grady

**45 Years:** Rev. Paul E. Lippstock and Rev. Philip E. Thompson

**40 Years:** Rev. Michael J. Mescher

**35 Years:** Very Rev. Jerry F. Kopacek and Rev. Jon M. Seda

**20 Years:** Rev. Donald J. Czapla, Rev. Richmond Dzekoe,  
and Rev. Anthony Boahen Nketiah

**15 Years:** Rev. Rodney M. Allers  
and Rev. Benjamin Nkrumah

**10 Years:** Rev. Frantz Augustin

**5 Years:** Rev. Jacob D. Rouse and Rev. Andrew J. Upah

May God continue to bless these holy men in their ministries across the Archdiocese of Dubuque!

# Spirituality Commission



## Mary Pedersen

Spirituality Commission Chair

*Beauty in Christ: "Fiat! Saying Yes to God!"*

The Archdiocesan Women's Conference attracted over 900 women from throughout the Archdiocese of Dubuque. Although the day was snowy and cold, women gathered in over 35 host parishes, which were warm and welcoming! Our speakers, Marcia Lane-McGee and Jamie Rathjen, spoke passionately about saying YES to God's calling! Marcia helped women discern what "no's" we must make in order to say "YES" to God's plan. Jamie's dynamic talks brought us into awe and wonder as she discussed the beauty of the woman's body and our call to God's unique purpose! Thanks to ACCW, for financial support, to our ACCW spiritual advisor, Fr. Knipper, who guided us and closed the day in prayer, and to Joanne Pohland, ACCW past-president, who said YES and did the heavy lifting to make the day possible. Thanks to Ariadne Rodriguez for translating the talks into Spanish. Mostly, thanks to every single ACCW member, who contributed to the

day by inviting other women and helping with the event at your own parish!!!

## GREAT OPPORTUNITY

*Say Yes! and Walk with Mary to the Cross*, with Dr. Edward Sri, Friday, March 24th, 2023, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Mt. Mercy University, Cedar Rapids. The YES continues as women will gather, in person, from all over the Archdiocese of Dubuque for a social and to hear Dr. Sri present on Mary. We will grow closer to Jesus and His Blessed Mother as we celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation. Cost \$25.00.

To register: <https://dbqarch.org/say-yes-womens-event>  
See the flyer on page 3 of this issue!

The Spirituality Committee continues to send out monthly letters on spirituality—often highlighting happenings in ACCW, new endeavors in the Archdiocese of Dubuque (Dr. Sri's presentation) or the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (Walking with Moms in Need), parish efforts for women's spirituality (please send us exciting new adventures in your parish), and articles on the liturgical season.



# Leadership Commission



## Sheila Rassman

Leadership Commission Chair

Spring is one of my favorite seasons. It's brighter later. It's getting warmer.

It's time for growing things...



On January 25th the NCCW held an informative Member Call to discuss Commission projects and programs. Growing membership is one of the main goals of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women! He is the vine we are the branches! (John 15:5) The Leadership Commission continues to work on developing programs in reference to the importance of NCCW voting. The purpose of these programs is: to increase awareness of why we vote, to understand who can vote, to know the voting requirements, and to determine how to remind and instruct other members and membership to vote. It's our responsibility! Not just a right! "We are stronger and better together, and want our voices heard!"

### The Season of Lent is upon us!

Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death. This season urgently calls us to conversion. Christians are asked to return to God 'with all their hearts' (Joel 2:12), to refuse to settle for mediocrity, and grow in friendship with the Lord." - Pope Francis



**40 Days for Life** began on Ash Wednesday, February 22, and is observed through Palm Sunday, April 2. To learn more about 40 Days for Life, go to: <https://www.40daysforlife.com/>

## Leadership Training Opportunity

Saturday, March 11, 2023  
9:00 AM - Noon

Register now for the National Council of Catholic Women's Leadership Development Workshop via Zoom on Saturday, March 11 from 9:00 to noon. This virtual event will be sponsored by the Province of Dubuque. **To register, go to <https://dbqarch.org/accw-events>.** Cost is \$10 per person.

Take a few hours out of your weekend to improve your Council of Catholic Women, as well as your own leadership skills. If you didn't get the opportunity to attend the free leadership workshop at the NCCW Convention, you will have an opportunity to share in this outstanding and fun session!

Presentations will include:

**"Join CCW" by Jody Watermann of Illinois.**

**"Finding New Leadership (Succession – Who's Next)" by Susie Harting of Florida**

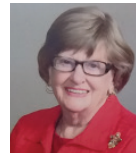
**"Changes with Vision" by Laurie Ulseth of Florida.**

As Province Director Florine Swanson works throughout the state of Iowa, she often hears, "We can't find new leadership," or "What can we change?" These workshops will address this constant need in all organizations (not just the Council of Catholic Women).

Sign up now to participate from your own home, or invite your officers' group to meet in your local church or in your living room. We're looking forward to seeing you on March 11 on Zoom! The Zoom link will be shared closer to the date once you are registered.

## Parliamentarian

Rozena McVey



COVID-19 is no longer a pandemic, although many continue to suffer from it or its side effects. I hope you are back to meeting on a regular basis, even if it is a meeting of the "masked" ladies. It is time to meet in-person and not on Zoom. I don't know about you, but I need to be with friends in-person and not looking at their smiling face on Zoom. I miss visiting and fellowship offered at in-person meetings.

Many of you have amended your bylaws for emergencies or convenience to allow for virtual meetings. That is okay, but it should not be the norm. We need face-to-face meetings. It builds our relationship as Catholic women, and provides for promoting leadership opportunities in our parishes and the Dubuque ACCW.

Zoom meetings are still an important way to conduct business, but not at the local parish level. Our Dubuque ACCW has met by Zoom, and it is saving many of our members travel time and expenses, as members are from all over the Archdiocese, from the Western corner out toward Ames and North to the Minnesota border, East towards the Wisconsin and Illinois border, and then South to Cedar Rapids.

May our Blessed Mother lovingly protect you and your loved ones.

# Service Commission



## Raegan Reid

Service Commission Chair

Since stepping into this role a few months ago, I am so amazed at all the service opportunities being offered throughout our Archdiocese. Please take a moment to read your parish bulletin. It is filled with ways to help and get involved! As we head into this Lenten Season, I pray that you will take a moment to stop and ask God where He needs you right now. How can you share your time and treasure? A good place to start is by reading about the many organizations parishes choose to feature as their Almsgiving projects during Lent.

Maybe you are seeking new ways to help and serve. Have you thought about joining a new Ministry Team at your parish? Our homebound and care facility communities are growing, and parishes are in need of volunteers to step up to visit parishioners who can no longer get to Mass or parish events. I would be happy to assist anyone in discovering how to get involved at your parish. Many other parish programs need strong leaders, compassionate friends, helping hands, and caring souls to help. Where is God calling you?

*The Beauty In Christ* Women's Conference that was held in January left us with lots to think about! *Fiat! Saying Yes to God!* In what ways can you step out of your comfort zone? The beautiful group of ladies pictured here did exactly that when they agreed to host and lead the *Beauty In Christ* Conference at Holy Spirit Parish in Dubuque, and many women joined them this year by hosting groups all over the Archdiocese. Are your good works feeding others and leading women to serve our Lord in bold ways? I hope so!



The Women's Ministry at Holy Spirit Parish continues to grow, and more women of area parishes are joining the fun. As we kick off our Spring Session on March 16th, we are looking forward to our session on "Building Our Relationships through Service" as we complete a special project together! For more information or to join us, please reach out at [dbq059s2@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbq059s2@dbqarch.org). Together we can do awesome things, because teamwork makes the dream work!

*"For where two or three have gathered in My name, I am there in their midst." ~ Matthew 18:20*



## Leone Bergeson

Seven Sisters Apostolate

It's been a quiet winter for Seven Sisters Apostolate. We continue to pray our Holy Hour for our priest, and we receive and read the Communique and put it aside. Now, spring is just ahead, Lent is here and we have work to do.

It would be good to have every active priest connected with a Seven Sisters group. All priests in the Marshalltown and Decorah Deaneries have groups praying for them because of the diligence of deanery presidents who successfully contacted women in the parishes. Other deaneries have gaps, including prayers for hospital chaplains. I challenge you to encourage ACCW members in your deaneries to make a real effort to form an Apostolate for all the priests within your parishes.

A 'sister' will often quietly slip into the Church or Chapel, spend an hour with Jesus interceding for their priest, and quietly exit. It's a rather hidden apostolate, quiet, as was Mary. We do it out of love. But it doesn't go unnoticed with our Lord who hears our every prayer.

We are all aware of the crisis in the priesthood. This will only be resolved by prayer and fasting, works of mercy and penance. Lent is upon us. This is the time to give more for your priest. Hebrews 4:16 says, "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have."

Being part of a Seven Sisters group involves praying one hour a week for your priest or for the Archbishop. Please contact me at (563) 451-5828 or [r1berge@msn.com](mailto:r1berge@msn.com) for information.

*"Prayer is the inner bath of love into which the soul plunges itself." ~ John Vianney*



# Historian

Rose Ann Jero



## Take Advantage of Educational Opportunities!

When addressing the *Beauty in Christ* 2023 Women's Conference participants, Archbishop Jackels reported that the top Synod survey response listed worldwide addressed the role of women in the Church.

When reviewing history, women have always had a role in the church. The survey called for women to have a greater role in decision-making. Since the founding of National Council of Catholic Women in 1920, the women of the Dubuque Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women have heard the call of NCCW to support, empower, and educate women of the Archdiocese in spirituality, leadership, and service.



On April 19, 1969, Parliamentarians met in Marshalltown at the Tall Corn Motor Hotel for a parliamentary workshop. Discussion groups in the morning and afternoon

sessions were devoted to practice sessions. The sessions were followed by an oral exam for Parliamentary certification.

In 1969, women traveled to take advantage of an educational opportunity. In 2023, the NCCW is offering another great educational opportunity with modern technology. Check out details on page 7 of *The Link* or on the website:

<https://dbqarch.org/accw-events>

*Photo and information from 1969 newspaper article in Marshalltown Deanery scrapbook.*

# EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE

## Focus on Women's Health



If you attended the *Beauty in Christ* Women's Conference, you were introduced to fertilitycare practitioner Jamie Rathjen. Jamie is the owner of Fiat Institute, an organization that helps women

discover the truth about the goodness and beauty of our feminine nature. Jamie is passionate about bringing women's sight back into focus through an enthusiastic message of hope, empowerment, and facts about the feminine genius. Learn more about Jamie's work by visiting [www.jamierathjen.com](http://www.jamierathjen.com) and [www.fiatinstitute.com/](http://www.fiatinstitute.com/). Jamie is also the co-host of The Hormone Genius Podcast at [www.hormonegenius.com](http://www.hormonegenius.com)

## Arch of DBQ Natural Family Planning Website

<https://nfp.dbqarch.org/>

This website, developed by the Archdiocese of Dubuque, offers a variety of resources and information to help women, men, and couples learn about Natural Family Planning (NFP), including why it is beneficial, how to learn to use a method. Learn about Catholic teaching on NFP, the Top Ten Reasons to Use NFP, an explanation of various methods, a list of local instructors and providers, and other resources. Click [HERE](#) (<https://vimeo.com/511708770/132c4ecf91>) to view a recording of a discussion on NFP led by Matt Selby and Fr. Jerry Kopacek with accompanying notes found [HERE](#).

(<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SSRSTeAyA3StSxtsLrLVUfSZnIFEZMV/view>)

## Wide Open Hearts Abiding in Faith, Hope and Love

Submitted by Phyllis Einwalter

Faith is the door, Hope opens the door, and Love is encountering Christ when the door opens. All this was evident when I attended the NCCW Convention in November. A number of bishops, priests, and spiritual advisors were present, including our own ACCW Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Dan Knipper. We were blessed to participate in Masses, and the conference speakers were wonderful. I especially enjoyed the Blessed Carlo Acutis exhibit, including the opportunity for private veneration of his relic, and a display panel describing over 130 Eucharistic miracles recognized by the Church. May the Council of Catholic Women continue their presence and mission as leaders in the parishes, deaneries, dioceses, and national provinces for years to come!

# NCCW News



## Florine Swanson

Dubuque Province Director

### First Saturday Devotion

The National Council of Catholic Women passed a resolution at their November Convention that, at this critical time for our Church and our nation, the members should pray the daily Rosary and practice the First Saturday Devotion.

On December 10, 1925, Our Lady promised Sister Lucia at Fatima that she would “assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all those who fulfill the Five First Saturdays.”

There are four requirements to faithfully fulfill the Five First Saturdays.

1. Go to reconciliation within a period of eight days before or eight days after the first Saturday or longer provided you are in a state of grace.
2. Receive Holy Communion.
3. Say five decades of the Holy Rosary.
4. Meditate for fifteen minutes on the mysteries of the Holy Rosary. (Separate from saying the Rosary.)

Many of our parishes in our Archdiocese don't have Saturday Mass. In the spirit of the NCCW resolution, you can attend the Saturday evening Mass for the first Saturday. You can practice this yourself, but even more importantly, you can promote within your parish to encourage others to make the First Saturdays and as a group of Catholic women lead the rosary on the First Saturday.

If you would like to learn more about the Five First Saturdays devotion, go to:

<https://americanneedsfatima.org/prayers/the-five-first-saturdays-devotion>



## Alma Meyer

NCCW Leadership Commission, Associates of NCCW Board Director, and Nominating Committee

NCCW Dubuque Province Directors from Iowa's four dioceses were in attendance at the NCCW Convention held in Minneapolis in November. We are grateful to all living (and deceased) former Council Presidents who have led and represented Iowa Catholic women on the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) Board of Directors for a rotation term of two years for the past several decades.



**Seated in the photo:** Current Province Director Florine Swanson from Galt/Ames (Dubuque Archdiocese), and former Dubuque Province directors: Mary Ann Ruether from LeMars (Sioux City Diocese); back row standing: Nancy Larson from Shenandoah (Des Moines Diocese), Alma Meyer from Calmar/Marion (Dubuque Archdiocese), and Joan Gubbels from Council Bluffs (Des Moines Diocese). Not present: Eileen O'Connor from Des Moines (Des

Moines Diocese), Patricia Powers from Tipton (Davenport Diocese), Edna Brunkhorst from Waverly (Dubuque Archdiocese), and Sherry Nilles from Sheldon (Sioux City Diocese).

Parish leaders, especially new and current officers, commissions, and members, mark your calendars for the upcoming NCCW Leadership, Training and Development Zoom session on March 11! (More information on page 7.)

NCCW Candidates for president-elect, secretary, and the new nomination committee, their photos, and 100-word statements of intent will appear in the March issue of *Catholic Woman* magazine. Voting will take place electronically online if the NCCW Office (<https://nccw.org>) has your email address. Members without email can request a mail-in paper ballot. Both NCCW individual members and affiliate councils must be “in good standing” (current dues paid and affiliate president's current contact information on file) to be able to vote during the month of April. Voting is open from Monday, April 3 until 4 PM EST on Monday, May 1, 2023.

The Dubuque ACCW and Iowa Province is happy to announce and support the candidacy of Florine Swanson of Ames for the next NCCW Nominating Committee.

With open hearts, on the March 4 NCCW Anniversary, and April 26, we remember our patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel. We are most grateful for the inspiration, intercessions, membership, and support of spiritual advisors, as we celebrate our mission and legacy of 103 years of Spirituality, LEADERSHIP and Service to the National Council of Catholic Women organization. Welcome to the new 2023 theme: “Path of Renewed Encounter!”



# Member Spotlight

## Sisters Serve in Local Parish



**Mary and  
Elizabeth  
Kalinay**

**St. Joseph Parish  
State Center, IA**



St. Joseph Parish in State Center is so very blessed to claim Mary (17) and Elizabeth (15) Kalinay, as our parishioners. Mary and Elizabeth both possess a quiet attitude of faithful service, frequently reminding us of how we find God in all things and all people. Though never ones to seek attention, Elizabeth and Mary selflessly volunteer their time and energy to St. Joseph Church and CCW.

Following are just a few of the recent activities of which these faith-filled young women have taken part:

- Mary and Elizabeth have both played a key role making over 250 cheeseballs for our annual CCW fundraisers.
- Mary and Elizabeth were part of the kitchen crew for the annual Christmas meal provided for everyone in the parish faith formation program.
- Elizabeth, along with two other students, raked the lawn at the rectory for Fr. Rick Dagit this Fall. (You have no idea how many piles of leaves there were!)
- Mary spent many years as an altar server for St. Joseph Parish.

In addition to helping with Church service projects, these young ladies are active in many school activities including National Honor Society, soccer and volleyball. They are both also making history as members of the first West Marshall High School all girls wrestling team in 2022-23!

We are so thankful for the blessing of Mary and Elizabeth Kalinay at St. Joseph Parish. They are showing us all how to find God through service to our priest, faith formation program and CCW.



*Mary and Elizabeth Kalinay were nominated for this special Spotlight section by Lisa Hemesath. If you would like to nominate an ACCW member, pastor, or young woman from your parish to be featured in the next issue of The Link, contact Lynne Chapman at [dbqaccwedit@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbqaccwedit@dbqarch.org).*

# Youth & Adult Awards

Barb Sauser



Do you know a Girl Scout Leader or an American Heritage Girls group? If so, please consider sharing this information and website with them. You can learn more on the Dubuque Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women website under the Awards page: <https://dbqarch.org/awards>, or invite group leaders to email me at [sbsauser@netins.net](mailto:sbsauser@netins.net) to learn more about the awards programs offered by ACCW.

The ACCW website provides information about the 2022 Award Recipients, 2023 Our Lady of Good Counsel Award Nominations, 2023 Golden Rose Award Information, American Heritage Girls Information, Religious Award Introduction Letter and Religious Awards Description.

With your help, it would be great to expand our youth awards in the Archdiocese of Dubuque!

Contact me at: Barb Sauser 563-852-7033 or email [sbsauser@netins.net](mailto:sbsauser@netins.net).

## Deanery News

### CEDAR RAPIDS



**Billie Burhite**  
Representative

We are grateful for our ACCW women's group who recently prepared and served a made-from-scratch meal for the priests and deacons in our area. Although it was a busy evening, it was all smiles in the kitchen!



On a cold snowy Saturday morning, women from all over the Cedar Rapids Deanery met for the *Beauty in Christ* Women's Conference. Women gathered at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Hiawatha, St. Pius X Parish, All Saints Parish, and St. Matthew Catholic Community in Cedar Rapids, St. Joseph Parish in Marion, St. John the Baptist Parish in Mt. Vernon, and St. Isidore Parish in Springville.

With so many women joined together at once to celebrate the love of Our Lord and Mary, I envisioned the wise, strong and proficient women who first followed Christ, and said "Fiat!"

With each location a bond was formed. Many were mother and daughter, sisters, and friends young and old. Let us remind ourselves how important it is that women form friendships and become one. It's important to remember that Mary was the first "Yes!"; let us guide others in following behind.



# Deanery News

(continued)

## DECORAH



**Julie Vulk**

President

The Decorah Deanery has been busy! December 3 and 4, Patti Davis, head of the spiritual commission and Julie Vulk, president, attended Masses at Harpers Ferry, Wexford, New Albin and Lansing to promote ACCW. It was delightful to attend Mass in such beautiful parishes and visit with women afterwards. The goal is to promote ACCW in all the parishes in the Decorah Deanery.

On March 25, 2023, ACCW will join the Northeast Iowa Pro-lifers for Mass at 9:00 AM, followed by coffee and rolls, talk given by Mary Ann Kuharski. (See more information below.) Lunch will be served, followed by the Decorah Deanery ACCW business meeting. Please come and join us!

On January 28, three parishes in our deanery hosted *Beauty in Christ* events. The deanery provided \$250 to each hosting parish to help offset the cost of food and decorations. Following are some highlights!

### **St. Benedict Parish, Decorah**

Our *Beauty in Christ* event had 24 in attendance, with six more participating from home. We offered delicious and healthy breakfast and break delicacies, with soup and ham sliders for lunch. The CDofA, ACCW, The Silver Birch, (religious store), and Dorothy Elsbernd Rosaries were vendors. All agreed the speakers were great! Fr. John Moser and Fr. Don Hertges provided the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 10 AM to 11:30 AM.

### **St. Aloysius Parish, Calmar**

Even the weather didn't dampen the Spirit at the *Beauty in Christ* Conference! Our technology for this virtual event was handled by a very competent husband. Twenty-seven women attended. The day began with 8:00 Mass with Fr. Henry Huber. A beautifully decorated gathering space provided the venue for a light breakfast of cinnamon rolls and fruit cups, as well as a beverage bar of coffee and specialty creamers, friendship tea, mimosas and Bloody Marys with all the fixings! Lunch included soups and slider sandwiches, with ice cream and pretty pink cookies for dessert. Three of the team's husbands graciously served the meal and cleaned up afterwards. The group enjoyed asking questions ranging from who came the farthest to what was a one word from Sunday's Gospel reading, and door prizes were given. We all enjoyed the day filled with lots of fun and laughter! Thank you to the ACCW for sponsoring this endeavor! It is greatly appreciated!

### **Notre Dame Parish, Cresco**

We had 26 registered participants. The virtual aspect is definitely a nice perk, as four of the women were able to participate from home. We served rolls from the local bakery, coffee, and mimosas for breakfast (before the Conference started) and maidrites, salads, fruit, carrots, bars and juice for lunch. Prizes included the ten bonus items from the Archdiocese. The wine glasses were a hit! The women loved both speakers but especially loved Jamie's talks.

## Creating a Culture of Life in our Homes, Communities, and Beyond

**Saturday, March 25, 2023 at St. Benedict Church in Decorah - 9:00 AM**

Have you ever wondered what to say to others about abortion issues? Come spend the day with the Northeast Iowa Pro-Lifers as they listen to keynote speaker Mary Ann Kuharski, a mother of thirteen children (six of whom are adopted with special needs), a volunteer pregnancy counselor, and a founding member and Director of PROLIFE Across AMERICA, "The Billboard People." Mary Ann is an author and national speaker on Life and Family issues, and the recipient of numerous Catholic awards. This event will take place at St. Benedict Church in Decorah on Saturday, March 25. This venue is handicapped accessible. The day will begin with Mass at 9:00 AM, followed by coffee and rolls. Mary Ann's first talk will begin at 10:15 AM, followed by lunch, a second talk, and Q&A. A free will offering will be accepted. Please pre-register by calling 563-382-4715 or 563-382-9631, so we can plan food accordingly. Men and women of all ages are invited to attend! We hope to see you there!

# Deanery News

(continued)

## DUBUQUE



**Kim Schmidt**  
Representative

This year, two locations in the Dubuque Deanery hosted the 2023 *Beauty in Christ* Women's Conference on January 28. St. Columbkille and St. Joseph the Worker parishes combined their event, and Holy Spirit Parish hosted one as well.



I attended the event held at Holy Spirit Parish, and here is the lowdown on their gathering. The event was held at Sacred Heart Church, Kriebs Hall. Forty-four people attended in-person, and three attended virtually. Fifty-one women had registered to come, but the snow storm brought about four inches, which kept a few people home. But we call a group of forty-four a WIN!!

The day began with Mass, followed by a light breakfast. Then participants enjoyed the speakers, shared great reflection and conversation time, and lots of smiles. Following the virtual portion

of the day, lunch was served. Then participants had an opportunity for Adoration and Reconciliation. Fabulous door prizes provided by woman-owned local businesses were given away throughout the day as well!

### Women of Worth Gathering – March 16, 2023

To keep the momentum of women-supporting-women going, we would love to have you join us on March 16 for the Women of Worth. This gathering, held at Holy Spirit Parish, Sacred Heart Church, Kriebs Hall in Dubuque, is an opportunity for women to come together and grow in relationship with each other, themselves, their faith, their family and others. This program, now in its second year, touches on a variety of relationship topics, and includes witness videos from national speakers, with a few of our own parishioners sharing on the theme of the week. Women of Worth will run for eight weeks on Thursday evenings from 6:30–8:00 PM from March 16 – May 4, 2023. Attend any or all of the gatherings. It is free to attend, and snacks will be provided. We like to think that the ladies come for the reflection and fellowship, and not JUST for the snacks! We hope you'll join us!

## DYERSVILLE



**Karol Digmann**  
Representative

Eight parish locations from the Dyersville Deanery hosted *Beauty in Christ* Women's Conference events this year. Gatherings were held at the following locations:

St. Joseph Parish, Bellevue  
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Cascade  
Spires of Faith Cluster, Dyersville  
Emmaus Pastorate, Edgewood  
St. Mary Parish, Guttenberg  
Blessed Trinity, Manchester  
Sacred Heart, Monticello  
St. Joseph Parish, Preston





# Deanery News

(continued)

## MARSHALLTOWN



(OPEN)

The Marshalltown Deanery is currently seeking a representative to lead the mission of ACCW in that area. Please consider sharing your gifts as an ACCW Representative!



Tama CCW members gathered for a Christmas party in December. The women all signed cards for shut-ins and parish members in nursing homes. They also packed over 100 quart-size Ziploc bags with cards, snack packs of crackers, and other goodies. *(Photos submitted by Patricia Henle)*



St Mary CCW in Colo participated in Christmas in Colo festivities by preparing and serving a soup supper for the community. Homemade potato and chili soups were served, along with homemade desserts and relishes. This event was very successful because of the hard work of CCW and parish volunteers!



The St. Patrick CCW group in Tama meets the first Tuesday of each month except July and August. Our primary activity is to serve at funeral luncheons. Sadly, Charlotte Upah, the wife of our Deacon Stan Upah recently passed away. We served her funeral luncheon with 450 guests in attendance. Several smaller funerals have been served since.

In January, we sewed and tied 30 quilts to be donated to our local Storks Nest and to Camp Courageous and homeless shelters. At our January business meeting, financial donations were made to Dollars for Scholars and Project Prom. We also discussed details for the March 3rd World Day of Prayer, with plans completed in February for the worship and lunch portions of this event. Plans were also made for a Confirmation reception for St. Patrick Parish in Tama, St. Joseph Parish in Chelsea, and St. Michael Parish in Belle Plaine. Confirmation was on March 5, with the reception following Mass. Julie Rathye from the local Community Clothes Closet was our guest speaker.

In March we will begin making plans for the Soup and Salad Lunch on April 27th. We hope you all can come and join us.

St. Joseph CCW has had a busy few months! Our annual cheeseball fundraiser was, once again, a success. We made and sold nearly 300 cheeseballs this year!

During December, parishioners of the Cluster were invited to donate any extra fabric and craft items to CCW, which brought in several bags of fabric for our very talented seamstresses to turn into baby quilts, neck pillows, catheter covers, walker bags and more for those in need. CCW also sponsored the Angel Gift program and gift certificates to our local grocery store and locker for clients of the Christian Community Cupboard. The gift certificates were a welcome gift to families facing food insecurity.

In January, we began gathering gently used bibles, faith formation materials, and other Christian reading materials to donate to Lovepackages. These materials will be shipped to missionaries overseas. Boxes of books and bibles have been collected and will be transported to Lovepackages soon.

In February, CCW members sent Valentines to the retired Sisters of St. Francis residing at Mount St. Francis in Dubuque. Also in the works for February is our annual Ham Ball Supper. We are so fortunate to have an active group of women who love to serve their community and church.

# Deanery News

(continued)

## MASON CITY



**Chris Leichsenring**

Representative

### Welcome to Our New Spiritual Advisor! Deacon Michael Whitters

Deacon Michael met his wife, Pam in school as x-ray technologists. He later went on to medical school at Des Moines University, and began Family Practice in Clarion, Iowa where he has practiced since 1982. Deacon Michael and Pam began Diaconate formation in the Archdiocese of Dubuque in 1989, and he was ordained a Permanent Deacon in 1994. He has served the Holy Family Cluster since that time. The couple has been active in their church for the past 40 years, especially in their local parish of St. John. They have made many medical mission trips to Mexico, Nicaragua, Guatemala and most frequently to their sister parish in Haiti. He is retiring this year from the medical practice.



Deacon Michael and Pam celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this year. They have been blessed with five daughters. Two are biological, and the last three were adopted. Two were adopted through Catholic Charities as special needs infants. All of their daughters are now grown and living on their own. We have ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Deacon Michael looks forward to sharing in the mission of ACCW as we seek deeper spirituality with our Lord, as we provide leadership for others to follow, and as we serve one another in Christ. Deacon Michael shares, "As Saint Teresa of Calcutta states, 'It is not how much we serve, but how much love we put into our service.'" Welcome, Deacon Michael Whitters!



### *Beauty in Christ* Gathering

Seven hearty souls from St. John Parish, Clarion, dared the winter storm warning as it moved into the westernmost portion of the archdiocese to participate in the *Beauty in Christ* Conference. Other women from the Holy Family Cluster, though unable to gather at the church, were able to participate from home. With the protection of the Holy Spirit, all made it home safely before the second wave of the storm hit that evening.

## SAVE THE DATE!!

**2023 ACCW Annual Meeting**  
**Saturday, October 21, 2023**  
**St. Edward Church, Waterloo**

## ACCW Calendar 2023

<b>March 11</b>	Leadership Development Opportunity on Zoom
<b>March 24</b>	Dr. Edward Sri Event: <i>Say Yes! and Walk with Mary to the Cross</i>
<b>April 13</b>	ACCW Executive Committee Meeting 5:30 PM via Zoom
<b>April 23</b>	ACCW Membership Sunday
<b>April 24</b>	ACCW Board of Directors Meeting 7:00 PM via Zoom
<b>May 1</b>	Deadline for submissions for Summer 2023 issue of <i>The Link</i>
<b>June 5</b>	Summer 2023 issue of <i>The Link</i> is sent



# Deanery News

(continued)

## NEW HAMPTON



**Yvonne Kisch**  
Representative

During the holiday months the ladies of the New Hampton Deanery were busy with many projects that served the needy, to help make the holidays brighter for them. Some of those projects included grocery collections for holiday meals, giving trees for gifts and gift bags filled with treats, toiletries and work books of all kinds for clients in nursing homes.

Recently, many women registered for the ACCW Annual *Beauty in Christ* Women's Conference. Participants were able to attend by joining the virtual presentation singularly from their home, or by getting together with others at their parish to enjoy with a group. Three parishes from the New Hampton Deanery chose to host events. These included Church of the Visitation at Stacyville, organized by Tammy Lamb; Sacred Heart of Osage, organized by Barb Brumm; and Good Shepherd Cluster of New Hampton, organized by Brian McGee. A good time was had by all, and everyone enjoyed the conference, whichever way they chose to participate.

## WATERLOO



**Marlene Mangrich**  
President

The Waterloo Deanery has been grateful for the opportunity to stay connected with Archdiocesan happenings in the past, through Zoom. We welcome the new year of 2023, with one month of accomplishments already past, and others to look forward to.

*The Beauty in Christ* Conference found seven different sites within the Waterloo Deanery gathered for listening, learning, fellowship, and food to fortify their knowledge! Great day!

Participating parishes in the Waterloo Deanery included:

- St. Patrick Parish, Cedar Falls
- Immaculate Conception Parish, Fairbank
- Sacred Heart Parish, Oelwein
- Holy Family Parish, Reinbeck
- St. Paul Parish, Traer
- St. Edward Parish, Waterloo
- St. Mary Parish, Waverly

Coming along very quickly is the holy season of Lent. With the suggestion proposed to the Spiritual Advisors of each deanery, a holy hour will take place on Tuesday, March 7, at St. Athanasius Church in Jesup, beginning at 1:00 PM. Our Spiritual Director, Deacon Tom Lang, is assisting Fr. Benjamin Nkrumah. We welcome anyone inclined in coming this way to participate in the holy hour! Our quarterly meeting will also take place that day.

## TOGETHER

from the

## Archdiocese of Dubuque!

TOGETHER is a monthly bulletin providing news and information from Archbishop Jackels, as well as initiatives and happenings from around the archdiocese. This printable bulletin can be inserted into parish bulletins, placed in common areas of your church, distributed to the homebound, and shared in email communications. Current and past volumes can be found on the Archdiocese of Dubuque website at <https://dbqarch.org/together>.



## 2023 ACCW BROCHURE IS NOW AVAILABLE!

The 2023 ACCW brochure is now available on the homepage of the ACCW website: <https://dbqarch.org/council-of-catholic-women>

Please feel free to print copies (8.5 x 14) for your local parish or CCW!

If you would like to order copies of the brochure (25¢/each), please contact Lynne Chapman at [dbqaccweddit@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbqaccweddit@dbqarch.org).



Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (ACCW)  
1229 Mt Loretta Avenue  
Dubuque, IA 52003

## Return Service Requested

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The Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women  
Empowers, Educates, and Supports all Catholic  
Women in Spirituality, Leadership, and Service.

*The Link* is the official publication of the ACCW  
and is available to affiliates and individual  
members.

For more information we invite you to visit  
<https://dbqarch.org/council-of-catholic-women>

# Priest Prayer Calendar

## Monthly Prayer Requests for Active Priests in the Archdiocese of Dubuque

Prayers can be offered as a Mass, Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Eucharistic Adoration, Fasting, Acts of Charity, or as you desire.

1 Pope Francis, Archbishop Jackels, and all bishops	2 Fr. Philip Agyei Fr. Rodney Allers Fr. David Ambrosy Fr. Francis Anane	3 Fr. Gabriel Anderson Fr. Paul Attah-Nsiah Fr. Ray Atwood Fr. Frantz Augustin	4 Fr. Andrew Awotwe-Mensah Fr. Greg Bahl Fr. Paul Baldwin Fr. David Beckman	5 Fr. Jerry Blake Fr. Scott Boone Fr. Marvin Bries Fr. James Brokman	6 Fr. Scott Bullock Fr. Raymond Burkle Fr. Dennis Conway Fr. Martin Coolidge	7 Fr. Donald Czapl Fr. Rick Dagit Fr. Ralph Davis Fr. Brian Dellaert
8 Deacons & Religious men and women of our Archdiocese	9 Fr. Noah Diehm Fr. Alan Dietzenbach Fr. Kyle Digmann Fr. Jeffrey Dole	9 Fr. Jacob Dunne Fr. Richmond Dzekoe Fr. Kevin Earleywine Fr. Solomon Farinto	11 Fr. John Flaherty Fr. Steven Garner Fr. Phillip Gibbs Fr. Kenneth Glaser	12 Fr. James Goerend Fr. G. Robert Gross Fr. John Haugen Fr. Thomas Heathershaw	13 Fr. Nils Hernandez Fr. Donald Hertges Fr. Henry Huber Fr. Aaron Junge	14 Fr. Donald Kombob Fr. Jerry Kopacek Fr. Anthony Kruse Fr. David Kucera
15 Men and women in Religious, Diaconate and Priestly formation	16 Fr. Mark Kwenin Fr. Andrew Lawrence Fr. Joshua Link Fr. Paul Lippstock	17 Fr. Douglas Loecke Fr. Neil Manternach Fr. Nicholas March Fr. Andrew Marr	18 Fr. Gary Mayer Fr. Michael McAndrew Fr. Thomas McDermott Fr. Dennis Miller	19 Fr. John Moser Fr. Mark Murphy Fr. Raphael Nana Andoh Fr. Paul Hta I Naw	20 Fr. Ivan Nienhaus Fr. Anthony Nketiah Fr. Benjamin Nkrumah Fr. Martin Obeng	21 Fr. David O'Connor Fr. Gabriel Oduro Mensah Fr. Mark Osterhaus Fr. Christopher Podhajsky
22 Retired Archbishops, Priests, Deacons and Religious	23 Fr. Dennis Quint Fr. Nicholas Radloff Fr. Tyler Raymond	24 Fr. Steven Rosonke Fr. Jacob Rouse Fr. David Schatz	25 Fr. Michael Schueller Fr. Jon Seda Fr. Joseph Sevcik	26 Fr. Sean Smith Fr. Craig Steimel Fr. Kyle Tietz	27 Msgr. Thomas Toale Fr. Andrew Upah Fr. Benjamin Valentine	28 Fr. Dustin Vu Fr. Douglas Wathier Fr. Austin Wilker
29 For an increase in vocations to the Diaconate and Religious Life	30 For an increase in vocations to the Priesthood	31 For all priests in the Archdiocese of Dubuque	 <p>"Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests. Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments. Help our priests to be strong in their vocation. Set their souls on fire with love for your people. Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom. Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel. Allow them to experience joy in their ministry. Help them to become instruments of your Divine Grace. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest. Amen. "USCCB "Prayer for Priests"</p>			

Consider joining a Seven Sisters ministry in your parish/cluster to pray for your pastor(s)! Contact Leone Bergeson at [r1berge@msn.com](mailto:r1berge@msn.com) to learn more!