



# Immaculate Conception Council of Catholic Women Newsletter

Vol. 43, No. 5

May 2023

## IC-CCW Mission Statement

We are united in Christ by our commitment to educate and empower women in spirituality, leadership and service. Our commissions respond to the needs of people in our parish, community and throughout the world.

## —Gifted Women Prayer—

*Eternal God, you are the foundation that enables everything we build to stand. You have given gifts to every woman to bless and serve each other. You provide all your daughters with gifts to carry out the mission you have designed for us. Speak clearly to us, so that we may discern your direction for our ministry. Remind us that everything we need is found in you. May your peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

## —Words from Our President—

*“Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord said to her will be accomplished.”*  
(Luke 1:45)

Dear IC - Council of Catholic Women,

I hope everyone had a very happy Easter and are enjoying the warmer spring weather! I always look forward to the month of May because everything seems to come alive in nature and we celebrate all the women in our lives, both living and those who have passed. The first woman who comes to my mind is our Blessed Mother Mary, who intercedes for us everyday. Next are my own Mom, my sibling sisters, my women friends, my grandmothers, aunts and nieces and of course each of you, my sisters of CCW. I thank God for all of these women!

A few weeks ago we had our annual Women's Retreat where our speaker Sr. Michele L'Allier posed some very thought provoking questions. Three of these questions were: 1) Who inspires you and why?, 2) Who challenges you and why?, and 3) Who touches you and why? I think some of the answers to these questions can be found in the women we know, celebrate and remember in May. I challenge you to answer the questions for yourself by using what you know and love about the women in your life, and then apply those answers to how you live life going forward. We have the ability to change and improve how we think, act and grow. We also have our faith, our prayers, our Blessed Mother Mary and our Risen Lord to guide us. Just imagine all the possibilities awaiting us as we engage in life!

I wish you peace and may God bless you and all the special women of your life!

Sandy Sichak

### **—Church Communities—** *Karen Drews*

Spring has sprung and summer is close behind. Lets enjoy the good weather by volunteering on the 3rd Thursday of the month to share our faith with the residents of Crestview. We need some new volunteers — it's morning Mass to get the hosts and 10:00 service. It takes about a half hour of your time and is very rewarding. Please consider this!

### **—Our Sympathy To—**

*The family and friends of Barbara Robertson  
Justine Grow on the death of her husband, Danny  
The family and friends of Mary Lou Goodman  
All those who have lost a loved one.*

May He uplift you gently, take the sorrow you bear. Then comfort you with healing in the safety of His care.

### **—Thank You—** *Justine Grow*

Many, many thanks to those who reached out to me with get well wishes and condolences after the death of my beloved husband. My church friends are such a gift to me. Also a reminder to contact me if you hear of anyone who could use get well or encouragement wishes. I know how much it means to have someone reach out and show they care.

### **—Monthly Mass for Our Deceased Members—**

Our next monthly Mass for deceased members will be Tuesday, May 2 at 7:30 am, we will pray for Barb Robertson. The first Wednesday in June, Wednesday, June 6 we will pray for Mary Lou Goodman. Please consider attending if possible.

### **—Family Concerns—** *Mary Holmberg*

Welcome spring AND the end of the MN Legislative Session AND the end of the Covid Emergency!

Many of us are shocked and numb from the session and the bills passed. Everyday, the thought was; it can't get any worse; and then it DID! But I'll stick to the abortion bill, though several others were appalling to my mind.

Regarding the PRO act bill, which as a reminder, allows withholding medical treatment to babies born alive despite going through an abortion procedure, among other extreme stances including marketing Minnesota as a sanctuary state. If there's any silver lining in this, it is that we as believers in Right to Life for the Preborn, will have increased opportunity to witness to those considering an abortion. I think we all know the groups that are ready and willing to train us to show up at the centers.

### **—Community Concerns May 2023—**

The Community Commission aims to increase awareness of human rights, basic needs, and justice within communities.

Recently the five Bishops of Minnesota met with the Governor and Legislators of Minnesota. They seek through discussion to change the course on a range of Bills filled with gender ideology. The Minnesota Legislature is promoting a radical gender agenda that seeks to impose itself on our culture. We too can contact our legislators to encourage them to remain strong and that enshrining gender ideology into law will harm our children and is detrimental to society. A 'thank you' to our legislators would be appreciated.

It is early April, as I write this newsletter, so the results of these bills are unknown but with the strong democratic presents in the legislature, I can only remain hopeful. I mention this topic because: Do we want to be a member of this community? Just as in our families, church, workplaces, and all communities we must be participants; continually involved and informed. Visit web site Minnesota Catholic Conference at [www.mncatholic.org](mailto:www.mncatholic.org)

### **—Butter Braid Fundraiser—**

Thank you for your purchases and help with the fundraiser. This year the profit was \$978.00.

### **—March 18 Lenten Retreat—**

Thank you to all who were in attendance. We were blessed with 103 attendees. Thank you to our speaker, the time spent in adoration, and the time to share conversation with our fellow sisters in Christ. We are thankful to our God for the grace of being “Nourished by Living Waters.” We look forward to seeing you next year!

### **—May Rosary—**

In celebrating the month of May as the month dedicated to our Blessed Mother and the Rosary, come and pray the Rosary in church each Sunday in May after the 10:00 am Mass led by the Council of Catholic Women.

### **—Save the Date—**

Mark your calendars for our Summer CCW Meeting and Picnic on Thursday, July 13, 2023 at Sullivan Park. Details will follow in the next newsletter.

### **—Re-Imagining CCW Committee—**

At our last CCW Board and Member Meetings, a committee was formed and they held their first meeting on April 14. The topics discussed included ways to improve CCW meetings, increasing membership, fund raising events and leadership positions. The committee will continue to meet and discuss opportunities and will report progress to the membership at our next CCW meeting. Please add to your prayer list the ongoing efforts of this committee to come up with ways to sustain and improve our Council of Catholic Women.

### **—Mother’s Day, May 14—**

Happy Mother’s Day to all CCW mothers, grandmothers, great-grand mothers and god-mothers. Praying for blessings on your special day!

### **—Congratulations—**

To Larene St. Gabriel-Dargay on her recent achievement given top honors on winning the Award of Excellence blue ribbon for her acrylic painting “*Veteran of WWII, My Father, Out of Algiers, Almost a Death Mask*” the highest award at an exhibition produced by the Minnesota Artists Association, held at the Hopkins Center for the Arts.

### **—The 90<sup>th</sup> ACCW 2023 Convention, April 28, 2023—**

St Peter’s Catholic Church  
1405 Sibley Memorial Hwy, Mendota, MN  
“*Walking Together Sharing our Gifts*”

Register through April 13: \$65.00, after April 13: \$75.00.

Registration opens at 8:00 am

**Speakers topics:** *Mentorship — Caring for God’s Creation — Eucharistic Revival*  
**Mass at 5:00 pm** with Archbishop Bernard Hebda

Information and registration at <https://accwarchspm.org/2023-convention>.

Mail checks to ACCW, 777 Forest Street, St. Paul, MN 55106.

### **—May CCW Meeting, May 11, 2023—**

*6:00 pm Rosary — 6:30 pm Mass in Church*

Installation of new members will take place at Mass. There will be a light supper after Mass prepared by the CCW Board and a short meeting to follow. We look forward to you joining us!

**Immaculate Conception Church**  
**Council of Catholic Women**  
4030 Jackson Street Northeast  
Columbia Heights, Minnesota 55421

*“Wide Open Hearts”*

**LOOKING AHEAD**

July 13: CCW Meeting and Picnic  
August 4, 5 and 6: Summer Jam/Fun Fest

**CALENDAR**

**May 2023**

May 11 CCW Meeting  
May 14 Mother’s Day  
May 18 Ascension Thursday  
May 29 Memorial Day

**June 2023**

June 14 Flag day  
June 18 Father’s Day  
June 21 Summer begins