



Immaculate Conception Council of Catholic Women Newsletter

Vol. 44, No. 4

February 2024

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

*"When I say, 'My foot is slipping' your mercy, O Lord, sustains me;
When cares abound within me, your comfort gladdens my soul."
(from Psalm 94)*

Dear IC - Council of Catholic Women,

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a happy start to the New Year! How are your New Year's resolutions going? Perhaps some will say great, or just OK, or not so good and may even say — what resolutions? It is always interesting how life evolves with each new year.

This year, Lent begins on February 14th, which seems early; however, it may be an opportunity to re-boot our resolutions, since they are still fresh in our mind, and make a list of new items to add. Before Ash Wednesday, I typically make a list of what I'm going to give up, or what I'm not going to do or what prayers I will say during Lent. This year my list will contain those items again, but I'm also going to incorporate ways to become closer to Jesus. When life becomes difficult, where is the first place or the first person you turn to? Being human, we often try to resolve issues by ourself and then turn to Jesus when things are not working out. During this Lent, I'm going to practice turning first to Jesus and saying the surrender prayer daily. It is such a simple prayer: *Jesus, I surrender myself to you, please take care of everything.* How comforting and reassuring is that short prayer! Jesus is there for us – always.

I hope this Lenten season is a time for personal growth in your earthly journey with Jesus as your personal guide. May the peace of Jesus guide you in the coming days and may He bless you abundantly!

Sandy Sichak

Commissions Reports

Spirituality

Church — Karen Drews

We pray that your spirit may continue to give new life to our church. Some have fallen away. Enlighten their hearts to find you and accept the embrace of your love so as to live with new purpose in their lives. Strengthen us to be your apostles in our day to day lives. Bring us together as sisters and brothers in your new creation. Amen

Family — Kathy Morales

Our annual Baby Shower will be March 14th — as always it is great fun and you can walk away with a prize. Cash donations from the shower and \$275.00 from the Family Commission budget will be donated to Pro Life Across America, the billboard people. It has been a challenging year for them because billboards have been vandalized and there are companies that have refused their billboards. Let us keep them in our prayers. All baby goods will be donated to the First Care Life Center, Minneapolis location.

Service

Community — Kathy Morales

Did you know that 2024 has been designated the Year of Prayer by Pope Francis? There is a particular focus on the Our Father which presents us with a wonderful opportunity to go back to the basics of prayer. We are called to use 2024 as a year of preparation for the Jubilee 2025. I will have a handout explaining what Jubilee 2025 is at our meeting. You can find the Pope's monthly intentions at uscgb.org/popes-monthly-intentions-2024.

This year can be thought of in a secular way as the year of elections. Here in Columbia Heights, our first step into the voting booth this year will be February 13th. In all of the forthcoming elections this year may we use prayer in preparation to exercise both our right and responsibility as citizens of this county. May we find clarity to be an educated voter and seek common good for all.

International — Diane Tieden

Ladies, thank you for your generous donations to the Appalachia Kentucky Christmas Mission Program. Your donations amounted to \$600 this year allowing us to send \$150 to the four Catholic churches in the area. Thank you so much! Please know your kindness helped to bring smiles to those in need.

Leadership

Legislation — Kathy Morales

No report.

Monthly Mass for Our Deceased Members !

Our monthly Mass for deceased members is the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 am. Please consider attending if possible.

Remember in your Prayers !

Remember our members and families who may be having health problems or have moved to Senior Living Centers. Our prayers are much appreciated.

Sympathies to – Marion Bernard on the death of her sister Joanne
Karen Drews on the death of her son Brian (Beanie)
Michele Ward on the death of her sister Shirley
All those who have lost a loved one

Congratulations to Sue Wintz on Her Retirement

Enjoy every moment and allow yourself to experience lots of new adventures for this new stage in your life.

Decorating Christmas Cards

Thank you to everyone who participated in signing and decorating Christmas cards for the residents of Crestview Senior Living Center. We delivered 112 beautifully decorated cards to Crestview and the residents really appreciated them. Thank you!

December's Bake Sale and Boutique Results

Ladies, thank you for your generous donations of baked goods, holiday décor items, items for the boutique tables, and lest we forget, your purchases helping us to have another great sale this year. The sale generated \$3,541.70; \$1,577.70 from the bake sale, \$1,428.50 from the holiday décor items, and \$535.50 from the boutique tables.

We also extend a heartfelt thank you to those who gave of their time and volunteered for the event.

Holiday Nut Sale Results

Thank you everyone that purchased nuts and helped in any way. Our profit is \$979.48.

Butter Braid Fundraiser

We will begin taking orders for Butter Braids from February 24th through March 10th. Look for us in the narthex after masses the weekends of February 24/25, March 2/3, and March 9/10 to take your orders. Order forms will also be available at all church entrances. Be sure to get your orders in by March 10th to guarantee you have Butter Braid pastries to enjoy for Easter or to give as a hostess gift. Contact Diane Tieden for orders or questions.

Save the Date for the Women's Lenten Retreat—March 9, 2024

We invite you to join us as we explore this year's theme; "Do whatever He tells you," - John 2:5. Our speaker will be Chris Heiderscheidt. Chris comes from Sleepy Eye, in the New Ulm Diocese. She is a cradle Catholic working as Development Director for St. Mary's Church and School for the past 25 years. She is excited to share her story in developing a personal relationship with Jesus. Along with sharing how she came to know Him, she is fueled with the desire to help women understand their role in the Church. She hopes that by sharing her trials and tribulations, it will touch your heart leaving you inspired to serve Him in a way that fills your heart with His joy.

Join us in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, March 9, 2024; a light breakfast will be served from 8:30 – 9:00 am, retreat from 9:00 am – noon, followed by lunch. Cost \$25, breakfast and lunch included. Paid reservations required by March 1st. Mail registrations to Diane Tieden 1000 41st Avenue NE, #319, Columbia Heights, MN 55421 or drop them off at the parish office marked "Lenten Retreat" *We look forward to seeing you!*

Checks must be made payable to IC-CCW

Chili Cook Off, Sponsored by the CCW, Save the Date!

Join us on Saturday, February 17, 5:30 - 7:30 pm for a Chili Cook Off Contest! Enter your chili to compete for "Best Chili". To register your chili email tiedendc@gmail.com or Bridgeman@bonabros.com

All are welcome to come, have fun, taste and vote for your favorite. Hot dogs, chips and beverages will be available. Watch for more information in upcoming bulletins.

**Immaculate Conception Church
Council of Catholic Women**

4030 Jackson Street Northeast
Columbia Heights, Minnesota 55421

“Walking Together Sharing our Gifts”

CALENDAR

February:

- Feb. Black History Month
- Feb. 02 Groundhog Day
- Feb. 07 CCW Mass, 7:30 am
- Feb. 10 Lunar New Year
- Feb. 10 IC Music Presents:
The Lullaby of Broadway
- Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday
- Feb. 14 Valentine’s Day
- Feb. 19 President’s Day
- Feb. 24 Butter Braid Sale Begins

March

- Mar. Women’s History Month
- Mar. 06 CCW Mass, 7:30 am
- Mar. 09 Lenten Retreat
- Mar. 10 Daylight Savings Time Starts
- Mar. 10 Last Day to Order Butter Braids
- Mar. 11 Deanery Mtg. - Holy Cross Church
- Mar. 14 CCW Membership Meeting
- Mar. 17 St. Patrick’s Day
- Mar. 24 Palm Sunday
- Mar. 29 Good Friday
- Mar. 31 Easter Sunday