

ST. MARY'S CCW MEETING MINUTES

February 10, 2026

President Therese Cheney called the meeting to order. There were 9 members present. We opened with the Prayer to Mary, Our Lady of Good Counsel. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Secretary's Report:

Karen McDermott motioned to accept the January 13, 2026, minutes. Cleo Cottrell seconded. All in favor.

Correspondence:

- We received a Thank you from Tony Chos for the dinner provided at Betty's funeral.
- MCCL Newsletter
- Thank you from St. Scholastica for the \$100 donation in memory of Mary Richards.

Treasurer's Report:

- Bea Amundson motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report and was seconded by Lee Ehrbright. All in favor.
- Jennifer Herdman noted that because the CCW operates under St. Mary's Federal Tax ID number and their 501c3, the CCW's financials must be reported on St. Mary's financial reports.

Commissions/Spirituality/Leadership: Please see the attached "Seek the Good" article submitted by Cleo Cottrell.

Old Business:

Lion's Pancake Breakfast will be held at St. Mary's on Sunday, March 22nd at 9:00 am.

Membership Drive: Thank you to all who have sent in your membership dues. If you still have not sent them in, please get them to Jennifer Herdman as soon as possible.

New Business:

Day of Reflection: Saturday, March 14th, 9 am – Noon. Tentative plan is to have a speaker from 9 – 11, Mass at 11:00 am, luncheon to follow. Everyone from our cluster of parishes is invited. Jennifer Herdman motioned to have Zup's cater the luncheon, seconded by Karen McDermott, all in favor.

Spring BINGO: Sunday, April 19th, 1 pm. We are once again asking for cash prizes & prize basket donations. There will be a signup sheet available soon. If you would like to donate, please get your gifts turned into Jennifer Herdman or Tammy Palmer by April 12th. The menu and other details will be discussed at our next meeting.

Fellowship Dinner: Ladies of the CCW are invited to join us for a "Fiesta" on May 5, 2026. More details to come after our meeting in April.

Jennifer Herdman motioned to adjourn the meeting. Lee Ehrbright seconded. All in favor.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10th at 10:30 am (After Ladies Catholic Book Study)

Closing Prayer: Hail Mary

Respectfully submitted by,

Jennifer Herdman, Secretary/Treasurer

Happy Birthday to these ladies in February!

Bea Amundson – 18th

Jennifer Herdman – 24th

*If you have not yet provided me us with your birthday month & year, please email me at

jennifer.herdman@duluthcatholic.org

SEEK THE GOOD

There's a reason I don't write about current events.

The news flies at me faster than I can absorb. I cannot make sense of it all, and it feels as if I should always be doing something more, knowing more, helping more than I am.

The parable in the Bible that made the biggest impact on me as a child was the story Jesus told of how, when the master went away, he gave his servants talents to safeguard. Of course, in the literal sense, a talent was a large amount of money, but as a child, I took it to mean exactly as the parable implied -- some kind of ability I might have.

I didn't want to be that servant who stuck his talents in the ground and did nothing with them. Those talents didn't do any good. They didn't grow. They didn't help anyone. I promised myself (at eight or nine years old) I wouldn't make the mistake of that foolish servant. I'd make use of whatever I've been given.

In the years since I was eight or nine, I've come to realize this is not as easy as it sounds. Every single person has more talents than they know what to do with. The trick is deciding what to do with whatever we have and using it wisely in whatever time we are given.

Every day, I see a multitude of people who seem to be doing a lot more than I do. And this morning, again, I wondered if I was doing enough to make the world more livable, more kind, more loving. This morning, I had the very strong impression that I was not.

So I went to church. It was cold and gray, and I was grumpy. But I figured those were good reasons to go to church rather than stay at home. Once I got there, I was surrounded by folks who seemed

busy doing the things they felt they needed to do -- using their talents to the best of their abilities. I genuinely felt lost. I wondered if I was the only one who felt so confused. We got all the way to the benediction before I felt any clarity at all.

"We will seek the good," the benediction said.

It said a few other things, but that phrase, "seek the good," stuck with me because, for the first time in several days, I felt as if maybe there was something I could do.

I could seek the good -- in every person I encounter, in every interaction I have, within the hearts and minds of the folks I might not agree with. I can seek the good.

It doesn't sound like a lot. It seems like a pretty simple thing, actually, not a serious job assignment. It doesn't sound entirely sensible, and it certainly doesn't sound pragmatic. But I'm going to seek the good because this morning, it suddenly seemed to me that making a practice of seeking the good is a lot harder than it seems. And possibly, it's more important than it sounds.

It is so easy to lose hope. It is so easy to become deeply cynical. It's easy to explain what is wrong with others and what is wrong with ourselves, and there are a lot of people who do that well.

But right now, when there is no shortage of anger or fear or cynicism, I'm going to try to seek the good instead -- the good I know is all around me -- sometimes in plain sight, sometimes in places I forget to look.

**Till next time,
Carrie**

Carrie's debut novel, "Loon Point," is now available at both local and online retailers.