JOIN IN SOLIDARITY

We welcome the CCW women of the Dioceses of Superior and Duluth to join in solidarity.

I, with my counterpart Connie Andrews, Duluth Diocesan CCW President, extend a personal invitation to each of you for this historic gathering. It is our hope that each parish council will send a representative to the joint convention this May. This joint convention will offer you and your local councils relevant information during a day of encounter with new faces and ideas.

The day will feature:

• Holy Mass concelebrated by Bishops Paul Sirba & James Powers
• Nationally renowned speakers Maria Johnson & Dale Ahlquist
• Catered refreshments & a first class luncheon

You are encouraged to register early as the luncheon seating in Somers lounge is limited. Hotel rates expire April 22.

We look forward to joining you IN SOLIDARITY in Duluth this May.

Your sisters in Christ,
Barbara Gagliardi and Connie Andrews

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2 REBRANDING SDCCW Brochure, Manual & Bookmark released
   CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION announced for President-Elect and Secretary
   ADVENT RETREAT Recap from December
3 SPIRITUAL BATTLE Letter from Spiritual Director, Fr. Gerard Willger
   IN LOVING MEMORY Visit with John Hennessy, Scholarship Donor
4 CONVENTION SPEAKERS TO UPLIFT AND UNITE Learn more about Maria Johnson & Dale Ahlquist
5 NCCW UPDATE Letter from Province Director, Carol Brennan
   TREASURER’S REPORT
ADVENT RETREAT
Susan Gotrik, Publicity

This past December, 50 women from across the diocese gathered at St. John the Baptist in Webster for an Advent Retreat featuring dynamic and inspiring Catholic author and speaker, Kelly Wahlquist.

It was a beautiful retreat, which included a delicious breakfast and warm, homemade soups for lunch prepared by the ladies of the Webster CCW. Kelly spoke on how to live the Joy of the Gospel as women and challenged attendees to prepare for Christmas by meditating on four works for the four weeks of Advent: Humility, Silence, Wonder & Awe, and Joy. She encouraged women to get a “PhD” (permanently His disciple) through prayer and service. There was also time for Confession and quiet prayer in front of the Tabernacle.

Thank you for providing hospitality for the retreat: Mary Strub, Gloria Haffely, Audrey Dufresne, Pat Balfanz & Donna Crain

Katie Zenner, Leadership Commissioner

The excitement continues as another milestone has been achieved. We are pleased to announce that a refreshed SDCCW Manual Cover, Brochure and Book Mark have been completed. The new Lady of Good Counsel Image, designed by local graphic design artist Scott Waldal, will be used throughout our branding efforts moving forward.

Our new brochure was designed at the request of Bishop Powers with the goal to inspire, educate and build awareness of SDCCW within the Superior Diocese, with emphasis that SDCCW supports, empowers and educates all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. The brand refresh is to continue to build momentum and recognition of SDCCW, which will ultimately help grow membership.

A special Thank You to Jane Schiszik, Katie Zenner and Barbara Gagliardi for their work on this project.

We hope that you find this new literature a valuable tool. Copies will be available at the Convention and further distribution is being planned. Contact President Barbara Gagliardi if you need these items right away.

Continue to look for more great things to come from SDCCW throughout 2018 as we move forward with additional elements, such as Prayer Cards.

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION
Evelyn Lompa

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce two candidates for our upcoming elections this Spring. For President-Elect, Jane Schiszik and for Secretary, Katie Zenner, both of Medford.
THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE
Fr. Gerard I. Willger, Spiritual Advisor

Dear Women of the Council,

The nature of God is peace, order and love. The nature of the devil is hate, chaos and confusion. I think of these extremes when I look at the world. Of course our world has both extremes. One doesn’t have to look at the news very long to see the chaos, violence, hatred and division. There is conflict in the world in which we live. The devil is alive and well. Even Jesus was not immune from the attacks of the devil. The devil even tempted Jesus.

As we enter into the season of Lent let us look around for signs of the evil one in our midst. As Catholics we do not have to despair. We have many resources available to us in our spiritual battle. We need to take advantage of these spiritual resources. First, acknowledge that the evil exists and that we need to combat it.

The spiritual resources or weapons we are encouraged to use are as follows: reading the Bible, praying the rosary and the prayer to St. Michael, using holy water and blessed salt, uttering the name of Jesus, the use of the sacraments (especially mass and confession), along with other spiritual devotions.

The Council of Catholic Women has always been good at deepening relationships with Jesus. Let us continue to protect ourselves from the evil one who likes to attack us in many different ways. When our Lenten journey is completed our faith will be stronger and our lives will be happier. May God continue to protect you in the days ahead.

IN LOVING MEMORY
Barbara Gagliardi, President

On a sunny February afternoon, I had the great honor of meeting and visiting with Mr. Hennessy at his home in Hudson. He and his wife, whom he affectionately called “my Janey”, raised four boys in the Appleton area, where John worked as a bank President. Mr. Hennessy has a history of philanthropic work throughout his life, not just supporting our scholarship fund, but also supporting his local football stadium, named in his honor.

The first thing he did upon my arrival was retrieve his wife’s Bible, proud of her faith and the reminders of that strength she left behind. She had a great love of piano, and would often play in the style of the great Liberace. We sat on the last Davenport she had purchased before her death as he shared stories of his past - how he met Jane and the life they shared together for 49 years.

John cared for his wife during her last sickness until she died a decade ago; then he moved up north to care for his mother until she died at age 102. He moved to Hudson to be close to his sons, who live in the Twin Cities, but he refused to move to Minnesota - Wisconsin is his home!

He began contributing to the SDCCW in 2012 in memory of his wife, and our Scholarship fund was renamed in her honor. This year, he sent another check to replenish the funds and encouraged us to continue to be generous with the ladies of our diocese who are pursuing higher education. He is eager to spread love and kindness in Janey’s memory.
CONVENTION SPEAKERS TO UPLIFT AND UNITE

WOMEN EVERYWHERE WILL FIND SOMETHING TO LOVE

Jenny Snarski, Spirituality Commissioner

Cuban-American author and speaker Maria Morera Johnson is mother to three grown children. She lives near Atlanta with her husband who has Lou Gehrig’s disease and their dog Otis.

She loves the Catholic faith and shares it with candid humor as a CatholicMom.com blogger and co-host on SQPN’s Catholic Weekend. With the Rosary and saints as some of her favorite topics, Maria motivates and inspires with characteristic zest.


“THE LAUGHING PROPHET”

Jenny Snarski, Spirituality Commissioner

Dale Ahlquist is an Evangelical convert to Catholicism and father of six. Respected around the world as an expert on G. K. Chesterton, Ahlquist has authored and contributed to more than fifteen books on his perspectives on faith, education, love and marriage.

Ahlquist is the president and co-founder of the American Chesterton Society and publishes its magazine, Gilbert. He created and hosts the EWTN series, The Apostle of Common Sense. Dale is also co-founder of a top-rated Catholic high school in the Twin Cities, Chesterton Academy.

He has spoken internationally on a variety of topics and is sure to engage with intelligence, wit and wisdom.
NCCW UPDATES
Carol Brennan, Milwaukee Province Director

I had the privilege of attending the NCCW Board meeting in Washington D.C. January 18-21 in conjunction with the peaceful March for Life. Wherever I was I could feel God's presence and love. Then it was time to get to work, and we had two full days of business meetings.

It was wonderful getting together with Catholic women from across the nation, celebrating Mass with them, and establishing new friendships. Human Trafficking is a hot topic and so much more prevalent than we imagined. We will be working on resources concerning this.

At our NCCW Board meeting our president, Maribeth Stewart informed us of what she has been doing since being installed at convention. Some of these are:

• Contracted with a new accounting firm- saving $32,250 /year
• Represented NCCW at Catholic Women's Conferences
• Attended the fall meeting of USCCB and the WUCWO Board meeting in Rome
• Contacted the US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking, National Regent of Catholic Daughters of Americas and the Auxiliary of the Knights of Peter Claver, and we will work with them on Human Trafficking projects
• A new Education Committee has been formed and they have designed a booklet and guidelines about NCCW that can be used in outreach to high school and college age women.

Our President Elect and Convention Chair, Jean Kelly announced the theme for the NCCW Convention in Pittsburgh, PA August 29-September 1: NCCW Reflecting God's Joy: Missionary Disciples – Mission Possible!

We are having a New NCCW Member contest. If you recruit a new member to NCCW the names of both the new member and the one that recruits her will be entered into a drawing for a Free Registration, Hotel and Banquet costs to Convention. The contest runs from March 1 – June 1, 2018. Several years ago when NCCW Individual Membership was started there was a contest and Superior Diocese won first place in the Nation. Ladies, work your magic again and recruit.

It's that time of year again – Lent – a time for us to reflect, refresh and renew our faith. We need to pause our busy lives and refocus. “Giving up” something is fine, but this year how about doing something extra, either for yourself or for someone else. Who knows, this could become a habit and a way of life long after Lent is over.

May God bless all of you for all you do for others and for the Council of Catholic Women.

SAVE THE DATE: AUGUST 4, 2018 for LTD Workshop in La Crosse which will be sponsored by the entire Province.

TREASURER’S REPORT
Lynn Neek

Account Balances:
Checking     $7,005.23
Savings      $12,483.95
Scholarship  $ 9,621.46

Mr. Hennessy graciously donated an additional $5,000 toward the scholarship fund in January.

The Advent Retreat was a success with 51 ladies attending. After expenses the CCW cleared $412.80 in profit.

The expenditures for the past year exceeded the revenues by $2,782.

I attribute some of this loss in revenue to the number of unpaid attendees at the last convention. There were only 59 paid registrations, yet there were approximately 80 attendees. The previous year registrations totaled $3520 compared to $1770 this past convention, a loss of $1750.

There was an increase in affiliate dues paid in the amount of $100 this year from parishes that our president personally visited who have not participated in the past.

Barbara and I met with the president and treasurer of Duluth Diocesan CCW to set a budget for the upcoming convention to be held at Scholastica in May. Our anticipated expenses are approximately $3,465 if each diocese has 100 paid attendees. The registration fee is being increased to $40 in order to cover the expenses. We are hopeful there will be a high turnout for the convention.

UPCOMING EVENTS
April 14    SC Deanery Open Meeting    St. Therese of Lisieux in Phillips
April 21    SW Deanery Open Meeting    Our Lady of the Lakes in Balsam Lake
May 22      Diocesan Convention        St. Scholastica in Duluth

CHECK US OUT ONLINE
For the most recent news and updates from SDCCW, go to SDCCW.me or like/follow us on Facebook facebook.com/superiordiocesanCCW/