

“Council News”

Saginaw Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Affiliate of the National CCW & Detroit Province CCW

www.nccw.org & www.dpccw-mi.com

August 2026

Dear Sisters in Christ,

The **National Council of Catholic Women annual convention** will soon be held in our backyard! Women from across the nation will meet in Grand Rapids, on August 26-29, 2026, at the Amway Grand Hotel. This is a wonderful opportunity for the Michigan girls since it is so close to home. Nine of us from the Saginaw Diocese will be attending and volunteering. There are tours available for attendees; a meditation room will be open for use each day as well as adoration; confessions will be heard each day; liturgy will be celebrated Wednesday through Saturday; a silent auction will create excitement; there will be “Lunch & Learn” sessions to inform us; the Spirituality, Leadership, and Service Commissions will present; there will be almost 50 women from Michigan at our Province Dinner on Thursday; the purse auction will create a big buzz again; the guest speaker, Kevin Matthews, and keynote speaker, Mary Lenaburg, will have us focused; the Teen & Young Women’s Gathering will gather the newbies; the exhibits will be informative and great for gift purchases; new officers will be installed; and the closing banquet will be a delight! You should be with us!!!

Our **SDCCW Annual Meeting** will be held at the Center for Ministry on Wednesday, September 16. Morning snacks will begin at 9 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 9:30. Our morning speaker will be Kelly Hadd from the Marriage & Family Life ministry of the Diocese. I am sure that you are aware that Bishop Gruss has declared this the Year of the Holy Spirit. There are planned talks from knowledgeable people on the topic for our diocesan members to take advantage of. A spin off of this is our afternoon topic for the SDCCW Annual Meeting with speaker, Fr. Stephen Blaxton. Father Stephen will present on his topic of Saints of America’s Founding and the Holy Spirit. Be sure to mark your calendar and be there! The event should end about 3:30 p.m.

*Our SDCCW is in need of **someone to take minutes** at our Annual Meeting and also at the Board Meetings. If you are able to help us fill this position of Secretary, please contact me soon.*

USCCB News:

(Information obtained from the Zeale News Team)

The leaders of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops have issued a nationwide invitation calling all Catholics to pray and take action against abortion pills through the end of October, which is Respect Life Month. The bishops are asking Catholics to seek the intercession of St. Joseph under the title “Defender of Life,” to learn about the danger of abortion pills, and contact pharmacies and drugmakers involved in their distribution. The full action campaign will launch August 18.

The USCCB will provide an online platform that will let users send one message to multiple pharmacies, distributors, and drugmakers. They are also preparing materials distinguishing miscarriage care from abortion.

The Guttmacher Institute, a pro-abortion research organization, estimated that U.S. clinicians provided 1.126 million abortions in 2025, 21% more than in 2020. Medication abortion accounted for 65% of clinician-provided abortions in 2023, up from 53% in 2020, and online-only clinics accounted for nearly one-quarter of clinician-provided abortion in 2025. The U.S. bishops contend that mail-order distribution circumvents state laws, leaves women to undergo abortions without direct medical supervision, and creates opportunities for coercion by abusive partners or human traffickers.

Catholics can enroll through the USCCB's *Respect Life Prayer and Action* program to begin receiving action materials. Go to: www.usccb.org

Check out our Province website (address is at top of Pg. 1). This contains information from each diocese in Michigan. I try to have our Saginaw DCCW activities listed in our diocesan page along with some photos. If you have photos of your CCW activities, please send them to me!!

God bless you and all the wonderful work that you do in helping others through your service as a CCW member! We invite all Catholic women to join our organization!



May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide us!

Rita Maher

SDCCW President

rfmaher48453@yahoo.com

3028 McGill St., Marlette, MI

989-635-7072

SDCCW Coming Events:

The **Annual Meeting** for the Saginaw Diocesan CCW will be on a **Wednesday, September 16**, at the Center for Ministry in Saginaw. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. (registration & snacks at 9 a.m.) Plan to attend and **mark your calendar!**

The Fall **East Region** CCW meeting will be held on a **Wednesday in mid- October** at Ave Maria Parish, St. Denis Church in Lexington. More details later!

ER Pres.—Rose Lilly

ER VP—Ann Lukshaitis

ER Sec.—Diane Glaza

ER Trea.—Valerie Fischer

News from the SDCCW Commissions--

Service Commission Report

Ann Lukshaitis, Chairwoman

It's always good to hear what parishes do as service projects – ideas that we can pass along to other parishes. Holy Family Parish (Sandusky, Peck, Marlette) is doing a back-to-school service project to help our three local school district elementary buildings.

We are collecting clothing for the schools to have on hand in case a child has an accident, falls into a mud puddle, etc., and their parents are not able to get to the building with clean clothing from home.

Donations of underwear, tee shirts, sweatshirts, and sweat pants are being collected in totes in the gathering area of each church through August 15. Then they will be sorted and distributed before school starts.

If you would like to share information about a service project your parish is doing, please let me know at annie8167@yahoo.com

Spirituality Commission Report

Cathie Gerding, Chairwoman

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen: A Life Worth Living

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen became one of the most recognizable Catholic voices of the 20th century through his groundbreaking 1950s television program *Life Is Worth Living*. Standing before a simple blackboard, he offered clear, hopeful teaching on faith and morality. The show reached an estimated **30 million viewers**, making it one of the most widely watched religious programs in American history. Born in May 1895, Sheen's vocation was encouraged early. At age eight, after accidentally dropping a cruet while serving Mass for Bishop John Spalding in Peoria, Illinois, he was reassured with two predictions: that he would study in Louvain, Belgium, and that he would one day become a bishop. Both came true.

Sheen became a respected theologian, prolific author, and leader of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, raising millions to support Catholic missions. As an archbishop, he participated in the Second Vatican Council and frequently encouraged the practice of a daily Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament. He died on December 9, 1979.

On **September 24, 2026**, Bishop Sheen will be **beatified** at *The Dome at America's Center* in Peoria. Holy Hours and prayer services will be offered throughout September 15–23 in thanksgiving for his life and witness.

Among his many memorable teachings: **"You must love people and use things."** **"Real love stories never have endings."** His words and example continue to inspire Catholics today.

(Many of the facts in this article were drawn from the biography of Bishop Sheen by The Catholic University of America, where he taught theology for many years.)

List of SDCCW officers—

<i>President</i>	<i>Rita Maher</i>	<i>989-635-7072</i>
<i>V.P.</i>	<i>Joyce Raducha</i>	<i>989-875-2650</i>
<i>Secretary</i>		
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Sandie Cargill</i>	<i>989-635-2474</i>
<i>Service Comm.</i>	<i>Ann Lukshaitis</i>	<i>810-358-5874</i>
<i>Spirituality Comm.</i>	<i>Cathie Gerding</i>	<i>989-213-5063</i>
<i>Leadership Comm.</i>		
<i>ER Pres.</i>	<i>Rose Lilly</i>	<i>810-359-7610</i>
<i>Spiritual Advisor</i>	<i>Sr. Janet Fulgenzi</i>	

Daily Prayer for America250

By Cardinal Raymond L. Burke

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, King of Heaven and Earth,
 I place today my nation, the United States of America,
 into Your Heart pierced for love of us.
 On the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence,
 I acknowledge that true liberty is Your gift,
 and that our lasting homeland is the eternal Kingdom of God.

Under the mantle of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas,
 and through the intercession of her Immaculate Heart,
 bless my homeland anew,
 purify her from sin,
 and guide her leaders in truth, justice, and peace,
 so that she may safeguard all human life,
 respect the integrity of marriage and the family,
 and honor the practice of religion.

Reign in my home and in my nation.
 Draw every heart into communion with You,
 that Your truth, love, justice, mercy, and peace may triumph
 in America and throughout the world.

Amen.