

“Council News”

Saginaw Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Affiliate of the National CCW / www.nccw.org

January 2024

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like unto Thine.

At a recent NCCW Member Call through Zoom, I was inspired to initiate a **conference call** to pray the rosary for the unborn with my Sisters from the Saginaw DCCW. Using the conference call for this united prayer to end abortion worked splendidly. We had 14 women join us in praying the rosary asking for intercession from Our Blessed Mother for the women that would consider abortion. Thank you, ladies, for participating! And thanks to our Board leaders.

National has many prayer resources on their website that individuals and parish groups can use. All you need to do is sign up for an account if you are the president (or rep.) of an affiliate parish group or if you are an Individual Member. After you log in, you can access the Members Only Resources pages.

Our next **Province Convention** (includes every diocese in Michigan) is being planned for the Grand Rapids area in April 2025. Many of you remember the wonderful times that we had in Clare, Ann Arbor, and Frankenmuth. Much planning goes into this event so once we have announced our date and hotel, I hope you will quickly mark your calendar and plan to bring a carload of friends! More news to come!

See the last page of this newsletter for information on our **upcoming retreat**. Print the flier for your advertising!

Check out our Province website: www.dpccw-mi.com

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

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Past SDCCW Events:

The SDCCW held a **Rosary Conference Call** on Sunday, January 14, 2024, to participate in the Sanctity of Human Life events. Many gals learned where their “mute” button is on their phone! We prayed the Respect Life rosary meditation from the NCCW website.

Our SDCCW **Annual Meeting** was held on September 9, 2023, with 67 women attending. We had two dynamic speakers! Erin Looby Carlson, the past Editor of our Faith Saginaw Magazine, shared some of the experiences that she had in interviewing people for the lead story in the magazine. The individuals whose stories were told were very inspiring. One young man that was highlighted was Derik Pfaff from Harbor Beach. Derik is waiting for a face transplant. Our wonderful and generous attendees donated \$257 to the Pfaff family to help with their expenses. Erin is now the writer and editor of the Little Books, which we all enjoy so much! Valerie Fischer treated us with a make it/take it project of bookmarks immediately after our Jimmy John lunch. The afternoon speaker was Fr. Adam Maher who advised us to just *shut the door!* We need to quiet ourselves to listen to God’s message to us.

The **East Region** held a Fall Meeting at Holy Apostles Parish in Ruth on October 4. Thirty-three women enjoyed the day. As usual, the business meeting, praying the rosary, celebration of Mass, and lunch were part of the day’s events. Rita Maher and Ann Lukshaitis reported on the activities at the annual NCCW convention that was held in Salt Lake City. Peg McEvoy, from the Diocese, spoke in the afternoon about Sharing Faith as Catholic Women. *These region meetings are open to any woman in the Diocese!*

SDCCW Coming Events:

Our **Women’s Lenten Silent Retreat** will be held on **Saturday, March 9, 2024**, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Center for Ministry in Saginaw. Dr. Dan Osborn will be our retreat leader with the theme of: *Bride and Branch: Growing Closer to the Lord.*

As usual, we will have the spiritual talks, meditation time, confession, Mass, rosary, and Stations of the Cross. The cost will be \$25 in advance, which includes morning snack and lunch. Two financial scholarships are available for those that need assistance.

Please rsvp to Rita Maher at 989-635-7072 by March 4.

News from the SDCCW Commissions--

Service Commission Report

Ann Lukshaitis, Chairwoman

We are entering the month of February (Happy St. Valentine's Day!). The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superior General has designated February 8 as an Annual Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking. Some ideas regarding fostering your own awareness include:

- Hosting (or attending) a prayer service to bring more awareness to this ongoing suffering.
- Posting copies of the NCCW Human Trafficking resource with tear off numbers for the Human Trafficking Hotline – post in public places like grocery stores, restrooms, etc.

Be informed and aware of your surroundings. You never know when God may place you in the right place at the right time to save and change a life

Spirituality Commission Report

Valerie Fischer, Chairwoman

The NCCW has been busy keeping us joined in prayer with the monthly call-in rosary on the 13th of every month. All members are welcome to call in. Information to enter the rosary is on the NCCW website under *Spirituality Commission* or in the email from our Nat'l President. The commission is also looking for anyone who can lead a decade of the rosary in a 2nd language. Please let them know if you are gifted in that area.

We are also asked to keep our Spiritual Advisors in our prayers. They are our local guides. The East Region is searching for a Spiritual Advisor so please keep them in your prayers that someone crosses their path to enrich the ERCCW.

The NCCW Spiritual Commission is putting together a list of Female Servants of God, the first step to Sainthood. These women walked the path of Jesus in their lives. What a beautiful way to learn more about their saintly lives.

Theme prayer cards are also available to order on the website. This is a great way to share prayer at our meetings. NCCW accepts prayer requests on the website and they will remain online for one month. Nat'l has a Eucharistic Journal available for members. During this time of Eucharistic Renewal, we have the opportunity to journey together. It includes meditations and spaces for thoughts and reflections. Also included is a bibliography for further enrichment. Do we really understand the Liturgy of the Eucharist or are we only attending Mass as an obligation? We want all women to be open to the graces of the Most Blessed Sacrament!

Affiliate News

Ithaca – St. Paul CCW

On September 9, five of our ladies attended the SDCCW Annual Meeting. The first week of October, we held our Fall Rummage Sale and made a profit of \$606.33. November 28, we hosted our Evening by Candlelight, which was attended by 70 women--a lovely evening of Mass followed by a catered dinner. All tables were beautifully decorated by their hostesses. Ladies from St. Martin and Nativity of the Lord also participated. We provided Thanksgiving dinners for 16 families with support from our Knights of Columbus, who purchased the turkeys and from our parishioners, who donated the canned and boxed foods. December 11, was our potluck and gift exchange, an enjoyable evening, attended by fourteen of our ladies. We provided Christmas dinners for the same 16 families as at Thanksgiving. Six of those families had 17 children who received gifts. Again, we were supported by our Knights and our parishioners. We delivered fruit baskets to seven homebound parishioners and had Masses prayed for three homebound parishioners.

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>Jackie Krzyzaniak</i>	<i>989-846-6846</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>Valerie Fischer</i>	<i>989-553-3088</i>
<i>ER Pres.</i>	<i>Rose Lilly</i>	<i>810-359-7610</i>
<i>Spiritual Advisor</i>	<i>Sr. Janet Fulgenzi</i>	

DPCCW

The Province Convention will be in the Grand Rapids area in April of 2025!

NCCW News—

If you are an NCCW Individual Member or a President of an Affiliate parish, you should be receiving emails from Nat’l about projects, happenings, voting, monthly newsletter, etc.

If you are not getting email communications from NCCW, please, please let me know!
We need to keep everyone in the loop!

Since NCCW membership for affiliate parishes and Individual Members is no longer based on the calendar year, it's important that you check your emails for your renewal notice from Nat'l. Remember to check your spam folder too, just in case!

The NCCW **Rosary Calls** are on the 13th of each month. To participate, all you have to do is call in to the Free Conference Call number, you will be put on mute, and you will pray with the leaders. Let Rita know if you do not get a reminder email with the phone number.

The NCCW **Member Calls** are on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. (ET). You can watch the Zoom call after it has happened by logging in to your account on the NCCW website, www.nccw.org.

A recent member call pertained to the activities of the commissions: The *Spirituality* Commission is in the process of researching U.S. women that are in the process of becoming saints; the *Service* Commission is developing a Domestic Violence activity box for kids; the *Leadership* Commission is working to "breathe life" into some of our latest Resolutions.

The **NCCW 2024 convention** will be held in Oklahoma City on August 13-17. The theme is: Called to an Encounter with Jesus. We have nationally-known speakers, wonderful liturgies, commission presentations, a lovely banquet, and more!

Remember that the **Catholic Woman magazine**, which comes out quarterly, has a great wealth of information for its members!

If you know of anyone that **would like to join** the Council of Catholic Women, please have them contact Rita (page 1) for details.



Women's Lenten Silent Retreat

Led by Dr. Dan Osborn

Theme— Bride and Branch:
Growing Closer to the Lord

Saturday, March 9, 2024

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

at the Center for Ministry / Diocese of Saginaw
5800 Weiss Street, Saginaw

Spiritual talks, Meditation time, Confession, Mass,
Rosary, & Stations of the Cross

\$25 (in advance) includes lunch

Financial Scholarships are available for those that need.

RSVP to Rita Maher at 989-635-7072 / by March 4

*Sponsored by the Saginaw Diocesan
Council of Catholic Women*