

Kalamazoo Diocesan Council of
Catholic Women
Fall 2023 Newsletter



*Our Lady of Good Counsel,
Pray for Us!*

KDCCW President's Message:

Welcome Bishop Lohse! Thank you Bishop Bradley for all your support!

Dear Daughters of Mary.

There has certainly been a whirlwind of activity this summer with the Installation and Ordination of our new Bishop Edward Lohse and saying goodbye to our long-time Shepherd and supporter, Bishop Bradley. Vice President Ann Vrablic and I attended Bishop Bradley's Farewell Mass and Reception and thanked him personally for his strong and loving support of the KDCCW. He blessed us with his presence a year ago at our fall event and has always offered his support and prayers for our Council.

The installation of Bishop Lohse was a spiritually beautiful event! To be in the presence of so many Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Religious Sisters and laity representatives from all over the Diocese was a testimony to our Catholic faith. The ceremony was reverent and inspiring, and the KDCCW executive board members in attendance were so grateful that we were able to witness this important event. Thank you Bishop Lohse for saying yes to the Lord and becoming our new Shepherd. We will pray for you! Please pray for us!

Councils, Altar and Rosary Societies, Pro-Life Groups and Ministries – please let us know about your events! Please bring flyers and information about your groups and events to our upcoming October 13 event at St. Joseph in Watervliet. We want to spread the news about the good work being done in our Diocese!

Our Lady of Good Counsel, intercede for us!

Becky Borglin, President KDCCW
becky.borglin@gmail.com / 269.325.1354 (leave a message)

Invitation to our KDCCW Fall Retreat:

Please join us on **Friday, October 13** (the anniversary of the 6th Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima – known as the “Miracle of the Sun”) at St. Joseph Church (St. Joseph Parish Hall), 157 Lucinda Lane, Watervliet, MI. Come, pray, and be inspired with your Catholic sisters. Our day will include Mass, Adoration, Inspirational Talks, a Rosary Rally with Our Lady of Fatima, lunch, and more. Options include attending the day session or just the evening session which includes Mass (5:15 pm), Adoration (6:00-7:00 pm), and pizza (7:00 pm), or all of the day's events! Come and encounter Jesus through Mary. **Please see the attached flyer for more information about this special event!**

October is Respect Life and Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month:

The USCCB designates each October as **Respect Life Month**, and the first Sunday of October is **Respect Life Sunday**. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between. In October, we also specifically remember all those who have suffered miscarriages and/or infant loss. In addition, October is the month dedicated to **Our Lady of the Rosary**. The Rosary is integral to the spiritual life of many Catholics.

*At the origin of every
human being there is not
something haphazard or
chance, but a loving plan of
God.
-Pope Benedict XVI*

*Excerpt from the book Mercy's
Power by Maria V. Gallagher*



Schedule

11:00 am – Rally at Capitol
12:00 pm – Michigan March for Life

Michigan March for Life - Help Us Send a Strong Message:

Question: Are you still frustrated by the devastating passage of Proposal 3, which made Michigan the “Go To” State for females of any age to get an abortion at any time up to the day of delivery of her child? **There is something you can do! Please join your KDCCW sisters along with many other pro-life advocates from across the State for the Michigan March for Life.**

We must make a bold statement to our elected officials regarding our belief in the sanctity of human life – all human life! Invite everyone you know. The more participants, the greater the impact! Your KDCCW has pledged to support and promote this event along with Michigan Right to Life, The Diocese of Kalamazoo, The Michigan Conference, and many other pro-life organizations. We must all be active participants in working to restore the dignity of life from conception to natural death in Michigan. Both the Michigan House and Senate will be in session in Lansing on November 8. With a strong showing at this March, a powerful message will be sent, and they will know that we are serious about undoing the damage of Proposal 3 on what will be the first anniversary of its pro-abortion passage.

For more information go to www.marchforlife.org/Michigan-march-for-life

Blessings, Ann Vrablic - KDCCW Legislative Chair

Report on June 16 KDCCW Event and Election Results:

On Friday, June 16 (**Solemnity of the Sacred Heart**), the KDCCW held our last event for the previous fiscal year at St. Ann Catholic Church in Augusta. We prayed the Rosary, attended Holy Mass, and prayed the Litany of the Sacred Heart as the Bishops asked us to do. Our annual election was held. Ann Vrablic was elected as Vice President and Vicki Hermann as our new Treasurer. After Mass, we celebrated our sisterhood with dinner, wine and dessert. Thank you to all who helped organize this event.

Save the Date for our Annual Lenten Retreat and Meet Bishop Lohse:

Our annual **Lenten Reflection Day** will be held next year at the St. Augustine Cathedral. Mark your calendars for March 2, 2024. The event will be dedicated to encountering Jesus through the Holy Mass, Adoration, Confession, praying the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and opportunities for silent prayer. We will have speakers on the Eucharist and personal testimonies of conversion. We will also have an opportunity to meet Bishop Lohse, if you haven't yet. The Bishop will be there to welcome us all. Please plan to join us!

Father Pinto's Corner:

A Humble Dignity. Sometimes it can seem, as it must have seemed at first to the Canaanite woman, that the Lord is ignoring our prayers, especially when we are praying for a special intention. However, our Lord was giving the Canaanite woman the opportunity to deepen her prayer and to express her faith in Christ in a more profound way. And that she did, by professing that "even dogs get the scraps from their master's table." Hers was an obedience born of love for her daughter and her profound faith in Jesus Christ.

This interaction, found in **Matthew 15:21-28**, reveals a relationship between the woman and Christ which I see today in the KDCCW here in our Diocese and Our Lord. That relationship is one of humility. For each of them it is humility born out of love and founded in obedience. For Jesus it was His perfect obedience to His Father. For the woman it was obedience to her faith in Jesus, that He is the Son of God and to her daughter whom she loved.

I am so blessed to be the Spiritual Mentor to the ladies of the KDCCW because you have the same humility as the Canaanite woman. Your faith is strong, and you seek to serve the Lord as His handmaids out of your love for Him. You are willing to humble yourselves before the Lord and to do all that he asks of you. You find and share the virtue of humility as you place yourself last, putting the needs of the local Church first.

Looking down on the woman, Jesus was reminded of His own humble attitude driven by obedience and love, an obedience and love to His Father. Consider that our creator would take on the very nature of His own creation and lower Himself even more than a woman who sees herself lower than a "dog." In both instances, the dignity of God and His creation are brought into the realization that divine dignity is exemplified in this simple woman from Canaan: the simple dignity that the women of our KDCCW possess.

It is this simple dignity that allows your Diocesan Council members to be a maternal example of humility and obedience to our Lord and to the Church here in our Diocese. You bring even more than your humility and dignity to our Diocese. You bring your belief and reverence to the Real Presence of the Lord among us today. In your faith, you realize that Jesus is still humbly before us. He is still with us, Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, just as He stood before the Canaanite woman. In this respect, you are our maternal mothers of our Diocese here on earth, exemplifying Mary who is our maternal mother in Heaven.

Dear ladies of the KDCCW, thank you for your dedication to the priests and the Bishop of our Diocese. You are in my prayers that the Lord will continue to bless you with your humble dignity so you may continue to be an example that God does truly hear our prayers and answers them.

In the Light of Christ,
Father David Pinto
Chaplain, Spiritual Director for the KDCCW



50th Annual Wedding Anniversary Diocesan Celebration

"Let us love, since that is what our hearts were made for." - St. Therese of Lisieux. All couples celebrating 50 years of loving each other in the Holy Sacrament of Marriage in 2023 are invited to join Bishop Lohse at St. Augustine Cathedral on November 19 from 2-4 p.m. To receive your invitation to this special celebration, please contact your parish office or complete the form on the Diocesan website at www.dio.kzoo.org. You may also mail your information to: 50th Wedding Anniversary Diocesan Celebration, 215 N. Westnedge Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007. If you are unable to attend Mass, please still complete the form so that a certificate signed by Bishop Lohse may be mailed to you. Questions? Call 269.349.8714, ext. 1112.


Congratulations on 50 years of marriage!

Kathy Wanner, KDCCW Marriage & Family Concerns Committee



KDCCW Commission/Committee Reports:

<p style="text-align: center;">Eucharistic Revival</p> <p>Did you know that the National Eucharistic Revival is a current focus in our Church by our Church Leaders? It is said that a large number of Catholics no longer believe in the Real Presence and the community sharing of this Meal. There are many things that have eroded this Truth. One very common habit that may have contributed to this decline is our current culture's abandonment of regular family meals because we are all going in many different directions and are too busy to allow for them. We must reclaim the importance of making time for eating together as a family, and helping to prepare and share our meals with those closest to us. Deep security comes from loving and being loved in close relationships. What better habit than to reclaim focused attention toward one another. There is peace and beauty in gathering at table and connecting with those in front of us. When we eat together, we become present to one another and strengthen the bonds we ALL need as a unit of family. The National Eucharistic Revival begins by reclaiming our connections with those we love and who share our religious heritage, and we welcome celebrating the Mass and the Eucharist together as a Church Family.</p> <p>Mary Redmond KDCCW Community Concerns Chair</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cameroon Mission Update</p> <p>Brother Stephen, Principal and Administrator of St. Pius X Schools in Tatum, Cameroon recently shared some good news: <i>"Our students of St. Pius X College (HS) scored 100% in the National Exams G.C.E. Ordinary Level. We are excited and feel fulfilled that our efforts finally yielded fruits. Thank you all very much for your regular prayers and financial support. The KDCCW is indeed part of our success story."</i> This is heartening to read! Many students have received tuition assistance from your continued generosity since KDCCW began this effort in 2008. What an accomplishment for these young people who have been living amid civil unrest for so long. Many parents are unable to work with the political situation in their region. With our support, their children are able to continue with a Catholic education, which helps foster vocations. \$700 was sent in August to assist with the upcoming school year, but that amount remains less than what we have provided in the years before Covid.</p> <p>If you are so inspired, a basket will be available at our October Event for donations to help our continuing efforts in Cameroon. Cash or check is accepted. Checks should be made out to KDCCW (with Cameroon in the memo line). If you prefer to mail a check, please send it to: Ann Vrablic, 387 Progress Dr, Coldwater, MI 49036. Thank you!</p> <p>Anne Jakubowski, Cameroon Liaison KDCCW International Concerns</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Thank You!</p> <p>Becky Borglin, Vicki Hermann, and I attended the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah August 22 - August 26. My term as your Province Director for the Detroit Province (Michigan) for the NCCW ended there. I can only begin to tell you how humble I feel to have been able to serve you. Being on the NCCW Board representing all of you has been my pleasure. Sharing your ideas and thoughts has made NCCW better.</p> <p>With your help, the Province held a wonderful convention last year in Frankenmuth. We shared Masses, learned, prayed together and offered service to others. I've made so many new friends. Thank you so much for your support. And now it's time to introduce your new Detroit Province Director, Barb Vezino, who was installed in Utah. Barb is from the Diocese of Grand Rapids. She will make an outstanding Province Director. She is spiritual, organized, enthusiastic, and very dedicated to Jesus. I know she will lead us well.</p> <p>If there is anything I can do to help you, please don't hesitate to contact me.</p> <p>Again, thank you very much for everything.</p> <p>In Mary, Carolyn Morrison Carolyn.Morrison@hotmail.com (517) 617-5682</p>
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	<p style="text-align: center;">Behold, I Make All Things New:</p> <p>Jesus is calling us deeper. He promises to restore and renew His people. Our world is hurting. We ALL need healing, yet many of us are separated from the very source of our strength. Jesus Christ invites us to return to the source and summit of our faith in the celebration of the Eucharist. This Revival is a movement to restore understanding and devotion to this great mystery here in the US. This year is the Year of the Parish Revival. This is the year to bring the messages to the parishes. Go to Mass, receive the sacraments, visit Jesus in Adoration. We encourage you to sign up to get more information or sign up to be a parish contact. You can also sign up for the National Eucharistic Congress scheduled for July 17-21, 2024, to be held at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN. All Catholics are invited. Register now! For more information on the Eucharistic Revival in the Catholic Church, please go to the following website: https://www.eucharisticrevival.org</p>
<p>GET INVOLVED – LEARN – GROW – SHARE - LEAD</p>	

Kalamazoo Diocesan Council of Catholic Women
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Articles Inside This Issue:
-October 13 KDCCW Retreat;
-November 8 March for Life;
-National Eucharistic Revival;
And More!

Fall Edition
KDCCW NEWSLETTER

MAILING LABEL

The Message of Fatima is this ... Prayer, penance and reparation. Pray the Rosary every day in order to obtain peace in the world. Take seriously your call to repentance through frequent good confessions and conversion of heart. Sacrifice every day for sinners in the world. Using your own daily duties as a platform to offer your little sacrifices every day is very pleasing to Our Lord. As you do, you might say the following prayer given at Fatima ***“O my Jesus, this is for love of You, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the offenses committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.”***

At our October 13th meeting this year we will be practicing the first of these, the Rosary, together as a praying group of women. Please join us! If you are looking for ways to spice up your Rosary praying, consider praying at church or elsewhere with others, with a you tube video, with scripture, or with the myriad of helpful Rosary books out there.

Please join us in praying the Rosary for peace in the world, as our Mother asked us to do!

-Peg Pinkowski, KDCCW Spirituality Chair



For more information about KDCCW, visit our website
at <https://diokzoo.org/kdccw> or visit our Kalamazoo Diocesan Council
of Catholic Women Facebook page.