

“Council News”

Saginaw Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Affiliate of the National CCW & Detroit Province CCW

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

June 2026

Dear Sisters in Christ,

The BIG news: The **National Council of Catholic Women annual convention** will be held in our backyard! The convention will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on August 26-29, 2026, at the Amway Grand Hotel. The **registration deadline is June 12** so I'm hoping that some of you that may not have committed to attend will do so very, very soon! This is an opportunity for the Michigan girls since it is close to home and there won't be much travel expense. There will be tours of Meijer Gardens and the historical churches of GR; outstanding guest/keynote speakers; workshops on officer training and legislative advocacy; Spirituality, Leadership, and Service Commission presentations; Liturgy each day; Province Dinner for the Michigan dioceses; purse auction; silent auction; and closing banquet with entertainment. There is a **one-day registration** as well; each woman can register for two, one-day attendances at a discount rate. This option will give you a taste of what convention is all about! Please consider coming! Email or call me with questions! All convention info is on the Nat'l website (above).

Semiquincentennial! America250! What an exciting event! As part of this 250th anniversary of our nation's founding, the 2026 National Eucharistic Pilgrimage was launched in St. Augustine, Florida (America's oldest Catholic town) and set out on a sacred journey up the East Coast through 18 dioceses, historic landmarks, and the heart of our nation. From May 24 through July 5, pilgrims will carry Jesus in the Eucharist to Philadelphia. The theme is One Nation Under God and is a call to renewal and prayer for our country to be placed under the sovereignty of Christ. Since few of us will be able to join in the pilgrimage walk with the Blessed Sacrament itself, we are invited to join in spirit through prayer, Eucharistic adoration, and sacrifice. www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org

Check out our Province website (address is above). 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.

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

Past SDCCW Events:

Our SDCCW Lenten Silent Retreat was held on Saturday, March 14, at the Center for Ministry. LeAnne & Dr. Dan Osborn were our retreat leaders with a topic of “In the Footsteps of Mary and the Three Teresas.” One Hundred twenty women attended!!! An astounding number! It was a wonderful day, as usual! Through the donations made at this gathering, \$411 was given to Emmaus House and \$297 was given to Walking With Moms in Need! That is a very generous amount of almsgiving from our attendees! Thank you!

The **East Region Council of Catholic Women** held their Spring Meeting on May 20 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Ubyly with 41 women attending. Fr. Ron Wagner joined us and spoke in his Mass homily on “A Dialogue with God.” Fr. Thai Nguyen told of his life journey from Vietnam to the U.S. and the priesthood, and Tony Szczygiel from Sleep in Heavenly Peace told us about their bed-making project. All women from the Diocese are invited to attend these regional meetings in the spring and fall.

ER Pres.—Rose Lilly
 ER VP—Ann Lukshaitis
 ER Sec.—Diane Glaza
 ER Treas.—Valerie Fischer

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.) More details will be announced later. 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!

News from the SDCCW Commissions--

Service Commission Report

Ann Lukshaitis, Chairwoman

The morning speaker at our East Region meeting was Mr. Tony Szczygiel from Sleep in Heavenly Peace. This organization makes sturdy, wooden beds, complete with springs, mattress, new pillow and bedding for children, ages 3-17, who do not have a bed. Tony's area covers Tuscola, Huron, and Sanilac counties. He gets referrals from DHS and others then he posts a workday when they have orders. Volunteers of all ability levels come to their workshop at TLS Enterprises in Caro and make these beds on a Saturday morning. Then other volunteers ride with someone from Sleep in Heavenly Peace to deliver and set up the beds. If you know of a child who has no bed, all you have to do is fill out an application on their website, www.mi-caro@shpbeds.org, to order one. To reach Tony, simply call 844-432-2337 x 5981. After Tony spoke at our East Region meeting, Lori Osentoski donated some homemade quilts that have been made to help the SHP mission.

Spirituality Commission Report

Cathie Gerding, Chairwoman

Bishop Gruss has declared a **Year of the Holy Spirit** in the Diocese of Saginaw beginning on Pentecost, May 24, 2026, and ending on Pentecost of 2027. "The Year of the Holy Spirit invites each of us in to a deeper experience of the 3rd person of the Holy Trinity, who has sent us on mission, one heart and mind, 'carrying forward the work of Christ under the lead of the befriending Spirit. And Christ entered this world to give witness to the truth, to rescue and not to sit in judgment, to serve and not to be served.'" We will use this Year of Renewal to draw closer to the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost Prayer

Breathe in me O Holy Spirit
that my thoughts may all be holy;
Act in me O Holy Spirit
that my words, too, may be holy;
Draw my heart O Holy Spirit
that I love but what is holy;
Strengthen me O Holy Spirit
to defend all that is holy;
Guard me then O Holy Spirit
that I always may be holy.

St. Augustine



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is

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>	

DPCCW

2026 NCCW Annual Convention in Grand Rapids on August 26-29! The Detroit Province (all dioceses of Michigan) is the host for the convention!

Guest speaker: Kevin Matthews, “Mary’s Roadie”; from famous radio personality, to debilitating diagnosis, to finding a broken statue of Mary, and finally having inspiration and hope with “Our Lady of the Broken.”

Keynote speaker: Mary Lenaburg, international Catholic speaker with added humor, award-winning author, co-hosts with her husband The Mary & Jerry Podcast.

Michigan women are needed to attend and volunteer to work the convention events!!! Call Rita for information!

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.