



NEWS AND VIEWS

La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Arcadia, Chippewa Falls, Durand, Eau Claire, La Crosse, Marshfield,
Mauston/Sparta, Prairie Du Chien, Richland Center, Stevens Point,
Thorp, Wausau, and Wisconsin Rapids Deaneries

Most Rev. Jerome Listeki
Bishop of La Crosse
P.O. Box 4004
La Crosse WI 54602-4004
608-788-7700

Rev. Roy R. Witucki
Moderator
P. O. Box 130
Genoa, WI 54632-0130
Parish: 608-689-2646.
Cell: 608-397-4411
roywitucki@yahoo.com

Rozanne Traczek
President
E29266 Tioga Road
Fairchild WI 54741
715-334-5797
rozannetraczek@centurytel.net

Diane Andraska
President Elect
W12159 Maple Road
Black River Falls WI 54615
715-284-8503
dianeandraska@gmail.com

Judy Conner
Vice President
212 Oak Street
Neillsville WI 54456-1844
715-743-4771
countyour_blessings@hotmail.com

Jane Schwabenbauer
Secretary
2538 First Avenue West
La Crosse WI 54603
608-783-1986
Ja253@aol.com

Bonnie Langreck
Treasurer
W3163 Tree Road
Granton, WI 54436
715-238-7246
blangreck@tds.net

Catherine Berry
Immediate Past President
4203 Meadowwood Drive
Eau Claire WI 54701-9214
715-831-6166
cathy.berry@charter.net

Summer 2009

Greetings to all as we enjoy the beautiful season of summer that Our Lord has given to us!

This issue of the News and Views brings you news of two very special events this summer to put on your calendar. The Eleventh Annual Spirituality Day will be held at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Spiritual Center in La Crosse, WI on Saturday, June 20th and the “75th Anniversary of the La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women” is being celebrated on August 7-8, 2009 in Thorp, Wisconsin. Registration/Information forms about these two wonderful events offered to you are enclosed in this newsletter.

A special thank you to all who conducted and participated in the annual LDCCW collection that was held on the weekend following Easter. This collection approved by Bishop Listeki helps us carry out the mission statement of our organization and helps us provide educational, spiritual opportunities for both individual and organizational events as well as the many charities, scholarships, grants, and the important work of the LDCCW.

All the deaneries are very active as Diane Andraska, the President-Elect, and I traveled to the various spring assemblies. The assemblies were wonderful to attend with excellent speakers, PowerPoint presentations, prayer and music services, and Catholic fellowship.

Thank you for your dedication to the La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. We look forward to seeing you at Spirituality Day and the 75th Anniversary Celebration this summer.

Sincerely,

Rozanne Traczek
President La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

DCCW Moderator Fr Roy Witucki

Easter Season Reflection 'MY LORD AND MY GOD!'

The Easter season scriptures delve into the mystery of God and the Trinity. God who is One, yet Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We have the Cross, Resurrection, Ascension, Pentecost, and then followed by Trinity Sunday to reflect on. Pope John Paul II (1 Tim 6: 15-16) noted that God dwells in unapproachable light, and could only have been revealed by Jesus becoming flesh and revealing Him.

In John's gospel (20:28), Thomas exclaims "My Lord and My God!" after touching Jesus' crucifixion wounds. My Lord and My God! Now Jesus as God is hard to fully grasp, because Jesus was a human baby and later died on the Cross - God dying on the Cross is difficult to grasp. It is easier to accept Jesus as the Son of God, and He is. But yet Jesus said He and the Father are One, and John later described Jesus in the last book of Scriptures (Rev 1:13) with a much more glorified body: as "one like a son of man...The hair of His head was as white as white wool or snow and His eyes were like a fiery flame. His feet like polished brass...and His voice like the sound of rushing water...A sharp two-edged sword came out of His mouth and His face shone like the sun at its brightest" John's reaction? "When I caught sight of Him, I fell down at His feet as though dead."

And also in John's gospel, Jesus breathes on the disciples and says receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not described in any physical way except that at Pentecost, the Book of Acts (2:2), describes the coming of the Holy Spirit: **"suddenly, there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house...then there appeared to them tongues as of fire...which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim."**

These are various astonishing descriptions of our God – unapproachable light, Jesus with both human and spiritual appearance, and the Holy Spirit, as a mighty wind. Our God is an awesome God, sometimes difficult to understand. The amazing thing is that we are not afraid of God, but rather love Him, even though we cannot see Him – that is because we have the Holy Spirit in us crying out Father – how can we be afraid of a God who we can call Father. When we reflect on God in His awesomeness and as Father, it becomes easier to give praise, thanks, worship, love and obedience.

Our Catechism teaches a related and astounding thing about God – PP 648 states regarding Christ’s resurrection is a “transcendent intervention of God Himself in creation and history. In it the three divine persons act together as One” and goes on to say this: “The Father’s power raised up Christ His Son **and by doing so, perfectly introduced His Son’s humanity, including His body, into the Trinity.**”

Reflecting on this leads to amazing implications - God the Creator of everything, decides to rescue His creation – well, that is not really shocking – after all we will work feverishly to rescue our loved ones and other humans that need rescuing – sometimes at the cost of our own life during the rescue. Thus, we can somewhat grasp God’s plan to send His Son to become human and die to rescue and ransom us since He created us and loves us. But what is truly shocking is that in the Ascension return of His Son to the Father, Jesus is no longer just divine, but He is both divine and human, and thus the Trinity is changed forever because Jesus’ acquired humanness is brought into the Trinity, changing God the Trinity forever changed because one of its members is now partially human. The implications are staggering – the Spirit God that dwells in unapproachable light and was totally divine, now has a divine and human member with a man-like body!

This then makes it easier to get a glimpse of understanding about the great promises made to us if we have new life in Christ. In 2 Peter 1:4 it states we “may come to share in the divine nature”, and in 1 Cor 2:9 “what eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love Him.” And in Ephesians 2:5 “...”brought us to life with Christ – by grace you have been saved, raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come, He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.”

These scripture verses help us understand the extreme love of God the Father and Jesus for each other, but also for the human race. We now can understand how God intends for us to be a special possession, how humans in eternal life will be above the angels. The humans with new life in Christ will partake of the divine nature! We too then in this Easter Season join with the Apostle Thomas to exclaim: “MY LORD AND MY GOD!

For registration forms for Spirituality Day June 20 & 75th Anniversary August 7 & 8 See La Crosse Diocese Council of Catholic Women on http://www.dioceseoflacrosse.com/
--

LA CROSSE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN COMMISSION REPORTS

LEGISLATION COMMISSION-DelrosePatzner-Hanson

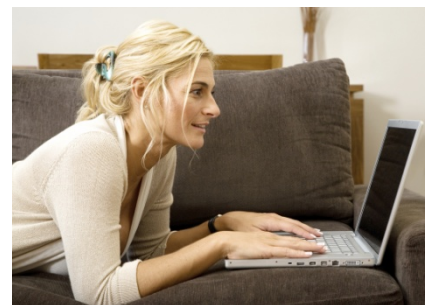
While preparing a CCD class for my seventh and eighth graders, I read this on law. In society today, there is a rampant confusion about the various kinds of law, what their force is, and in what ways they can or cannot be amended. Some people think that the moral laws are only for those who happen to believe in them. The law is wrong for those who feel it is wrong; they might say, but all right for those who don't particularly oppose it. This is like saying that only people who believe in the law of gravity will fall to the ground if they jump off of a tall building. Similarly, people think human authority can change all kinds of laws, not just the human. There is nothing any legislative body can do, however, about the immortality of a law. (OUR LIFE IN THE CHURCH; FAITH AND LIFE SERIES; TEACHERS RESOURCE BOOK).



How many times are moral laws ignored? God gave each of us free will, but God's laws are first priority. Each of us needs to be aware of the laws being made or being enforced that will take away free choices in regards to life and death, and remember what God's laws are including that if a person jumps from a tall building he or she will fall.

ORGANIZATION COMMISSION-ELEANOR ST.JOHN

The National Council of Catholic Women has a useful and friendly website. As your diocesan organization commission chair, I invite you to peruse through the website regularly and see how it changes. The following info is from the ABOUT US section located on the left hand side of the opening page. Do you know:



WHO WE ARE. . .

The National Council of Catholic Women consists of more than 5,000 affiliated Catholic women's organizations in parishes and dioceses through the U.S., representing hundreds of thousands of Catholic women.

*We are Catholic women who hold Individual Membership with NCCW.

*The NCCW is a member of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO).

We are recognized by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

We are active participants in partnerships with other Catholic groups.

Located on the same page is our [NCCW mission statement](#), these are the words that define our organization: I hope you never tire of them. These are the words that we turn into reality in our works for the many levels of council.

The National Council of Catholic Women acts through its membership to support, empower, and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership, and service. NCCW programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world.

Check out your website: www.nccw.org Don't have a computer? Then ask a friend or relative to look this website up for you. . . or better yet, check with your library to see if you can use a computer there. See for yourself.

CHURCH COMMISSION-GRACE MULLEN

I just finished reading "The True Story of Fatima," a complete account of the Fatima apparitions by John deMarchi, IMC. I thought that I knew the story so well, but after reading the book, I was awed by the detail of the conversations and the lives of the three children.

The First apparition was on May 13, 1917 when the children saw the "Beautiful lady dressed in all white, more brilliant than the sun, shedding rays of light clear and stronger than a crystal glass filled with the most sparkling water, pierced by the



burning rays of the sun” (Lucia). The children were fearful at first, asking if she came from heaven. Their simple conversation with Our Lady let them to be trustful and filled with supreme joy, full of strength and exultation and dedication to her love.

She asked them to “say the rosary everyday to earn peace for the world and the end of the war.” Francisco said he “would say all the Rosaries you want.” And little Jacinta became so dedicated to Our Lady, so full of love, wishing to please her. And Lucia also was the strength and spokesperson of her messages throughout her life, never wavering, always loving, sacrificing and obedient to Our Lady’s wishes.

After being allowed to see hell and what happened to sinners, and warned of wars to come, Our Lady asked them to pray the rosary and consecrate Russia to Her Immaculate Heart and offer reparation on the First Saturdays. She asked them if they wanted to “offer yourselves to God to endure all the sufferings that He may choose to send you as an act of reparation for sins and conversions of sinner.” Their immediate reply was “Yes, we want to.” And indeed they did suffer, were ridiculed, laughed at, punished, and threatened. But these beautiful innocent children were steadfast and loyal to Our Lady, willing to offer so much through love of her.

Francisco was 11 when he became ill and died. Little Jacinta begged to be able to offer more sufferings especially in her physical pain to convert more sinners so they would not go to hell. She died at the age of 10. Lucia was to remain on earth sacrificing, praying and telling Our Lady’s message as she did until her death in 2005 at the age of 97.

What an example these children were for us. What innocence and humility and love they practiced living with simple daily sacrifices for the conversion of sinners because Our Lord and Our Lady asked them to. We, too, can imitate these holy children by little daily sacrifices.

She asks that we hone her on the first five Saturdays of the month by spending 15 minutes meditating on the mysteries of the rosary, reciting the rosary, confess, and receive Holy Communion with the intention of making Reparation to Her for the countries’ blasphemies of ungrateful people toward her and Our Lord. She promises to be with us at our death.

Prayers taught by Our Lady:

“O Most Holy Trinity, I adore Thee; my God, my God, I love Thee in the Most Blessed Sacrament,”

“O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those most in need.”

“O my Jesus, for love of Thee, for the conversion of sinners and in reparation for sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer this sacrifice to Thee.”

I recommend that you read this wonderful book. It has so much more to offer.

INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS-MarcieEsser

(Excerpts from the Wooden Bell-CRS) CRS is developing water resources, especially community water supplies and sanitation for 50 years and today in more than 40 countries. CRS is turning the tide of unclean water in Fayoum, Egypt by building pump stations, fitting miles of pipes and drainage lines and establishing oxidation ponds to treat wastewater properly. Now 7,0000 households have hooked up to the sanitation system.



Nicaragua and CRS have launched a 5-year project to protect people from effects of drought and flooding by installing dams and pipelines, building soil and water conservation structures, and teaching water management. In Afghanistan, CRS received a grant from the US International Development Agency for water supply and sanitation programs. Here they deal with daily challenges for access, personal security, and logistical difficulties. They need our prayers. In Ghana, CRS has improved access to clean water and hygienic sanitation in 26 rural communities by building water facilities and household latrines. Daughters of Charity in partnership with CRS shipped nearly 700 tons of food, water, medicine, and clothing to hurricane-torn Cuba.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS-Sandy Zdun

With the Lenten Season behind us, I want to draw your attention to our children and teens. You ask why. There is so much unrest in our children and teens. We, as parents, grandparents, and friends, need to help explain the good in the world today.



The blame is often on educational curriculum that was designed to promote self-esteem but ended up overshooting its mark. Teenagers today like to have beauty, intelligence, and strength.

When things don't go the way they should, they blame anyone in their presence. Fame is what they want. To have this fame in society, our teens today think that it comes fast, with no suffering, and no sacrifice, or that it doesn't apply to them. Here is where we as parents, grandparents, and friends come in.

They have Spiritual emptiness. On the technology side, mass media brings entertainment celebrities into the home, schools, TV, and Internet. We can monitor what happens at home, school and watch what is being viewed totally on TV and the Internet. If we see that what our children are watching on TV isn't good, we can turn the TV. off and explain that it won't get anyone fame.

On a deeper level Catholics believe many young people's dreams of fame are a by product of their inner loneliness, a loneliness that grows greater by the year, as more families fall apart and fewer people have the love, attention, and support that traditional family and community relationships provide. Teens are grasping for love, attention, being valued because they're missing the security that comes from knowing they are eternally loved and valued by God. Teens are also looking for something that is only real, only satisfying when it comes from God. Most of us are not called to be saints. We're just called to be ordinary people doing ordinary things, loving our children, keeping our homes in good repair, and walking humbly with our God. That is the way God made us. Ultimately sacrifice is getting in touch with reality, about understanding who God is and what the purpose of life is all about. Prayer is a strong value we can use for our teens.



Public Relations Report from Cathy Berry Spring 2009

Please plan now events to **support your representative to the NCCW Convention in Jacksonville Florida in September 22-27**. The new NCCW leaders will be elected by the voting members.

Each deanery and parish gets two votes and individual members (with continuous membership for the past 20 months) get one vote. Make sure your input is included. Deanery and parish delegates need to include certification as the delegate from their president along with their registration.

Speaker, workshop and tour information will be in the May/June *Catholic Woman*. Registration forms are available at nccw.org and in the March/April 2009 *Catholic Woman*. Early registration ends **July 6th**...this saves \$70 off the registration.

Main hotel rooms go fast, so get your reservations in **ASAP** to Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront <http://jacksonville.hyatt.com/groupbooking/jaxrjnccw2009> or 1-800-233-1234...a first night's deposit is required at the time of the reservation. Be sure to mention you are with the National Council of Catholic Women to get the reduced room rate.

Convention banquet reservations are needed by **August 19th** and those wanting to be seated together need to send in the reservations together...an additional fee will be added after this date. Province banquet information will follow.

You have been represented at the Diocese of La Crosse Transitions in Parish Life Subcommittee planning for the implementation of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan. This committee is working under a Diocesan Pastoral Planning Steering Committee in light of the current shortage of parish priests. Please join me in continuing to pray for vocations especially to the priesthood.

As we wrap up the Easter season, I am sharing these ABCs: Always Be Considerate, Discerning Evil From Good, Honoring Ideals, Justifying Kindness, Loving Mercy, Nobly Obeying Providence, Quietly Responding, Shunning Temptation, Uniting Virtue With X-traordinary Youthful Zeal (from *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, U.S. Catholic Bishops' Pastoral Letter of Stewardship in April 2009 *Grace in Action*).



Photos from October Shareshop at St. Raymond's by Anita Wirkuty