



COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

WORKERS IN THE VINYARD

November 2020

GRAND ISLAND

Hebrews 13:15-16 "...let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to his name. ¹⁶ And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God."

FROM THE PRESIDENT: Kayleen Lukasiewicz



A big change came into my life in June of 2018. My husband of almost 58 years passed away. Certainly, a huge void was left in my life. I had previously resigned from DCCW, but that didn't last very long, as I felt a very distinct calling from God to re-enter DCCW as an officer for the Diocese. This has led to new goals and new beginnings. DCCW has been filling up that void very quickly as my current position of President of the Grand Island Diocese.

It is extremely fulfilling to realize just how much good is done within the DCCW organization. Along with the projects that Service is involved in, such as, Water for Haiti, dresses and pants for the Central American children, and Human Trafficking, DCCW supports many education projects involving the environment, and mental health. The Spiritual component is extremely strong with special emphasis on the Rosary that is dedicated to special needs such as the loss of a child, suicide, and abortion counseling. There is so much a person can benefit from with this organization, but a very important piece for me is the comradery I have found with other Catholic Women. These women share my same goals and beliefs. This means the world to me in these chaotic times. I truly need all their support and their special gifts to help me in this new adventure.

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT: Deb Kearns

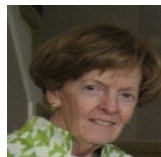


Happy fall and winter! Here in Western Nebraska we have 4-5" of snow and sub-zero nights. Coming from eastern Nebraska, it was a nice joke that your children's Halloween costumes needed to fit over snow suits. I think there is truth to that.

My husband, Tom, is a rancher. We have been blessed with three sons, their wonderful spouses, and eleven grandchildren – one family lives just ½ mile from us. We are members of Immaculate Conception Church in Rushville where I have been a CCD teacher, Altar Society member and officer, lector, and Parish Council member. I am a retired special education teacher and director.

After retiring, I felt a need to "grow" my faith. I attended some retreats and became acquainted with the GIDCCW. Through this 100-year-old organization, I have been inspired by many wonderful Catholic women who support spiritual growth and work to address the needs of family, community, and the world. My goal is to unite Catholic women's groups in these efforts, making them more visible to encourage greater involvement.

FROM THE TREASURER: Judy Wagoner



The 54 Biennial Convention Report includes a detailed Treasurer's Report that was reviewed by an outside reviewer per the GIDCCW Bylaws. The following is a summary of that report and the status of our Treasury as of October 8, 2020. Balance on hand as of October 8 is \$15,521.25 in savings and \$4,732.79 in checking for a total of \$20,254.05.

2020 has been a challenging year and yet, there is good news to report for the Grand Island Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. With the cancellation of the Spring Assembly and the social distancing since March 2020, receipts and disbursements are down but we were able to make distributions from our established funds.

In 2019 Dues/Contributions totaled \$7,311.85 with 39 paying affiliates. In 2020 the receipts for Dues/Contributions totaled \$6,839.25 with 38/65 parishes participating. These monies are important to fund the activities of the Diocesan Council CCW including: the Spring Assembly, Fall Institutes and Biennial Convention, membership fees for the GIDCCW, 1/3 share of Province Director Fees, the four scholarships, and to pay the attendance for designated officers at the National Council of Catholic Women Convention.

The Seminarian Fund was established in 2009 under the direction of Former Presidents [Cecelia Stallbaumer](#) and [Mary Frances Wagoner](#). The goal was to raise \$10,000 to present to [Bishop Dendinger](#) at the Spring Assembly in 2010. I don't know how many of you remember how surprised [Bishop Dendinger](#) was when he received the first \$10,000.00 check, but it was a great "kickoff. In 2019, \$11,350.00 was presented to [Bishop Hanefeldt](#) (30 participating parishes and individuals). In 2020, this fund presented \$10,500.00 (25 participating parishes and individuals). To date, \$108,250.00 has been presented to the Bishop for the Grand Island Diocesan Seminarian Fund.

Mission II Haiti: In 2007, the International Affairs under direction of [Betty Larson](#) & [Judy Wagoner](#) began the project of collecting Best Choice Bar Codes for Water Projects. In 2013, the decision was made to support Mission II Haiti, a group from Kearney who go to Haiti several times a year to install and repair drinking water wells. In 2019, \$4,500.00 was donated and \$1,600.00 in 2020. Over \$30,000 has been given through the Bar Code Redemption program. 24,000 Bar Codes were mailed October 1 for \$720.00. THANK YOU EVERONE FOR TRIMMING AND COUNTING - THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN AN AWFUL JOB FOR ONE PERSON!!! This project has also expanded in an untold number of dresses and shorts being contributed for distribution in Haiti. Donations each year included a donation for Spirit Catholic Radio fall campaign of \$300.00.

This coming year presents problems in raising funds due to Covid-19 restrictions, but I am sure we can all come up with new ways to be generous to those in need. Thanks for your generous support of the Grand Island Diocesan Council of Catholic Women..... continue to be safe. Judy Wagoner GIDCCW Treasurer, 1411 Walnut St, Wood River, NE 68883

FROM THE SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION: Vicki Harvey – Co-Chairwoman



My name is Vicki Harvey and I have been given the opportunity to be co-chair of the spirituality committee. I am a member of Sacred Heart Church in Greeley. I retired from being an associate dean at Central Community College in Grand Island 4 years ago. My husband is a retired farmer whose health has declined to the point that he needs my assistance at home much of the time. We have 3 grown sons and two adorable grandsons, ages 6 and 9. Me a proud Grandma? You bet!!!

My goal as co-chairman of the spirituality commission is to find out what is happening spiritually within our diocese and what is happening within each deanery. I am sure there are many wonderful things happening within each parish and I'd like us to share our ideas. With the networking of parishes, it is my hope there will be a spark of ideas that will enable other parishes to glean ideas that will ignite a deep spiritual growth throughout our diocese. I am especially eager to know how the parishes are coming along with the new resolutions, Walking with Moms in Need, and Passing on our Faith. Please let me know how you are incorporating these into your parish missions.

FROM THE LEADERSHIP COMMISSION: Sheryl Perkins, Chairwoman



I was raised in the Catholic faith and was fortunate enough to attend both the Blessed Sacrament grade school and Central Catholic high school. Over the decades, yes decades, my relationship with God has not always been as strong as it could have been. Now that I am older, and hopefully a bit wiser, I feel drawn to become closer to my faith and its teachings. This led me to the Spring Assembly years ago where I met some wonderfully kind and welcoming people. Since then, I have made it a point to attend every Spring Assembly I possible could. I've been the Grand Island Deanery secretary/treasurer, and the vice president. Once installed, I will become the Grand Island Deanery president for the next term. I was honored when Kayleen asked me to be the Leadership Chairwoman. I feel that both roles will challenge me to grow and in turn, encourage others.

The focus for the upcoming year will be *Passing on our faith, service to others, and Walking with Moms in Need*. Always be ready to promote the real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist and educate the faithful about what Catholics believe and why. Also, make a concerted effort to renew the practice of works of mercy.

If you would like your articles placed on the www.gidccw.org website, please email them to me at ise45@hotmail.com. There are informative articles from our spiritual advisor, officers, commission chairs, updated bylaws, current events, etc., that we hope you will share with your parish. Please take some time to check it out.

"Faith is like a bright ray of sunlight. It enables us to see God in all things as well as all things in God." *St. Francis de Sales*

Chairwoman Sheryl Perkins ise45@hotmail.com 308-380-6212

FROM THE PROVINCE DIRECTOR: Theresa Pavlik – Omaha Province Director

Hello to all the ladies in Grand Island Diocese Council of Catholic Women. My compliments to all of you for the 55th Biennial Convention in August. It was a wonderful day to celebrate with you and Bishop Hanefeldt. Since then, I hope you had a chance to enjoy the beautiful Fall days that were with us before the cold and snow blew in. By the time you read this, the Presidential election will be long passed. But let us keep all our elected officials in our prayers that they will listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and govern with humility and truth.

A few notices to share with you from NCCW:

- NCCW is looking for applicants to fill the positions of President-Elect, Secretary, and Nominating Committee. Qualifications and information can be found on the NCCW website. Deadline for application is **December 15th, 2020**.
- The Resolution Committee is looking for resolutions. Anyone can submit a resolution so look around your parish, your Diocese, and community for issues that need to be addressed. More information may be found in the November [Connect](#) from NCCW. Resolutions are due **February 25, 2021**.
- When you do your shopping for Christmas on Amazon, be sure to check on Amazon smile to donate to NCCW. It does not seem possible that Christmas can be just around the corner in this so uncertain year.
- To help comfort us, Prayers for Pandemic Novena may be found on NCCW website. A direct link is found in the November [Connect](#).
- November is the perfect month for us to reflect on how much we should be grateful for. Even though many times we see all the insecurities and uncertainties around us, we can find more things to be grateful for. The NCCW annual **Day of Prayer and Fasting is Thursday November 19**.

Using our new "normal", my sincere wish for all of you is to celebrate Thanksgiving with your family and friends as "normal" as possible. Let us also remember our departed loved ones during the month of the Holy Souls. The "Always Remembered" project for 2021 to remember your deceased loved ones will be concluding at the end of November.

Be steadfast in the Lord Jesus Christ. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

DEANERY NEWS:

North Platte Deanery – Marie Arendt – President

The NP Deanery Council of Catholic Women continues to work toward the goals of our Diocese, Province and National Councils. We embrace the challenges of the resolutions adopted at the Fall Biennial Convention. We will explore ways to support women in their role as Moms and walk with them. Together we will make a concerted effort to choose a more active exercise of the Corporal Works of Mercy as we celebrate and live our faith.

As we meander through this challenging time, the 21 parishes of this Deanery, with the guidance of our Spiritual Advisor and the religious, will continue to work toward a common mission of support, empowerment and education of all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership, and service. The NP Deanery is reminded of how important every individual is to success. Without service of individuals, the whole struggles.

The Fall Meeting has been postponed at this time with respect of the increased COVID-19 risk. The slate of officers is yet to be completed as we update parish information and canvass the membership.

BEING ENGAGED

For such a time as this! The enemy thinks he has won by hindering our movements with the COVID 19 pandemic. Once again, he has lost to the power of the Spirit of the people of God.

Here are some active ways we as women who follow Christ can thwart the darts of the enemy:

1. Pray for the priest of our parishes and the Bishops of our state. Use the Seven Sisters Apostolate as a guide. It is a call to strengthen the Church by ensuring that a Holy Hour is prayed each day of the week for the sole intention of a specific priest or bishop—a “holy wasting” (cf. Mt. 26:10) or lavishing of prayer for his deeper conformity to Christ. Go to this website <https://sevensistersapostolate.org/> to learn how to gather the faithful to pray for our Shepherds.
2. Here in Valentine, we have not been able to continue Homebound Communion to our folks who can’t get out due to visitation restrictions. These people are practically prisoners in their own home. Please consider writing a letter to them to let them know you are thinking of them. Maybe even send a care package. It will mean the world to them.
3. Don’t forget to be kind. Don’t forget to be compassionate and don’t forget this life isn’t about you, it is about serving those around us...it is what Jesus did!

UPCOMING EVENTS

2021 CALENDAR:

<i>January</i>
18 Full Board Meeting in N. Platte. 10:00
<i>February</i>
Nothing to report
<i>March</i>
8 Catholics at the Capital. More info to follow
<i>April</i>
16-17 Spring Assembly at Halsey, NE. More info to follow
<i>May</i>
Nothing to report
<i>June</i>
Nothing to report
<i>July</i>
19 Province meeting at Grand Island Blessed Sacrament (Lincoln Diocese is in charge) More info to follow.
<i>August</i>
Nothing to report
<i>September</i>
Nothing to report
<i>October</i>
Nothing to report
<i>November</i>
Nothing to report
<i>December</i>
Nothing to report

GIDCCW Officers for 2020-2022

Kayleen Lukaszewicz – President
Lorraine Pozehl – President-elect
Deb Kearns – Vice President
Judy Wagoner – Treasurer
Kristin Linton – Secretary
Spiritual Advisor:

Commission Chairs et al

Leadership: Sheryl Perkins; Co-chair: Marie Arendt
Spirituality: Barb Sack; Co-chair: Vicki Harvey
Service: Tricia Ferguson; Co-chair: DeAnn Morse
Parliamentarian: Darlene Schulte
Historian: Maxine Hurt
Membership: Carolyn Gusman, Deb Eschliman
Scholarship: Loyal Wolfe
Facebook: Tricia Ferguson