

Council of Catholic Women (CCW) Church of St. Peter Mendota, Minnesota

September 2017

From Our President

*H*ello ladies of St. Peter's Church of Mendota,

My name is Lisa Brooks. I am excited to serve as President of the St. Peter's Council of Catholic Women for the upcoming year.

I served as council vice president last year and have been a coordinator of the funeral lunch committee, along with Kathy Metzger and Nancy Stanton, this past year. I have also served in many other volunteer capacities throughout the years.

Originally from Minneapolis, my family and I have been residents of Mendota Heights and members of St Peter's for 25 years. Bob and I have three adult children. They were all involved at St. Peter's.

All women of St Peter's parish are automatically members of the SPCCW. We encourage you to participate in the many activities in which the CCW is involved, including the Fall Festival, the Appalachian Domestic Mission project and the Ash Wednesday Soup Supper. All monies we receive, including your \$15 dues, support parish needs and charitable causes.

I also encourage you to attend the St. Peter's Council of Catholic Women Board meeting held on the first Wednesday of each month, at 10 a.m. The first meeting is September 13, (one week later than normal). Bring a friend with you! The SPCCW board members are intelligent, energetic, dedicated and a lot of fun!

My goal is to strengthen the membership by encouraging more member participation. I invite you to become involved with a group here at St. Peter's for which you have an interest and passion. We have a small percentage of participation currently; I feel we could do so much better.

I would like to thank our outgoing president, Pat Kemper, for her unwavering dedication to the St. Peter's community and for the mentoring she provided me this past year. She is a joyous inspiration. It will be difficult to fill her shoes.

I look forward to the new year and to the challenges and rewards that this position offers.

Sincerely,

Lisa Brooks
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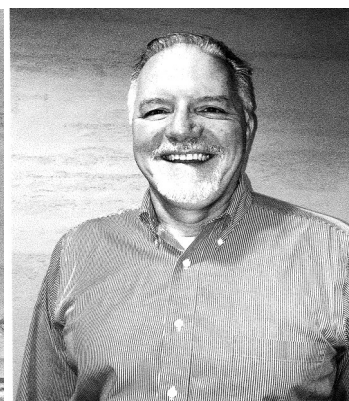
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Lisa Brooks, President of the SPCCW and
John Vogel, President of the Men's Club.



**St. Peter's CCW is
very grateful to**

Fr. Steven, Lisa Amos, Tom
Deshler, Rita Holien, Mary
Jubenville, Anne O'Keefe, John
Raible and Carolyn Rynders for
their generous help this past year.

The Men's Club

By Pat Kemper

Last year when I was CCW President, John Vogel requested space in our newsletter to talk about the Men's Club. We were a day from going to press, so we deferred until this year. We are happy to include the Men's Club information in this newsletter, compliments of President Vogel.

The origin of the first men's club is unknown, but the current club was reorganized and brought to life 15 years ago. The by-laws and the mission statement have been updated. The Men's Club basically has three committees: social, "hard hat" and faith-building. There are organizational leaders for each branch.

The **Social Committee** handles all social activities and fundraisers, i.e. the annual Wine and Cheese Night. It is planned for November 10. The Men's Club typically serves donuts on the third Sunday of each month. They have helped the CCW in the kitchen running the dishwasher and lifting heavy items.

The **Hardhat Committee** is a group that is knowledgeable and experienced in a certain trade, skilled with tools and giving of their time. They do much to keep the church and grounds in good repair.

Lastly is the **Faith Building Committee**. While there is no problem fulfilling the social or hardhat projects, it is the faith building aspect that currently demands the most attention. The Men's Club members have greatly enhanced their faith building endeavors. Many have become engaged in the Catholic Watchmen, which is an archdiocesan evangelization initiative. A new fall 2017 program will be introduced shortly.

All men of St Peter's, including young men who have completed Confirmation, are members of the Men's Club. Like their sisters in the CCW, the Men's Club has dues of \$15 to defray the cost involved in running an organization, and even those who are not able to attend meetings or participate in any of the branches are invited to support the club financially and with prayers.

John says there is an old adage that "iron sharpens iron." That applies always when talking about Men's Clubs. He says men need other men to talk to about what is going on in their lives, such as dealing with co-workers and sharing advice and knowledge about a myriad of topics, including fatherhood and marriage, in a respectful and understanding way. Many times, the wisdom of a crowd will help to guide us along our way.

John welcomes you to join. Remember, if you are a member of St Peter's Parish and male, you are already a member of the club.



Appalachia

The Appalachia Christmas Collection will begin in October. This project is part of the Archdiocesan International Concerns Commission and has been in existence for over 35 years, with 50 parishes participating. Every year, the Appalachian project delivers gifts to two sister parishes in Kentucky.

In 2013, the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (ACCW) introduced the Papal Footsteps/Shoebox Program for Children. All one needs is a shoebox and a couple of "kid shoppers" the ages of a recipient, and you're in business. They know what kids like!

Last year, over 1,000 boxes were filled with something fun: a toy item, school supplies, winter accessories, soap, tooth brushes, etc. I have seen children shopping for these items with the shoebox in hand. They are so excited to be helping out.

The Terminal Transport Trucking Company donates the use of a semi truck and the ACCW volunteers load the truck at the Hupt Farm in Randolph. It travels to the Appalachia Mission Distribution Center in Kentucky. Over 300 archdiocesan volunteers and the donated trucking services helped to deliver over 20,000 gifts of varying sizes in 2016.

Kathi Dumond and Paula Ehrich have coordinated this project for St Peter's Church for over ten years. You may sign up to volunteer for this project on the Dues and Interest Survey Page in this newsletter. A flyer in September will provide general information, ideas and instructions, and additional communication will be published via the Sunday bulletin and the church website. Stay tuned!



CCW and Men's Club serving at the Wine and Cheese Event.

SPCCW Membership Form

Detach and return membership dues and interest survey

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone _____

SPCCW Volunteer Interest Survey

Please fill in your name, address and phone number; then check the areas in which you would like to help out. Return the form with your \$15 dues. Make your check payable to SPCCW and note on memo line, "Dues." You may return it in the enclosed envelope by mail or drop it in the Sunday collection basket. Your dues will go to support our charitable causes. Thank you to all for your past support. Please show your continued support by sending in your dues as soon as possible.

_____ APPALACHIAN/PAPAL SHOE BOX COLLECTION (Nov-Dec)	_____ KITCHEN CLEANING
_____ DONUT SUNDAY (First Sunday)	_____ LENTEN SOUP SUPPER
_____ FALL FESTIVAL DINNER (October 1)	_____ SPRING STYLE SHOW (April 28)
_____ FUNERAL LUNCHEONS	_____ GERTEN'S PLANT CARD SALE (Spring)
_____ SERVE MEALS AT ALPHA	_____ PRAYER PARTNER
	_____ FINANCIAL SUPPORTER





Men's Club Membership Form

Detach and return Membership Dues

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone _____

Please fill in your name, address and phone number. Return the form with your \$15 dues. Make your check payable to Men's Club and note on memo line, "Dues." You may return it in the enclosed envelope by mail or drop it in the Sunday collection basket. Your dues will go to support our charitable causes. Thank you to all for your past support. Please show your continued support by sending in your dues as soon as possible.



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From Our Pastor's Desk

Dear sisters in Christ,

As I thank God for the gift of your faith and your loving service to the parish, I feel moved to reciprocate the generous gift you make of your lives, by offering something to guide our work together this coming year. My thoughts in this letter will be similar to those I shared with you a few months ago, when we spoke about the important relationship between prayer and activity.

There is a pattern throughout the Bible, especially in the Gospels and life of Jesus, that the only human activity that most deeply impacts the lives of people and history is that which flows from prayer. As St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta often said, "It is not what we do that is important, but what God does in and through us." When we open ourselves to God in prayer, it allows God to bless us, inspire us, strengthen us, guide us and work through us.

This pattern is also present in the life of Mary, who is the model disciple for the whole Church. In the Joyful Mysteries, the Visitation is preceded by the Annunciation. In the Annunciation, Mary is all openness and receptivity to God. At this moment, it is not about "doing something" but about allowing something to "be done unto her." In this prayerful disposition, the Holy Spirit comes down upon her and she conceives, allowing the Word to become flesh within her womb. The angel of the Lord then tells Mary about her cousin Elizabeth.

Here we see two fruits of prayer. The inspiration to visit her cousin comes from God, and, when Mary arrives at the home of Elizabeth, the focus is not so much on the two women, but upon the movement of the Holy Spirit within them and the child in Mary's womb. Mary is now a Christ bearer, and before the presence of Christ, John the Baptist leaps in his mother's womb.

Let us follow this pattern in the life of Jesus and Mary, preceding our activity with prayer. God needs open vessels for His grace, empty pots in which He can pour His Spirit. Like Mary, we want to give what we have received from God, we want to bring Christ into all we do, and give Christ to all we meet. Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.

My sincere love and prayers,
Fr. Steven