



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

September 2016

From Our President

Hello Ladies of St. Peter's Church of Mendota,

The summer of 2016 is drawing to a close and the "working" season of the Council of Catholic Women is here. We already have two large events on the calendar. On November 17, we will be hosting the St. Paul Deanery Quarterly Meeting for women from all parishes in the deanery. The program will be from the Family Commission. On December 3, we will be hosting the Archdiocesan Half-Day Advent Retreat (Women of Mercy) for women from all deaneries in the St. Paul-Minneapolis Archdiocese. More information on both events is forthcoming. Please watch the parish bulletin and/or access the ACCW website.

Other activities coming up include the Fall Festival Dinner on October 2, the Appalachian Shoebox Project in October and November, the Pastor Appreciation Celebration and the Christmas Poinsettia Sale in November and December. These events need volunteers, so please let us know if you can help.

We are considering a speaker/entertainment series in the months of February, March and April to help pass time during the colder months. Topics could address the ACCW proposed resolutions for 2016. There will be a program, refreshments and a free will offering.

Any monies received will underwrite parish needs and charitable causes. We are interested in suggestions or ideas that you have for these programs. Please note your suggestions on the membership form and return it with your dues.

In the past year, our speakers included Ralph Dumond, retired commanding officer of the New York City Police Commissioner's Office, Dr. Wayne Thalhuber, an expert in hospice care development and Dakota County Sheriff Tim Leslie.

In the upcoming year, we will host the Lenten Soup Supper on Ash Wednesday, with proceeds going to Sharing and Caring Hands. We also will host the Spring Plant Card Sale and the Spring Style Show on May 20 of 2017.

I recently reviewed past newsletters and in the last 15 years, the CCW has donated over \$61,000 to the church building fund and various other charitable causes.

In 2016, we donated \$360 to Uganda Sponsorship, \$1,600 to St. Peter's Bounty Fund, \$250 to the Dorothy Day Building Fund Principal and \$760 to St. Peter's Church, for the Mass servers' albs. Thank you to board members Elizabeth Baker, Pat Peterson and Connie Powell, who served on the distribution committee.

Two of our ongoing events include Donut Sunday on the first Sunday of the month and funeral luncheons. A special shout out to the many women who host and serve the funeral luncheons. They come on short notice and their response is always dependable.

Thank you to all the women of our parish who donate their time, talent and money (dues).

Thank you also to the parish women who are not able to be active but continue to pay dues and pray for the success of our programs.

It has been an honor to serve as President of this organization. In all levels of the Council of Catholic Women, I have met the most delightful, dedicated, intelligent, accomplished and interesting women I have ever had the pleasure of knowing.

It is a great organization. Please join us.

Patricia Kemper
SPCCW President
651-340-2015



St. Peter's CCW is very grateful to



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

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The Year of Mercy

While surfing the web a few nights ago, I landed on a site entitled *Catholic Answers*, authored by a man named Marcellino D'Ambrosio. He has a Ph.D. in Historical Theology from Catholic University of America. He is a specialist in Apologetics, Social Issues and Theology. Excerpts include:

Mercy in the Church: Mercy is for everyone. The call to true holiness is universal. Everyone, without exception is called to the work of mercy.

Mercy is not always convenient: Crisis and suffering are not always predictable. It is inconvenient unless one puts God first and responds to suffering with God's mercy.

Mercy means divine, supernatural love: It is action that springs from the love of God, which is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5). The work of mercy can and should be a deeply spiritual encounter. It is never condescending.

And, a sobering thought: The Holy Eucharist is a work of Mercy.

Litany for the Women of Council

Father, we are your creation: the women of your church. We are powerful, yet gentle ambassadors in the world that seeks to overpower the weak.

Father, we are your creation: the women of your church. We bring to birth the children of the earth. We nurture, we support, we fight for and protect the rights of the unborn, and we cherish the gifts of your creation.

Father, we are your creation: the women of your church. We clothe the naked, we comfort the prisoner, and we welcome the stranger among us.

Father, we are your creation: the women of your church. We share our gifts, we support each other, we empower each other, we educate each other, and we pray for each other.

Father, we are your creation: the women of your church. We work together; we share our time, energy and creativity.

Father, we are your creation: the women of your church. We comfort those who are lonely, those who are afraid, and those who mourn the loss of a loved one.

Father, we are your creation: the women of your church. We work lovingly and diligently in our parishes, in our deaneries, and in our dioceses to support our bishops, pastors and communities.

Father, we are your creation: the women of your church. Together, we become a voice for the voiceless, in this country and in the wider world.

Father, we are your creation: the women of your church. You have given us Mary, your Mother, to be our guide and counselor. We give you thanks and praise for all the blessings you have given us. We dedicate ourselves to building up your kingdom through the work of the members of the National Council of Catholic Women.

Detach and return Membership Dues and Interest Survey

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Level of Participation: Fully Active _____ Partially Active _____

Financially Supportive _____ Prayer Partner _____

Your dues (\$10) 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.

Volunteer Interest Survey

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| _____ APPALACHIAN SHOE BOX COLLECTION
(Nov-Dec) | _____ KITCHEN CLEANING (Sept 19) |
| _____ DONUT SUNDAY (First Sunday) | _____ LENTEN SOUP SUPPER |
| _____ FALL FESTIVAL DINNER | _____ MAILINGS (CCW) |
| _____ FUNERAL LUNCH | _____ POINSETTIA SALE (Nov-Dec) |
| _____ JUNE CCW GENERAL MEETING | _____ SPRING STYLE SHOW |
| | _____ SPRING GARDEN CARD SALE |

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 dues (\$10) by mail or drop it in the Sunday collection basket.

Make \$10 check payable to SPCCW and note in memo "DUES."

Mail to the Treasurer, Connie Powell, PO Box 50679, Mendota, MN 55150-0679

THANK YOU!

Save the Dates for St. Paul Deanery Meetings

- Sept 15, 2016: Church of St. Peter, 2600 Margaret St. N, North St. Paul, MN—Program is Legislation Commission
 Nov 17, 2016: Church of St. Peter, 1405 Sibley Memorial Hwy, Mendota, MN—Program is Family Commission
 Feb 16, 2017: TBD—Program is Executive Commission
 Apr 27, 2017: Nativity Parish, 1900 Wellesley Ave, St. Paul, MN—Program is Organization Commission

Watch the parish bulletin for timely information. All women of the parish are invited to these meetings.



St. Peter Council of Catholic Women
Church of St. Peter
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From our Pastor's Desk

God's blessings and warm greetings to all the women of our parish community. To honor this special Year of Mercy, I want to reflect together on how Mary reveals and embodies, in a special way for you and the Church, the vocation of Mercy. To help us connect with Mary's heart, we turn to Scripture, to two mysteries in the life of Mary: the Visitation and the Wedding at Cana.

In both of these mysteries, we see the simplicity of mercy: the awareness of a need and the desire to respond and to help. Mary's heart is completely open to God, and therefore, it is also open and sensitive to others and to their needs. She is God's handmaid, always ready to serve. But her service extends way beyond the basic human and material aid that she is able to supply. The whole of Mary's life is the clear sign that God desires to give more, that in and through Mary, God responds to the greater need of every human heart: the need for salvation, and therefore, the need for Jesus.

Jesus is God's greatest Mercy to the world, for he is the forgiveness of sins, healing for the brokenhearted, freedom for those in bondage, light to the blind, resurrection and hope for the dead and dying. When the wine failed at Cana, Mary could have turned to any number of guests to remedy the problem, but she turned to Jesus. "They have no wine." What follows reveals that her request was not simply that Jesus replenish the table wine with something better, but that Jesus reveal Himself and hasten "the Hour" of redemption, blessing this couple and all of humanity with the joy of New Wine—the love of God poured into hearts made new by the death and resurrection of Jesus.

"They have no wine." May God keep our hearts open and sensitive, like Mary, to the needs of those around us, especially to the greater need for Jesus. As we become aware of various needs, we imitate Mary by bringing them first to Jesus in the silent prayer of our hearts. It is Jesus who equips us to be His compassion and mercy—to bring Him to others by the witness of our lives, through the many acts of kindness, patience, tenderness, generosity and humble service—praying in all this that Jesus be known and loved by every single person. Our merciful love can often be the bridge that connects people to Jesus.

My sincere thanks to you for all the ways you give witness to God's merciful love, so often in ways that are hidden and which go unappreciated. We are all so deeply grateful to you. May God bless you abundantly!

Fr. Steven