

Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Focus

Nov. 2011

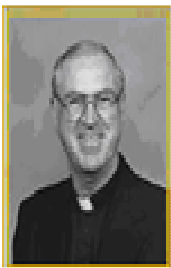
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From our Spiritual Advisor – Rev. John Sebahar

Dear CCW Members,



I attended the N.C.C.W. national convention at the Chicago Marriott from Nov. 10th to Nov. 13th. I would like to report on the Moderator's luncheon held on Friday.

Msgr. Robert Servatius, chairman of the Moderators, began the meeting by introducing Patty Johnson, N.C.C.W. president. He then introduced Bishop James Johnson Jr., who has been appointed Episcopal Liaison for N.C.C.W.

Our luncheon began with a prayer by Msgr. Servatius. There were 69 priest moderators and 6 women moderators. After lunch, several business items were brought up for discussion. Msgr. Servatius introduced the idea of changing the designation of Moderator as the official title. He said the change came up at the last national board meeting. After considerable discussion, the name "spiritual advisor" was suggested as the title for those priests and lay people who assist the women of council. A vote was taken and the recommendation to change the title from "Moderator" to "**Spiritual Advisor**" was approved.

Discussion took place on the date of next year's convention. The proposed date is October 31 to November 3 at Myrtle Beach, S.C. Many of the spiritual advisors were concerned that the Holy Day and All Souls Day occurred during the convention. An explanation of the choice of this week was given by Joanne Dunne, the executive director of N.C.C.W.

The spiritual advisors asked that an effort be made to change the dates. A poll of the spiritual advisors indicated that most of them could not attend if the dates are not changed. Joanne Dunne said national will do all in its power to change the dates of next year's convention.

The final act of business was to appoint a Nominating Committee to seek out candidates for chairman of the spiritual advisors for the national board. Msgr. Servatius' term of office ends at next year's convention.



The focus of this newsletter is the NCCW convention held in Downtown Chicago

Message from our President - Linnea Warda

Dear Friends of JDCCW,

We have just returned from our National Convention, we had 44 members from the Diocese of Joliet attended. I was so glad to see so many attend. As a whole I think the Convention went well. I had a good feeling after this convention. I felt that NCCW is on the right track. Even if there are still questions that need answers, I felt that we need to support NCCW to keep the Catholic Voice heard. NCCW has representation at many places where they can get out the Catholic Women's Voice. I do not want to lose this representation. Even with our differences, I am a strong advocate for membership in the National Council of Catholic Women.



Some members of the Eastern DuPage Deanery at Convention

It was my pleasure to attend the NCCW meeting of the A/DDW Presidents at the National Convention. Patty Johnson the outgoing President of NCCW called the meeting to order at 5:45 PM and welcomed those attending. Patty was most gracious as she always is. We were lead in prayer by Sue Bregel, ACCW President from the Diocese of Seattle.

Patty Johnson stressed the importance of communication in maintaining and recruiting membership in NCCW. It is her hope that everyone should either have an e-mail address or appoint an e-secretary. So information can be received quickly and efficiently.

Patty asked us to promote the NCCW and it's works. Remember that there is a call to Pray for Catholic Women and NCCW on Wednesdays at 8:00 AM. Take time to pray. Please support the Campaign for human dignity – Life is sacred. Do what you can in your diocese, deanery and parish to support human dignity issues. Work against pornography and seek justice for immigrants. Support the organizations that are partnered with NCCW, USCCB (Unites

State Conference of Catholic Bishops), CRS (Catholic Relief Services) and Cross international Catholic Outreach. She asked us to remember that membership is the heart of NCCW – we should be informed, positive and let women know that NCCW is a faith – filled organization.

The next presenter was Donna Sander from New Ulm, Minnesota. She talked about attracting members with positive vibrations and strengthening councils with newsletter connections. She suggested that a monthly electronic newsletter should be published. This has great potential to get out the current views and news. If you can involve the bishop, affiliate presidents, spiritual advisor and commission chairs in writing items to include in the newsletter. She said to encourage the use of more technology. Reach younger women on facebook and twitter. Parishes should also do newsletters to reach their membership or others in the parish with your parish CCW news.

Jane Carter DCCW Past President of Knoxville, TN Diocese talked on the need to communicate. She advocated having an electronic secretary. It would be her duty to send notes, memos, reminders, minutes and time-sensitive announcements. She could send out a call to respond to national disasters, prayer requests. She could supply educational material and lists of awards received by members. This would help the president in many ways. She could also have a list of those who don't have e-mail and who they want their e-mail sent to.

Jane also said that the A/DCCW Presidents should know when and if their affiliates keep up their NCCW membership. They should appoint one person to track dues in order to keep up with parish affiliates and individual membership. The use of a tracking form is very useful. She handed out copies of the tracking form.

DeDe Kidder the Steubenville, Ohio DCCW President talked on Reaching out and mentoring. DeDe is from a small diocese in the east of Ohio (30,000 Catholics) with many small parishes. She says that regular communication is by post and email. DCCW members contribute articles to *the Spirit* newsletter, which goes out to 2000 people, not just in the Diocese of Steubenville but also to women and priests in the other dioceses of Ohio and Pennsylvania. They had 212 attend the Steubenville Diocesan Convention this year. DeDe recommends sending personal notes to encourage people to come to the convention. Reach out to others to attend the convention.

Judy Powers, the incoming NCCW President spoke on the future of NCCW. She also expressed the need to communicate and to use the technology. She demonstrated this by preparing her talk on her iPad.

Judy announced that the NCCW plan for the turnaround is on schedule. She stated that NCCW would continue its dedication to the Campaign for Human Dignity. She stated that the three commission chairs would reach out to affiliates and non-affiliates with ways to participate in the Campaign for Human Dignity. To reach out to the local level where membership starts. NCCW will still have the book club, the Catholic Woman and Connect. The Leadership Training Team will be active.

Joanne Donne the Interim Executive Director talked on the importance of membership development and giving support to NCCW. 1,100 individual members did not renew their

membership. 700 new members signed up this leaves a deficit of 400 members. She stated that membership is crucial to the future of NCCW. We all need to work on membership

Joanne also stated that donations from affiliates represents 15% of the NCCW budget and only 11% of affiliates contribute. She asked us to encourage affiliates to put NCCW on their giving schedule.

We also heard from Andrea Schellman, director of communications and publications. Andrea talked about the three publications of NCCW, the *Catholic Women*, *NCCW Connect* and *Bulletin Board*. Use *Catholic Women* to pass information on to other women in your parish. It's a great recruitment tool. *NCCW Connect* is archived, so you can always go back to an article. *Bulletin Board* will keep you up on what's happening.

Cathy Jarboe director of information and issue management emphasized that she is available to members for any questions or concerns. I can attest to this myself as Cathy helped me with questions I had before convention.

NCCW can be reached at nccw01@nccw.org for answers to your question.

Our Catholic Call to End the Use of the Death Penalty

By Pat Lord

Keynote Speaker Sr. Helen Prejean, CSJ

Unfailing in her respect for the sanctity of human life, the compassionate and endlessly devoted Sister Helen Prejean has been at the forefront of the anti-death penalty movement in the United States for nearly thirty years. She was asked if she would like to write letters to a prisoner on death row and she accepted, not knowing what she was in for. She is a Sister of St. Joseph in Baton Rouge, LA and with a group of other sister they have a Ministry against the Death Penalty.

She has written two books about her experiences working with Death Row inmates, one of which is **Dead Man Walking** which has been made into a movie and **The Death of Innocence**. She is currently working on another book – **River of Fire: My Spiritual Journey**. She is so passionate about what she does and her faith in God that everyone in the room was spellbound.

Opening Mass

By Michelle Weiland

On Thursday, November 10th, I attended the opening liturgy of the NCCW convention. This Mass was truly one for the ages. The choir from Mother McCauley High School provided the music for the Mass. It was so beautiful to hear the choir and 600+ voices singing!

The Mass procession took my breath away; it included over 50 priests, 2 Bishops (including Joliet Bishop Daniel Conlon) and Cardinal George. It was an amazing sight. Cardinal George in his homily explained how everyone benefits from the works of CCW and how CCW had affected his life through his mother's involvement. He explained how important it was for us to be visible gifts of grace, faith and love. As women who know the Lord we need to have the courage to be love in action.

This Mass was a great way to begin the convention and provided a great perspective of what is important and how beneficial this convention would be to all the women in attendance.

Women's Spiritual Retreat

By Kathy Williamson

I have attended quite a few JDCCW Conventions, but this was my first NCCW convention. Unfortunately I was only able to attend Thursday, so I wanted to do as much as I could. I signed up for the morning **Women's Spiritual Retreat** and found it to be very moving.

The speaker was Christine Watkins who converted to Catholicism after being cured from cancer.

She focused on Mary Our Mother and brought up what Mary expects from us. Christine told about the many times Mary has come to speak on earth to give us her message and how important the Rosary is. She also talked about prayer and that we should pray for the Graces we need.

Christine gave a list of five things Mary wants us all to do.

- 1) **Pray daily – especially the Rosary**
- 2) **Receive the Eucharist often**
- 3) **Go to Confession at least monthly**
- 4) **Read the Bible**
- 5) **Fast on Wednesday and Friday (just bread and water if possible)**

There was a very moving meditation to Mary she did with everyone – the lights were dimmed and in a very soft voice she spoke having everyone think about and reflect on our own lives and needs. I had tears in my eyes and I could tell others did also.

It was a wonderful way to start the day.

Christine Watkins is the author of "Full of Grace". The book is a collection of conversion stories of five people, plus her own story. These real life dramas reveal the depth of Mary's power to intercede for us.

I found the Convention to be very energizing. I saw many women from JDCCW there and spoke with many women from other towns in Illinois, women out of state and as far away as Vancouver Canada.

I wish I could've been there for the entire time as I'm sure it would've been an enlightening experience.

NCCW <http://home.catholicweb.com/NCCW>

Creation Relation *By Joan Ruth*

Christy Elliott, Creations Action Fellow serves the Franciscans Action Network. Christy opened the session with prayer. "We humans share with the rest of God's creation Prayer, Principles and Practice." Christy instructed that God is present to us in one another. Through our human work is how we express our human dignity. All things created come from the greatness of God and worshipping connects us.

If we chose not to respond to God's call we diminish our own dignity. We are testing the limit of our resources for example, water shortage, global warming and the collapse of the Bee colony and we people are loosing respect for Gods creation. Through authentic human development we are helping other nations through education and agricultural development and learning to live more simply. Actions to be taken towards the restoration of creation is through Charitable works, cleaning up of roads, reduce consumption, inner city farming. Also funding for public transportation, developing legislation for cleaner air, and working for root causes of Social Justice.

"The Church has a responsibility towards creation and she must accept this responsibility in the public sphere." . (Caritats in Veritias).

Faith and Media

by Marianne McKeague

Sr. Helena Burns, FSP, Media Literacy Specialist,
Pauline Books & Media/Daughters of St. Paul

This was an excellent seminar for pastors, parish councils, and parishes who are trying to reach out to their faith communities in this digital age. During the course of Sr. Helena's multi-media presentation (visuals, charts – even YouTube videos), all agreed that - for better or worse, the digital age is here, and just as Gutenberg's invention of the printing press brought about an explosion in the reading of the Bible, today's many technologies can have a faith explosion exponentially greater. We could probably use a whole page just listing the many tech apparatus available today. Besides TV and other visual media, sound media (Mp3 players, DVDs), computers (desktop, laptop, tablet, etc.) world-wide internet accessibility, there are cell phones/smart phones, PDAs, e-books, GPA programs, and Apps for most of these (ten-year olds today have and use many of these, yet may not even know that it is shorthand for applications or programs which can be downloaded – often for free - from the internet onto various devices).



However, all of the above have as much potential for harm as for good and a good part of the interaction of the seminar focused on these problems. Nevertheless, since 1937, the Church has been saying that new media was "a Gift from God", and that the "Church is called to be an active, listening presence in the world created by a media culture". The church must determine how best to employ the media to serve the Christian message; if the Gospel message is going to make sense to the next generation of Catholics, the Church needs to use new media to bring them to know Christ and hear His message. Parents, in particular need to protect their children from the many perils and evils of some current media, but all Catholics today need to practice Media Literacy by practicing Discipleship, Discernment and Discipline.

If you would to see and hear more about this topic, Sr. Helena provided all seminar attendees who requested it with her complete PowerPoint presentation in a .pdf.; I can forward it to anyone who contacts me at marianne33@att.net. It would be excellent to show the presentation to parish groups.

Breakfast meeting General Session

By Deb Drager

An early call for breakfast, 7:45 a.m. brought us down to the Grand Ballroom of the Marriott on Friday, November 11, 2011. We were surprised by an awesome opening song. "We are Dancing in the Light of God" ..the beat of the drum brought us all to our feet singing. It was a delightful and invigorating way to begin the morning. After a served breakfast of eggs, potatoes, tomatoes, bacon, and pastries, Robert Wicks began his presentation.

Streams of Contentment presented by Robert Wicks, PsyD, Pastoral Counseling Department, Loyola, University Maryland

In 1993, and again in 2001, Dr. Wicks' worked in Cambodia. His task was to help professionals who helped the Khmer people rebuild their nation following years of terror and torture. In 1994, he was also responsible for the psychological debriefing of relief workers evacuated from Rwanda during their bloody civil war. He has worked with many health care professionals and injured veterans as well.

His positive attitude and sense of humor brought the attention of the room to him. He spoke of Matthew 6:22, "The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light." The thought process; what you cannot change others only yourself. If your eye is clear your whole body will be full of light. In his work, with his personal life he shared that we should not seek to change others but seek to change ourselves.

His stories brought us to understand the idea of having less expectations and higher hopes. His concept of "wearing slippers" instead of having the world carpeted did make you think about how you handle difficulties. Wicks sited that living in the world requires not only care for ourselves but to care for others. He advised taking two minutes each day for reflection and contemplation, in silence, solitude and gratitude for all God has given you. "Prayer is the gate to perspective" he stated. You cannot truly help others unless you care for yourself and keep your own connection with God.

Dr. Wicks has published over 40 books for both professionals and the general public. His book, Streams of Contentment and others were available for sale after the program.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING WORKSHOP

by Teri Lindeman

What better way to fill the initial thirst of being a Catholic women then attending a National Leadership session? Even if you have no desire to be a leader...it is a fun way to gain insight into what parishes do all over the United States. They are women just like you and me. The LTD Trainers, Linda Clark, Pat Smuck and Pat Reymann walked us down the path of our Council of Catholic Women. They stressed the importance of the CCW and the need to be visible among our parishes.

Even the way we make a poster can determine how well our message gets through. The effort we put forth will determine the outcome we can expect. Little effort will bring little response. When we put our hearts into the cause, we will touch those who are eager to serve the Lord. So next time you create a poster or decorate a table, use color, props and all your creativity...the options are endless.

Attitude is Everything! Project yourself in a positive, fun way. Everyone gravitates to individuals with positive energy and smiles. Do your council women SMILE? Be that shining light among your peers...shine God's light to all around you!

Do you have daughters or young women in your parish that are committed to their faith? Did you ever think of asking them to attend a function, or better yet, give a helping hand? These "young ladies" could someday be our future leaders...maybe they just need to be invited to get involved. If you ever get a chance to attend a leadership workshop...say "yes". What a treasure it is to hear what motivates individuals and what great ideas our sisters in Christ have throughout the United States. **Peace and SMILE!**

Be Faithful Even Unto Death

By Helen Sluis

Thomas Brejcha and Peter Breen, pro-life legal experts from the Thomas More Society, addressed many of the end of life issues that we might face either for ourselves or our loved ones. Our human dignity as children of God and our right to life does not cease when old age and illness approaches. We must therefore prepare ahead of time because the Culture of Death with euthanasia and doctor assisted suicide is becoming more common.

It is important to have "A Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care" so that our wishes will be followed if we are unable to make decisions for ourselves. A family member or a close friend should be designated along with a secondary person in case the original one is no longer able to function in the capacity of guardian. Communication is paramount. As hard as it might be, it is important to discuss end of life care before it is needed. Let them know you want them to follow Catholic Church teachings in this matter. Nutrition and hydration (food & water) are ordinary means of sustaining life and should never be withheld. They, however, are often no longer necessary or wanted when death is imminent and might be counter productive.

Pain medicine is essential when it is needed but it should never be used to deliberately hasten death. It is important that the sacraments be available at this time and that family and friends be allowed to visit. The family physician should also be included as a way to avoid a "hospitalist", a hospital doctor who does not know you personally and would not know your wishes. Normal means of preserving life are necessary but extraordinary care or futile care is not.

The time will come when we or our loved ones must pass. In the matter of organ donation, the lawyers recommend saying "NO" on our driver's license. Certain organs, like the heart, must be operating for successful transplant so we must be very careful. There are brain wave tests that are more accurate in determining death. A brain may never be transplanted. For more information check out these websites:

[USCCB, Life and Hope.com,](http://USCCB.org)
[Patients Rights Council.org,](http://PatientsRightsCouncil.org) and [NRCL.org.](http://NRCL.org)

CONGRATULATIONS

to

ANN BURDZINSKI

**Newly elected President of the
ASSOCIATES OF NCCW**

Highlight of the Annual Meeting of the Associates of NCCW was the election of officers for the 2011-2013 term. Joliet is justly proud of our Past JDCCW President, Ann Burdzinski who was elected as President.

Other officers elected were:

- Vice President - Kay Elliott (TX)
- Secretary - Barbara Asfendis (FL)
- Treasurer - Joan Higgins (CA)

Seven new members were elected to the Board of Directors: Claire Kempton, Evelyn Lompa, Judy Pappagallo, Eunice Washa, Irene Gramza, Tricia Zermeno and Jessie Bownes.

Each year Associates presents NCCW with a Grant check for items which National informs us would be furthered if funds were available. This year's grant was for \$10,000 to be used for Web design update (\$3,000), Catholic Woman series of articles (\$2,000) and the LTD program (\$5,000). All funds are restricted for the designated specific items.

Certificates were presented to new Life members including our JDCCW President, Linnea Warda. Associates of NCCW is an organization within NCCW which raises funds through dues and donations to assist in monetary support of NCCW.

Marie Palmer, Reporter

My First Convention.....

By: Cheryl Sutton, President St. Pius CCW

So where do I start. My first convention was a wonderful and informative experience. I got to meet women from all over the USA. We heard speeches from warm, funny and informative keynote speakers. The opening Mass moved me to tears. There were approximately 50 Priests, 2 Bishops and Cardinal George presided. Mother McCauley High School choir provided the music and I could actually hear over 700 voices singing in joy. Everyone in that room was so happy to be there. I attended meetings that I hope will help me at my Parish CCW and I had time to bond more with the women from my church as well as from our Deanery. I learned just how involved and how important CCW is at all the levels. We closed at a banquet with great entertainment and much fun was had by all who attended. I feel Blessed to have experienced all this at the NCCW Convention.

Immigration Reform *By Madalene Cannata*

“Our Catholic Resources” were the subject of Elena Segura’s presentation at the workshop. She is Director of the Office of Immigrant Affairs for the Archdiocese of Chicago; also, she has been a speaker in the United States for over 25 years. Undocumented immigrants and separation of families have been her focus.

She spoke of Pope John Paul II’s Apostolic Exhortation. ‘A call to conversion and a call for Solidarity.’ Persons have the right to find opportunities in their homelands to support themselves and their families. The USCCB’s Catholic Campaign for Immigration and Reform aims at educating Catholics on the benefits of immigration and immigrants to the U.S., to advocate for legislation that promotes legal pathways for migrant workers and their families to a safe, humane, and orderly manner.

We need to pray and love. Faith is critical. We are encouraged to contact our legislators regarding the McLean-Kennedy immigration law. At present no law is pending regarding immigration.

BUSINESS MEETING NCCW CONVENTION

By Pat Cetera

The business meeting took place on Saturday morning, the last day of the convention. The credentials report showed 675 people registered, with 557 of those voting delegates. The agenda and rules for the meeting as well as the minutes from the 2010 convention were accepted.

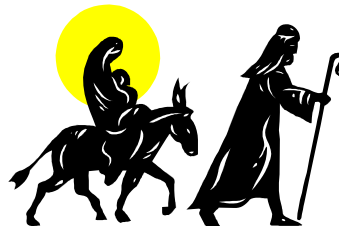


The NCCW President, each Regional Vice-President/ Commission Chair, the interim Executive Director, the President of Associates of NCCW, the WUCWO representative, the NCCW representative to the United Nations and the Chair of Spiritual Directors (formerly know as moderators), gave their reports. Most of these reports should be available soon at nccw.org, but as of the date of this writing, they are not up.

We heard a report from a representative from Cross International regarding the Women Helping Women Campaign in which NCCW is involved. The three current areas of concern are human trafficking, the need for shelter for women and children, and childbirth mortality.

The financial report was given by the NCCW treasurer and the auditor. The turnaround could take as long as 10 years, but we are beginning to see some improvement. Last year (2010) a lot of money went to improvements in our computer system. In 2011 it was not necessary to spend that kind of money, so our bottom line is beginning to look a little better. We still need to work on retaining and increasing membership. The year end financial report can be found in the current Catholic Woman. There were some graphs shown by the auditor that give a better overview of the financial cycle of NCCW. I will request that these also be put on the NCCW website.

The last piece of business was the adoption of the proposed resolutions. There were three resolutions this year: 1. The Promotion of Catholic Social Teachings 2. Education and Support for the Implementation of the Revised Roman Missal and 3. A Call to End the Use of the Death Penalty – Building a Campaign for Human Dignity. All three resolutions were adopted with some changes to the language in the last “resolved” of the third proposed resolution. The new resolutions should also soon be listed at nccw.org.



*Wishing you and your Family
many Blessings*

*May you experience the true
meaning of Christmas*

Becoming a Marriage Building Parish

By Teri Fritz

The speaker for the workshop was Shula Garcia. A social cultural portrait of marriage. The marriage rate has declined by 50% from 1970 – 2007. Marriage is an institution. What is the state of marriage today? The age for first marriage is now 28 for men and 26 for women.

There are three mega trends:

The deconstruction of the institution of marriage

A crisis of meaning. What is marriage for? No social consensus to support marriage. There is an order of marriage: 1. Courting 2. Marriage 3. Children

Public to private part of Marriage

Will marriage be a personal benefit? Rise of the soul mate. The problem comes when we want that other person to be perfect. It's all about the couple. Fewer than 1/3 of households include children. The Marriage gap, educated couples are more likely to marry where as poorer couples are more likely choosing to cohabitate. There is a weakening of the marital commitment. Divorce is at 50% cohabiting has increased by 1,000% since 1970. Over 1/2 if all marriages are preceded by cohabitation. 40% of cohabiting couples have children and do so to live cheaper.

Marriage and the Catholic Church.

Declining marriage rules in the church. Since 1972 the Catholic marriage rate had fallen by 60%. In 1972 86 marriages per 1,000 in 2007 it was 26 per 1,000. Some of the reasons for declining marriages are: Fewer Catholics decide to marry. Many Catholics divorce without an annulment. Many Catholic, marry non-Catholics. These marriages are in other churches or by the Justice of the Peace.

Some of the marriages building strategies are:

1. Build on what is in place. Liturgies, Have a priest or deacon speak on Marriage.
2. Sacramental preparation
3. Faith formation programs
4. Parish website and the bulletin.

Website recommended was <http://marriagecounselor.com/>

Domestic Violence: Our Catholic Response

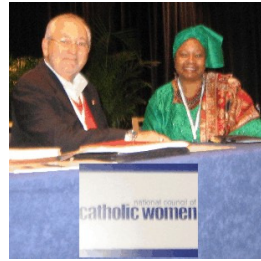
Deacon Dan Welter Archdiocese of Chicago and

Beverly Ann Stewart Illinois Department of Human Services

by Marianne McKeague

This seminar was hard to listen to because it's such a tragic problem. Domestic violence crosses all socioeconomic, racial, ethnic and religious lines. It affects not only the woman – the majority of domestic violence victims are females – but her children; indeed many children in an abusive household grow up to be abusers or victims themselves.

Both Deacon Dan, a former judge who spent many years in Family Court, and Beverly, an abused victim herself, did provide some solutions. Handouts* outlined the "Profile of a Domestic Violence Victim", and answers to the age-old question asked time and time again: "Why Does She Stay?" They also gave everyone a guideline on "Responding to a Victim of Domestic Violence". Since victims are everywhere, any one of us could meet or suspect a victim in our families, at



work, in church, or in groups in which we participate. These guidelines should be read and understood by all, but especially women; not only are women more likely to notice the signs of a possible victim, but an abused woman is more likely to open up her circumstances to another woman. Finally they gave advice for parishes;

they would like to see all parishes a 'safe haven' for victims, and provided still another handout "What Clergy and Congregation Can Do" All handouts and a resource sheet are available by contacting marianne33@att.net. Parish website and the bulletin.

The NCCW Banquet

The concluding activity for the NCCW Convention was the Banquet held at the Marriott on Saturday Evening, November 12, 2011 from 7:30 – 10:00 pm. Spirits were high and fun was on the Agenda. The evening began with opening prayer, and a delicious meal.

Following the wonderful dinner was some great entertainment that was provided to us through the courtesy of the Catholic Cemeteries, Archdiocese of Chicago. The attendees all enjoyed the entertainment since they were literally a part of the show as the entertainer Vito Zatto incorporated many of the ladies and the few gentlemen as a part of the performance.

To quote the NCCW publicity, "Vito Zatto has been singing and performing in Chicago area for the past twenty-five years. His quick-witted, spontaneous and high-energy entertainment will get you involved and keep the party going! Feel like you are in a Vegas nightclub when Vegas-style singer and entertainer Zatto performs a show full of hilarious stand-up comedy, celebrity impersonations and incredible singing. You are guaranteed one thing you will somehow be part of the show. You will be talking about this night for weeks"!



Why Should I Go to Church?

by Madalene Cannata

Presented by Rev. John Cusick, Office of Youth Ministry, Archdiocese of Chicago. The answer: "So I don't forget who I am." Going to church is an identity marker. Today Mass attendance has declined by 100,000 people. We have not told of the fear of hell. In Chicago, Catholic weddings have decreased 20%. Each generation is more secular than the last. Faith is a pair of glasses and the last lens I see through. Our birthright is 'we are sons and daughters of God.' We must live one day at a time; otherwise we may forget who we are. The readings at Mass remind us of how special we are.

A "word or phrase could cause an unexpected change in you." Young people think 'Church is a waste of time.' They do not understand what we really need and the importance of the Eucharist. The reception of our *daily bread*, as we say in the "Our Father." We need to realize we are in the presence of God.

Current Trends in Religious Behavior and Beliefs of Young Adult Catholics

by Diane Dow

Presenter: Mary L. Gautier, PhD, Senior Research Associate, Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

When we look around at the members of our parish family as we gather for worship or other community events, we see only a small portion of what we know as Church. We do see, however, a number of changes in our own parishes and in the Church as a whole. CARA (Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate) has served the Church for more than 50 years by doing research and tracking trends in Catholicism which impact how we function as Catholics in our essential everyday activities of worship and service. The social science tools can be applied to address issues and concerns of the Church. Source of the data is the dioceses and eparchies whose bishops belong to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

During the last hundred years, the Church in the United States has evolved from an immigrant Church and has seen movement of members in a variety of ways (from urban areas to farms as well as from farms to suburban areas; immigration of large numbers of Hispanic Catholics and more movement from northern areas to the sun belt. Although there is a greater number of Catholics as a whole, the net result of all of this movement has been fewer Catholic schools and parishes and less establishment of new parishes. Today's young people do not have the opportunity to grow up with the support of neighborhood churches and schools. The challenge is very real to find ways to provide Faith formation throughout life especially at the time of sacramental milestones.

The U.S. Catholic population is growing but the number of priests has declined. Also declining is the number of consecrated religious. Studies indicate that the response to priestly and religious vocations is strongly influenced by the experience of sacraments, Catholic devotions and education in Catholic schools. A very positive sign can be seen in an increase in the number of seminarians, the steady growth of the number of permanent deacons and the expanding number of faith-based volunteers.

A significant cultural change is apparent today. Young people today are less likely to attend Catholic schools or to be married in the Church. Many have suffered the effects of divorce. They are exposed to much more diversity and the current culture does not promote the Christian way of life. As people live and study and work among so much social, ethnic and religious diversity, some aspects of their Catholic identity is not as clear or important to them.

Those who were born after Vatican II have experienced significant and more fast moving change in the way of life in the U.S. and in the life of the Church. The response of the Church hierarchy to deal with many of these notable

changes has given no clear message universally, the exception being some individual bishops. Those who were born after 1982 have less sense of the history of the Church. They are more educated in general but less educated in their Faith. They value relationship and are comfortable with diversity. The challenge to the Church is to provide a welcoming environment and strengthening resources for this group. The good news is that both Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI have reached out to young people with messages to promote a culture of life and of hope, and the response has been very enthusiastic which tracks as positive and encouraging for the Church today.

Specific statistics and graphs documenting these issues and others can be found in reports compiled by CARA. Consult their website is CARA@georgetown.edu.

Chicago Province Dinner

By Teri Lindeman

The evening was a wonderful time to gather and reconnect with old friends and make new ones. We were privileged to have Bishop James Johnson, Jr., who has been appointed Episcopal Liaison for N.C.C.W. stop in to say a few words and our NCCW President, Patty Johnson. She encouraged us to be connected on the national level and how our strong bonds can affect greater change. What a blessing to have many "Spiritual Directors" attend, especially Father John Sebahar and Father James Antiporek.



Water.

The Springfield DCCW presented a program on the 3 Catholic Women Doctors of the Church: Catherine of Sienna (played by Mary Ann Scopel SDCCW Treasurer), Theresa of Avila (Alma Frohock, SDCCW President-Elect) and Theresa the Little Flower (played by **Rebecca Woodhull, NCCW President-Elec shown in the picture**), background historical information commentary was by Rita Greenwald (Past NCCW President). One thought to leave you with from Teresa of Avila, who was a Carmelite Nun who reported visions of Jesus and Mary and was a strong believer in the power of Holy

A bookmark from one of her journals:

Let nothing disturb you.

Let nothing make you afraid.

All things are passing.

God alone never changes.

Patience gains all things.

If you have God you will want for nothing.

God alone suffices.

NCCW Convention Report on the Welcoming the Third Addition of the Roman Missal

By Marge Harms

Presenter was Sr. Rene Simonelic, O.S.F., Director of General Programming, Office of Divine Worship, Archdiocese of Chicago. Sr. Rene Simonelic O.S. F. holds a Masters Degree in Liturgical Studies from St. John's University, Collegeville, MN and is a Northwestern Kellogg School of Management Executive Scholar.

Sr. Simonelic has been working for a year on the changes to the Roman Missal and Mass with workshops across the Archdiocese of Chicago. To say Sister Simonelic has spirit and enthusiasm about this project is putting mildly.

Explaining how we could listen to the Mass with new ears is an exciting change for all of us. This change gives us a second look at the liturgy as we pray to Christ, since it sometimes becomes routine. We need to explore new ways to talk about the Missal and this will motivate you to deep rooted prayer, as we energize the liturgical life of our parish. As we welcome the third edition of the missal it will free us to pray more.

All the changes from Vatican II were to celebrate the liturgy the way we lived. The first edition of the changes to the guidelines came out in French and they were used to translate the 2nd edition of the missal. With the 2nd edition we were asked to listen and be a part of the liturgy. The altars were turned, communion rails removed and women were allowed to participate as lecturers and extra ordinary ministers.

Now with the third addition, work began in 2001 translating Latin to English and to add prayers and texts for the new saints. In November, 2009 the USCCB approved the final English translation. In March, 2010 Rome issued approval of the English translation of the 3rd addition of the Missal. This new missal will start in Advent on November 27, 2011. Some of the prayers will sound different, as the art of translation is an organic developing art.

The constitution of the Sacred Liturgy, Scripture, readings, Psalms, prayers and songs are signs of action that drive their meaning. There is a parallel between the script and action.

The Gloria is right out of Luke. There are 290 different settings of the Gloria. Meditate on sections to see the beauty as a whole.

The Creed begins with I as the body is saying I. Consubstantial, there is no translation for the mystery of the Trinity and no English word means that same. Music adds delight and fosters unity in the Mass. Participation moves to be "one of holiness."

In the Eucharistic prayer the reference is chalice and not cup as the Pope wanted this change. Chalice is the cup of sacrifice and chalice is a special cup.

The concluding Rite, Pope Benedict wrote "Go forth, we are commissioned to do this. Grow and go in holiness. What would our life be like without the prayers that open our hearts at the liturgy and institute God's will. We are welcomed, accepted and present at the liturgy. May the new changes enlighten your prayerfulness and spread through your parishes.

Authentic Womanhood: Source of Cultural Renewal

By Sophronia Bias

John Paul's "Angelus Reflection" the prayer of the church to honor the Incarnation: Christ becoming man by Mary's consent. This miraculous beauty is manifested through the teachings of "Authentic Womanhood" which focuses on the nature of woman, who she was meant to be by God and her purpose in his plan. John Paul viewed these teachings through three key areas: A woman's Nature and Design, Woman's Mission of Motherhood and Woman's Mission to Society and Culture.

From the book of Genesis God created all things, especially the creation of man from Himself and there-by the creation of "woman" from Adam, who is God's Masterpiece. She is a key player in a true and authentic transformation of culture. First she learns herself and then teaches others that human relations are authentic if they are open to accepting others: a person who is recognized and loved because of the dignity which comes from being a person and not from other consideration: such as usefulness, strength, intelligence or beauty. In other words, woman is first and foremost a "mother" which brings about the catalyst for change.

Motherhood involves a unique contact with the new human being developing within. It is by making herself "gift" that she comes to know herself better and is fulfilled in her femininity. With this gift woman assumes a foundational role to society. A role she shares with her husband. Even though parenthood belongs to both, it is especially realized much more fully in the woman. It's the woman who pays directly for this shared generation. Mary experienced this to the fullest having received the task of generating in time, the eternal "Son" of God. Therefore, it's necessary that man becomes fully aware that he owes a special debt to the "Woman".

Unfortunately, awareness of the values and dignity of a woman has been obscured in the past and is still somewhat today. Women have been and are often disregarded and offended by unjust and even violent practices and behavior, but the genius of woman should never be undermined as more and more are asserting themselves into a world of culture-from government to peace initiatives, from social to the natural sciences and from the figurative arts to music, woman has made a formidable impact on all interpersonal relationships.

Hopefully, the church will begin to denounce the injustices that weigh on women as they continue to proclaim "God's" plan in a positive way.

A beautiful quote from Pope John Paul:

"The history of every being passes through the threshold of a woman's motherhood."

Focus

Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

LTD Techniques for Successful Councils: Facing Today's Challenges

By Pat Lord

This was the second session at convention put on by the Leadership Team. It dealt with way to resolve problems. The first speaker was Jane Carter. We were given two worksheets to find a solution to a hypothetical problem. We were to chat with the people around us and come up with solutions. The first problem had to do with a President not being able to find someone to take the Service Commission Chair position. Responding to the needs and concerns of families, the community and international programs is too overwhelming. First people decided to pray about the problem and have patience with people who do not agree. Second is to identify the right problem by asking the right questions; define the problem and generate an alternative solution if an agreement cannot be made. There were other great solutions. Create an action plan; communicate with people and finally when you come to an agreement implement and evaluate the solution.

The second speaker was Ellen Bachman. Her problem was in regard to how to handle **difficult members**. This was a very interesting thing to me as I have not run into too many difficult people. Ellen gave us a lot of ways of dealing with this problem: Don't ignore the situation; asses the situation; develop a new perspective, change your behavior; confront the situation and monitor your progress. In other words if you run into a difficult member they will never think they are a problem.

At the end they all promoted their Leadership Training Team and suggested that we sign up for one to come to our area.

Friends of NCCW for WUCWO

by Joann Hillebrand

We had a wonderful meeting, elections were the highlight! Our **Rose Martinet** was elected President, **Pat Cetera** elected Secretary and **Teri Lindeman** was elected to the board. I also serve on the board so Joliet Diocese is certainly well represented. Another grant was given to NCCW for financial assistance for the NCCW representative to the WUCWO Board in the amount of \$4000.00.

WUCWO is in the process of planning their North American Regional Conference to be held in the United States in conjunction with the NCCW convention. This will be our opportunity to meet and greet the women from Canada and the United States who attend. We will keep you informed as to the particulars, but you will not be disappointed if you attend. This meeting alternates between the United States and Canada every four or five years.

Let us show our support to Rose, Pat and Teri by encouraging new members to "Friends". Membership is only \$25.00 per year. Send your check made payable to **Friends of NCCW for WUCWO to Bonnie Workman, 5814 Armistice Ave N.W., Canton, OH. 44718**. Include your name, address, zip, phone number and Email address.

Looking forward to a great term of office with Rose as our "leader".

JOLIET DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN COOKBOOK

BOUNTIFUL BLESSINGS SHARED FAVORITES

Yes, council ladies, a cookbook that you will want to own containing family favorite recipes of Bishops, priests, and women from 57 parishes in the Joliet Diocese. All deaneries of our Council of Catholic Women are represented.

Bountiful Blessings Shared Favorites cookbook is easy to read and includes family secrets for ethnic specialties, scrumptious desserts, quick and easy dinners, tantalizing salads and so much more. Cookbooks will be available in early Spring of 2012. Reserve cookbooks by pre-ordering before they arrive. Cookbooks make wonderful gifts for family members, friends, and neighbors.

All proceeds from the sale of the cookbooks benefit the Bishop Blanchette Scholarship Fund. In 1982, The Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women established this scholarship fund to help assist students desiring to attend a Catholic high school in our diocese. Each year scholarships are awarded. By purchasing a cookbook, you not only help a student receive a Catholic education, but bring some Bountiful Blessings to your table. Please send your pre-order with a check for \$12.00 each cookbook to the **JDCCW Office, 101 W. Airport Road, Romeoville, Illinois 60446**. Please make checks payable to BBSF. Should you have any questions, please contact the JDCCW office, #815-834-4080 or email

jdccwpresident@dioceseofjoliet.org

CLOSING LITURGY

By Mary Ann Brabec

As always, the Eucharist Celebrations are an important part of the convention and the closing Liturgy is a wonderful finale to our days of work. The Joliet Diocese was well represented by the Women's Choir of St. Thomas Parish of Naperville.

Since it was my assignment to report on this segment of the convention, I tried to sit close to the front. I was a very good place to see the choir and musicians. The young lady that played the flute at all of the Eucharistic Celebrations was a stand-out. She not only played the flute, a drum and took over at the piano, without missing a beat, when the pianist received the Eucharist. She also helped direct, when the choir needed to begin to sing. Although I do not know their names, but their talent should be acknowledged.

The one thing that disappointed me was that the Installation of Officers was not at Mass. For the past few years the Province Directors were announced and installed at the business session, but the Officers were installed at the closing Liturgy. If you have not finished your evaluation sheet and you agree with me, you might want to add that to your evaluation sheet. It has always meant so much to the Officers and membership.