

LEADERSHIP

By Chris Heiderscheidt

Commission

Personal Contact is Key.

Even nowadays we still need to talk to people in person, maybe now more than ever. Don't misunderstand me, I love the tools available as I often use my cell phone and email to receive the quick response I need. However, nothing takes the place of a smiling face while interacting with another person. Nothing takes the place of approaching someone in person extending an invitation to join you in attending the next CCW event.

It is key to remember when to use the tools of technology. They should not be used to replace personal contact if at all possible. When asking someone to be part of your board, or help with a new project, call them if you are unable to do it in person. Technology is great for getting a quick answer or relaying information necessary for a project. Technology, especially Facebook, is great for promoting your organization with photos. Does your parish CCW have a Facebook page? If not, maybe you could approach one of the younger women in your parish who is more familiar with Facebook and ask her to set it up. And then help her by providing her with photos and news which is vital to keeping your FB page fresh. To learn more about this and how to get the word out about our organization, go to our National Council of Catholic Women website: www.nccw.org and read what our keynote speaker at our National CCW Convention, Mary Beth Hicks spoke about on this topic.

You aren't only a member of the Council of Catholic Women, you ARE the Council of Catholic Women. Be joyful about what we do and people will want to be a part of it!

SERVICE

By Ann Miesen

Commission

The upcoming months offer us many opportunities to perform service for families in our diocese. Look over the ideas below and choose one or two that your council can do to benefit others. Don't feel you have to do them all or you will be overwhelmed. If we all do small acts of kindness, together we can change our world. As Mother Teresa once said: "We cannot do great things on this Earth, only small things with great love." Visit the lonely. Arrange a party at a nursing home. Provide games, snacks and small prizes. Spend time with those who do not get visitors. Visit and thank a veteran. Ask the parish office for a list of the home bound who would love visitors. Bring them a smile and a flower to brighten their day. Send cards and pray for all! Participate in the San Lucas 'Mission for Love' Valentine project. Valentines are made, sold for a small fee, and then sent to Guatemala. The funds raised are also sent to San Lucas and are given to those most in need. Send your love! Some parishes have the school children make valentines while others have one card and make copies. Find ways to feed the hungry this winter. March is the month many food drives are held, with matching funds often available. Work at a local food shelf or soup kitchen. Prepare a meal for a family who could use a warm home cooked meal. Perhaps this is someone just home from the hospital, a family with a new baby or someone recovering from a long illness. Look through seed catalogues and begin planning a community garden. Donate to organizations that provide meals for the less fortunate. Help deliver Meals on Wheels. Host a reception for those entering the Church at the Easter Vigil. If this is something you already help with – wonderful! If not, surprise your Parish Priest and ask how CCW can help.

You are all encouraged to support those in your community in a new way as you begin the New Year. Mother Teresa also once said: "Prayer in action is love, and love in action is service. Try to give unconditionally whatever a person needs in the moment. The point is to do something, however small, and show you care through your actions by giving your time."

CCW: Catholic Women United in Prayer, Study and SERVICE

Do you know there is money just waiting for you? Have you ever said to yourself "I wish I could afford to go hear that speaker – or to attend that seminar"? Did you know the NUDCCW Scholarship Program offers scholarship monies for you to learn more about your Catholic faith and for your spiritual growth? All you have to do is ask – by applying for one of our scholarships! All CCW groups and parish members who are volunteers or employees involved in various parish ministries are eligible. Consider attending a workshop, a conference or a seminar. Find a class or course that will aid you in your Catholic journey. The possibilities are endless. By learning more about our Catholic Faith and developing a personal relationship with God, we will be more prepared to be open to grow in faith and God's love.

How about starting a bible study group? Apply for a scholarship to purchase books or even a DVD series you could review together. Look for more ideas at Word on Fire or the Dynamic Catholic web sites.

Prayerfully consider attending one of the many CCW functions offered such as attending a Spring or Fall CCW gathering, or the Resource and Guidance Training. A scholarship could be as much as \$200.00. Think outside your box and plan on attending a National, Province or New Ulm CCW Convention. Registration to attend one of these could be paid through the scholarship fund. New this year – if you plan on attending the National Council of Catholic Women Convention the total amount of the registration is eligible plus an additional \$ 250.00 for travel/lodging expenses.

All parish CCW's have been given a packet of information regarding the scholarship program. Contact one of your Board members for the application or go online to the NUDCCW web site at <http://nudccw.org/blog/2015/09/23/scholarship-information-and-application/> to print out a scholarship application.

All Applications must be received BY MARCH 1, 2016. Scholarships will be awarded at the April 23, 2016 Diocesan convention which will be held at St. Edward's in Minneota.

The mission of CCW is to support, empower, and educate its members in spirituality, leadership and service – we are here to help you do that through the scholarship program.

We are beginning a new year. What do we want to do for Reverence of Life at all stages? Pray for the babies who have no say about their life and are headed for abortion. Pray for the mentally challenged who have no control over their lives but are loved by their parents. Pray for the elderly who may be in danger of mercy killing or euthanasia but still have life in them. Yes, there are many reasons to pray throughout the day. We quote Mother Teresa, who quoted Jesus "Anyone who receives a child in my name, receives me.: By adopting a child, these couples receive Jesus but, by aborting a child, a couple refuses to receive Jesus." She continued: "any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want. This is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion." In prayer we need "The Eucharist." That, is your center, your life, your death. It is God with us in person; you should therefore be His faithful companion . . . Let your love of God be the test of duty, of virtue, of charity; especially, let it be the sacred scale of values by which you regulate your judgment...

" Therefore, our devotion to the Blessed Sacrament through Eucharistic Adoration and Eucharistic Petitions are not just means of stopping abortion but cultivating a respect for human life at all levels. Every child...brings us God's smile And invites us to recognize that life is his gift, a gift to be welcomed with love and preserved with care always and at every moment. —Pope Benedict XVI

NUDCCW 57th Annual Convention

St. Edward, Minnesota, MN

Saturday - April 23, 2016

"I Have Made You a Light"

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Sheri Wohlfert



The 57th Annual NUDCCW Convention will be held at St. Edward's in Minnesota on Saturday, April 23, 2016. The keynote speaker will be Sheri Wohlfert, a veteran motivational humorist who combines her huge sense of humor and her deep love of God into presentations that leave the audience laughing, thinking, praying and finding God's fingerprints in all corners of life! Sheri has a Masters Degree in Elementary Education and has been involved in speaking and ministry for over 20 years. She is a certified Religions Education Instructor by the Diocese of Lansing.

Sheri's approach to spreading the Gospel message is very down to earth, practical and easy to understand. She weaves God's word and truth in with the challenges and celebrations of daily life, tosses it up with a great scoop of humor and rounds out the message with a careful look at our sinfulness and sends the crowd off with some practical things to do that will bring about a closer relationship with our Loving Father. Check out Sheri's blog at joyfulwords.org.

WE INVITE YOU TO ATTEND THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION on Saturday, April 23, 2016 and take advantage of this opportunity to hear of all Sheri wants to share with us – the women of the New Ulm Diocese.

Every parish will be receiving convention registration information in the near future. Please watch for details! We look forward to seeing you at the convention!

Prayer to End Domestic Violence

(Please pray on the First Saturday of every month to end domestic violence)

O God, our world at times is divided and hostile. Some people consider themselves dominant over others based on gender, race, color, class or status. Through your Son's cross our world can be reconciled; the walls of hostility can be broken. We pray for all women who experience the pain and suffering of violence, that they may feel your healing touch and be at peace in your living embrace. We pray for those who victimize and abuse others, that they may see the errors of their sins and seek repentance. Through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel, may we understand and support those who may come to us for help. We ask these things through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

“The Year of Mercy in the Diocese of New Ulm”

Pope Francis has declared an Extraordinary Jubilee Year, also known as a “Holy Year”, dedicated to the mercy of God, in which he invites the whole Church to “gaze even more attentively on mercy so that it may become a more effective sign of the Father’s action in our lives” (*Misericordiae Vultus* 3). The jubilee year opened on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on December 8th, 2015 and will continue until the Solemnity of Christ the King on November 20th, 2016. Pope Francis explains:

The Holy Year will open on December 8, 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. This liturgical feast day recalls God’s action from the very beginning of the history of mankind. After the sin of Adam and Eve, God did not wish to leave humanity alone in the throes of evil. And so he turned his gaze to Mary, holy and immaculate in love (cf. Eph 1:4), choosing her to be the Mother of man’s Redeemer. When faced with the gravity of sin, God responds with the fullness of mercy. Mercy will always be greater than any sin, and no one can place limits on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive. I will have the joy of opening the Holy Door on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. On that day, the Holy Door will become a Door of Mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instills hope. On the following Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, the Holy Door of the Cathedral of Rome – that is, the Basilica of Saint John Lateran – will be opened...

On the same Sunday, I will announce that in every local church, at the cathedral – the mother church of the faithful in any particular area... a Door of Mercy will be opened for the duration of the Holy Year. At the discretion of the local ordinary, a similar door may be opened at any shrine frequented by large groups of pilgrims, since visits to these holy sites are so often grace-filled moments, as people discover a path to conversion. Every Particular Church, therefore, will be directly involved in living out this Holy Year as an extraordinary moment of grace and spiritual renewal. Thus the Jubilee will be celebrated both in Rome and in the Particular Churches as a visible sign of the Church’s universal communion (Misericordiae Vultus 3).

For this reason, in the Diocese of New Ulm also opened the Holy Door of Mercy this past December 13th at Holy Trinity Cathedral. Also there is a Holy Door opened at the Schoenstatt Shrine in Sleepy Eye.

For many of us we wonder, what exactly is a *Holy Door*? There are holy doors at the four major basilicas in Rome: Basilicas of St. Peter’s, St. John Lateran, Mary Major, and St. Paul Outside the Walls. These doors are sealed closed except during Jubilee Years. This is the first time in history that Cathedrals throughout the world are opening a *Holy Door*. Pilgrims who walk through these doors are able to receive a plenary indulgence. A plenary indulgence is a special gift of the Church that removes the temporal punishment due to sin. An indulgence comes from the Church’s overflowing treasury of graces received through Christ’s sacrifice on the cross. To receive the indulgence for the *Jubilee Year of Mercy*, one needs to:

- 1) Pilgrimage to the Holy Doors at the Cathedral or perform a corporal or spiritual work of mercy.
- 2) Pray for the Holy Father’s Intentions.
- 3) Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (within close proximity to the actions above).
- 4) Receive Holy Communion (within close proximity to the actions above).

“To gain an indulgence is to experience the holiness of the Church, who bestows upon all the fruits of Christ’s redemption, so that God’s love and forgiveness may extend everywhere. Let us live this Jubilee intensely, begging the Father to forgive our sins and to bathe us in his merciful “indulgence” (Pope Francis, *Misericordiae Vultus*, 22).

There are many Diocesan initiatives happening during this *Jubilee Year of Mercy*. In union with Pope Francis, Bishop LeVoir has asked that the following be promoted during this holy year:

- The Sacrament of Reconciliation – the sacrament of mercy.
- Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy
- The Divine Mercy Chaplet
- Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Catechetical efforts to help the faithful understand the meaning of mercy and how “the Church is called above all to be a credible witness to mercy, professing it and living it as the core of the revelation of Jesus Christ” (Pope Francis, *Misericordiae Vultus*, 25).

The best place to check out these initiatives is on the Diocese of New Ulm, Year of Mercy webpage at www.dnu.org/yearofmercy. The page features a list of Year of Mercy events, videos explaining the year of mercy, catechetical and musical resources, links to the official Vatican Year of Mercy webpage, Scripture meditations on mercy, and much more. Be sure to check back frequently, because it will be continually updated throughout the year.

One of the best ways to find out more about the Year of Mercy is to read Pope Francis’ Bull of Indiction: *Misericordiae Vultus*, where he announces the Year of Mercy and explains what the year is all about. It is a beautiful document, easy to read and easy to find; there is a link to it on the Diocese of New Ulm Year of Mercy webpage.

We pray with Pope Francis during this *Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy*: “may the Church echo the word of God that resounds strong and clear as a message and a sign of pardon, strength, aid, and love. May she never tire of extending mercy, and be ever patient in offering compassion and comfort. May the Church become the voice of every man and woman, and repeat confidently without end: ‘Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old’ (Ps 25:6)” (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 25).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Diocesan CCW Spring Gatherings

Thursday, March 3, 2016	Region 3	St. Clotilde's, Green Valley, MN
Saturday, March 5, 2016	Region 6	St. John's, Darwin, MN
Tuesday, March 8, 2016	Region 1	St. Mary's, Arlington, MN
Thursday, March 10, 2016	Region 2	St. Paul's, Comfrey, MN
Monday, March 14, 2016	Region 5	St. Wilibord's, Gibbon, MN
Tuesday, April 5, 2016	Region 4	Holy Rosary, Graceville, MN
February 6, 2016	DCCW Board Meeting, Church of Our Lady, Manannah, MN	
February 10, 2016	Ash Wednesday, Lent Begins	
February 10 - March 27	40 Days For Life	
Month of March	National Food Shelf Month	
March 1, 2016	DCCW Scholarship Donations & Applications Deadline	
March 7, 2016	Bishop Lucker Lecture, St. Catherine's, Redwood Falls, MN	
March 17, 2016	Chrism Mass, St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye, MN	
March 27, 2016	Easter Sunday	
April 22, 2016	Pre-Convention DCCW Board Mtg., St. Edward's, Minneota, MN	
Saturday, April 23, 2016	DCCW Convention, St. Edward's, Minneota, MN	
June 13-14, 2016	St. Paul & Mpls Province Conference, St. Henry's, Monticello	
	(All women in the state are invited to attend)	
Every Day	Pray for Vocations	

By Mary Mulloy

Historian's Message



Being a historian is a very wonderful job! The camera takes the photos along with the ease of editing these days. Next is the fun part of placing them in the History Book. With so many different kinds of fun paper, stamps and stickers available for our use, the task is fun and easy. Please be careful and use only acid free products. These are easy to find. I use the seasons to help and guide me in the layout. Colors for the seasons along with the holidays and holy days can be used for the placement of your photos. I have used flowers, leaves, paper letters and snowflakes – all of which are easy to find in a hobby store. Remember you are telling a story with the photos, so always remember to date everything.

Have fun and be creative as you are telling your parish stories in your parish History Book.

New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Women
Jan Noyes, President
1119 Sunset Circle
Marshall, MN 56258

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER FOR JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

**Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved. Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief. Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman, "If you knew the gift of God!"**



You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy, let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified. You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error, let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

Amen.