

# NEW ULM DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

## **Catholic Women: Instruments of Mercy**

April, 2018



### ***EASTER TIME IS HERE!***

The Easter Vigil is the "Mother of All Vigils." Easter Sunday, then, is the greatest of all Sundays, and Easter Time is the most important of all liturgical times. Easter is the celebration of the Lord's resurrection from the dead, culminating in his Ascension to the Father and sending of the Holy Spirit upon the church.

**These fifty days from the Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday** are celebrated in joy and exultation as one feast day, indeed as one "great Sunday." These are the days above all others in which the Alleluia is sung.

**The first eight days of Easter Time constitute the Octave of Easter** and are celebrated as Solemnities of the Lord.

**On the fortieth day after Easter the Ascension of the Lord is celebrated**, except where, not being observed as a Holyday of Obligation, it has been assigned to the Seventh Sunday of Easter.

**The weekdays from the Ascension up to and including the Saturday before Pentecost** prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.

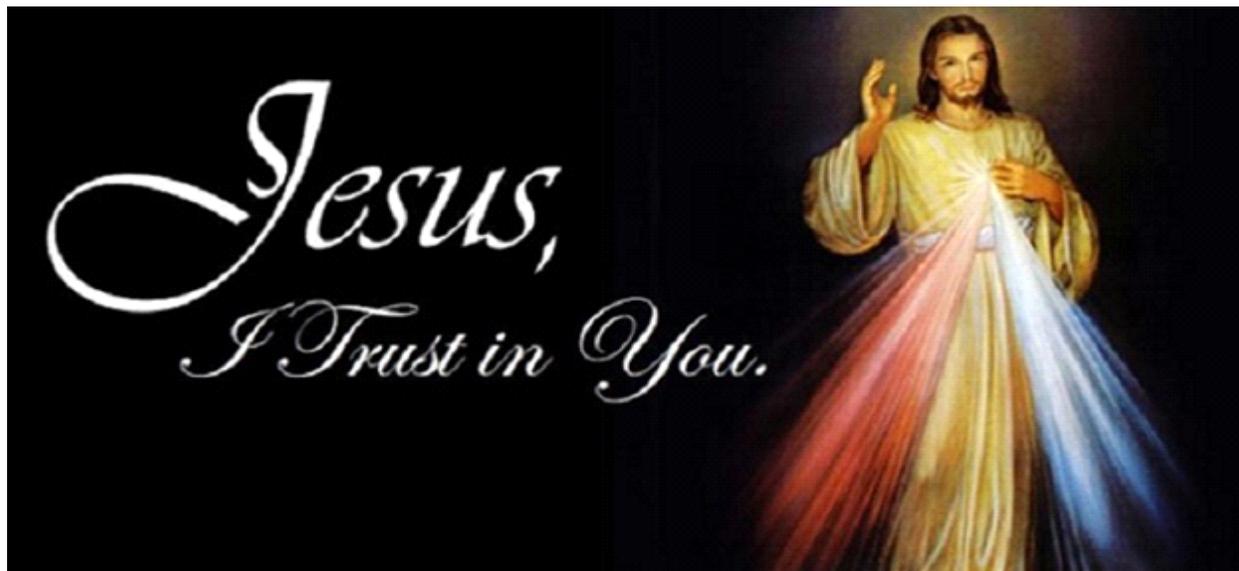
**How is the date of Easter determined?** The history is complicated, but the bottom line is this: Easter falls on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox, which usually occurs around March 21. This date allowed pilgrims to have as much moonlight as possible in traveling to the Easter festival. Easter may be as early as March 22nd or as late as April 25th.

**The liturgical color for Easter is white.** During Easter Time, instead of the customary Penitential Act, the blessing and sprinkling of water may take place as a reminder of Baptism.

### **LECTIO DIVINA FOR THE EASTER SEASON**

Lectio Divina is a form of meditation rooted in liturgical celebration that dates back to early monastic communities. It involves focused reading of Scripture (lectio), meditation on the Word of God (meditatio), contemplation of the Word and its meaning in one's life (contemplatio) and ends with prayer (oratio). ***For the Easter Season, you can find Lectio Divina resources for the Sunday Gospels and the Ascension of the Lord on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website.*** [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

The above information found on the USCCB website.



## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

APRIL 8, 2018

### WHY DO WE HAVE DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY?

The world was in the midst of the Great Depression in 1931 and the memories of World War I were still very much alive in the minds of Europeans when in Poland, a sister of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, Faustina Kowalska (1905-1938) is said to have been personally visited by Jesus.

According to her diary, which was listed on the index of Forbidden Books for more than 20 years, an image was revealed to her of the risen Lord, from whose heart shone two rays, one red (representing blood, and the other "pale" (symbolizing water), with the words "Jesus, I trust in you" at the bottom.

Faustina wrote in her diary that Jesus told her, "I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish."

When she was canonized in 2000 under the direction of fellow countryman Pope John Paul II, **he proclaimed that the Second Sunday of Easter would henceforth be known as Divine Mercy Sunday.**

Thereby widely promoting the devotional practices associated with Faustina's visions, already popular in many communities.

St. Faustina, a poorly educated daughter of a humble Polish family, kept a 600-page diary of the apparitions she claimed continued for years. Her entries focus on God's mercy, the call to accept God's mercy and to be merciful, the need for conversion, and the call to trust in Jesus. It had been Jesus' own wish, she wrote, to establish a feast day: "I [Jesus] desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls.... I am giving them the last hope of salvation; that is, the Feast of My Mercy.

The message of mercy is that God loves us----all of us----no matter how great our sins. He wants us to recognize that His Mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive his Mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy. It is a message we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC.

**A--Ask for His mercy.** God wants us to approach Him in Prayer constantly. Repenting of our sins and asking him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

**B--Be merciful.** God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

**C--Completely trust in Jesus.** God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.



**Remember to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet every day if possible, but especially on Divine Mercy Sunday.**

## SUGGESTIONS FOR CCW ACTIVITIES

### PRAYER BLANKET MINISTRY

Do you have women in your CCW group that like to sew, knit or crochet? Maybe they would be willing to spend several hours a month getting together making some small prayer blankets to be given to someone that is ill in your parish. (It may be someone that is in the Nursing Home or who has had surgery and experiencing a long recovery.) When the blankets are completed have your Pastor bless them before being distributed. Most important, take some time to also pray for the recipients of the blankets while making them and also after being distributed.

**What a wonderful way to remember those suffering from illness in your parish!!!!**



### ANGEL MINISTRY



Have you ever been called an "angel" for doing something especially nice for someone who least expected it? Could your CCW group have some of your members be those angels?

Get some volunteers from your group who would be willing angels available to help someone or a family in your parish or community who could use a little help - maybe making a meal or helping them with some household task or errand or yardwork. It doesn't have to be major tasks with big planning. It could be just a delightful little surprise to the recipients.

### DONATIONS TO CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES OR CROSS CATHOLIC OUTREACH



Nourish the soul. Bridge the gap between faith and action. Restore hope and human dignity. AND ease suffering around the world. When you give to either of these organizations more than 90% will go directly to those who need it most. Remember NCCW partners with Catholic Relief Services and Cross Catholic Outreach with their humanitarian efforts. **Send all donations from your CCW to the NCCW Office and designate where they are to go and they will forward to these organizations.**

**The reason for the existence of the Council of Catholic Women in our parishes is to help in fulfilling Christ's Mission here on earth. One of the ways we do this is by carrying out the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy – some of which are serving and reaching out to those in need and the above projects certainly fulfill some of the Works of Mercy.**

# COMING SOON-ARE YOU REGISTERED

Saturday, April 28, 2018

NEW ULM DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

59TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

St. Catherine's ---Redwood Falls, MN

**"Believe in me and do my works." John 7:12**

**SPEAKERS:** Nancy Jo Sullivan  
Mary Kay Stebbins



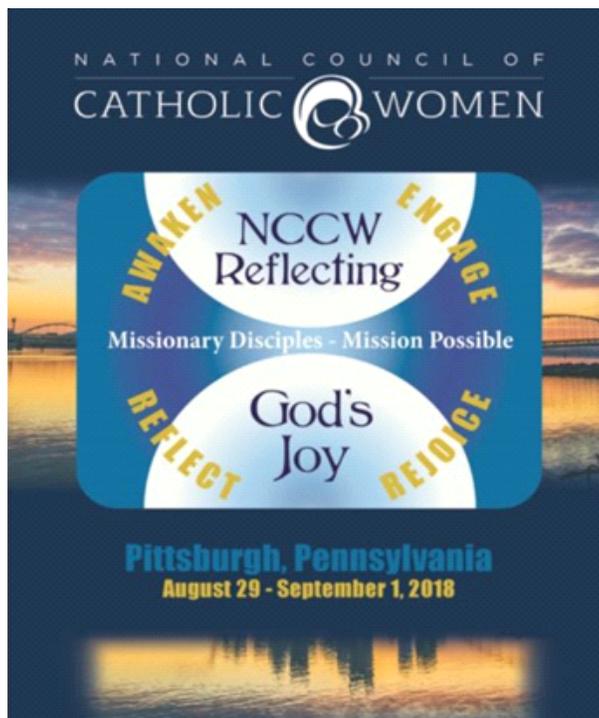
All Parish CCW Presidents should have received the invitation to the convention along with a poster and registration form. The information was also in the Winter Newsletter which gave details about the convention speakers along with the schedule of the day.

We encourage all of the women in your parish to consider attending. We all have choices of how we spend our time. We hope you choose to be with us. It's a day well spent: that of learning, renewing and celebrating your faith with your sisters in Christ from around the diocese.

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## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN CONVENTION

August 28 - September 1, 2018



Journey to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with us and join with Council sisters from across the country to pray, laugh and learn together. AWAKEN your knowledge of Council, ENGAGE in the many learning and fun activities, REFLECT on God's joy as we REJOICE in being part of the National Council of Catholic Women.

Registration information can be found on the NCCW website. [www.nccw.org](http://www.nccw.org)

Scholarships are available through our DCCW Scholarship program to cover registration and some of your travel expense. Of course, the deadline to apply for this year is past but you can apply next year and be reimbursed for this year's convention.

# A FUN FACT

A story for your children or grandchildren!



## Saints Anne and Joachim

These two people could be called Saints Grandma and Grandpa. Why?

Because they were Jesus' grandparents!

Anne and Joachim were married a long time but had no children. They were good and holy people who wanted very much to have a baby of their own, so they prayed every day that God would send them a child. Joachim even went into the desert to fast and pray that God would hear their prayer. It is said that an angel told them that they would soon have a daughter who would become famous throughout the world. Finally their prayers were answered, and they named their baby girl Mary.

When Mary grew up, she became the mother of Jesus -- that made Anne and Joachim his grandma and grandpa! At that time newspapers, books, and televisions did not exist, so the only way news was spread was by word of mouth -- somebody telling somebody who in turn told somebody else! Since nothing was written down, we don't know much about them -- whether they lived near Mary and helped take care of Jesus or whether he visited with them and "slept over". We don't know whether Anne baked cookies for him or whether Joachim took him fishing. We do know they were good people and they were probably good Grandparents!

**Anne is the patron of grandmothers, among many other things, and Joachim is the patron of grandfathers. Their joint feast day is July 26th.**

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The fruit of silence is **PRAYER**.

The fruit of prayer is **FAITH**,

The fruit of faith is **LOVE**.

The fruit of love is **SERVICE**.

The fruit of service is **PEACE**.

--Saint Mother Teresa

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**CAN YOU BE COUNTED  
as a NCCW individual member?**

**Membership is only \$50 a year - less than \$5 a month. Join and be counted as an individual member. The membership form is on the NCCW website - [www.nccw.org](http://www.nccw.org). You are needed and it is an additional way to support our national organization which represents us as Catholic Women in so many different ways. Also check out the NCCW website to see resources that are available for your local CCW.**

**APRIL  
PRAYER INTENTIONS**



**Pope's Prayer Intention for April**

**UNIVERSAL - For Those Who have Responsibility in Economic Matters:**

That economists may have the courage to reject any economy of exclusion and know how to open new paths.

**Bishop's Prayer Intention for April**

General Intention: May the Easter Celebration ignite in our hearts a deep desire to unite ourselves to the Risen Lord and so to share in the eternal life that is the fruit of the Paschal Mystery.



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**FROM YOUR EDITOR**



Dear Sisters in Christ ---

The old saying goes, "April Showers bring May Flowers." Let's pray that we soon start getting some warm weather so that we can get rain showers instead of all of the snow we've been experiencing. Our Region 3 CCW Spring Gathering was just cancelled completely for the second time because of snow and bad weather. No matter what, God always has a plan - we don't always know what it is, but we can be assured it is always in our best interests. The Spring Flowers will come.

Please share the information in this newsletter to all those around you - our challenge is always to help each other on our life's journey and to keep God in the center of all that we do regardless of the liturgical season we are in.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our Diocesan Convention on Saturday, April 28th - take this time to experience new growth in your faith lives.

Our continued thanks to all of you for serving and carrying out the work of Council in your parishes.

Blessings,  
Donna Sanders  
NUDCCW Newsletter Editor

