

NewsNotes



I look around and see God's work as the crops grow and change, and I think about the **growth and changes** He makes in our lives. Even more so, I think about the growth and changes on my journey to become the President of LDCCW. I started as a convert to the Catholic faith when I got married 32 years ago. Since that time I have been PCCW President at St. Mary's in Wallace (Fr. McGuire was once our Parish Priest) and President of the Grant Deanery. I never saw myself as becoming involved in LDCCW. My journey into LDCCW began with a phone call from Kathy Broz, then incoming LDCCW President, when she called the wrong number! At that time, I accepted the position as LDCCW historian, which then led me to become treasurer, followed by financial secretary. I then accepted the position of LDCCW President-Elect and now I am your LDCCW President.

This journey has been a wonderful experience and time of growth. I could have never imagined what was in store for me. Sharing rides to meetings with other Catholic women has also been rewarding in my spiritual growth. The women I have met and the experiences I have had are great gifts from God. I begin to think my growth and season is over, but like the crops, I am replanted and able to produce more abundant fruit. I know that God put me in this place and at this time for His works.

I have chosen St. Therese, the Little Flower, as my Saint to follow during my term as President. With her theme of "doing small things with great love for God", I ask her to help the ladies of CCW become Marys in a Martha world.

I want to support our youth and families, realizing the love of God starts in the home and that we need to keep the faith in our youth. (Read *Faith Matter* in this edition of NewsNotes to see how one youth realizes the importance of faith in her life). Being CCD Coordinator and presenting Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends with my husband, Mike, I have a passion for youth and the family. Therefore, **as my President's Project I have chosen Youth Retreats and Programs** with the hopes of getting more youth to participate in these programs and making them more affordable for everyone to attend.

The Bishop's Project is "enhancing the beauty of sacred music and liturgy." This is a two part project: 1) the organ project for John XXII and 2) funds to support the Diocesan Sacred Music Clinic for musicians across the diocese.

I invite you to attend the **Omaha Province Meeting** (which includes ladies from all three dioceses - Lincoln, Grand Island and Omaha) at Blessed Sacrament Church in Grand Island, July 18. Check out the flyer included in the NewsNotes for more information. A block of rooms has been reserved for July 17 at the Comfort Inn, 3535 W. State Street, Grand Island, NE 68803. When you call for reservations (308- 381-7788), please reference the block of rooms reserved under LDCCW group # 2585289. The cost is \$77.95 for 1 person and \$84.95 for 2 persons. The block of rooms will be held until July 3, 2016.

The **LDCCW Executive Board meeting** will be held Friday, August 12, **and the Full Board meeting** will be Saturday, August 13 at Sacred Heart in Red Cloud. We will begin with a Willa Cather tour Friday at 3:00 pm.

Finally, I hope a few of you are adventurous enough to take the opportunity to learn more about NCCW by attending the **NCCW Convention** September 7-10 in Indianapolis, Indiana. For more information or to register visit http://nccw.org/2016_Annual_Convention . A flyer is included in these NewsNotes also. If you would like to join us and ride the bus for \$550 (which includes bus fare, convention registration, and the Saturday night banquet) send your registration form and a check payable to Fr. Kramper, PO Box 37, Ewing, NE 68735 before July 31.

Wishing you love, peace, and blessings always,
Terri Sullivan
LDCCW President



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Dear Newsnotes Readers;

Fr. Peter Gadiant died on June 6, 2013. He served the LDCCW energetically as spiritual moderator for multiple decades. Fr. Gadiant was a gentle but firm priest. He was a man of prayer. It has been said of him that he had the intelligence and ability to have been a very successful business leader. Fr. Gadiant chose to serve in God's corporation, so to speak. May he rest in peace. May we remember him in prayer. A directory is being compiled from historic records of the LDCCW to help remember the leaders who have gone before us.

Our times are in need of persons willing to serve in the Lord's army. To hold steady to the truths and the mercy revealed by our Heavenly Father through His Son Jesus to His followers. By the grace of the Holy Spirit we are among his followers.

The saints are those who have served the Lord with heroic virtue. One we recently celebrated is St. Justin, martyr, (d. 165 AD, Feast day June 1). He grew up pagan but came to the truth of Jesus' Way and used his talents and education in philosophy to proclaim Him to the highest levels of government in his time. Following are some quotes from *The Martyrdom of St. Justin and Companions, Chapter Four: Rusticus Threatens Justin Martyr and the Other Christians*

The prefect spoke to Justin Martyr first. "Listen, you who are called learned and think you know true doctrines. If you are scourged and beheaded, do you believe you'll ascend to heaven?"

"That is my hope," Justin replied. "If I endure these things, I shall have his gifts. I know that for all who have lived according to our teachings, the divine favor remains on them until the completion of the whole world."

"So you suppose that you will ascend into heaven to receive some payment for your faithfulness?"

"Not suppose, I know and am fully convinced of it," Justin Martyr replied.

Rusticus shrugged. "Let's get right to what matters, then. You've been brought here to offer sacrifice, all of you together, to the gods."

Justin wasn't interested. "No one in their right mind leaves godliness to take up ungodliness."

"You're aware that unless you obey, you will be mercilessly punished?"

Justin answered, "Through prayer we can be saved because of our Lord Jesus Christ, even after we have been punished. This will become salvation and confidence to us at the much more fearful and universal judgment of our Lord and Savior."

The other martyrs echoed his sentiment. "Do whatever you want. We are Christians, and we don't sacrifice to idols."

Rusticus was uncaring. He had done his duty.

Chapter Five: Rusticus Pronounces Sentence on Justin Martyr and His Companions

Rusticus stood to make his pronouncement. "Let those who have refused to sacrifice to the gods and to yield to the command of the emperor be scourged, then let them be led away and beheaded, according to the laws."

The holy martyrs, having glorified God, were taken to the customary place, beheaded, and they perfected their testimony in the confession of the Savior.

Some of the faithful secretly removed their bodies, then laid them in a suitable place. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ worked with them, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Here is a quote from *First Apology* of Justin Martyr #45:

Though death is decreed against those who teach or at all confess the name of Christ, we everywhere both embrace and teach it. And if you also read these words in a hostile spirit, **you can do no more ... than kill us**; which indeed does no harm to us, but to you and all who unjustly hate us and do not repent, brings eternal punishment by fire.

May God bless all of us.

"The Supreme Court decision further imperils women by striking down provisions that abortion facilities meet the same minimum standards as ambulatory surgical centers and that abortionists have hospital admitting privileges in case of an emergency." said Julie Schmit-Albin, Executive Director of Nebraska Right to Life.



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**TO PRIESTS: PCCWs Can Learn New Evangelization Using
“We Are Called to Witness”**

Want a good fairly simple resource to involve parishioners in the New Evangelization? The National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) put one together. It can be used by Altar Society, PCCW or any Catholic women’s group basically. It is faithful to the Church; it uses Scripture, Church documents (especially Vatican II and the writings of popes), quotes from saints and people known for their Christian integrity. It proposes good, practical ways of implementing the New Evangelization, i.e. how the laity can be involved in New Evangelization in various ways.

The program is: “We Are Called to Witness.” Quoting from the resource itself, it is “a program of the [NCCW] designed to help members and affiliations [like Altar Societies, Christian Mothers, Catholic Daughters, etc.] discover and actively participate in sharing the Good News, the Joy of Jesus – the New Evangelization!”

The new President of LDCCW, Terri Sullivan, is a faithful and active Catholic in her parish, in the LDCCW, in her family and in her own spiritual life. I got to know her fairly well as her pastor for five years. (And we keep running into each other!) Well, she hopes to let women of our parishes know how to get this resource I mentioned above. It’s free online and it can be printed off; or a bound copy can be ordered. I will let Terri tell people the rest of the details of this fairly straightforward, solid program.

Terri has a wonderful theme for her two years as president based on St. Therese and a good plan for Parish Councils of Catholic Women (PCCWs). Please read her message in her first full NewsNotes.

Thank you for your support of your parish women’s groups and your prayers! God bless you all.

**A MILLION WORKS OF MERCY!
WOMEN OF PRAYER AND ACTION
CELEBRATING THE EXTRAORDINARY
JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY
LIVING THE SPIRITUAL AND CORPORAL
WORKS OF MERCY EVERY DAY**

Forgive Offenses Willingly

To freely and readily forgive anyone who insults, wrongs or attacks us.

Allow God to forgive us; receive the sacrament of confession/reconciliation

Practice forgiveness at home with family and close friends

Include an examination of conscience in personal evening prayers

Small group sharing: How God turns sorrow and pain in your life into acceptance and joy

Host a speaker on the process of forgiveness

Summer News from your Province Director
~~Barb Vaughn
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I recently returned from Washington DC, where the NCCW Board of Directors spent several days working on a variety of items. This included making some minor bylaw changes which will be presented at the convention for your consideration, approving four convention resolutions, presenting reports from all committees and commissions, and conducting other business.

Our Individual memberships are growing, and we are working on a plan to get college women involved in NCCW at a reduced membership rate. NCCW has been solvent for a while now, but I’m pleased to report that we are now debt-free. We must continue to support NCCW with memberships and donations so that we can remain that way!

Currently, NCCW has three fundraisers for your consideration: one for jewelry (\$14,000 value); a cookbook; and a DVD which covers the first 95 years of NCCW (available online for only \$10). Check nccw.org for details. All women are invited to attend our Province Meeting on July 18 in Grand Island. This promises to be a great day! Please consider traveling by bus with us to attend the National Convention in September in Indianapolis. Your President has details.

Contact me anytime with questions or concerns. Enjoy your summer!

Spirituality Commission – Ellen Jirovsky
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Here are a few of the areas we in the Spirituality Commission handle throughout the year. Many are not aware of all that the three Commissions do, so an update from time to time is helpful in your parish. If you can, make a copy for your parish Priest, so he knows about our activities and events.

Thank you for all you do in your own parish. Do what you do best, for the Blessed Mother and Her Son!

Pi Alpha Chi (PAX) – was begun in 2012 and is the women's Catholic sorority of the Newman Center, UN-L Campus. Approximately 50 students are active members. At the LDCCW Spring 2015 Full Board meeting, the Pi Alpha Chi Sorority became a supported organization under the Spirituality Commission. The LDCCW Liaison is Katy Bagniewski. Prayer partners between LDCCW board members and Pi Alpha Chi sorority members will be assigned in August 2016.

Endow – Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women -- began in 2009 and was endorsed by Bishop James D. Conley for the Lincoln Diocese in 2013. Endow is a Catholic women's study series which is conducted on the parish level and led by trained facilitators to enhance the "feminine genius" and our special calling by Christ.

Council Women of the Eucharist – was established by the LDCCW Past Presidents for anyone who pledges to pray one hour per week before the Blessed Sacrament for the intentions of 1) holy, happy families, and 2) vocations. One need not be a member to do this spiritual practice. To sign up for membership, contact Chairman Kathy Broz, 73496 Ave 372A, Hayes Center, NE. 69032; kc.broz@gmail.com; Ph. 308-286-3607 (H), 308-737-1052 (C).

Pink Sisters Auxiliary – also known as the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters – reside in the mansion on South Cotner Blvd. in Lincoln, given to them by former (deceased) Bishop Glennon P. Flavin when he established the order in the Lincoln Diocese. Bishop Flavin chose to live in a more modest home and made the larger home available to the Cloister Community, adding a chapel and a bookstore and remodeling the interior to become essentially "shut off" from the outside world. One can visit and pray at any time of day. Membership forms are available in the LDCCW Resource Manual or you may contact Ellen Jirovsky or Agnes Anderson for more information.

Funds for Nuns – began in 2011 and has assisted 8-10 young women wishing to enter one of the Lincoln Diocese's five Motherhouses. We have given from \$500 to \$1,000 to each of the candidates. If a young woman owes more than \$10,000 in debt, she may be refused admittance to the convent, whose community would be unable to repay the candidate's debts for her. The supported Motherhouses are: the Marian Sisters, the School Sisters of Christ the King, the Carmel of Jesus, Mary & Joseph, the Sisters of Mary Queen of Mercy, and the Franciscan Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother. Please give generously to this worthwhile program.

The **Msgr. Riordan Scholarship** is disbursed at the beginning of the school year to one of our six Diocesan high schools. The \$500 scholarship is given to a deserving student, freshman to senior, who needs help with tuition or books. The six supported high schools are: Aquinas, Bishop Neumann, Sacred Heart, St. Cecilia, Our Lady of Lourdes, and Pius X. The recipient is chosen by school administrators.

Jesus tells St. Faustina: The flames of mercy are burning me. I desire to pour them out upon human souls. Oh,

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what pain they cause Me when they do not want to accept them!

My daughter, do whatever is within your power to spread devotion to My mercy. I will make up for what you lack. Tell aching mankind to snuggle close to My merciful Heart, and I will fill it with peace.

Tell (all people), My daughter, that I am Love and Mercy itself. When a soul approaches Me with trust, I fill it with such an abundance of graces that it cannot contain them within itself, but radiates them to other souls. (1074)

Souls who spread the honor of My mercy I shield through their entire lives as a tender mother her infant, and at the hour of death I will not be a Judge for them, but the Merciful Savior. At that last hour, a soul has nothing with which to defend itself except My mercy. Happy is the soul that during its lifetime immersed itself in the Fountain of Mercy, because justice will have no hold on it. (1075)

But I want to tell you that eternal life must begin already here on earth through Holy Communion. Each Holy Communion makes you more capable of communing with God throughout eternity. (1811)

As a reminder-----This Holy Year will end on November 20, 2016, the Sunday dedicated to Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe and living face of the Father's Mercy. After the Holy Door of St. Peter's is open on December 8th, the pope requested that every diocese in the world open a similar "Door of Mercy" for the local celebrations of the Jubilee. Please visit the Holy Door at our Cathedral of the Risen Christ. In the light of the Lord's words: "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. (cf. Lk 6:36)"

May our love for Divine Mercy grant us peace, happiness and many blessing during the summer vacations and reunions with our family and friends.

In His Divine Mercy

Service Commission—Geri Burns— burnz@q.com

1611 East I McCook, NE 69001

HAPPY SUMMER!!! First of all let me introduce myself. I am Geri Burns the new Diocesan Service Commission chairman. I live in McCook, which is in southwest Nebraska. My husband Bob and I are both retired, Bob was an engineer for Burlington Northern Railroad and I was a teacher's aide for St. Patrick's School. We have four grown children and six grandchildren.

I am looking forward to serving on the Diocesan board. I served a few years ago and look forward to seeing familiar faces and making new friends.

A few projects to consider for the summer:

There is always a great need at the local food pantry year round, but summer brings new challenges for some families. When the children are in school, they get lunch and sometimes breakfast at school. When school is not in session, this is not the case and the family may struggle to have meals. Donate to the Pantry and maybe concentrate on items that can be stretched (for example peanut butter & jelly, pasta and sauce).

If your schedule allows, help deliver Meals on Wheels in your town. Inquire and see if there is a shortage of drivers in the summer because of vacations, etc. If you have young children or grandchildren they could help deliver and the people receiving the meals would enjoy seeing young ones.

Another activity with your children or grandchildren would be to visit the residents at a nursing home or senior living center. The kids could read a simple book, color a picture or sing a song with the residents. This will brighten the day of someone who might not get a lot of visitors and the children will get a chance to interact with older people. Be sure to check with administration to see what their policies are.

With summer vacations and people traveling, there is a greater need for donations to the bloodmobiles. Sometimes donations are lower in the summer because the regular donors are out of town or schedules get busy. If you are not able to donate, you can donate your time helping with registration, making appointments or serving the sandwiches and cookies.

Try not to get so busy with summer that you fail to spend time with family. Maybe visit a neighboring church for Sunday mass and find something fun to do after mass. Something as simple as a baseball game in the yard or putting a blanket under a tree and having a picnic will make memories that will last forever.

We pray for good weather and sufficient moisture for our farmers and ranchers. We need to remember all the work that goes into the food we buy in the grocery store! Thank a farmer!

HISTORIAN REPORT FOR NEWS-NOTES

Judy Lorenz, Chairman 4001 Pinewood Lane Lincoln, Ne. 68516
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Thanks to those who brought deanery scrap-books to the convention. In two years from now, I plan to have the display as a competition. We will have them judged in order to encourage wider participation. Deanery Presidents can start planning on someone to serve as deanery historian, if they have not already done so. I think one of the criteria for the judging will include the percentage of parishes who contribute to the deanery scrapbook. More on that idea later.

Terri Sullivan, our new diocesan president, would like us to continue the deanery of the month feature on the diocesan web-site. Each deanery is assigned the same month as the St. Monica Prayer auxiliary. (June is David City, July is Fairbury, August is Falls City, September is Grant), etc.

News items from each parish can be sent directly to Father Coulter at Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House. Photos of the church altar, PCCW officers, and any recent activities of your organization make a nice report.

I am suggesting that either the Deanery president or Deanery historian contact each parish in your deanery, during your month as noted above.

Then each parish can send the items directly to Father Coulter at frcoultter@gmail.com His mailing address is in the new handbook distributed at convention, and items can also be sent via the mail to him.

Access to the diocesan web-site can be gained by looking for directions in the handbook.

Lastly, I was fortunate to get assistance from Phyllis Hawes of Hastings, and together we have updated a photo book of past Diocesan presidents. It should be completed either by Province Meeting or the fall board meeting in Red Cloud. Watch for it!

In Nebraska, storms appear to be the trend in photography. I have to admit I love the beauty and strength these clouds can create. We are fascinated! I really meditated this morning about the beauty of storms and why we are transfixed. Throughout the bible we know we are taught to have faith and with that faith will help us make it through the storms in our life. It is clear our country is going through what appears to be one storm after another, from the Orlando shootings to the recent Supreme Court decision of Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt stated abortion facilities were not held to minimum standards as ambulatory surgical facilities.

Now more than ever it is time for prayer, are you ready to work through the storm in your life?

If you have not joined NCCW do so soon! If you are a commission chair it is imperative to join and use the information from National for your council.

President Terri Sullivan loves the information from the NCCW. Terri states "This is a great resource to build on your Catholic faith – I love what they have to offer. NCCW has a great evangelization program **"We Are Called to Witness"** which you can download from their website <http://nccw.org/Public/Commissions/NewEvangelization> and can print only what you want to use for free, or you can purchase the full printed version for \$20. I hope you are continuing to C-O-U-N-T your **Million Works of Mercy** with NCCW. The form is included in this edition of the NewsNotes if you have not received it already."

I realize good projects do not move quickly but Leadership Training Chair Ann Jansky is working toward bring the Leadership Training Development Program to the Lincoln Diocese. You will hear soon about the news regarding this training and information we need to gather prior to their arrival. When it comes in your email or council please take time to fill out the necessary information.

And finally, the spreadsheet will be closed soon for updating. If you have to put in your officer information please complete your information of officers prior to July 18 at the province meeting in Grand Island.

***"You of little faith,
why are you so
afraid?" Then he
got up and
rebuked the winds
and the waves,
and it was
completely calm.
Matthew 8:26***

Carolyn Mazour

Legislative Chair

This week a historic vote by the Supreme Court has struck down tough abortion restrictions in Texas. By a 5 to 3 vote, the Court has ruled that the Texas laws put 'undue burdens' on women. At the heart of the case was the standard for assessing abortion limits first announced by the Supreme Court in 1991. State laws cannot create an "undue burden" on a woman's constitutional right to terminate her pregnancy before the fetus attains viability."

Passed in 2013, by then Governor Rick Perry, the law said clinics providing abortion services must meet the same building standards as surgical centers. And it required doctors performing abortions to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals.

Since that law passed in Texas, the number of clinics providing abortion services dropped from 42 centers to 19. Since that passing, many of the closed clinics have allowed their licenses to lapse, their employees moved to other jobs and many of the facilities have descended into shambles or have other occupants. It will not be a short route to re-open them.

In the 5-3 vote, Breyer, Ginsburg, Kagan, Kennedy and Sotomayor voted to repeal the law; Roberts, Alito and Thomas dissented. In writing his dissent, Alito said "The Court favors petitioners with a victory that they did not have the audacity to seek." He further stated that "In striking down this law, the Court has simply disregarded basic rules that apply in all other cases."

Justice Thomas in his dissent criticized what he sees as "the Court's troubling tendency 'to bend the rules' when any effort to limit abortion, or even to speak in opposition to abortion, is at issue."

The repeal of this law will affect laws in at least 12 different states, some now on hold because of court challenges. The Texas law represented a new effort to restrict abortion by focusing on protecting the health and safety of the mother as well as the life of the fetus.

As for our State, Nebraska Legislature has not passed a pro-life bill since 2011. Please contact your area legislator and urge them to vote Pro-Life saying "Your parents believed in pro-life; why don't you?"

60th BIENNIAL LDCCW CONVENTION

By Ann Jansky

Thank you to everyone who physically attended or spiritually prayed for the success of the 60th Biennial Convention of the Lincoln Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, which was held on April 15-16, 2016 in McCool Junction and York.

The weather cooperated, although a little on the windy side, to allow attendees to begin Friday evening's events with Mass celebrated by **The Most Reverend Bishop James D. Conley** and concelebrated by 11 priests of the Lincoln Diocese in the Camp Kateri barn. Fr. Michael Zimmer served as Master of Ceremonies. Attendees then convened at Stone Creek Event Center south of McCool Junction for a social hour, meal and program. The donations for the seminary Burse and the Bishop's Project for the 2014-2016 LDCCW term (an open air archery shelter at Camp Kateri) were presented to Bishop Conley.

Saturday's convention began at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Mandeville Hall, York, NE with **Stacy Thomlison** of Rapid City, SD leading the singing of the Divine Mercy Chaplet with guitar accompaniment. The 134 attendees enjoyed rolls and juice provided by the Crete Deanery and York PCCW. Msgr. James Reinert welcomed guests to the convention, Fr. Lux and Fr. McGuire gave opening remarks and Ann Jansky recognized special guests. A short business meeting followed with voting delegates unanimously approving the complete revision of the LDCCW bylaws.

The keynote speaker was **Maribeth Stewart** of West Haven, CT, President-elect of the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW), who provided the history of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organization (WUCWO) and explained the correlation between the different levels of the

Councils of Catholic Women - Parish (PCCW), Deanery (DCCW), Diocesan (LDCCW) and National (NCCW).

Mass was celebrated by **The Most Reverend Bishop Emeritus Fabian Bruskewitz** with Dr. Daniel Rayer as Master of Ceremonies and six priests concelebrating. Following the homily, Fr. Thomas Lux, LDCCW Spiritual Advisor, installed the new LDCCW officers for the 2016-2018 term.

Afternoon speakers included **Marylin Ericksen**, Past Omaha Province Director and NCCW Our Lady of Good Counsel Award recipient in 2014 and the following representatives of St. Gianna Women's Home: Executive Director Fr. Christopher Kubat, current resident Melissa and Marian Sisters, Sr. Karen and Sr. Carol.

PRESIDENT'S PROJECT: St. Gianna Women's Home

– Each of the 13 deaneries brought items to the convention to furnish at least one apartment at St. Gianna Women's Home. These items were placed in the narthex of St. Joseph church and loaded into a Catholic Social Services trailer and three personal vehicles for transport to Lincoln. Each Deanery also presented a check to Fr. Kubat to be used to support St. Gianna Women's Homes.

In addition to St. Gianna's, recipients of the raffle proceeds were the Catholic Social Services Thrift Stores (in Auburn, Hastings, Imperial and Lincoln); Pi Alpha Chi Catholic Sorority; Good Counsel Retreat House and Spirit Catholic Radio.

Final remarks were given by 2016-2018 LDCCW President, Terri Sullivan.

The LDCCW Convention video is now on the LDCCW web page

In this Year of Mercy, there are many resources to help us. We are asked to share the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. Like crops nourish our bodies, the Eucharist above all feeds our faith and nourishes our souls. I'm sure you have heard about **Formed.org through your parishes. Please talk to your pastor about accessing this wonderful resource.**

Faith Matters

A reflection in the life of the Catholic Council of Catholic Women

“Do not be afraid, for I am with you; do not be alarmed, for I am your God. I give you strength, truly I help you, truly I hold you firm with my saving right hand” (Isaiah 41:10). Minute to minute, hour to hour, day to day, God is present in our lives. On good days this may be easily identifiable, while challenging days bring a desire for more comfort and security. I have faced several challenges in life; a specific one occurred while I was a high school student, living at home with my three sisters. Two of my sisters were struggling through two different life-changing experiences that were affecting the entire family. I felt overwhelmed, anxious, scared, and helpless.

At a time of great distress I was blessed by an encounter with God. It was casual, unexpected, brief, and unforgettable. It occurred during a TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) weekend, when praying in the chapel. Throughout the weekend I had become very close with my group members and had just finished pouring my heart out to them, filling them in with every detail of the current struggles that seemed to be overpowering me at the time.

Through the drying tears, I knelt there in the presence of God with the comfort of my group members on my left and on my right. I felt the priest lay his hands on my shoulders and begin to pray over me. Opening my eyes, I was met by the eyes of Jesus staring back at me through the painting, “Jesus Prince of Peace.” As I gazed upon the image, it appeared as if his face began to transform from an image on paper to the 3-D face of God. In that moment I felt nothing but peace and the tender love of God and I whispered the first words that came to mind, I love you, Jesus. An instant later I heard, “I love you too, Andrea.” Once again my eyes began to fill with tears but this time they were tears of joy and tears of faith.

This encounter filled with me the reassurance that God is always present, even when things seem to be falling apart. “I call on the Lord in my distress, and He answers me” (Psalm 120:1).

-Andrea Miller (daughter of Grant Deanery President Brenda Miller)



NCCW: C-O-U-N-T-I-N-G A Million Mercies
FEED the HUNGRY; GIVE DRINK to the THIRSTY
A Calendar of Ideas for Families---of any size!

By Jane Carter

JULY: Red, white and blue are everywhere---continue the theme with your month's canned goods collection: cans of white potatoes, hominy or clam chowder, red cherries, spaghetti sauce or strawberry jam, and blue Jell-O, blueberry preserves or Gatorade! July is also a month of hot temperatures in most of the US, providing a bottle of cold water to the garbage collectors or city workers is easy and so appreciated!

AUGUST: Time to think about back to school and that means lunch boxes! Have a Peanut Butter & Jelly drive for your parish or community food pantry. Children might also ask for PB&J donations from family and close friends or neighbors.

SEPTEMBER: Focus on fruit! Donate canned and dried fruit and fruit juices of all kinds. Ask the Director/Coordinator of Religious Education if your child's/grandchild's RE classes can get involved. Fruit is often too expensive for those on food stamps and difficult for food banks and pantries to keep in stock.

OCTOBER: World Food Day is traditionally observed on October 16th fine! Pray for all those who are hungry in the world and then make a donation to the NCCW/CRS program: Help a Child Global Program where your dollars will be used in the part of the world most in need of help. Encourage children of all ages to contribute to the family donation.

Popes Intentions for July

Universal: That indigenous peoples, whose identity and very existence are threatened, will be shown due respect.

Evangelization: That the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean, by means of her mission to the continent, may announce the Gospel with renewed vigor and enthusiasm.

Dates of Importance

- July 18 - Province Meeting @ Blessed Sacrament, Grand Island
- August 12-13 - LDCCW Board Meetings @ Red Cloud
- August 15 - Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- September 7-10 - NCCW Convention @ Indianapolis, Indiana



Lincoln Diocesan Council of Catholic Women