

# COMMUNIQUE

MARCH | APRIL 2023

Volume 36 No. 2.



## In this Issue:

*How we are Growing in  
Faith and Service:*

*Reports from our service  
chairs.*

*And more...*



## President's Corner

BY SHARON DI GIOVANNI

Hello to Everyone!

The calendar says it's Spring, but Michiganders know winter won't go that easily. I hope the warm weather will be upon us when you receive this newsletter!

We had a wonderful time at the Christmas Luncheon at *The Gazebo* in December. In addition to enjoying a delicious meal and visiting each other, we had a mini raffle and met with each board member to detail their responsibilities. We had some changes in some assignments, membership mainly.

We also worked on the directory and found that it needed to be updated.

We hope to reprint the Directory with all the changes, so watch for that!

Sorry for the mishap.

When we get a clarification on members, we will get that info to you. The reprint will have extra pages included at the back.

Our goal is to have all members pay their dues at the same time each year.

We have secured a location and Date for our Spring "Day of Reflection," May 6, 2023, at St Aiden's, in Livonia. We will have a speaker, lunch, and Mass. Please see the ad inside of this newsletter for more information.

There is still a lot to do to organize this big event, so we hope you will help and join in the planning!

We are working on finding new locations for our member meetings. One on the west side of town for one month and then the next month on the other side of town. As always, we will make sure to keep you posted.

Finally, for those unaware, our past president, Kathleen Penno, has been nominated for President-Elect for NCCW. So if you are a member of NCCW, you may vote to select her on the ballot. You can read her resume and nomination in this newsletter.

If you have any suggestions or comments feel free to contact me.

Blessings to all,

*Sharon Di Giovanni*

President CCW/ AOD  
[sharondege@wowway.com](mailto:sharondege@wowway.com)

The Council of Catholic Women | AD Presents:

# THE PATH OF OUR FAITH:



## Day of Reflection

Join us for a day of self-reflection and connection with other Catholic women.

**SATURDAY, MAY 6**  
9 A.M. - 3 P.M.

### ST. AIDAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

17500 Farmington Rd.  
Livonia, MI 48152

**\$40** *The fee Includes all activities, lunch, and dessert!*

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED - SPACE IS LIMITED!



Annual May Crowning with the traveling Our Lady of Fatima Statue!



Special guest speaker Emmy Award-winning journalist **Chuck Gaidica!**



**Bishop Robert Fisher** celebrates Mass!

#### CCW/AD Day of Reflection | Reservation Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Seats: \_\_\_\_\_ x (\$40 each)

Please mail your completed form, including a check made payable to CCW/AD, to:

Council of Catholic Women Day of Reflection  
c/o Georgette Anders  
27021 Timber Trail  
Dearborn Heights, MI 48127



If you have questions or need more information, **contact us at:**

- 313-220-5172
- Gander3559@gmail.com

# Human Trafficking Commission

BY GEORGETTE ANDERS

## Human Trafficking in the Wake of a Disaster INFO YOU CAN USE

### PEOPLE WHO DON'T SPEAK A LOCAL LANGUAGE MAY BE MORE VULNERABLE BECAUSE THEY ARE -

- Displaced from their homes (temporarily living in a shelter)
- Separated from family and friends
- Disconnected from supportive services
- Unable to safely earn income and be self-sufficient

### INSTABILITY AFTER A DISASTER CAN MAKE PEOPLE ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE TO TRAFFICKING. PEOPLE MAY BE MORE VULNERABLE BECAUSE THEY...

- Can't communicate with authorities
- Are afraid of physical harm or stigma
- Have no access to assistance, services, or protection provided by local law enforcement

### WHILE ANYONE CAN BE AFFECTED BY HUMAN TRAFFICKING, THE FOLLOWING POPULATIONS ARE MORE AT RISK -

- Migrant and seasonal workers, refugees, or asylees
- Disconnected or homeless youth or runaways
- People with physical, emotional, or cognitive disabilities
- Persons with a substance use disorder or with a history of substance use
- Those transitioning out of child welfare, foster care, or juvenile prisons
- Members of lower socio-economic groups
- Survivors of other forms of violence

### TRAFFICKERS GAIN CONTROL OVER VICTIMS BY EXPLOITING THEIR VULNERABILITIES. DURING ENVIRONMENTAL OR PUBLIC HEALTH DISASTERS, TRAFFICKERS CAN CONTROL VICTIMS THROUGH THEIR NEED FOR BASIC RESOURCES SUCH AS FOOD, WATER, AND SHELTER. OTHER CONTROL METHODS INCLUDE:

- Physically assaulting or threatening serious harm
- Psychologically manipulating or shaming
- Providing false promises about work or living conditions
- Pretending to have an intimate relationship
- Pretending to provide protection
- Withholding wages or debt bondage
- Isolating the victim

Source: Centers for Disease Control Publications



# Spirituality Commission

BY JUDY BERNARDI

Greetings!

Continuing with our spiritual sisters who became Doctors of the Church, you probably are familiar with this beloved saint - **St. Therese of Lisieux**. She came from a very holy family. Her parents were Saints Louis and Zelig Martin. Therese became a Carmelite at the young age of 15.

She died of tuberculosis at 24 years old, but during her short life she wrote her **Doctrine of Faith: The Story of a Soul**.



St. Therese of Lisieux was canonized in 1925, and on October 19, 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II proclaimed her a Doctor of the Church, the youngest in history.

She is only the third woman recognized as a Doctor of the Church. My favorite quote from St. Therese is:

*"Remember that nothing is small  
in the eyes of God.  
Do all that you do with love."*

St. Therese is known for her "Little Way" and is the Patron Saint of: *Florists, Missionaries, Pilots, and Priests*.

*Yours in Faith -* **Judy Bernardi**  
Spirituality Commission

## Mental Wellness Report

BY BEVERLY DUBES

Seeing so many of my good friends at the Christmas Luncheon at the Gazebo in Warren was lovely. The food was delicious, and the Gazebo was decorated beautifully! Sharon DiGiovanni is doing a superb job serving as our president.

May the spirit of love gently fill our hearts and homes. I keep all of you in my daily prayers. Keep well and safe, and don't forget to smile.

**God loves you!**

Below I've included some tips to help you keep your stress levels low.

If I can help in any way, feel free to call me. My cell number is **734-612-1399**.

*Love and prayers,*

**Beverly Dubes**

CCW/ AD Mental Health Chair



# Operation Layette

BY JAN POPOWICH

Dear CCW Sisters,

Once again, I was wondering what I could share with you in this article, and then I got a lovely surprise call from a Detroit Lithuanian Women's Book member. A few years ago, this group sponsored a charity or someone in great need with each book club meeting. One of their members was greatly saddened by the passage of Proposal 3 and investigated a means to help moms who chose life. She dug deep and found our information on the Archdiocese of Detroit's website.



Thank you, ladies, for your generous donations!



But it was meant to be, and I was contacted and met with one of their members who passed along their donations. To tell you a bit about this group. It was established in 2015 with seven members and has grown to 16. They meet approximately seven times yearly to discuss their book, enjoy refreshments based on the monthly book pick, gather their donations, and plan for future contributions.

*(Cont. on page 6)*

## *Operation Layette Cont.*

They've collected personal items for the homeless through the Pope Francis Center, made fleece blankets for a homeless shelter, supported Operation Christmas Shoebox, donated to the Daughters of Lithuania, and donated to Ukrainian refugees in Lithuania. This is just a partial list of their outreach efforts, and then in January, they supported Operation Layette! As I've said before I'm so grateful for the opportunity to meet some wonderful people through CCW and Operation Layette. This is a great example.

**Thank you, ladies, for your generous donation!** February brought even more good news! Cheryl Sanders reached out to let me know that her parish, St Scholastica, had done a donation drive for Operation Layette and I picked up their lovely items after attending Mass in their beautiful chapel. Once again, our babies are being provided for! I'm looking forward to seeing some of you at your spring "Baby Showers". That will be more good news to share. God bless and thank you all for what you do to support Operation Layette!

**Jan Popowich**  
Operation Layette



*Thank You*

## *Legislation Update*

BY JULIE RACINE

Legislation Lansing Update is a weekly update sent to members of the Catholic Advocacy Network chronicling legislative activity of interest to the Michigan Catholic Conference, the official public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Michigan.

Please consider joining the Catholic Advocacy Network, an easy way to stay informed and put your faith into action by speaking out on important issues. You can sign up at:

**WWW.MICATHOLIC.ORG**



# International Concerns

BY CAROL HOFER

I spent my first years in Ghana, West Africa serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the region described below. Now I support the mission of St. Anne Catholic High School for Girls in my village of Damongo. I never realized the full extent of need that young mothers endure.

This is a country where over a half a million girls age 19 and younger gave birth, (some as young as ten years) between 2016 and 2020. Many of these girls live in areas where extreme poverty leaves workers earning only a dollar a day, and where females remain at risk of gender –based violence, sexual exploitation, terrible infections and more. Becoming moms much too early can be a horror. The Sisters are on a mission to change this, working so young families get a good start on life.

## TOO OFTEN THE TRADITION DICTATES THAT FATHERS DO NOT TAKE CARE OF THEIR CHILDREN OR HELP THE MOTHER

Too often the tradition dictates that fathers do not take care of their children or help the mother when she is suffering from post-partum depression. According to the World Health Organization, new mothers in developing countries are disproportionately affected by mental health disorders which adversely affect the child and the entire family. Sister Mercy Goateng, former president of the major superiors in Ghana, has noted the significant benefits that stem from safety and security, positive parenting, early learning opportunities and play based stimulation. The work of the Sisters is helping to address those challenges.

Zakaria Jabaru, a father of twins, chose to send his children for postnatal services and care at Our Lady of Rocio Catholic Clinic at Walewale, Ghana, not far from the village where I worked. He had this to say: "Formerly, I did not know that young men like me have a responsibility to help my partner after she labors, especially when she is in pain but now I do, thanks to the intervention of the Sisters who are going around helping to educate us on our role as fathers. Zakaria Jabaru is one of the happiest parents to be seen carrying his newly delivered twin babies for vaccination at the Rocio Catholic Clinic.



*Zakaria Jabaru is pictured above with one of his sons*

Mary Ayelkima, a new mother, said her postpartum psychosis would've broken her down after her delivery, if not for the sisters' intervention, as they visited her at her father's house in Damongo. "Their visits have improved my mood," she reported. "Irrespective of my predicament, I have accepted my situation and I am cheerful after delivery of my bouncing baby girl."

God bless the Sisters and their life giving work! Thanks to their programs, families have united and are helping each other and their youngsters. God bless the moms, the dads and their children.  
**This is the Universal Church at Work!**

## EVERYONE LIKES A CELEBRATION, AND WE HAVE TWO REASONS TO CELEBRATE!

### EXCITING NEWS...

At this time we are proud to announce that our very own **Kathleen Penno** agreed to run for **NCCW President-Elect**. In addition, **Janet Regan**, from the Grand Rapids diocese and a member of the Detroit Province, is running for the **NCCW nominating committee**.

To vote, you or your parish must be paid members of NCCW. Voting started on Monday, April 3, and will end on Monday, May 1. Women in this election are highlighted on pages 8-10 in the Catholic Women Magazine, received in early March. We thank Kathleen for putting our archdiocese on the NCCW map, and we wish her, Janet, and the other candidate's much success. The elected women will be installed at the 2023 convention and lead us on the Path of Renewed Encounter. God bless NCCW and CCW/AD for many years to come!

2023 marks the 103rd anniversary of the **National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW)**, and 2024 will mark the 85th anniversary of the **Council of Catholic Women/Archdiocese of Detroit (CCW/AD)**.

In the past, almost all parishes had women's societies, and most joined as affiliates of NCCW and CCW/AD at the encouragement of their pastors. As parishes closed and societies disbanded, NCCW encouraged individual membership as well as affiliate membership.

Today women may join NCCW as an individual for \$50 or supporting member for \$100 or as an affiliate parish for \$100. To join CCW/AD an individual pays \$15 and a parish affiliate may join for \$30. 10 NCCW members. We also have ten archdiocesan parishes that joined NCCW.

We share this information because we are proud of our heritage and history. We wish to continue supporting, empowering, and educating all Catholic women in **SPIRITUALITY, LEADERSHIP, AND SERVICE** through our many programs. . And to carry on our mission, we need leaders.

## NCCW 2023 CONVENTION AUGUST 24-26 SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH



### MISSION STATEMENT COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN/AD

Our Mission as members of the Council of Catholic Women, Archdiocese of Detroit is to bring women together to share their faith; to grow spiritually and to unite in performing works of charity both in our community and abroad.

The Communiqué is published bi-monthly by the Council of Catholic Women Archdiocese of Detroit.

[WWW.CCW-AOD.WEEBLY.COM](http://WWW.CCW-AOD.WEEBLY.COM)



*Happy Easter!*

## MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNIQUÉ EDITORIAL TEAM

We apologize for the delay in receiving this issue of the Communiqué. We appreciate your patience as we train our new Communiqué Editor, Isabella Agby! Isabella is working with Zora Dziurman to oversee the design and print of the Communiqué.

**NEXT ARTICLE  
DEADLINE  
APRIL 21, 2023**

Please send your stories, news articles, ideas, photos, and other content to Isabella Agby at [isabella\\_agby@hotmail.com](mailto:isabella_agby@hotmail.com) or call 248-763-7195.