

COMMUNIQUE

JULY | AUGUST 2023

Volume 36 No. 4.



In this Issue:

Learn about our commissions

Commission reports

Council announcements

And more...

President's Corner

BY SHARON DI GIOVANNI

Hello Ladies!

Since the Day of Reflection, we have yet to have any plans for the summer, but the Board is working on the Fall activities starting with the next General Membership meeting, Sat. August 19th. The location is St. Sabina, 25555 Ann Arbor Trail in Dearborn Heights. The time is 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

If you have something that you need to share with the membership or activity that you would like to have at a meeting or a special event, please let me know. We can discuss it with the membership and organize it.

I want to leave you with **A Symbol of Hope!** Every garden is a prayer, an expression of our relationship with God. Seeds and sprouts are planted in nutrient-rich soil, and we must tend our garden by watering, weeding, supporting, and nourishing the fruits, vegetables, and flowers. We cooperate with nature's processes, and there is little we can do to control or predict the burdens that may harm our garden's growth. The garden will face storms, pests, weeds, drought, or neglect, but, like our relationship with God, it will flourish: we tend to it. We cannot simply HOPE that our garden will flourish; we must grasp onto hope and accept challenges so that our garden will provide the growth necessary for a bountiful harvest. Be a gardener of your relationship with God.

Blessings,

Sharon Di Giovanni

President CCW | AOD
sharondege@wowway.com | 586-243-8530

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Saturday, August 19

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

St. Sabina

25555 Ann Arbor Trail
Dearborn Heights, MI

Special Guest Speaker:

Nancy Trela | Soul Core

Saturday, October 21

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

St. Isaac Jogues

21100 Madison Street
St Clair Shores, MI

Special Guest Speaker:

Janet Miller | Human Trafficking

Saturday, December 9

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Annual Christmas Gathering

The Gazebo Banquet Center
31104 Mound Rd, Warren, MI

if you want your parish to host a meeting for the 2024 calendar year, contact Sharon DiGiovanni.

We encourage all members to get involved in the various commissions by contacting any of our commission chairs!

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OUR CONDOLENCES

With heavy hearts, we extend our deepest sympathies to our CCW|AD community, who have recently experienced the loss of loved ones. In times of sorrow, it is crucial that we come together as a support network, sharing compassion and understanding. Please lift them up in prayer.



Gerald "Jerry" F. McFee

July 31, 1938 - June 5, 2023

In your prayers, please remember Gerald "Jerry" F. McFee (84), who entered Eternal Life on June 5, 2023. He is the beloved husband of 55 years to Lorraine McFee, CCW | AD member and past president.

Eugene "Gene" Start

August 14, 1932 - June 4, 2023

In your prayers, please remember Eugene "Gene" Start (90), who entered Eternal Life on June 4, 2023. He is the beloved husband of 64 years to Barbara Start, CCW | AD member.



Eternal rest grant unto Jerry and Gene, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.

A NOTE FROM YOUR NEW COMMUNIQUÉ EDITOR AND DESIGNER

Hello, fellow members of the Council of Catholic Women! Allow me to introduce myself - I am Isabella Agby, and I am honored to have taken on the editor and designer role for our beloved Communiqué since March of this year.

Professionally, I work as the Marketing and Communications Director at Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan, which serves as the charitable arm for the Archdiocese of Detroit. As a new member of this beautiful community, I was eager to find ways to get involved in Catholic organizations in the area, and this opportunity has been a true blessing.

In the coming editions of the Communiqué, I am thrilled to bring some exciting changes, including additional features and more opportunities for everyone to participate. With the start of the new school year just around the corner, it's a perfect time for all of us to embrace fresh beginnings, explore new classes and ventures, and contribute our time, talent, and treasures to the group.

As a marketer and communications professional, I couldn't resist incorporating playful back-to-school puns throughout this issue. I hope this issue of Communiqué serves as a reminder of how you can get involved and share your stories, ideas, content, opportunities, or valuable information. Don't hesitate to reach out to me or any member of the board or council commission chairs on the inside cover. Let's continue to make Communiqué a vibrant and engaging platform for our remarkable community. Here's to an exciting journey ahead, and I can't wait to work together with all of you!

In *His* Service,

Isabella

Communiqué Editor and Designer
isabella_agby@hotmail.com | 248-763-7195



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND REMINDERS

August General Meeting

Saturday, August 19

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

St. Sabina

25555 Ann Arbor Trail
Dearborn Heights, MI

Special Guest Speaker:

Nancy Trela | Soul Core

October General Meeting

Saturday, October 21

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

St. Isaac Jogues

21100 Madison Street
St Clair Shores, MI

Special Guest Speaker:

Janet Miller | Human Trafficking



SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GATHERING

Saturday, December 9, 2023

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Gazebo Banquet Center

31104 Mound Rd.
Warren, MI 48092

More information will be available in the September/October Communiqué. Contact Cathy Zimmerman or Debbie Roche for planning and volunteer opportunities.



Human Trafficking Commission

BY GEORGETTE ANDERS

2023 DIRTY DOZEN LIST

The **Dirty Dozen List** is an annual campaign calling out **twelve mainstream entities for facilitating, enabling, and even profiting from sexual abuse and exploitation**. Since its inception in 2013, the Dirty Dozen List has galvanized thousands of individuals like YOU to call on corporations, government agencies, and organizations to change problematic policies and practices. This campaign has yielded major victories at Google, Netflix, TikTok, Hilton Worldwide, Verizon, Walmart, the US Department of Defense, and many more.

1. Apple App Store

Deceptive to the core: Apple App Store age ratings and descriptions mislead parents about the content, risks, and dangers to children on available apps. When caregivers aren't informed, kids pay the price.

2. Discord

Discord is a Haven for Sexual Exploiters: This messaging platform is popular with predators who want to groom and find, and trade child sexual abuse materials and adult image-based sexual abuse.

3. eBay

"Whatever it is, you can get it on eBay." Unfortunately, that includes childlike sex abuse dolls and spycams advertised for filming women without consent.

4. Instagram

Instagram's slogan is "Capture and Share the World's Moments" for countless children and adults, including their worst moments. Grooming, child sexual abuse materials, sex trafficking, and many other harms continue to fester on Instagram.



5. Kik

Kik's Crawling with Criminals. The anonymous messaging app is a "predator's paradise" for grooming kids and sharing images of their abuse, in addition to hardcore porn and prostitution ads.

6. Microsoft GitHub

GitHub is the go-to place to create sexually exploitative technology. Deepfakes, "nudity" apps, and AI-generated pornography originate on this collaboration platform for software development.

7. OnlyFans

OnlyFans: Empowerment or Exploitation? OnlyFans promotes itself as giving porn performers power, but in reality, it empowers sex traffickers, child exploiters, and "revenge porn" posters.

8. Reddit

It takes less than 5 seconds to find sexual exploitation on Reddit. This "front page of the Internet" is a hub of child sexual abuse materials, sex trafficking, and image-based sexual abuse.

9. Roblox

Roblox isn't all fun and games. Kids may be exposed to predators and inappropriate content among the blocks and buildings.

10. Snapchat

Snapchat Is Dangerous By Design - Year after year, Snapchat has been named a top spot for sextortion, sexual interactions between minors and adults, and pornography exposure.

11. Spotify

This popular streaming platform must fix its filters to remove sexually explicit images and prevent predators from accessing kids.

12. Twitter

"Twitter was asked to take [child sexual abuse material] down, and Twitter said, 'We've looked at it and we're not taking it down.'" - Judge at the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Spirituality Commission

BY JUDY BERNARDI

The Eucharist and Adoration

As I sit here at home recuperating from surgery, I can still sit with Jesus in Adoration provided by EWTN online. I can still feel His presence and continue my journaling as I did during in person Adoration. While grateful for this encounter over the internet, I still miss in person Mass and Adoration. Being an ambassador for Dynamic Catholic, I received a couple of new books from Matthew Kelly, one of which was “Beautiful Eucharist.” I found a quote that resonated with me: “I was born Catholic, and I will die Catholic. There are lots of reasons for that, but none more compelling than the Eucharist.”

Receiving the Eucharist is an amazing privilege. Sitting with Jesus in Adoration is also amazing: “Sit there in Jesus ‘presence for one hour. You will be amazed how much he will teach you about yourself and your life in one hour.” (Matthew Kelly: “Beautiful Eucharist”)

I look forward to experiencing Mass and Eucharistic Adoration in person soon. You don’t know what you’re missing until you can’t experience it.

Judy Bernardi
Spirituality Commission

Mental Health Commission

BY BEVERLY DUBES

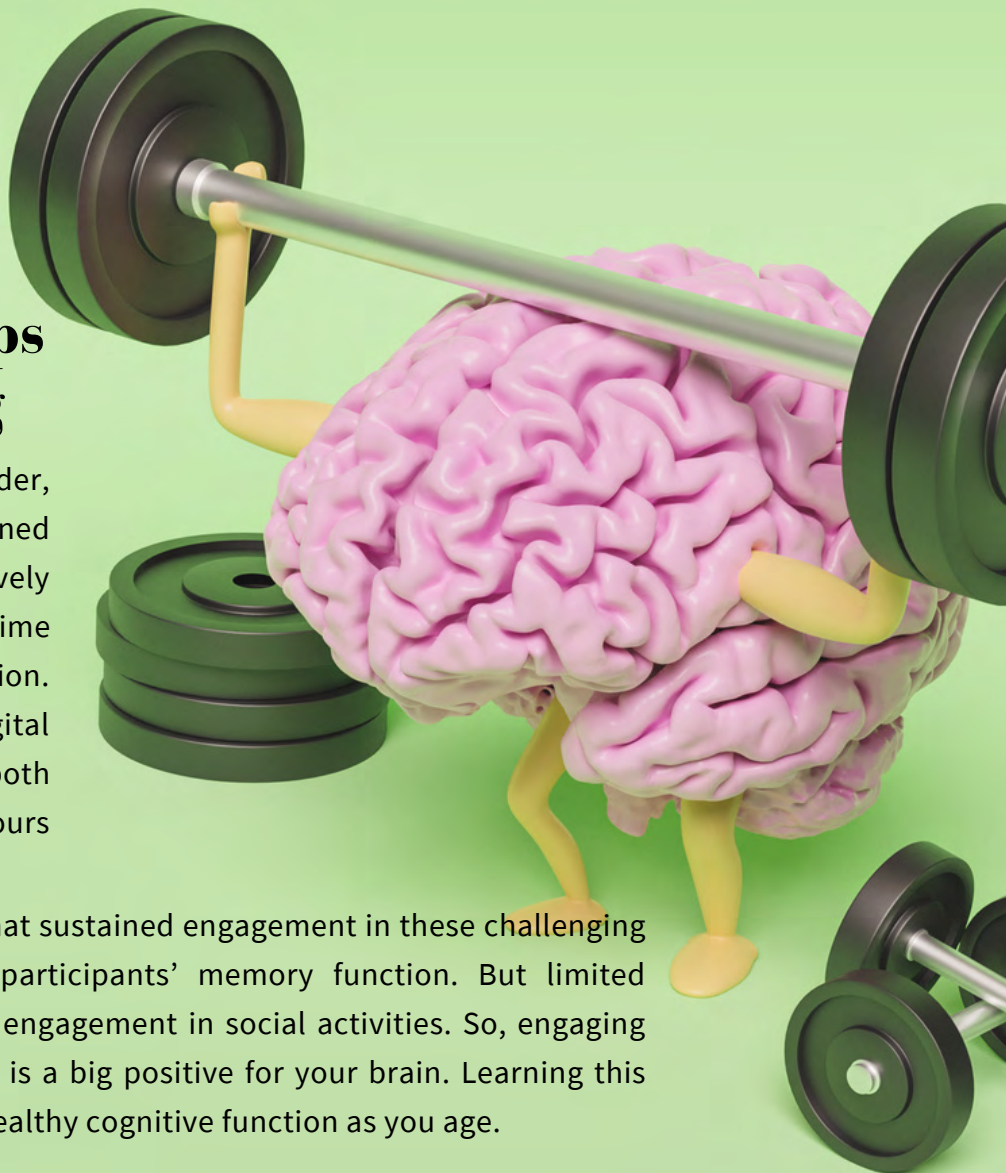
Mental Health Tips for Healthy Aging

In a study of adults 60 and older, scientists aimed to find out if sustained engagement in learning cognitively demanding novel skills over some time would improve cognitive function. Participants learned to quilt, do digital photography, or engage in both activities for an average of 16.51 hours a week for three months.

The findings show clear evidence that sustained engagement in these challenging and new activities did enhance participants' memory function. But limited benefits were shown for sustained engagement in social activities. So, engaging your mind in educational activities is a big positive for your brain. Learning this way might be vital in maintaining healthy cognitive function as you age.

Source:

National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Population Health



**WE ARE COLLECTING LOOSE
CHANGE TO HELP SUPPORT
WATER FOR LIFE!**



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT CAROL HOFER
(586) 871-1278 | CAROLHOFER@AOL.COM



Operation Layette

BY JAN POPOWICH

Dear CCW Sisters,

I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful weather, some good family time, and the more leisurely pace of life. Although busy with summer activities, many still find time to support Operation Layette. Once again, huge thank yous are in order!

Our Lady of the Angels Rosary Altar Society hosted a parish-wide baby shower in May. I was grateful to attend, enjoy the delicious meal, and meet many lovely, generous women! In addition to a car full of layette items, many handmade, a very generous monetary donation was given. And then, a few weeks later, I picked up another carful of diapers, burp cloths, and layette bags!

Thank you, Debbie Watson, for hosting this marvelous event!

May also brought Our Lady of La Salette's annual Baby Bud Tree. This beautiful outreach program is parish-wide.

Donations are made to Operation Layette from Palm Sunday through Mother's Day. A flower is put on the tree as a donation is made, and by Mother's Day, the tree is in full bloom (see photo below).



Thank you, Cindy Jaegar, for continuing to chair this beautiful event!



Crib sheets, bath towels, and diaper rash creams were purchased with generous donations from Our Lady of the Angel's parish.

By June, I thought that the “baby shower” season was over but not so...

Joanne Nareski and the St. Cyprian Ladies Guild hosted their event, and more lovely layette items were donated, once again beautifully handmade.

I would also like to share a special thank you to Laura and Gina Gregory.

This mother-daughter team has been knitting beautiful baby blankets for us for several months. They are kind enough to mail their donations to me so I can get them into the layettes as soon as possible. Laura has also donated beautiful prayer cards to add to our layettes. Like the rest of you, I know these ladies are putting their heart and soul into our program.

Many have asked how our layettes are distributed. Right now, they are going out through five different pregnancy aid agencies. I want to highlight these agencies, one today and others in upcoming articles.

Second Chance Counseling Services, MIHP, is a program that offers multiple services to help an expectant mom have a successful birth outcome. Resources and referrals are available for counseling, housing, transportation, baby care items, and support from pregnancy through the infant’s first year. We are proud to be able to help support **Second Chance Counseling** in a small way! Please contact me if you are interested in more information about this agency.

May God continue to bless you, my friends, as we enjoy this beautiful summer season!

Jan Popowich
Operation Layette



The photo above is from Our Lady of La Salette’s Baby Bud Tree program for Operation Layette.



In our last Communique, I asked for washable, colorful fabric donations for our Operation Layette bags. **Thanks to Elaine Morrow from St Martin de Porres Parish and Rita Maher, Saginaw’s CCW president, for fabric donations. It will be put to good use!**

If you have fabric to donate or want to sew pillowcase-size layette bags, don't hesitate to **contact Jan Popowich at 586-212-0434.**

Membership Corner

BY KATHLEEN PENNO

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our beautiful Council. Bring a friend to our gatherings and invite her to become the Voice of Catholic Women!

WELCOME BACK!

St. Basil - Affiliate

Dorothy Singel - President

IF YOU WANT YOUR PARISH TO HOST A MEETING FOR THE 2024 CALENDAR YEAR, CONTACT SHARON DIGIOVANNI.

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

SHARE YOUR NEWS, STORIES, ARTICLES, IDEAS, AND PHOTOS!

**NEXT ARTICLE DEADLINE
AUGUST 31, 2023**

Please send any content suggestions to Isabella at isabella_agby@hotmail.com or text | call 248-763-7195.

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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 in our community and abroad.

Visit us online at:

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