

# COMMUNIQUE

SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER 2023

Volume 36 No. 5

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*And more...*

## President's Corner

BY SHARON DI GIOVANNI

**Greetings from your President!** I am writing today to update you on my attendance at the NCCW Convention! It was five days packed with fun, information, and spiritual renewal. I am still overloaded as I prepare this writing. I hope to share with CCW some new ideas that we learned.

Salt Lake City is very nice, with lots of history. I was able to tour and see some landmarks as well as the Cathedral of Madeleine. They held a holy hour of Adoration there the first evening in town. **Some snapshots from the conference are included on the back cover!**

Everyone was friendly, and we were tagged the Catholic Women since we were identified by our big blue name badges. Still, the most impressive part of the day was Mass with 20-25 priests and a minimum of 2 Bishops at each daily Mass.

I want to recap what has been happening within CCW. We had a general Membership meeting on August 19. Nancy Trela lead us in a decade of the Rosary along with sitting yoga. We had updates from the Service commissions that were in attendance. **Thank you to all that attended.**

Our next meeting is October 21st at St. Isaac Jogues in St Clair Shores, 10-12. We have a Human Traffic speaker. Bring a book to exchange and a friend – a sister, a neighbor, your Pastor to attend.

We are also having our Christmas Gathering on Dec 9th at The Gazebo, so look for ticket information in the Communique.

We also are starting to secure plans for our 85th Anniversary Celebration. Save the Date – April 28, 2024. Watch for updates!

In conclusion, I want to share words from St. Augustine, Lord, renew in Your Church the spirit which You inspired in St Augustine, Your Bishop, filled by his spirit, may we thirst after You as the true Source of wisdom. Amen.

*Sharon Di Giovanni*

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

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**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

**SEE THE FLYER INSIDE FOR  
RESERVATION DETAILS!**

**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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# UPCOMING MEETING REMINDER!

**Saturday, October 21**

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**St. Isaac Jogues**

21100 Madison Street

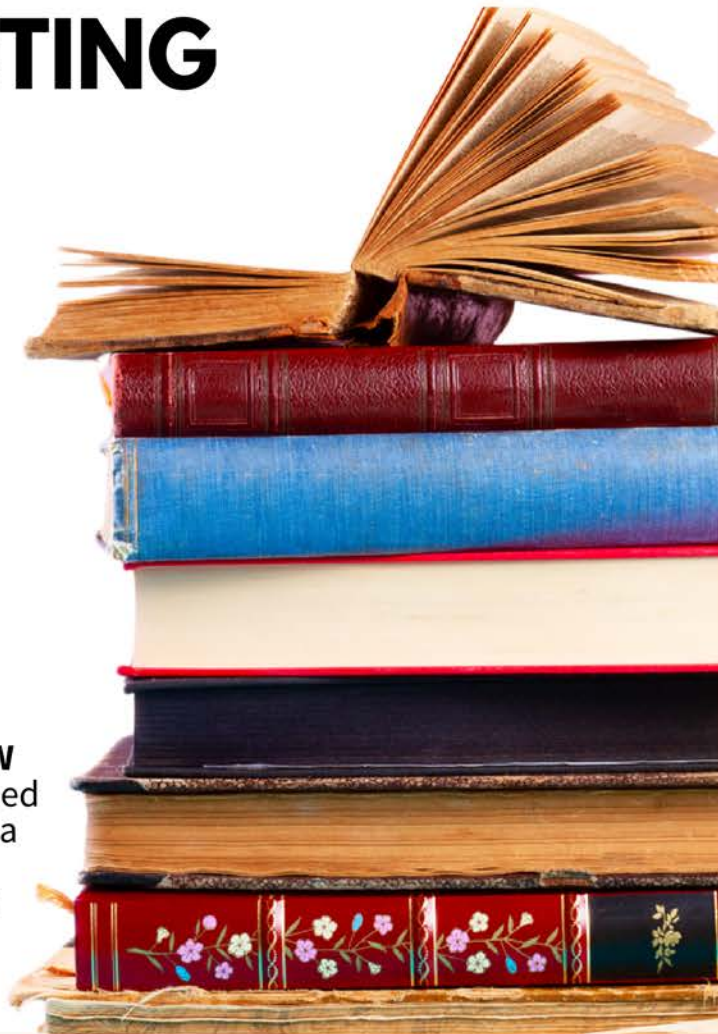
St Clair Shores, MI

**Special Guest Speaker:**

Janet Miller | Human Trafficking

## INTRODUCING THE CCW BOOK EXCHANGE!

At this meeting, we will also introduce the **CCW Book Exchange**! Do you have an unwanted used or new book to pass along? Consider bringing a book you have read and want to giveaway. Books will not be returned, so make sure it's a book you can part with. You will also have the chance to take a book from the exchange!



*Quenched*  
YOU WILL BE LIKE A WELL-WATERED GARDEN

SATURDAY • OCTOBER 21

9AM-5PM • LANSING CENTER • LANSING, MI



## MICHIGAN CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE ON OCTOBER 21, 2023 IN LANSING!

This year's theme is Quenched: "...and you shall be like a watered garden, like a flowing spring whose waters never fail." *Isaiah 58:11*.

The conference will feature three incredible Catholic speakers, songs, testimonies, and Eucharistic Adoration, ending with Mass celebrated with local Bishops. Lunch is included, and vendors will be present with beautiful items to sell. Go to [MichiganCWC.org](https://MichiganCWC.org) to register today!

### ALL CCW | AD MEMBERS ARE INVITED!

Saturday, September 23 | 1 - 3 p.m.

*The Women of Faith* group at *St. Paul of Tarsus* Catholic Church in Clinton Township invites all CCW | AD Members to their speaker series on Saturday, September 23 featuring Sheri Wohlfert.

Attendees will also enjoy a musical performance by a local Marian quartet and light refreshments in our Social Hall. All are welcome to stay to pray the rosary in Church at 3:15 p.m., followed by Mass at 4 p.m.

# Human Trafficking Commission

BY GEORGETTE ANDERS

Human Trafficking is a form of modern slavery in every state, including Michigan. The NHTH works closely with service providers, law enforcement, and other professionals in Michigan to serve victims of trafficking, respond to human trafficking cases, and share information and resources.

These are the most recent statistics available from the NHTH (National Human Trafficking Hotline) and the State of Michigan



## National Statistics (Since 2007)

### Signals

The Human Trafficking Hotline has received over 8,000 signals (e.g., calls, text messages, online reports, email) since its inception.

Hotline Calls:	7,285
SMS Reports:	748
Online Reports:	651
Emails Received:	105

### Cases

Since its inception, the Human Trafficking Hotline has identified over 2,000 cases of human trafficking, and 5,367 victims were identified in these cases.

1,186 signals were received  
526 signals received were from victims or survivors of human trafficking

## State of Michigan Statistics (2021)

### How do contacts hear about the Hotline?

It is helpful for us to learn how people hear about the Hotline so that we can strategically advertise to reach more victims and survivors. However, we are not always able to collect this information during every conversation.

### Ways the Hotline was Found:

Referrals:	6
Training/Conference:	6
Internet:	5
Other:	1,169

### How do contacts reach the Hotline?

People can contact the Hotline by phone, text, chat, online form, and email. Most people contact the hotline by phone or text.

### Signal Types:

Hotline Call:	943
SMS Report:	150
Online Report:	56
Email Received:	24
Web Chat:	13

### What types of trafficking cases were reported?

The Hotline receives tips about situations involving sex trafficking, labor trafficking, sex and labor trafficking, and situations where the type of trafficking may be unknown or not specified.

#### Types of Trafficking:

Sex: **238**  
Labor: **18**  
Sex and Labor: **11**

#### Venues for Sex Trafficking

Hotel/Motel Based: **30**  
Residence-Based: **27**  
Commercial Sex: **n/a**  
Pornography: **20**  
Illicit Massage/Spa Business: **16**  
Online Ad Venue Unknown: **15**  
Hostess/Strip Club-Based: **3**  
Other: **127**

#### Venues for Labor Trafficking

Domestic Work: **6**  
Other: **12**

### What was the primary request in each case?

People contact the Hotline to report a tip, request a referral, or contact for crisis-related services such as immediate shelter or crisis response.

#### Requests on Human Trafficking Cases:

Report a Trafficking Tip: **208**  
Access Service REferrals: **71**  
REquest Crisis Assistance: **15**

### Case Demographics

The Hotline only collects demographic information for victims and survivors in a trafficking situation when appropriate. These numbers are not cumulative as one case could involve multiple victims and survivors.

#### Ages:

Adults **202**  
Minors **77**

#### Genders:

Females **252**  
Males **28**

#### Citizenships:

US Citizen or LPR **21**  
(Lawful Permanent Residents)  
Foreign Nationals **9**

## *Reminder* → **WHAT OUR EYES ARE NOT SEEING: HUMAN TRAFFICKING PRESENTATION**

This is a reminder that at our upcoming meeting, we will welcome Janet Miller RDH, BS, who will give a presentation about Human Trafficking.

She will include tips on identifying suspected victims and abusers and who to contact. You will also learn more about...

- Understanding the different types of human trafficking
- Identifying the Trafficker
- Identifying the Victim
- The Business of Human Trafficking
- Myths and misinformation
- Procedures to report abuse
- Resources

**Saturday, October 21**  
**10 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

**St. Isaac Jogues**  
**21100 Madison Street**  
**St Clair Shores, MI**

# *Spirituality Commission*

BY JUDY BERNARDI

## **Something to Ponder...** *Prayer and Poetry*

I found a poem while reviewing my Intro to Catholic Faith course papers. It was given to me by my then-instructor, Mr. John Laginess. Thomas Merton, a Trappist Monk, theologian, and writer, wrote this poem. The poem is as follows:

“My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.”

*-Thomas Merton*

**Judy Bernardi**  
Spirituality Commission



# Mental Health Commission

BY BEVERLY DUBES

## September is Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month - *How to Help Someone You Know...*

By starting the conversation, providing support, and directing help to those who need it, we can help prevent suicides and save lives. If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. You are not alone.

### TALK.

Your willingness to express your concern for the person in crisis can be the first step in getting that person's help.

### LISTEN.

Being an active listener is another way of reminding a person in crisis that they are not alone.

### REMAIN PRESENT.

Your physical and emotional presence in the person's life makes a difference. If you are worried about their safety, get help from a mental health professional immediately.

### CALL OR TEXT 988.

Last year, 988 was activated as a new three-digit dialing code. When someone dials 988, they will be connected to the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. This confidential support line is available 24 hours a day to provide free help to people in suicidal crisis or mental health-related distress.

#### Source:

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)



## 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,

Summer is winding down, our children and grandchildren are back at school, and the leaves will turn before we know it. I pray that each of you had a fun-filled and relaxing summer and are looking forward to some “sweater weather”.

In our last Communique, I told you about Second Chance Counseling, an agency that receives our layettes. This article highlights St. Rita Family Services. This agency serves refugees and other non-English-speaking families from the Middle East. A big part of their focus is to assist pregnant mothers and their newborn infants to reduce infant mortality and provide support, encouragement, and empowerment. They are grateful to receive our layettes to distribute to the moms and infants that they serve.

***I was happy to meet with Kelly Dotson, who coordinates the Walking With Moms in Need program through the Archdiocese and Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan***

The summer months brought a slowdown in donations, but it gave me time to network. I was happy to meet with Kelly Dotson, who coordinates the Walking With Moms in Need program through the Archdiocese and Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan. She was also happy to learn more about our program. Kelly and I met at the Royal Oak Catholic Charities office, where we store our layette items, make up the layettes, and distribute them. We were able to brainstorm about both our needs and especially on ways to distribute more layettes. I’m hoping that through our mutual efforts, we’ll be able to reach more moms who could use our help.



*The beautiful handiwork of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) sewers from Catholic Charities and AmeriCorps Seniors*

This summer, I was also introduced to the works of Catholic Charities’ Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). This program is part of AmeriCorps Seniors, which is a national program supporting volunteers who are 55+. The program assists interested adults in finding volunteer opportunities that suit their interests and abilities. In the tri-county area, Catholic Charities sponsors three of these programs. One of the programs (RSVP) has partnered with us to sew layette bags and receive blankets, burp cloths, and diaper bags. They knit and crochet beautiful blankets, hats, and sweaters as well. We can distribute these items as fast as they come in, and the sewers are happy to have their beautiful items going to a worthy cause. I’m just grateful that we’ve found each other!



*More of the beautiful hand sewn bags from the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) sewers from Catholic Charities and AmeriCorps Seniors*

Donations will be picking up again with Right to Life month and the Christmas season coming up. We've been so blessed with donations that we will hopefully be able to distribute a few more layettes per month. We just need to find out where the need is. Please, if you know of a group or an individual who could use our layettes, just reach out to me. I always have a few extra layettes made up, just in case!

Before I sign off, one more big thank you to Kathy Metzger and Irene Warren for donating bags full of baby items and to Sandy Richards for a generous donation of money. (Sandy, I bought diaper rash cream.)

As always, we are doing God's work. Thank you for your ongoing generosity and may God continue to bless you and yours!

**Jan Popowich**  
Operation Layette

## **Legislation Advocacy**

BY JULIE RACINE

The NCCW annual convention concluded last month in Salt Lake City, Utah. Although expensive, it is always a very worthwhile affair. There was a workshop on the importance of voting. Statistics say that only a few eligible voters go to the polls. It is crucial to any cause to vote for the majority. Also, absentee voting makes it easy. Remember the election and make the effort. Let's help someone get to the polls. This goes for the ballots for council on the local and national fronts.

**Julie Racine**  
Legislation Advocacy

# *Membership Corner*

BY KATHLEEN PENNO

## *Why become a member of The Council of Catholic Women Archdiocese of Detroit?*

- We are an **AFFILIATE** of the National Council of Catholic Women - **[www.nccw.org](http://www.nccw.org)**
- Join women across the diocese of Detroit who have provided a path, a journey to meet Jesus for almost 85 years. We provide an encounter with Jesus through our spiritual and corporal works of mercy.
- All Catholic parishes and organizations, as well as all Catholic women who pay their dues and subscribe to the purposes of our (Spirituality-Leadership-Service), are asked to join.

**I sincerely thank and appreciate all our members and affiliates who continue to support the Council with their dues and donations!**

*Have you read 2 or 3 books you would love to share with others?*  
Join us on **Saturday, October 21**, between **10 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

Take part in the Council of Catholic Women Archdiocese of Detroit's meeting/gathering. Join us for our first-ever book change and hear speaker Janet Miller talk about Human Trafficking.

**Chair lift available!**

Questions? Contact - Katheen Penno  
**586-772-1976** or **[krpkath@hotmail.com](mailto:krpkath@hotmail.com)**



# *Past President Corner*

BY LORRAINE MCFEE

## SAVE THE DATE

**SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024**

**Please mark your calendar for Sunday, April 28, 2024!  
As we celebrate 85 Years of CCW/AD!**

Plans are currently underway. Details and opportunities to help plan this impressive celebration will also be announced in future Communique editions.

For now, please **save the date!**

**WHEN:** Sunday, April 28, 2024  
**Mass at 11 a.m.**  
in the Convent Chapel

**WHERE:** The Felician Sisters Motherhouse  
36800 Schoolcraft Rd. in Livonia!

## *Remembering our Members and Spouses*

Please let me know when one of our members and/or spouses has entered eternal life. We have an annual memorial Mass every November but I like to keep in touch with the families at the time of passing.

This year, we lost members **Jackie Manick** (St. Alphonsus/St. Clement) on March 12, 2023, and **Marvel Boyd** (Our Lady of the Angels) on May 20, 2023. **May they rest in peace!**

**Lorraine McFee**

313-563-1734 | [sweetlor@earthlink.net](mailto:sweetlor@earthlink.net)



Outside of the Cathedral of the Madeleine



CCW|AD Human Trafficking Commission Chair Georgette Anders (l) and President Sharon Di Giovanni (r) Inside of the Cathedral of the Madeleine



Inside of the Cathedral of the Madeleine

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

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

Visit us online at:

**WWW.CCW-AOD.WEEBLY.COM**

### **Council of Catholic Women | AD** *Mission Statement*

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.

**NEXT ARTICLE DEADLINE  
OCTOBER 6, 2023**

Please send any content suggestions to Isabella Agby at [isabella\\_agby@hotmail.com](mailto:isabella_agby@hotmail.com) or text | call 248-763-7195.