Greetings from Ann Jansky, President!

I sit here with mixed feelings in writing my last NewsNotes letter as your LDCCW President. In just six weeks, the gavel will pass to Terri Sullivan of Wallace, NE. She will be an excellent role model and leader for this organization going forward, and I await her guidance and inspiration during the next two years. Terri, may the Holy Spirit guide you every step of the way and may you feel the prayers and loving support of us all.

The LDCCW lost a dear friend on December 13, 2015, with the death of Past President, Rose Marie Grof of Tecumseh, who passed away as the result of a car accident. Rose Marie led the Lincoln Diocesan Council of Catholic Women as President from 1988-1990 and remained an active member until her death. She will be missed. May she rest in peace.

Approximately 45 of the 134 parishes in the Lincoln Diocese have returned the Charitable Works Survey which was originally emailed to each parish e-secretary on November 15 along with other end of year documents. The results from this survey will be included in the LDCCW Convention booklet to demonstrate the generosity of the LDCCW. The original deadline was January 31, but I would still gladly accept these surveys from parishes who have not yet reported. A reminder email was recently sent to all e-secretaries, so please take a moment to complete the survey for your parish if it hasn’t already been done. Surveys may be emailed or mailed to Ann Jansky, 168 Co. Rd. I, Friend, NE 68359; arjansky@gmail.com.

There will be a short business meeting at the LDCCW Convention on Saturday, April 15. During this meeting, the amended Bylaws revision, which was read, discussed and amended at previous Full Board meetings, will be presented for adoption. Each parish is encouraged to send two (2) voting delegates to the LDCCW Convention to vote on this important issue. You must complete and return the Parish Voting Delegate Credential Card, which was emailed to each parish e-secretary, in order to vote. The Convention agenda and registration form are included in this issue of NewsNotes. I hope to see many of you in McCool and/or York!

Thank you to those who have attended or prayed for the success of the following LDCCW events during the past few months: 6th Annual Winter Symposium, Ash Wednesday Day of Recollection and Catholics at the Capitol. I invite each of you to consider attending the LDCCW pre-convention banquet at McCool Junction on the evening of April 15 and/or the 60th Biennial Convention in York on April 16. It is your chance to celebrate your Catholic faith with women & men from across the entire Lincoln Diocese. You won’t be disappointed!

We are in the Year of Mercy. There are a variety of places to go for more information and ideas of how to celebrate including:

- The official website from the Vatican: www.jubilaeummisericordiae.va.
- The Diocese of Lincoln website: www.lincolndiocese.org/mercy

May God bless you for your participation (whether big or small) in serving your local parishes, deaneries and the Lincoln Diocese. Wishing you a meaningful Lenten season & a Blessed Easter!

~Ann~
Dear NewsNotes Readers,

Trivia— We have a fifth Monday of February this year. I notice this because I have a meeting in the parish every Monday night except the 5th Monday! It seems this happens every 28 years. So, I’ll be at the Spirit Catholic Radio dinner that night. Sure I’ll see some of you.

Thank you to all who helped the Winter Symposium be an event of benefit. It benefitted the participants, the presenters and the recipients of the things made there to be shared - St. Gianna’s home residents. It also benefitted the families of the participants who were blessed by their spiritual growth and inspiration from the talks and prayers.

The Francis Effect continues with our upcoming biennial LDCCW Convention! May Pope Francis and his name sake St. Francis be our model of living our faith in service as we cooperate with the grace of God. Biennial here means every two years rather than twice per year. This is the opportunity to celebrate what has been accomplished in the past two years under the leadership of President Ann Jansky and her board members. I hope each of you will try to participate in as much of the convention and pre-convention activities you are able. Many good speakers plus a very funny and talented magician, Mr. Gayle Becwar. Ann has led us very energetically. This will be a chance to thank her.

We will welcome our new president, from Wallace, Terri Sullivan, at the convention with her Kickoff meeting. I look forward to her two-year term and the board she is assembling with the help of the nominating committee. It is a team effort for the LDCCW to continue serving the Church.

May your Lent be a time of growth. It is a season of great graces plus it is the Year of Mercy! Expect great things. Prepare for Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday. Let God’s Mercy flow!

May God bless all of us with the joy of the Gospel.

Assistant Spiritual Advisor—Fr. Thomas McGuire

cell 402-759-1392  frthomasmcguire@yahoo.com

TO PRIESTS: Working with Parish Organizations of Women

As you know, every Altar Society/PCCW is different so I’m making generalizations. From the following thoughts, use what you find helpful in working with women’s organization(s) in the parish:

1. Be grateful for the parish women as God’s daughters. Think of who they are before thinking of what they do. Most of our parishes are small, some small enough that they are like a family. Priests come and go; we get assigned to be the head of the family for a time, so to speak. Many women have lived their whole lives in the parish. They know who lost a loved one ten years ago and may still struggle with grief; who had a wonderful business for thirty years but went bankrupt and comes back just to visit; whose children are married, whose are divorced; who used to be Catholic; who is searching; what friends of theirs are buried in the parish cemetery. They are on the front lines of living in this world. Respect their experience and remind them of their vocation. And be grateful simply for their presence in the parish ‘family’.

2. Be open to their input. Ask: What do you think the goals of the parish should be? What are some goals you want for this women’s organization? Listen. Are the tasks/projects being done meeting these goals? If not, ask the whole group if they want to look at where they are now and where they want to be. Can change happen without crushing each other’s feelings with strong opinions and comments?

3. If together you make the difficult decision to go thru a self-evaluation, you might ask Fr. Joe Walsh for ideas. When he was in North Platte, he used his experience of evaluating social organizations. Their group was able to identify goals and people with the qualities to best help the parish set things up for success. It was a positive experience with positive outcomes. Fr. Walsh cannot do it for you, but, if he’s willing, he can give you a written speech that is a good explanation of what they did.
Attention all Deanery Presidents and Historians!

Hopefully, each of our 13 deaneries in the diocese has a President along with a deanery Historian.

I hope to have a display at the convention in York with a scrapbook from each deanery. Either the President or the Historian can bring it for display on Saturday. (We will be at Stone Creek Event Center on Friday, so the display will only be on Saturday at St. Joseph’s in York) You can leave it with the registration table when you come.

There will be no scrapbook contest this year, only a chance to “look and learn” as we share ideas. Your deanery scrapbook should contain brochures, photos, and news clippings from each parish and should show activity over the past 2 years. There will be a table for their display.

PRESIDENT’S NOTE: One year ago, Melody Jurgens, Crete Deanery Leadership Commission Chairman, agreed to share her journey (with Stage 4 lung cancer) in the March 2015 NewsNotes. Melody had a faith that was courageous and unwavering, up to the day she died. It was her suggestion that the LDCCW continue printing similar stories in future issues of the NewsNotes under the title, “Faith Matters”. So Melody, this one’s for you. Your example and trust in the Lord was undeniable and will never be forgotten. May you rest in peace.

“Faith Matters” by Nancy Thies
Falls City Deanery Leadership Commission Chairman

As a child and teenager, I went to the Methodist Church and Methodist Youth Fellowship. When I met my husband-to-be, I started going to the Catholic Church with a girlfriend. I took instructions with the local Priest and joined the Church! Next to marrying my husband, the best decision I have ever made was joining the Catholic Church; it felt so right and still does.

I really needed my Faith when child number 4 was born. His legs were paralyzed and he weighed four pounds and four ounces. They transferred him to St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Lincoln.

This was when I needed my Faith the most, and it was about the only thing that kept things together for me. We had one Doctor who told us that it would probably be best if he didn't "make it". Another Doctor said we should put him into a "home". There was no doubt in my mind that we could all survive with God's help, and we did.

There are always challenges in our lives, and sometimes we get it into our heads that God is far away---but he is not!

Our son has had his own apartment for several years now, and works out of it taking reservations for a major hotel chain. He also has a great faith. So many times when he was a child going to a Doctor or therapist in Omaha, he would tell me how lucky he was compared to the many other children we would see.
The Year for Consecrated Life ended on February 2, 2016, the feast day of the Presentation of Our Lord. A Mass was held by Bishop James Conley at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ on (snow date) February 4, to honor the religious of the Lincoln Diocese. The feast day of the Presentation of the Lord is a fitting date to end the year honoring those who give their lives to Christ, because it is not an “end” but a beginning. The Consecrated continue to be “presented” in the Church—to do the work of the Lord for the rest of their lives. “I have no hands but your hands,” says Jesus, to us all.

The Jubilee Year of Mercy, began on December 8, 2015, the feast day of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, and will end on Sunday, November 21, 2016, which is the Feast day of Christ the King. Pope Francis has declared this year as one to forgive and accept all peoples, faults and failings and differences. It is very hard to ask forgiveness of one whom you have wronged, but prayerfully consider doing so. I have made a ‘list’ of those whom I have not been kind to…and using the Year of Mercy reason, simply asked them for their forgiveness—four of five have responded VERY well, and I am so happy. The last person has not answered me…but I wait in hope that our misunderstandings will smooth out over time. I pray for that person. If any of you have a story to tell, I would be glad to share it in NewsNotes here, to help others be forgiving and ask it.

Since we are in the midst of Lent, please consider taking up penance now, if you have not had a good “start” to this Lent yet. Take up your cross and make the best Lent yet. Go out of your way to do a kind deed each day. Penance does not have to be a suffering; it can be a happy thing—make a meal for your local pastor. Priests today do not have cooks and housekeepers, so must do their daily chores as we do. How about a good house-cleaning for the parish rectory? DO the Spiritual & Corporal Works of Mercy!

During Lent we might focus on The Apostolate of Suffering. In the mid 1950’s, Clara Tiry began a mission whereby those suffering could unite their illnesses as prayer for the world. Bishop Emeritus Bruskewitz has served as national Chairman for this organization, and Fr. Christopher Kubat has been the chairman for our Diocese of Lincoln for many years. It is a simple program, just knowing that offering your suffering with others for the greater good, you are part of the Communion of Saints, the Faithful on Earth; you have importance in making the world a holier place. Offer up your maladies for intentions you wish. If you would like to join the official Apostolate of Suffering, contact frckubat@cssius.org, 402-474-1600. Many Catholics in assisted living homes or care centers feel unconnected to the Church. Help someone join. Signing up for the newsletter for one year is $5.00; a lifetime membership is $20.00.

For information on Religious Awards for Girls (including Girl Scout awards), contact me or Fr. Matthew Eickhoff at the Diocesan Family Life Office, 402-488-2040 or catholicflo@cdolinc.net.

Prayer of Pope Francis for the Jubilee

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved. Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief. Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: "If you knew the gift of God!"

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified. You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God. Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind. We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - April 3, 2016

Pope Francis writes, "Jesus affirms that mercy is not only an action of the Father, it becomes a criterion for ascertaining who his true children are.' This means that to be faithful to the mercy shown us by the Father we must be mercy for others. It is the Pope's desire that "we may become a more effective sign of the Father's actions in our lives". Indeed, the motto for this Year of Mercy is "Merciful like the Father." It is an invitation to change our hearts and our behaviors.

We are asked that during this jubilee year all dioceses increase access to the Sacrament of Penance, particularly during Lent. Our pope also asked that Catholics pray about the mystery of mercy in their lives and engage in concrete action that shows mercy to the poor and isolated. The spiritual and corporal works of mercy are especially recommended.

The request by Jesus that the Feast of Divine Mercy be celebrated the week after Easter is also recorded in the diary of St. Faustina. "I desire the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls and, especially for poor sinners….The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment." (Diary 699)

♦ Read the Register and your parish bulletin for time of Holy Hours on Divine Mercy Sunday with Bishop Conley at Hastings and Bishop Emeritus Bruskewitz in Lincoln.
♦ Thank you to all who purchased Divine Mercy yard signs.
♦ Daily Inspirations for Divine Mercy website: LiveMercy.org

The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of March 2016

Universal: That families in need may receive the necessary support and that children may grow up in healthy & peaceful environments.
Evangelization: That those Christians who, on account of their faith, are discriminated against or are being persecuted, may remain strong and faithful to the Gospel, thanks to the incessant prayer of the Church.

Spring Greetings from your Province Director – Barb Vaughn
bobbarvvaughn@aol.com  402-215-1309 (cell) or 402-292-1617

I’m counting on green grass and maybe a few early flowers by the time you read this, unlike our recent NCCW board meeting in January where we were snowed in for an extra day and a half in Washington, D.C.!

At our board meeting, we approved a new logo for the Council of Catholic Women, which should be available in the near future. I think you’ll be pleased!

Begin making plans to attend the NCCW Convention which will be held September 7 – 10, 2016, in Indianapolis, Indiana. If you sign up a new NCCW Individual Member by May 15, 2016, your name will go into a drawing for a free trip to the 2016 NCCW Convention. Forms are available on our website: www.nccw.org We are looking into the possibility of taking a bus to convention. Let us hear from you if interested.

In 2003, the NCCW made a cookbook with recipes from members all around the world. This cookbook will be updated for the 2016 NCCW Convention. We would love to have you add your favorite recipe to the book; be sure to include your name and state. Cookbooks should be ordered in advance and can be picked up at Convention or mailed to you. The cost of the book is $25 with the insert, or $8 for the insert only if you already have the cookbook. Recipes and/or orders must be received by July 15. Complete information can be found at www.nccw.org or by calling Joyce Schmitt at 317-745-5012, or contact me.
As this may be the last newsnotes I write as service commission chairman, I want to cover as much as I can. Please say the following prayer for continued service to the church. Thank you for your time you dedicate to God, your church and to others, your reward will be immense:

O Dearly beloved Word of God, teach me to be generous, to serve Thee as Thou dost deserve, to give without counting the cost, to fight without fretting at my wounds, to labor without seeking rest, to spend myself without looking for any reward other than that of knowing that I do Thy holy will. Amen

Service Commission – What is it?

I decided to Google service commission and after looking at several websites, I decided to share this one with you. The Service Commission responds to the human family according to the Gospel mandates. Diversity of gifts, talents and resources of hundreds of volunteers enables our parish family to provide presence, support and assistance to those in need. Through the coordinated efforts of parishioners, staff members and the parish tithing programs, our outreach is not only local, but national and international in scope. We strive to study, promote and develop joint action on social justice and peace issues and provide in-service and enrichment for our members. This definition or mission statement talks about every one of our parishes. The “church ladies” are vital to every parish and shows how important YOU are to your parish. But, there is so much to do in the service department. How can I or my parish possibly participate in each project our LDCCW endorses? The answer is simple, you can’t. You need to pick out one or two projects that give meaning to your parish or to you. Most of our parishes already participate in the Diaper Drive, Rice Bowl and Advent Baby Shower, which are very rewarding projects. Listed below are different projects LDCCW suggests, followed by a brief summary:

Apostles For Life: Apostles for Life is a support program by which an individual pledges to give $1 month to assist our pregnancy centers.

Bishops’ Pastoral Plan for Pro-life Activities: This program includes several projects such as Project Rachel (offers assistance & counseling to women who suffer from an abortion) and Pro-Life Conferences which are held annually. You can find more information at www.necatholic.org

Chastity Programs: Promotes the Family Life Office’s programs for young men and women to help understand the gift of sexuality.

Community, Health, Respite and Safety: promotes awareness of community health issues.

Community Service Projects: encourages women to volunteer in their communities (besides all the work you do for your church)

Catholic Relief Services; Works of Peace Programs: Partnership with specific needs of poor women and children around the world including Madonna Plan, Help-A-Child, Water for Life and Refugee for Women Emergency Fund.

Healing Hearts: Support those who grieve a recent death or divorce-contact Family Life Office for information.

Missionary Childhood Association: This in Bontia English’s passion. She has done so much work for this program. We encourage each parish to assist its youth programs with one MCA fundraiser a year.

National Children’s Day to Honor Mary held each year in October

Prison Ministry: Collect catechism, bibles and other religious items to be given at correctional centers.

Promote Engaged & Marriage Encounter Retreats

Support Catholic Social Services

Promote Senior Citizen awareness/activities

As you can see from the list above, there is so much to do in the service commission department. I ask you not feel overwhelmed and as I mentioned before, please select one or two activities in addition to the Diaper Drive and Advent Baby Shower to promote in your parish.

In Christ’s Love,

Diane Wehrman
It is hard to believe that Ann Jansky’s term is coming to a close in April. Looking back at the past two years, we have taken the organization of the LDCCW to a whole new level.

Two years ago we found ourselves searching through several papers from deaneries looking for key voting members of the LDCCW. Today the diocesan roster is on a live spreadsheet which enables all to go in and update their own PCCW’s (Altar Society) information.

As we move forward, communication will continue to be the number one priority in the future years. Social media avenues, NewsNotes, and emails will bring the Lincoln Diocesan Council of Catholic Women into the 21st century.

The National Council of Catholic Women is an invaluable source to the strength of your council. Please gift a membership to your commission chairs. Their job is to insure the information is shared and strengthened in the council. As a bonus, you could receive free admittance to the 2016 National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.

This May is the time when many councils change their officers. If you are asked to be an officer, please say yes. I could not have said it better so I chose to pull from the NCCW newsletter, the February Connect.

“The ability to lead or influence others is integral to every aspect of our lives. Whatever your stage in life, if you are a woman engaged in your church, community and world, then you need to be knowledgeable and action-oriented to make a contribution. If you are a mother or grandmother, you influence the children and adults in your families. You don't have to be famous or the “leader of the pack”-- just having the skills to best utilize your abilities to follow the path of Jesus can make a remarkable difference.

The strength of the National Council of Catholic Women is grounded in its members, women who make a difference based on the spiritual foundation of their lives.”

Watch for upcoming training is being planned at the various deaneries; please be open to attending various training sessions throughout the upcoming months and encourage all officers and members to attend.

Legislative

This is a presidential election year. Please pray for the candidates that they make good and moral decisions for our country. Don’t forget to vote! Plan to make your voice heard at the Primary Election Day on May 10, 2016.

Continue to pray for the law makers as they work through the legislative session. Make use of the Nebraska Catholic Conference by going to their website http://necatholic.org/news/ to find action alerts and updates to keep your family’s freedom secure.
Lincoln Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Mark Your Calendar!

- April 3, 2016—Divine Mercy Sunday
- April 15-16, 2016—LDCCW Banquet @ McCool Junction and 60th LDCCW Biennial Convention @ York
- July 18, 2016—Province Meeting @ Blessed Sacrament, Grand Island

MARCH 2016 SAINTS AND LITURGICAL DATES

The month of March is dedicated to St. Joseph. The beginning of March falls during the liturgical season of Lent which is represented by the liturgical color purple — a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart. The remainder of the month falls in the Easter season in which white, the color of light, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence, is the liturgical color.

MARIAN FEASTS / WOMEN SAINTS:

- March 3: St. Katharine Drexel (USA) – Optional Memorial NOTE: St. Katharine is the only canonized Catholic Saint documented to have been in Nebraska! St. Katharine Drexel, Pray for us!
- March 7: Saints Perpetua and Felicity, martyrs – Memorial
- March 19: Saint Joseph Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Solemnity
- March 25: Annunciation of the Lord - Solemnity is replaced by Good Friday (Triduum) – Day of Fasting & Abstinence

DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH:

- March 18: Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop and doctor - Optional Memorial

MARCH LITURGICAL CALENDAR

- March 3: St. Katharine Drexel (USA) – Optional Memorial NOTE: St. Katharine is the only canonized Catholic Saint documented to have been in Nebraska. St. Katharine Drexel, Pray for us!
- March 4: Friday of Lent; FIRST FRIDAY; Saint Casimir - Optional Memorial; Stations of the Cross; DAY OF ABSTINENCE
- March 5: FIRST SATURDAY
- March 6: Fourth Sunday of Lent; Laetare Sunday
- March 7: Saints Perpetua and Felicity, martyrs - Memorial
- March 8: Saint John of God, religious - Optional Memorial
- March 9: Saint Frances of Rome, religious - Optional Memorial
- March 11: Friday of Lent; Stations of the Cross; DAY OF ABSTINENCE
- March 13: Fifth Sunday of Lent; Crosses & Statues may be covered; Daylight Savings Time Begins
- March 17: Saint Patrick, bishop - Optional Memorial
- March 18: Friday of Lent; Stations of the Cross; DAY OF ABSTINENCE Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop and doctor - Optional Memorial
- March 19: Saint Joseph Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Solemnity; (Gloria is used!)
- March 20: Palm Sunday - Holy Week Begins
- March 21: Chrism Mass 5PM@Cathedral with the Bishop (Diocese of Lincoln)
- March 23: Spy Wednesday
- March 24: Holy or Maundy Thursday (Triduum); Lent officially ends before the Mass of the Lord's Supper which starts the Triduum; Night Watch & Visiting (7) churches
- March 25: Annunciation of the Lord - Solemnity is replaced by Good Friday (Triduum) – No Mass is permitted; Altar is stripped; Veneration of the Cross takes place; Stations of the Cross; REMINDER: GOOD FRIDAY IS A DAY OF FAST & ABSTINENCE. Fasting means eating one full meal with two smaller meals, which together do not equal the full meal. No snacks or eating between allowed. Fasting obliges Catholics 18-59. Abstinence means eating no meat nor soup nor gravy made from meat. Abstinence obliges all Catholics over the age of 14. Sickness, hard manual labor, pregnancy, etc. automatically excuse a person from these obligations. BEGIN DIVINE MERCY NOVENA.
- March 26: Holy Saturday (Triduum); No Mass is permitted until the Easter Vigil begins after 8:30pm (Gloria & Alleluia return!)
- March 27: Easter Sunday, Solemnity – Easter Week & Octave of Easter Begins
The Lincoln Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

60th Biennial Convention

Friday & Saturday April 15 - 16, 2016

Friday, April 15 Mass - Camp Kateri Tekakwitha, 1305 Road 3, McCool Junction, NE
Friday, April 15 Banquet - Stone Creek Event Center, 629 S. 1st Avenue, McCool Junction, NE
Saturday, April 16 Convention - St. Joseph Church Parish Hall, 505 N. East Avenue, York

THEME: The Francis Effect

Multi-Generation Attendance Bonus!

Attend the convention with your grandmother, mother, mother-in-law, daughter, daughter-in-law or granddaughter.

Multi-generation registrants will receive 6 free raffle tickets and a photo with Bishop Emeritus Bruskewitz immediately following Mass on Saturday.

Friday, April 15 @ McCool Junction

Tours of Camp Kateri available from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
5:00 pm .......... Mass at Camp Kateri – The Most Reverend Bishop James D. Conley as main celebrant
6:00 pm .......... Social hour at Stone Creek Event Center
7:00 pm .......... Dinner at Stone Creek – serving Italian buffet and cheesecake
7:45 pm .......... Presentation of Bishop’s Project funds to Camp Kateri and Burse donation for seminarians to Bishop James Conley
8:00 pm .......... Stacy Thomlison – speaker and singer
8:30 pm .......... Gayle Becwar - comedian and entertainer

Saturday, April 16 @ St. Joseph, York

8:00 am ...... Registration, rolls & coffee in parish hall
9:00 am ...... Divine Mercy Chaplet (sung)
9:20 am ...... Business Meeting
10:00 am ...... LDCCW Video
10:20 am ...... Maribeth Stewart, NCCW President-elect & U.S. Representative to WUCWO (World Union of Catholic Women’s Organizations)
11:00 am ...... Break – visit Commission tables, vendors and raffles
12:15 pm ...... Lunch
1:30 pm ...... Marylin Erickson, Past Omaha Province Director & winner of the 2014 National Council of Catholic Women ‘Our Lady of Good Counsel’ Award
2:00 pm ...... Break – visit Commission tables, vendors and raffles
2:30 pm ...... Fr. Christopher Kubat and former resident of St. Gianna Women’s Homes Presentation of President’s Project donations by Deanery Presidents to Fr. Kubat
3:15 pm ...... Raffle drawings
3:30 pm ...... Closing prayer & blessing

To register or pay online, please go to http://bit.do/LDCCW - or - Mail registration form and check (payable to “LDCCW Biennial Convention”) by April 1 to: Terry Kerr, 73114 3rd Street, St. Mary, NE 68443.
Keynote Speaker, Maribeth Stewart – WUCWO Representative

Maribeth comes from West Haven, CT and has had the good fortune to travel widely through much of her life. She is a graduate of St. Lawrence grammar school and Lauralton Hall, a Catholic girl’s high school, did her undergraduate work at Fairfield University and her graduate work at Yale University in New Haven, CT in environmental science. She is trained as a clinical and environmental microbiologist and has performed research in the marine environment in the Turks and Caicos Islands, Ecuador, Bermuda and in many locations in the US. Maribeth is currently Director of Quality Assurance and Regulatory Compliance, Global at Ikonisys, Inc. in New Haven, CT.

Maribeth has participated in her parish life as the Volunteer Director of the Outreach Program from 1999 to the present. In addition, she has been a sacristan and lector for Daily Mass since 1999 and maintained the parish gardening team from 1995-2005. She has served as president for the New Haven Council of Catholic Women, The CT Council of Catholic Women and as the Hartford Province Director. In 2014, she was installed as the President-Elect of the National Council of Catholic Women. She has been on the Board of the NCCW since 2008, serving on the International Commission and the Finance Committee, and on the Board of Trustees for Catholic Charities-Archdiocese of Hartford since 2006, serving as the 1st Vice President of the latter. In 2011, she became a Dame of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcre of Jerusalem.

Maribeth is the representative from the United States of America to the World Union of Catholic Women’s Organisations (WUCWO) having served the 2010-2014 term after election to the Board at WUCWO’s General Assembly in Jerusalem and is currently serving as the US representative to the 2014-2018 WUCWO Board following election at the General Assembly in Fatima last October. She was also elected as the representative from North America to the WUCWO Executive Committee in Jerusalem and served as the Convener of the Communications Committee for WUCWO, the committee responsible for the WUCWO magazine, Women’s Voice and for all communications issued to the public and to the Vatican from WUCWO. In April of 2015, at the WUCWO Board meeting in Rome, she was elected Vice President General of WUCWO. She also serves as an International Representative for WUCWO at the United Nations in New York.

Marylin Ericksen of Mullen, NE—Marylin grew up in Tobias, NE and graduated from UNL with a degree in Business Education. She utilized her God given gifts in the classroom, worked with a Fortune 500 company in sales, and as an entrepreneur in managing her own gift shop. Her faith is a major part of her life where she cultivated her journey through the Council of Catholic Women. She has held leadership roles on all levels of Council and currently serves on the Board of Directors for Friends of NCCW for WUCWO. Marylin was the recipient of the NCCW Our Lady of Good Council award in 2014. She and her husband Al of 45 years live on a ranch in the sandhills of Nebraska. They have four children and eleven grandchildren. Marylin’s presentation on Saturday will be entitled “A Pilgrim on a Journey”.

Stacy Thomlison of Rapid City, SD—Stacy is a registered nurse working with cancer patients in Rapid City, South Dakota. She is a convert to the Catholic Church as is her brother, Fr. Steve Thomlison. It was the desire for the Sacrament of Reconciliation that sparked her conversion, and so she will be speaking about "it is in pardoning that we are pardoned" from the prayer of St. Francis. Stacy emailed, “I want to talk about the importance of forgiving others and even ourselves if we expect God to forgive us and how that should then lead us to serve others.” Stacy will also inspire us at the Convention with her beautiful singing voice.

Gayle Becwar of Lincoln, NE—Gayle’s high energy, quick wit, and audience participation makes his show a favorite across the country. His fun personality, on and off the stage, sets him apart from other acts. From LA to New York, Hong Kong, China to Cancun, Mexico, clients love the fact that Gayle always sticks around after his show having fun performing close-up tricks, sharing funny road stories, and making sure their attendees are having a great time. Growing up in a family of illusionists, Gayle Becwar’s first introduction to entertainment came as a child in 1967, performing with his Dad’s traveling show. In 1987, Becwar began presenting his clean, interactive, fast-paced show and comedy act as a full-time solo professional. The Associated Press said: "... Gayle Becwar is a complete entertainer.” For more information, please visit http://becwarandassociates.com/gayle-becwar-home/.
The Lincoln Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

60th Biennial Convention

Friday & Saturday April 15 - 16, 2016

Friday, April 15 Mass - Camp Kateri Tekakwitha, 1305 Road 3, McCool Junction, NE

Friday, April 15 Banquet - Stone Creek Event Center, 629 S. 1st Avenue, McCool Junction, NE

Saturday, April 16 Convention - St. Joseph Church Parish Hall, 505 N. East Avenue, York, NE

THEME: The Francis Effect

REGISTRATION FORM

You may register or pay online at http://bit.do/LDCCW - or -

Mail this registration form and check (payable to “LDCCW Biennial Convention”) by April 1 to: Terry Kerr, 73114 3rd Street, St. Mary, NE 68443.

Name: ___________________________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________________________________________________________

City: _____________________________ State: _____ Zip: ______________

Phone: ___________________ Email: ____________________________________________

Parish & Town: ___________________________ Deanery: ______________

______ $10 for Noon Meal, Friday, April 15**

______ Mass at Camp Kateri beginning at 5:00 p.m.

______ $25 for Pre-Convention Banquet, Friday evening, April 15

______ $25 for Convention, Saturday, April 16

$____________

Amount Enclosed

If you have special dietary needs, please indicate on this form.

**You are invited to attend the noon meal and the LDCCW Full Board Meeting, which starts at 1:00 pm on Friday, April 15.