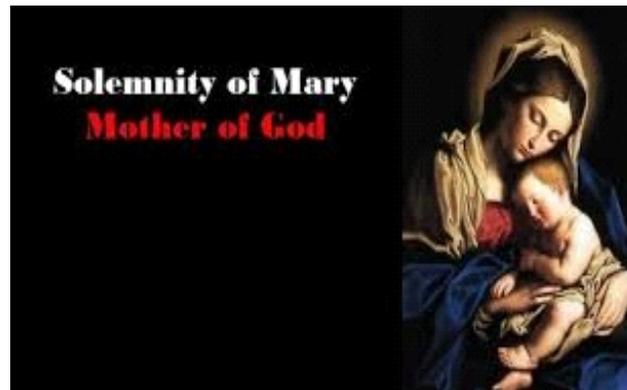


NEW ULM DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

Be The Voice of Catholic Women

January, 2016



On Jan. 1, the start of a new year, the Catholic church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, also called the Feast of [Mary, Mother of God](#). The Church deems this feast so important that it is a Holy Day of Obligation. We celebrate this liturgical feast during the Octave of Christmas. Do you know that only Christmas and Easter enjoy the privilege of an octave, which is an eight day extension of the feast.

The feast is a celebration of Mary's motherhood of Jesus. The title "Mother of God" is a western derivation from the Greek Theotokos, which means "God-bearer". On this day, we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation. Through the Holy Spirit, God the Father prepared Mary to be the dwelling place where His Son and His Spirit could dwell among men. Christ's birth was made possible by Mary's fiat, or sanctioning of God's plan with her words, "Be it done to me according to thy word". Calling Mary "Mother of God" is the highest honor we can give to her. Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the "Prince of Peace", the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God honors Mary as the "Queen of Peace". New Year's Day is also designated as the "World Day of Peace", further acknowledging the role of Mary in our hearts and in our world.



The Memorare is a prayer that reminds us that we have a wonderful advocate and protector in the mother of our Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Memorare, printed below, invites us to ask the Blessed Mother for her assistance and her grace, especially when we feel most troubled in our daily lives.

REMEMBER, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

NCCW 2015 Resolution

End Persecution of Christians in The Middle East

Purpose: To promote daily recitation of the Angelus Prayer for the intention of bringing an end to the persecution of Christians in the Middle East, especially Iraq and Syria, by invoking the powerful intercession of Blessed Mother Mary.

Whereas, Christians in the Middle East are being persecuted and put to death because of their belief in Jesus Christ and their desire to practice their faith;

Whereas, Our Holy Father Pope Francis has called for an end to the persecution and has stated that displaced Christians should be allowed to return to their homelands and practice their faith freely, and

Whereas, We believe that our Blessed Mother Mary, is a powerful intercessor in response to persistent prayer and that she will plead for these people who are willing to profess their faith even in this dangerous environment.

Resolved, that the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) Board and members promote daily praying of the Angelus Prayer for the intention of bringing an end to the persecution of suffering Christians in the Middle East through the powerful intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary, and

Resolved, that NCCW makes available through its website the Angelus Prayer for distribution to pastors, local parishes, schools, CCD classes, Adult Ed. classes and their families and ask them to pray it at least once daily.



The Angelus

V. The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

HAIL MARY.....

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R. Be it done unto me according to The Word.

HAIL MARY.....

V. And the Word was made Flesh.
R. And dwelt among us.

HAIL MARY.....

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

LET US PRAY

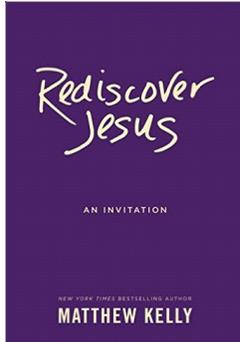
Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, Thy Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection; through the same Christ our Lord. Amen

The above resolution was passed at the NCCW convention this past September because of the terrible suffering and persecution Christians are enduring in the Middle East.

CCW Parish Groups: Please encourage everyone in your parish to pray The Angelus at least once a day so that we may truly see the end of persecution of Christians in The Middle East. Please know that it can be prayed at any time of the day. Persistent prayer produces results.

GOOD SPIRITUAL READING

Rediscover Jesus by Matthew Kelly



A customer review states the following: The book is short, but powerful. Each chapter, which can be read in ten minutes or less, provides a jolt to start your day and also make you uncomfortable...in a good way. Kelly points out how little we actually know about Jesus, going so far as to say, "The thing that unsettles me is that sometimes I think I know people on the periphery of my life better than I know Jesus." Our CCW purchased this book and distributed it to our parish families during the Christmas Season.

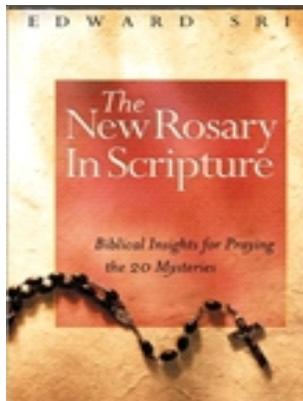
I have started reading it - EASY TO READ - but even if it is easy to read it is very thought provoking. Like the above customer review, one of his first questions - How well do you know Jesus - not just about Him but know Him and then asked that we rate we using a scale from one to ten of how well we feel we know Jesus. Consider getting this book and read it to rediscover Jesus along with Matthew Kelly.

Book is available on the website: www.dynamicCatholic.com



The New Rosary in Scripture by Dr. Edward Sri

The book explains Pope John Paul II's profound reflections on the meaning of the Rosary, addresses commonly asked questions about Mary and the Rosary, presents his practical teaching on how to pray it, and provides the biblical background for all twenty mysteries. It also includes a Scriptural Rosary that offers ten Bible texts suitable for meditation on each mystery.



The Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, Archbishop of Philadelphia, states that this is a perfect book to renew our experience of the rosary - a book filled with intelligence, depth, love of Mary and her Son, a very inviting style that makes for wonderful reading, and a firm anchoring in the Word of God. Edward Sri has given us all a lasting gift.

Scott Hahn comments that Dr. Sri has produced a book that makes Scripture come alive in ways that will deepen personal prayer and strengthen our appreciation of Mary in God's plan in our own lives.

This book can be purchased on the Amazon website: www.amazon.com/books



"Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee...."

HALF WAY MARK



Even though we are just starting a new calendar year, we really are about half way into our CCW year. It's probably a good time to ask "What has your parish CCW accomplished so far and what are the plans for the remainder of the year?"

REPORT FORMS: All presidents should have received the report forms that the Diocesan Board is asking you to complete. These reports are not really just busy work but a help to your Diocesan Board - they help to provide input to what our parish CCW's are doing and possibly avenues where the Board can help parishes, possibly the direction leadership training should go, what kind of resources could be provided to our parishes or where encouragement is needed. Please complete these forms timely and send to the appropriate person.

This is also a time to look at what needs to be done in your parish yet before the year ends and it's never too early to start planning for the next year. Questions you could ask yourselves: do you know where to go to get help or find resources for some of your activities, do you take advantage of the opportunities available for faith growth?

Do you utilize the various websites that are available such as the following:

Our diocesan CCW website: www.nudccw.org

NCCW website: www.nccw.org

The New Ulm Diocesan website: www.dnu.org

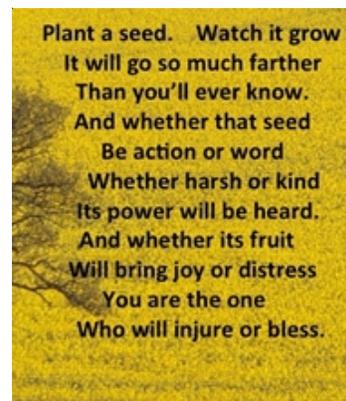
Do you make use of the NCCW magazine - "Catholic Woman"? This is a quarterly magazine and if you are affiliated with NCCW, (paying NCCW dues) your president should be receiving this magazine as part of your membership dues. Presidents: please share this magazine with your members. These publications have a wealth of information in them for your use!

If you are an individual member, you should receive your own copy. ***Please note: if you are not an individual member, please consider joining NCCW. It only costs \$60 per year - which averages out to only \$5 per month - well worth the money. Please contact me if you don't have a membership form and don't know where to get one.

Do you make use of the NCCW Connect which comes by email every month? There is always a letter from our NCCW President, the NCCW Spiritual Advisor and information from each of the National Commission Chairs.

Do you make use of this e-newsletter? Do you share it with the women in your parish? We try to put information in that are avenues of faith growth along with suggestions for your parish CCW of ways it can be a service in parish, community and world.

There are many hours of work put in by Catholic women throughout the country and in our own diocese to provide help to your parish CCW's. **They care about you. DO NOT BE AFRAID TO USE OR SEEK INFORMATION to help on your CCW Journey!**





ST. AGNES Feast Day: January 21

Few legends of saints have been more cherished than that of the virgin martyr Agnes. She was held in high regard by the primitive Christian Church, and her name has remained a symbol of maidenly purity through the ages. According to tradition, Agnes was a Christian girl of Rome, perhaps twelve or thirteen years old, when Diocletian began his persecutions. Like St. Lucy, she was sentenced by a judge to a house of ill fame, but a young man who looked upon her lustfully was stricken blind. Thereafter she was taken out to be burned, but whether she met her death by fire or sword we cannot know with any certainty.



Although we have no contemporary sources for the facts of her life and martyrdom, there is little reason to doubt the main outline of the story. References to this young saint appear in many Church writings of later date. Her name occurs in the Canon of the Mass. Agnes' crypt was in the Via Nomentana, and the stone covering her remains was carved with the words, "Agnæ sanctissima" (most holy lamb). A church in her honor is presumed to have been built in Rome at the time of Constantine the Great. In the apse of this basilica, which was rebuilt in the seventh century by Pope Honorius, there is still to be seen the large and beautiful mosaic depicting the saint. St. Agnes is the patroness of young girls and her symbol is, naturally, a lamb. **On the anniversary of her martyrdom, the Pope, after high pontifical Mass in her church at Rome, blesses two lambs, and their wool is later woven into the "palliums" worn by archbishops.**

St. Timothy and St. Titus

Feast Day: January 26



Besides being saints and bishops in the early Church, these two men have something else in common. Both received the gift of faith through the preaching of St. Paul.

Timothy was born in Lycaonia in Asia Minor. His mother Eunice was a Jew and his father was a Gentile. When Paul came to preach in Lycaonia, Timothy, his mother and his grandmother all became Christians.

Many years later, Paul went back and found Timothy grown up. He felt that Timothy had a call from God to be a missionary. Paul invited him to join him in preaching the Gospel and Timothy left his home and parents to follow Paul.

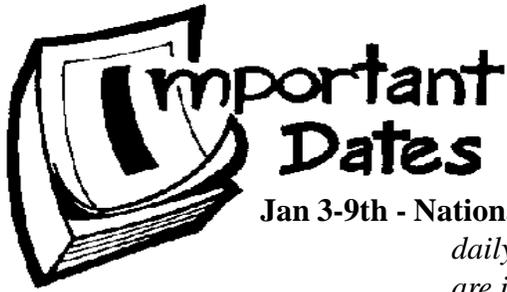
He soon began to share in Paul's sufferings as well. They joyfully brought the Word of God to many people. Timothy was Paul's beloved disciple, like a son to him. He went everywhere with Paul until he became bishop of Ephesus. Then Timothy stayed there to shepherd his people. Timothy, too, died a martyr and was stoned to death in the year 97 because he refused to worship King Dionysius.

Titus was a Gentile nonbeliever. He, too, became Paul's disciple. Titus was generous and hard-working. He joyfully preached the Good News with Paul on their missionary travels.

Because Titus was so trustworthy, Paul freely sent him on many "missions" to the Christian communities. Titus helped people strengthen their faith in Jesus. He was able to restore peace when there were arguments among the Christians. Titus had a special gift for being a peacemaker.

Paul appreciated this gift in Titus and recognized it as the Holy Spirit's work. Paul would send Titus to solve problems. When Titus would arrive among a group of Christians, the guilty ones would feel sorry. They would ask forgiveness and would make up for what they had done. When peace was restored, Titus would go back and tell Paul about the good results. This brought Paul and the first Christians much happiness.

St. Paul made Titus bishop of the island of Crete, where he stayed until his death.



THE MONTH OF JANUARY

Jan 3-9th - National Vocations Awareness Week - *please continue to pray daily for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. We are in desperate need of priests in our diocese and throughout the country.*

January 22nd - the 43rd Anniversary of Roe vs. Wade (the Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion) - *the fight is still on - our prayers are needed more than ever before to support LIFE. Life matters - unborn babies matter!*

January 17-23rd - Christian Unity Week - *please include the pope and our bishop's prayer intentions in your daily prayers.*

January 24-30th - Catholic Schools Week

JANUARY PRAYER INTENTIONS



POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS:

Universal: That sincere dialogue among men and women of different faiths may produce the fruits of peace and justice.

Evangelization: That by means of dialogue and fraternal charity and with the grace of the Holy Spirit, Christians may overcome divisions.

BISHOP'S PRAYER INTENTION: For a renewed joy in the heart of Christians as we begin a new calendar year. May Jesus be our closest companion throughout the year.

FROM YOUR EDITOR



Dear Sisters in Christ --

The start of a New Year give us reason to pause and realize how important our life is and ask ourselves what God has intended for each of us. Please do what you can to promote our Catholic Faith as you carry out your CCW tasks in your parish. Also please share this newsletter with the women in your parish.

I ask for your prayers as I am scheduled for surgery on Monday, January 11th and that God will bless me with His Loving Care and Healing Power.

My wishes and prayers go to all of you for a blessed New Year.

Donna Sanders
NUDCCW Newsletter Editor

