

The Mirror

Western DuPage Kendall Deanery Council of Catholic Women Newsletter

This is a special Spring Institute edition of The Mirror. Enjoy and please plan to come to the WDKD Spring Institute Thursday, May 14th.

Father Jim Antiporek WDKD Moderator

Did you step into Spring? Did you step into Easter? Did You? The concept of stepping into helps us recognize the positive forward energy that it takes to simply live life. If having a positive attitude is important, I know of only one place to go for help in achieving it, THE LORD! If we see all the good gifts of God's creation that will keep us focused. It can also be a time of spontaneous prayer. We know prayer is good. Take time with family and friends. You are not alone on this journey of life. If you keep good company good things are likely to happen. Give some time to your CCW parish projects. The ladies are fun and how good it feels to make a difference. Now do you see how God needs you to step in? Step into His will for you with all your special talents and gifts and you will never want to step out!

Peace and Blessings to all,
Father Jim Antiporek

Debi Rossi
WDKD President
praisegodtoday@aol.com

Come on...join us! I don't want you to miss out on the Western DuPage Kendall Deanery Spring Institute. The ladies of St. John the Baptist Council of Catholic Women have a wonderful evening planned for all of us to enjoy. As we come to the end of another successful CCW year, I invite you to the Spring Institute to worship, re-energize and hopefully come away with a new idea or two for next year.

I look forward to personally meeting everyone at the Spring Institute and thank St. John the Baptist Parish in Winfield for hosting this annual spring event.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
2009 National Council of Catholic Women
Convention in Jacksonville, Florida
September 24th through 27th

Organization Commission **Arlene Kelly**

SPRING INSTITUTE: Western DuPage/Kendall Deanery holds its 2009 Spring Institute Thursday, May 14 at St. John in Winfield. During this year's Institute we will be electing the Nominating Committee for 2009-2010.

Procedures for Election of Nominating Committee: Important news for Parish Presidents

Your Parish is represented at the Deanery Spring Institute by the President and one other woman. Both serve as Voting Delegates who will elect the Nominating Committee in 2009.

The Parish President will receive two voting certification forms via email or U.S. mail which she signs to certify that the named people (herself included) are the Voting Delegates. **These forms should be brought to Spring Institute.** The President also receives 2 Voting Cards. Those who are voting from the parish will need to present both before receiving official ballots and voting. (*The Parish President should give the other Voting Delegate the Certification Form and the Voting Card that she needs.*)

Pat Cetera **JDCCW Organization Services Chair**

Read below for many useful ideas regarding planning for 2009-2010.

- Election time is here and new boards are coming in for many of your parishes. Now is the time to plan for next year. Find out what your members want. Do it by telephone survey, by short questionnaires, or by bringing small groups together for discussion. (If you go the small group route, wait until mid to late June when all the graduations, First Communion and Spring Institutes are over and have a potluck evening. Everyone likes to eat and when the pressure is off, more people may come out. Sneak in the discussions by making sure to plant a facilitator at every table. If your Council has the money, order in chicken and salads and then nobody will even have to cook. Make it a free night and advertise it as a Get-Away-Night.)
- Your new board needs to get to know one another. Plan an evening (or Saturday morning) of prayer and reflection together. Bringing in a facilitator always helps.
- Mentor your new board members and make sure that board members who have served before are brought up to date. Make sure that everyone has access to reports from last year and that your new members are partnered with experienced ones.
- Have a meeting (during down time in the summer) that focuses on orientation for new members and for experienced ones who are in new positions. Invite your moderator so that he/she gets to know all of your board members.
- Early summer is also the time to work on your aims and goals for the next year and beyond.
- Begin to establish a relationship with whatever media outlets you will use (local newspapers, local cable outlets, owners of electronic billboards, etc.) Make sure they know who you are and who they will be dealing with.
- Begin to form partnerships with local businesses and organizations to share their news and yours.

- If you are not already collaborating with other organizations within your parish, start now. You are there to work together for the parish and community, not to compete.
- While you are looking forward, do not forget to look back, especially if your council is not prospering. Figure out how to do things differently. Bring in someone from the outside to help you. Remember that JDCCW has leadership trainers who could help with this. Call the JDCCW office to be put in touch with them.
- **NCCW LEADERSHIP DAY IS JUNE 6.** Please get this out to your people. This will be a good training day, especially for any new members you have who seem to have leadership potential. It will be at the Spaulding Pastoral Center, 419 NE Madison Ave, Peoria, IL, from 8:30 to 3:30. The cost is \$20 to register (check to NCCW) and \$9.00 for lunch (check to Chicago Province). Travel time is 1-1/2 to 3 hours, depending on where you live in the diocese. If you do not want to get up at 4:00 am to get there you can make a reservation at the Stony Creek Inn, 101 Marine's Way, East Peoria, (800 659-2220) for Friday night. Ask for the \$109 rate (2 queen beds) for the Councils of Catholic Women. **Cut off date for the hotel is May 10.** Cut off date for the training reservation is June 1.
- Thought for the month: ***A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm.*** Henrik Ibsen

Legislative Chair:

Carol Wright dcwright@flash.net

Do you feel that things are moving so quickly that we are losing control of our government and the way of life that we love so dearly? It is easy to feel helpless and powerless when one after another issue arises that shakes our belief system. Do not give up! We are still a republic and our legislators answer to us. Please pray for our nation. Please get involved. Let your voice be heard over and over again. Send a separate email or letter or phone call on each issue. Be persistent and polite. There is strength in numbers.

Contact the President of the United States at www.whitehouse.gov/contact/ and fill out the web page with your identifying information.

To contact any of your Illinois state elected officials go to www.ilga.gov and under Additional Resources, click on Legislator Lookup. Choose the zip + 4 tab at the top and type in your nine digit zip code. All of your Illinois legislators will come up. Just click on the name of the person you wish to contact and their contact information will appear.

To contact any United States Senator, go to www.senate.gov and click on Senators in the top left corner of the home page. All of the Senators will be listed in alphabetical order and identified by state. To contact any United States Congressman, go to www.house.gov.

Please just listen to the news, read the newspapers and when you hear an issue that concerns you, let them know how you feel. You can find many of the current legislation by going to www.culturecampaign.com. It's a non-denominational website and contains very current information. There are many websites that have useful information but this is a good place to start.

If you do not have a Legislative Concerns Chair for your parish, I really encourage you to try to fill the position. Now, more than ever, we need informed people to be involved. Contact me for help. I look forward to meeting you at the Spring Institute.



Bernie Dooley
Reverence for Life Chair
mswolfie2000@yahoo.com

Here is a question that we can ask ourselves. "Would I be willing and have the courage to stand up, very publicly, for what I believe in and know is right in my heart."

Mary Ann Glendon, a Harvard law professor and former ambassador to the Vatican, is doing exactly that. Ms Glendon was to receive Notre Dame's prestigious Laetare Medal at this year's commencement ceremony. The Laetare Medal is Notre Dame University's annual award given in recognition of outstanding service to the Roman Catholic Church and society. It is given to an American Catholic "whose genius has ennobled the arts and science, illustrated the ideals of the church and enriched the heritage of humanity." It has been awarded since 1883.

Notre Dame University's president, Father John I. Jenkins, also invited President Barack Obama to give the commencement address on May 17, 2009, and to grant an honorary degree to him.

In a letter to Father Jenkins, Ms Glendon said that giving President Obama an honorary degree violates the U.S. bishops' 2004 statement that Catholic institutions shouldn't honor people whose actions conflict with the church's moral principles. "That request, which in no way seeks to control or interfere with an institution's freedom to invite and engage in serious debate with whomever it wishes, seems to me so reasonable that I am at a loss to understand why a Catholic university should disrespect it," Ms Glendon made her letter available to the press to avoid speculation about her reasons to decline the honor of receiving the Laetare Medal. (Her entire letter may be read at boston.com/news/local/articles_of_faith/2009/04/glendon_decline)

Dozens of bishops have criticized the Obama invitation because of his support for abortion rights and embryonic stem-cell research. Father Jenkins issued a statement Monday saying the university was "disappointed that Professor Glendon has made this decision. It is our intention to award the Laetare Medal to another deserving recipient, and we will make that announcement as soon as possible," he said. University spokesman Dennis Brown said he did not know of anyone else who had agreed to accept the award but then declined it.

At the White House, Obama press secretary Robert Gibbs told reporters the president looks forward to giving the commencement address May 17. He also said Notre Dame has a history of vigorous discussion and looks forward to visiting."

Previous winners have included President John F. Kennedy, anti-death penalty activist Sister Helen Prejean, actor-activist Martin Sheen and jazz musician Dave Brubeck.

So again, I hope we will ask ourselves: "Would I be willing and have the courage to stand up, very publicly, for what I believe in and know is right in my heart?" It is definitely easier to voice your opinion among like-thinking family, friends, fellow CCW members, etc., isn't it?

Venessa Lopatka Secretary

Venessa and two ladies from St. John's CCW, Rita Grabowski and Mary Rieck attended the JDCCW sponsored Morning of Reflection on Saturday, April 4th at the St. Charles Pastoral Center. The theme, "With Love There is No Fear", was presented by Father Nathan Gohlke, Parochial Vicar of the Cathedral of St. Raymond. Fr. Nathan gave a wonderful presentation that was enjoyed by all. In his program he relayed that at certain times in our lives we fall in love with someone and when we do, nothing seems to bother us. We have a positive outlook on life and look forward to the future. Life has more meaning and is more pleasurable when we are in love. We can feel this same way when we have a loving relationship with God. Fr. Nathan asked the participants to describe what it meant to be in love and many of the feelings the women described can easily relate to our relationship with God. Feelings of trust, a state of calmness or content and being able to depend on those we love as well as willing to help them when they need us are examples of what it means to be in love. Love is a choice we decide to make, however God always loves us even if we have not chosen to make him a priority in our life.

It was very meaningful to have this morning of reflection the day before Palm Sunday and Holy Week. The parishioners at the Cathedral are truly blessed to have Fr Nathan as a priest for their parish.

Church Concerns Kelly Arcaro

As the Church Commission Chair, my responsibilities include (but aren't limited to):

- preparation of opening and closing prayers for meetings,
- working with parish liturgists to prepare mass readings, intercessory prayers and hymns for CCW masses and prayer services,
- identify and communicate opportunities for CCW members to be involved in their parish live,
- identify and communicate resources for CCW members to utilize to keep in touch with Church issues in their parish, diocese, province, the country and around the world, and

- communicate NCCW Church Commission efforts around the country and around the world

Some prayers I write by myself, but there are MANY resources available for inspired prayer. I maintain a personal library of dozens of prayer books and other spiritual reading. There are countless websites where Catholics can share their prayers. The NCCW also provides resources for prayers and for prayer services and days of prayer.

When I was first asked to accept this position, I was overwhelmed at the thought of the responsibility, but I have found that God never leaves me wordless or incapable of producing acceptable prayers, and he keeps me inspired when I am given the opportunity to share ideas and thoughts with the many wonderful CCW women in our deanery. I look forward to an excuse to search the web and see what wonderful inspired prayers are being shared by Catholic women around the country! Please prayerfully consider making a contribution in your parish by helping to enhance the prayer life of your community.

Mark your calendars and look for complete registration and presentation information from the JDCCW office next month!

We invite you to come experience the

JDCCW Combined Commission Day

Saturday, August 1, 2009

St. Mary Parish

19515 South 115th Avenue

Mokena, Illinois

9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

We will offer 5 commission enrichment workshops and the schedule allows you to attend them all!

We promise this day will be worth your effort to attend, lunch will be included in your \$10 per person donation.



Western DuPage Kendal Deanery is part of the Joliet Diocese Council of Catholic Women

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2008-2010**

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There are two openings for our board...please consider joining us. Contact Debi Rossi for more information telephone #630-750-4285 or by her email: praisegodtoday@aol.com