

D I O C E S E
of NEW ULM

Office of the Bishop

November 27, 2019

Dear Parishioners and Pastoral Leaders,

In 1988, the Catholic bishops of the United States launched the Retirement Fund for Religious to address the significant lack of retirement funding for Catholic sisters, brothers and priests in religious orders. This annual, parish-based appeal is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office and benefits some 30,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious-order priests whose communities lack adequate retirement funding.

Religious communities apply annually for financial support from the national collection, and distributions are sent to each eligible community's central house. Traditionally, Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little or no pay. Today, hundreds of orders lack sufficient retirement savings. Last year, this national appeal raised nearly \$27.7 million. As a result, funds were distributed to 360 religious congregations across the country. Communities utilize these funds to bolster retirement savings and subsidize expenses, such as prescription medications and nursing care. Roughly 94 percent of donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious directly aid senior religious; the remaining funds are used for promotional and administrative expenses.

In 2018, the people of the Diocese of New Ulm contributed \$27,436.30 to the Retirement Fund for Religious. I am grateful for the generous support that the people of our diocese have given to help our retired religious. These men and women have given their lives to God and to the Church, and many of us were educated by them in Catholic schools and religious education programs. We have the opportunity to say "thank you" for their witness and service by making sure their needs are provided for.

We will be taking up a collection in the Diocese of New Ulm for the Retirement Fund for Religious the weekend of December 7-8, 2019. Please join me in praying for all of our retired religious as well as for new vocations to the religious life.

In Christ,



The Most Reverend John M. LeVoir
Bishop of New Ulm

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ST. CATHERINE'S COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

St. Catherine's Council of Catholic Women Board members met on Tues., Nov. 12, 2019 following the 5:15 pm Mass.

A. Prayer- Patty U'ren led us in an opening.

B. Call to Order – Arlene Woelfel called the meeting to order. She added two items to the agenda under New Business:

1) February Hot Dish Supper and Spring Salad Luncheon. Carol Kriegl made a motion and Bonni Guetter seconded the motion - agenda approved.

2) Secretary's Report – Lorna Bliss read a thank you from St. Paul Street Evangelization for the \$200 we gave to the speaker we had at our Appreciation Dinner on October 8, 2019.

3) Treasurer's Report- October opening balance was \$5,212.70 and closing balance was \$6,807.33. Income included dues of \$2,013.00. The interest rate we are receiving on our Money Market is 1.36%. The balance of the Money Market account is \$16,202.86 which is money left from Florence Kletscher's estate. Joyce sent the \$500 from the hot dish supper proceeds to Share the Spirit.

C. President's Message – Arlene Woelfel reported the NUDCCW is working on the by-laws so all of the Deaneries in the New Ulm Diocese will be the same. The by-laws will have more flexibility. Arlene volunteered our parish to host the Fall Gathering for our Deanery in 2020.

D. Vice President's Report – Caryn Bommersbach- No report

II. COMMISSION REPORTS

A. Spirituality – Patty Uren reported she has seen a decrease in the amount of people attending coffee and rolls in the last three times CCW has sponsored it. She has added fruit and yogurt to go with the rolls which was well received.

B. Service – Carol Frank, Bonni Guetter. Bonni reported the San Lucas bake sale will be held the weekend of December 7 and 8. She will have sign-up sheets available in the gathering space and an announcement in the bulletin.

C. Legislation-Teresa Karsky reported: Members of Congress have introduced a bill "Dignity for Aborted Children Act" which requires that the bodies of aborted babies be treated with respect like other deceased human beings, and either be buried or cremated. This is in response to the revelation of thousands of aborted babies found in the home of the late Ulrich Klopfer, an abortion doctor. Please contact your representatives and show your support for this bill and also encourage them to put a stop to all abortions.

D. Leadership – Renee Kodet reported she sent out 35 letters to parishioners who have registered in the past year inviting and welcoming them to CCW. She is also working on gathering names of our parishioners who could use a little extra TLC during this Christmas season.

E. Reverence Life – Carol Kriegl reported on the Roe versus Wade "March for Life" on January 22 at the state capitol. She will have more info on busing etc. Watch the bulletin.

F. Scholarship – Nancy Hanna reported Rita has the forms in the parish office. They need to be postmarked by March 1, 2020. \$600 from the upcoming February hot dish supper will be used as St. Catherine's CCW donation toward the Scholarship program.

G. Historian – Barb Bernardy reported she is working on getting everything in the book.

III. OTHER REPORTS

A. Kitchen – Caren Swoboda, Lanna Phelps, & Jeanne Malecha- Caren reported: The kitchen will be cleaned in the spring.

B. Funeral Meals – Ag Johannek, Lanna Phelps- No report.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Donated Dishes- Arlene showed us a place setting of china out of a full set that Kathy Meyers donated to CCW to use for special occasions. Theresa Zeug also donated china with the same identical pattern. Lorna will send thank you notes to both gals for their generosity.

B. February Hot Dish Supper is on February 13, 2020 and chairs are needed.

C. Spring Salad Luncheon is on May 7, 2020

VI. DATE OF UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS – 2019-2020

1. December 7/8 San Lucas Bake Sale

2. January 14, 2020 CCW Wine and Cheese and meeting (KC's are invited) Speakers will be Margaret Cook, Geri Lyle and Arlene Woelfel. The talk will be on their trip to San Lucas

3. February 13, 2020 – Hot Dish Supper

4. May 7, 2020 – Spring Salad Luncheon

VII. ADJOURNMENT / PRAYER

Patty led us in a closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted, Lorna Bliss