



Toledo Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Council Contact



Diocese of Toledo

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Spring 2008

A Message from Our Moderator

Spring is about to happen, as soon as the snow finally decides it is through. Of course we could have a white Easter this year because it is almost as early as it can be. (The earliest Easter can be is March 22nd. The last time it was on March 22 was in the year 1818; the next time will be the year 2285 – 277 years from now.) The last time Easter fell on March 23rd was in 1913 (if you're 95years old or older, you are the only ones around at that time to possibly remember it.) The next time March 23 will hold Easter Sunday is the year 2228, 220 years from now. So enjoy Easter this year no matter what the weather.

Some of you may be watching the "Survivor Series" on T.V. I just learned of a new kind of Survivor Test that goes beyond the reality shows. Here is how it goes.

Six married men will be dropped on an island with one car and three kids each for six weeks. Each kid will play two sports and either take music or dance lessons. There are no fast food stores on this island. Each man must take care of his three kids; keep his assigned house clean, correct all homework, and help complete each science project, cook, do laundry, and pay a list of bills with not enough money. In addition each man must budget money for groceries each week.

Each man must remember the birthdays, anniversaries and other events of all their friends and relatives and send cards out on time.

Each man must also take each child to a doctor's appointment, a dentist appointment and a haircut appointment. Not to mention one unscheduled and inconvenient visit per child to the Urgent Care Center.

He must also bake cookies and cup cakes for social functions. He is responsible for decorating his own house and planting flowers and a garden outside and keeping it all presentable at all times.

They must attend weekly school meetings, church, and find time to spend at least one afternoon at a park or a similar setting. Each man must read a book and then pray with the children each night and in the morning, feed them, dress them, brush their teeth and comb their hair by 7:00 a.m.

A test will be given at the end of the six weeks and each father will be required to know all of the following information: each child's birthday, height, weight, shoe size, clothes size, and doctor's name. Also each child's weight at birth, length, time of birth and length of time of labor, each child's favorite color, middle name, favorite snack, favorite song, favorite drink, favorite toy, biggest fear and what they want to be when they grow up.

The kids vote them off the island based on performance. The last man wins only if he still has enough energy to be intimate with his spouse at a moment's notice.

If the last man does win, he can play the game over and over and over and over again for the next 18 to 25 years ... eventually earning the right to be called "MOTHER"!

Enjoy life; make it enjoyable and worth living for all around you.

Pax et bonum,
Fr. Jim Brown
Fr. Jim





From Our President

Dear Sisters of Council,

As we spend time during Lent, we can see that it is a time of abstinence where we make some sacrifices; it is a time of reflection where we can look at how we are living as followers of Christ, and a time to truly repent and know that the all forgiving God will forgive our transgressions.

The Council's yearly activities are in the planning stages and some yet to be decided. The Volunteer Luncheon is scheduled for April 9, 2008 at Crystal Arbors in Fremont. You should have received your information in the mail. Our Day of Renewal is May 14, 2008 at Carey; Brother Jeffrey Hines, OEM Conf. and Rev. John P. Hadnagy OEM Conf. are presenters for the day. The Fall conference has not yet been scheduled, but will be held in the Toledo area.

Leadership Enrichment Days scheduled so far are June 3, at St. Mary, Tiffin. Two sessions will be held, 2-4 in the afternoon and 7-9 in the evening. Another will be scheduled for later in June, place to be announced.

If any parish is interested in having a card party this spring or to host the Christmas Tea in December please contact me at email Marguerite@aol.com or call 419-595-2537 or cell 419-618-7568. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

If you're wanting to get away and enjoy a good time on a cruise, the NCCW is sponsoring a seven day exotic Western Caribbean Cruise on Carnival Legend as a fund raiser. It leaves Tampa, Florida, on November 9 with four ports of call: Grand Cayman, Cozumel, Belize and Isla Regton. Contact me for more information. Share this in your parish bulletins. Prices range from \$677-877 per person.

The General Assembly will be held September 24-28 in Salt Lake City, Utah. If interested in attending please let me know.

Thanks to each of you who have made my job easier and may God's blessings be with you as we celebrate the Easter season.

Marguerite Boes

Legislative

As Catholics guided by a Christian conscience we are called to fulfill our civic duties by voting in elections for lawmakers and government officials who develop political solutions and make legislative choices which will benefit the common good. It is respect for the person that makes democratic participation possible.

Faith based groups serving under a tax-exempt status legally do not endorse a particular candidate or party. It is up to us as educated voters to determine which candidate or issue falls within our own moral values of social justice and solidarity.

As legislative commissioners we are called to help our parish members understand the Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching: The Right to Life and the Dignity of the Human Person; A Call to Family, Community, and Participation; Protection of Human Rights and Fulfillment of Duties and Responsibilities to One Another; Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable; Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers; Solidarity and Caring for God's Creation. You can find excellent information on this topic on the US Conference of Catholic Bishops web site (www.usccb.org). If you do not use or have access to the Internet you may wish to ask your parish office to help you or visit your public library for assistance.

Our Catholic Conference of Ohio has an excellent site on "Faith and Politics: Resources and News" at (www.ohiocatbconforg/L/FaithPolitics.htm). You will discover information on faith-filled citizenship, links to many Catholic sites on faith and politics along with resources with permission already granted for printing.

Education is the key to a successful, moral democracy. Guide those around you by encouraging them to know the goals and values of candidates and how they plan to achieve those goals. Only by self-education can we make choices for our future with moral guidelines of Faith-filled Solidarity.

Pray for those who are now working in our government and those running for office that they make moral faith-filled choices for our future.

Sue Swartzmiller
Legislative Commissioner



Pro-Life

A Joyful Season



“Each year you give us this joyful season when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed.” (Preface of Lent I).

Anyone who makes the Lenten journey is called to be more alert to the attacks on human life and dignity around them. The people of life are called to reject sin and all the devil’s works and empty promises. The “pro-choice” and “right to die” mentalities are two of those “empty promises” which are firmly rejected by the baptized. A firm rejection of these positions is integral to repentance.

The application to the abortion problem is clear when we consider that the injustice of this act has been proclaimed as a “right” and a legitimate “choice”. Because such respectable elements of society as the Supreme Court, many medical associations, and even some Christian denominations, continue to call abortion “a right”, many find it hard to recognize as a wrong. Part of the purification of Lent involves the *metanoia*, the “change of mind” so necessary in this area.

The works of charity that constitute a fundamental form of penance can include reaching out to those in need of concrete assistance in their pregnancy. Volunteering at pregnancy resource centers is a perfect way to do this, as is the effort to make such centers better known in the community.

To stand up in any way for the unborn child can be a penitential act, since it often brings unwarranted criticism, even from fellow worshipers who should be doing more themselves to end abortion.

This Lent, may the whole church be strengthened in her mission to build the Culture of Life!

Taken from “Priests for Life” – January-February 2008. Vol. 18

Betty Beham, Pro Life Chair

Girls Religious Awards

The Christmas Pilgrimage was held on December 28, 2007.

10:30 Registration

11:00 Mass in Main Church

11:45 – 12:15 Lunch in Cafeteria

12:30 Brother Randy led a tour of the upper and lower church, explaining the symbolism in the main church, altar, stations of the cross, and the windows. In the lower church is the relic chapel, and the many articles left by people whose prayers had been answered. We saw the beautiful dresses made and donated for Our Lady. Her dresses are changed twice a week. The day concluded with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Scripture Reading and a Homily on the true meaning of Christmas, Blessing of the True Cross and Benediction.

On June 9, 2007 three new specialists were trained from Lima, Huron and Findlay at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Findlay.

Leaders are concerned because Mary the First Disciple and Spirit Alive Awards involve so much detail and would take two years to complete. With school and outside activities, they lack the time it takes to work on a religious program.

Peg Logsdon
Girls Religious Award Specialist



Rural Life

Recycle — Recycle



The recycling has improved in Putnam County.

In 2002 the number of pounds recycled was 564,599 and in 2007 it was 879,221. These totals are from Van Wert Solid Waste Management District. This would not include Ottawa or any other town that is with a different Solid Waste Company.

Recycling is still a big issue for us. We need to encourage more people to see that going GREEN is the thing to do.

I ask that you call your county Soil and Water Office and find out who their recycling educator is and if they have a flyer that tells what items are recyclable. You need to ask where the recycling is done and the time. We need to educate our Catholic people. If we are going to make this a cleaner and safer diocese it is up to us to find ways to do this. People seem to know where to take aluminum and steel cans because they are paying 67 cents for aluminum, but what about all the items that can be made into other things?

This year Putnam County recycled tires. It cost 75 cents per tire. They went to be made into mats.

I did copy the flyer at the rectory and put the copies in the back of church. We need to spread the word about this program. You as leaders need to help.

Rural Life Day is May 18, the Feast of St. Isadore.

Think the price in the grocery store is too high?

The BST hormone has changed the milk price. If you do not use this you receive a premium for your milk. I wish we could get the cattle and hog ranchers to do the same. I blame them for our children maturing in the third and fourth grade. Is it fair for this to happen to our children just for the sake of money? Their bodies are developed so much sooner and the minds have not caught up, so we are seeing sex at a much younger age. Does any one care?

Today I saw the wheat market at \$9.60, beans \$13.00, and corn \$5.00. These are very good prices but they

do not reflect a profit for the farmer. With the price of seed corn at \$138.00 a bag (this is not a bushel), fertilizer at an all time high, and chemicals up higher than ever before, it is not possible for our farmers to come out even.

When we see the big change in the weather patterns, floods, and draught conditions hurting the growing season, why does the farmer do what he does?

Kate Wischmeyer, Rural Life Chair



International Concerns

“Help us, we beg you, to give generously in all that we do for you, so that like you, we might be made perfect in the New Resurrection.”(From a prayer from Stations of the Cross).

Lent is quickly drawing to a close and how well have we stuck to our self-denial(s) or performed positive deeds to walk with the Lord?

The great thing is even when we fail to live up to our commitments; God is always willing to welcome us with open arms and forgiveness.

When did we see you hungry, Lord? Or when did we see you thirsty?

We have an opportunity, through the works of Peace and Reconciliation, to reach out to our less fortunate brothers and sisters and help alleviate the conditions that impede their well-being and development.

To date, about 24 parishes have contributed over \$12,000 to International Concerns for our cause.

Thank you for your generosity and continued support of our global projects. You may still send your donations to the Catholic Office made out to TDCCW with the memo “International Concerns”.

Please pray for the efforts of the relief organizations that minister to the recipients of these programs.

God Bless You.

Carol Olshefski
International Concerns & Works of Peace

Church Commission

There are many events to celebrate this year. Pope Benedict XVI has urged the faithful to contribute to the mission of the church in this Year of Grace.

In January, we celebrate the 2000th anniversary of the birth of St. Paul. January 2008 to 2009 has been designated as the Pauline Year.

The 150th anniversary of Mary's appearance near Lourdes to St. Bernadette began on February 11th, the day of the first apparitions. Mary asked for penance and prayers for the conversion of sinners.

In April, the first-ever World Congress on Mercy will take place in Rome. It hopes to bring the message of the love and mercy of Our Lord Jesus to all humanity. We pray for its success and try to practice mercy in our daily relations with family, fellow parishioners and co-workers. We celebrate Mercy Sunday on the Sunday after Easter. We are encouraged to participate or help arrange a celebration in our parishes.

Quebec, Canada hosts the International Eucharistic Congress (theme—Gift of God for the Life of the World) in June and in July, Sydney, Australia hosts World Youth Day.

On Wednesday, May 14, 2008 we will have the Annual Day of Renewal at Our Lady of Consolation in Carey. Information for the day will be sent soon.

May we continue to pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life, that we may always have these leaders for our Church. Our prayers also for lay leaders who can serve our Church.

HAPPY EASTER! Celebrate the mystery of our faith and share the joyful news of the Risen Christ with others.

Dorothy Blum
Church Commissioner



TDCCW Calendar Year 2008

March	24	Volunteer Luncheon Deadline
April	9	Volunteer Luncheon at Crystal Arbors
	23	Day or Renewal Registration Deadline
May	3	Executive / General Board Meeting
	14	Day of Renewal in Carey, Ohio
	TBA	Youngstown Convention
	31	TDCCW Dues and Parish Affiliation Roster Due
June	3	Leadership Enrichment Days Tiffin, St. Mary 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.
	11	Leadership Enrichment Days Toledo, Our Lady of Lourdes 7-8:30 p.m.
	8	Diocesan Girls' Religious Awards Ceremony at Rosary Cathedral
	TBA	Steubenville Convention
July	1	Parish Recognition Awards Forms Due
	7	Council Contact Articles Due
	TBA	CCO Columbus
	29	Council Contact Mailing
August	4	Executive / General Board Meeting
September	TBA	TDCCW Conference
	24-28	General Assembly, Salt Lake City, Utah
October	5	25 th /50 th Anniversary Mass and Reception
	TBA	Columbus Convention
November	2	Executive / General Board Meeting
	24	Council Contact Articles Due
	TBA	Deadline for Christmas Tea
December	TBA	Christmas Tea
	15	Council Contact Mailings

Friendly Visitor

A few suggestions to help make you a better Friendly Visitor.

When entering the room, smile at people; notice, most times you got a smile back.

Speak to people; there is nothing so nice as a cheerful word of greeting.

Call people by name; the sweetest music to anyone's ears is the sound of his own name.

Be friendly and helpful; if you would have friends, be a friend.

Be cordial; speak out as if everything you do is a generous pleasure.

Be genuinely interested in people and you can like almost everybody; if you try.

Be generous with praise, cautious with criticisms. Be alert to give service. What counts most in life is what we do for others.

Add to this a good sense of humor, a big dose of patience and a dash of humility and you will be rewarded manifold.

Gertrude Knueven
Friendly Visitor Chair



Council Contact Spring 2008

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