Metro-East Vicariate CCW Fall Meeting/Day of Prayer
St. Mary Parish, Valmeyer, IL
Thursday, October 2, 2025

Call to Order – President Madonna Stapf called the meeting to order at 12:45pm and opened with the Prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel, the Salute to the Cross, and The Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call – Roll was taken by Secretary Stephanie Burns. There were 77 people in attendance (16 parishes represented, 27 current or past presidents, 4 board members, and our spiritual advisor).

Minutes - Copies of the Spring Day of Prayer's minutes were published on the MEV-CCW section of the BDCCW website, https://www.diobelle.org/dps/bdccw/what-we-do/308-vicariate-ccw/2051-metro-east-vicariate-ccw. Dee Bayley (St. Mary's, Belleville) and Denise Foerg (Ss. Peter and Paul, Waterloo) volunteered to review/validate the minutes for this meeting.

Treasurer's Report - The treasurer's report was presented by Treasurer Denise Blaha. Over the summer, Denise noted unusual activity on our account from PayPal in a transaction of .32 cents. In working with the bank, it was decided by the board to close that account at Regions that was opened in 1950 and open a new account with First National that had more locations for easier access for future board members. The starting balance on May 1, 2025, was $4690.72. Receipts equaled $0.32. Expenses equaled $35.32. The ending balance on October 1, 2025, was $4655.72. No questions were asked, and the report will be filed for audit. The treasurer then called for unpaid bills of NCCW dues of $100, to The Messenger for ads for our Day of Prayer of $100, and for candles for the Day of Prayer of $24.51. A motion was made by Kathy Gass (St. James, Millstadt) to pay the bills. Loretta Kramer (St. Agatha, New Athens) seconded the motion. A vote was called. Motion passed unanimously. Pass the purse netted $231.81 for the St. Anne's Cradle of Hope Fund.

Communications:

- We received brochures for the Newman Student Center. The Newman Auxiliary also called the president to say thank you for the MEV's donation. A thank you note was sent accidentally to the BDCCW.
    - Please remember to support our Newman Student Center. We may feel a little displaced by them due to distance, but they do wonderful things. Remember that when students are away from home, they will look for a substitute family unit. Let us help them find a good, solid Catholic one.
- We received a thank you from Lucy Barragan, the director of Hispanic Ministry, for our donation to Hispanic Youth Day which was held in June.
- Molly King sent a thank you for our donation to St. Anne Cradle of Hope which was collected passing the purse at the Spring Day of Prayer.

Spiritual Advisor Report: Deacon Art Hampton

- There is still no word or rumors of a bishop being named for our diocese.
- We lost a great man in our diocese earlier this month, Mr. Joe Hubbard. He was a staple at Catholic Urban Programs since 1973.
- This is a ministry being supported by the Office of Life, Marriage and Family for single moms. I believe it has been going on in other parts of the diocese. It is now meeting in the Belleville area of the diocese. The chapter name is "Momentum." It is being led by Sarah Surrey and meetings are being held at St. Clare of Assisi parish in O'Fallon, IL. Contact the parish for more information. Their next meetings are scheduled for November 16th, 2025, and January 11th, 2026. They are holding an annual retreat on November 1st, 2025, at St. Nicholas parish, also in O'Fallon, IL. For more information on the single mothers group contact Ms. Surrey at bellevillechapter@momentummothers.org. To register for the November 1st Retreat visit www.momentummothers.org/events. Sarah Surrey also did a Lecture on Mental Illness at a Serra Club Dinner I attended last week. She would be a good speaker if one of the ladies' groups is looking for a speaker. She can be reached at the sarah@KarlaSmithBehavioralHealth.org, KarlaSmithBehavioralHealth.org or 618-642-5771 ext. 102.
- Cathedral of St. Peter is holding their 7th Annual Food Truck Fest on October 4th from 4:00-9:00 pm.
- Since today was Memorial of the Holy Guardian Angels, I was reminded of two videos. The first, titled The Veil Revealed, can be found on YouTube and the second can be found at www.TheRealPresence.com

President's Report: Madonna Stapf

- The president thanked the wonderful ladies at St.Mary's and Ss. Peter and Paul for a fabulous day. She also thanked the executive board and committee members for their hard work in preparing for today, Mary Wuertz von Holt for her spiritual exercise this morning, and Frs. Linus and Sebastian for taking time from their busy lives to be with us.
- We all have prayer lists and they can get long sometimes. Please remember to pray for:
    - For our priests who are more likely to have multiple parishes than they ever have before.
    - For our deacons who are taking on more responsibilities to help our priests who have multiple parishes.
    - For Pope Leo, that God grant him the wisdom in discernment as he chooses our new Bishop.

    - For an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life. We need our youth to hear and respond to His call. They are the future of the Catholic Church.
- Please remember to share any of our vicariate news with your organizations. Join our MEVCCW FB page. Feel free to post your fundraisers or good news on that page. For good or bad, social media has become a primary source of reaching out to our neighboring communities.

Service (Box of Joy) - Carol Geluck

- On October 1, a truck with over 1000 boxes left Holy Trinity, Fairview Heights, heading to Florida. The MEV collected 993 Boxes of Joy. The North Central Vicariate also dropped off 92 boxes at Holy Trinity.
- Box of Joy boxes will be available at the Spring Day of Prayer.

Nominating Committee: Kathy Gass

- We will need three volunteers to step into the role of Nominating Committee for next year.

Respect Life - Dee Bayley

- For the month of October, St. Mary's Belleville will be saying the Rosary every Saturday at 9am in the grotto behind the rectory.
- On October 5th there will be multiple parishes, including St. James and St. Mary's Belleville, participating in a Life Chain from 2-3pm.
- 40 Days for Life is also happening now. Participants sit outside of Planned Parenthood and pray. Dee Bayley has a sign-up form for those waiting to participate Oct 16.
- There is an organization called Students for Life who are also working to end abortion. One of their activities is standing in front of CVS and Walgreens because they sell abortion pills.

Current Business:

- Call for new officers
    - The president talked about how a president-elect and treasurer will be needed in the fall of 2026. The vacancies in the nominating committee was also discussed. Maggie Burns (Immaculate Conception), Venus Kowatczyk (Ss. Peter & Paul), and Marily Elam (St. Henry) volunteered to be on the nominating committee. Diane Kreeb (St. Augustine of Canterbury, Belleville) is interested in Treasurer. Discussion will continue at the Spring Day of Prayer.

- Call for host of Winter Business Meeting
    - St. Agatha, New Athens volunteered to host the Winter Business meeting. A date will be decided in the future.

Parish Reports

- Presidents or designees from 8 parishes reported on the activities in their parish to the group.
- Parish reports attached to minutes.

Upcoming Events:

- BDCCW Annual Convention – Wednesday, October 8th at St. Joseph, Marion
- 2026 MEVCCW Winter business meeting – TBD, St. Agatha, New Athens
- 2026 MEVCCW Spring Day of Prayer/Meeting – Tuesday, May 5th, Queen of Peace, Belleville
- 2026 MEVCCW Fall Day of Prayer/Meeting, September 24 at St. James, Millstadt

The Meeting closed at 2:16pm with The Memorare.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Burns, Secretary