Metro-East Vicariate CCW Spring Meeting/Day of Prayer
St. Liborius Parish, St. Libory, IL
Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Call to Order - President Madonna Stapf called the meeting to order 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 (18 parishes represented, 22 current or past presidents, 4 board members, and our spiritual advisor).

Minutes – Copies of the winter business meeting's minutes were published on the MEV-CCW section of the BDCCW website. Dee Bayley (St. Mary's, Belleville) and Karen Massey (St. Stephen, Caseyville) volunteered to review/validate the minutes for this meeting.

Treasurer's Report – The treasurer's report was presented by Treasurer Denise Blaha. The starting balance on September 10, 2024, was $4023.83. Receipts equaled $1184.09. Expenses equaled $940.70. The ending balance on April 29, 2025, was $4267.22. Pass the purse netted $222.59 for the St. Anne's Cradle of Hope Fund.

Communications:

- The MEV had received a letter from the Newman Student Center before the winter business meeting. It was brought to the board's attention at that time that not all parishes were receiving information from the Newman Center. The President Madonna Stapf emailed a brochure to all the council presents. The president encouraged each parish to support the Newman Center in Carbondale, the one located in our diocese. 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.
- The MEV received a letter from the Office of Hispanic Ministry. Hispanic Youth Day is scheduled for Saturday, June 14 at The Shrine. Registration will be free for all kids who wish to go. The organization is asking for donations to offset costs. After a short discussion, Loretta Kramer (St. Agatha) made the motion that $100 be donated to the Office of Hispanic Ministry for their Hispanic Youth Day. Vicky Knepper (St. Liborius) second the motion. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report: Madonna Stapf

- Please pray:
  - For Bishop McGovern as he takes on his new role of Archbishop of Omaha
  - For the repose of the soul of Pope Francis and Bishop Schlarman. May their souls and all the souls of the faithfully departed rest in peace.
  - For the cardinals and for the Holy Spirit's guidance in selecting our next pope
  - For the new pope and for the Holy Spirit's guidance in selecting our new bishop
- The winter business was held at St. Augustine of Hippo in February. The minutes were emailed to the presidents. Business matters were addressed, including the decision to

exclusively use electronic mailings for correspondence, and Jennifer was inducted into the role of President-Elect.

Spiritual Advisor Report: Deacon Art Hampton

- No spiritual report was given

Respect Life: Dee Bayley

- St. Mary's Belleville will be hosting a Pro-Life Rosary at noon the Saturday before Mother's Day and Father's Day in the Grotto at St. Mary's Parish
- Pray for the members of an organization called Students for Life. They go to college campuses and have been accosted a few times.
- 40 Days for Life just recently ended and overall had lots of support from the community
- Pregnancy care centers could use items for new mothers
- The Assisted Suicide bill was voted down once, but there are rumors it will come up for vote again. Contact your representatives to vote no on the measure.

Service (Box of Joy): Carol Geluck

- Carol, along with Debbie Nash, were able to tour and work at Cross Catholic Outreach's Box of Joy warehouse in December.
- Carol and Debbie gave a PowerPoint presentation of their time at the facility
- Drop off for Box of Joy will be at Holy Trinity Sept 20th, 21st, and 22nd. Please call Carol to set up an appointment for ease of dropping off.

Spirituality: Mary Wuertz von Holt

- Ladies participated in spiritual meditation adapted from "Liturgical Gestures, Words, Objects" by Eleanor Bernstein, CSJ in church prior to mass

Nominating: Madonna Stapf

- This fall we will need two volunteers to step into the role of nominating committee. We will be making calls.

Current Business:

- The NCCW is sponsoring a Leadership Training Workshop on June 21st in Crest Hill. Next year, we will need a new President-Elect, Treasure, and Secretary. Plus, the BDCCW is always looking for new board members. The president encourages all interested to attend and all parishes to consider sponsoring one or more of their council members. All parish organizations could use an increase in leaders. Our current President-Elect, Jennifer Richards, is interested in attending. The President suggested the MEVCCW sponsor her y paying at least her registration fee of $35 and maybe the hotel accommodation of $109 plus tax. After discussion, Mary Wilson (Immaculate Conception) made a motion to pay her registration fee, hotel, and reimburse her for gas mileage. Jane Kuester (St. James) second the motion. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

- At the winter business meeting, the pros and cons of physical mailings and electronic mailings were discussed. The decision was made to use electronic mailings exclusively, so it is vitally important we have updated and accurate email addresses. The MEV board encourages all presidents to share the information that is sent with their parish groups. What we send is information and opportunities that will help our Vicariate grow as individuals and organizations. Also, if you are not a president but still would like to be on the email list, share your information with the president and she will add you to the mailing.

Parish Reports

- A few presidents or designees reported on the activities in their parish to the group.
- Parish reports attached to minutes.

Upcoming Events:

- BDCCW Board Meeting – Thursday, May15, St. Joseph Marion
- NCCW Leadership, Training and Development Workshop – June 21, Blanchette Catholic Center, Crest Hill, IL
- NCCW 2025 Convention – Aug 19-23, Orlando, FL
- MEVCCW Fall Day of Prayer/Meeting -Thurs, October 2nd at St. Mary, Valmeyer
- BDCCW Annual Convention – Wednesday, October 8 at St. Joseph, Marion

The Meeting closed at 2:02pm with The Memorare.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Burns, Secretary