

**Metro-East Vicariate CCW Spring Meeting/Day of Prayer
Our Lady Queen of Peace, Belleville, IL
Tuesday, May 5, 2026**

Call to Order - President Madonna Stapf called the meeting to order at 1:04 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 108 people in attendance (23 parishes represented, 35 current or past presidents, and 4 board members).

Minutes – Minutes from our winter meeting were approved by Loretta Kramer (St. Agatha, New Athens) and Marilyn Elam (St. Henry, Belleville) and are available on the website: <https://www.diobelle.org/dps/bdccw/what-we-do>. Dee Bayley (St. Mary, 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. The starting balance was \$ 4,655.72. Receipts equaled \$863.81. Expenses equaled \$611.32. The ending balance on May 5, 2026, was \$4,908.21. Report will be filed for audit. It was also announced that an audit was done in the morning prior to the Day of Prayer starting. Pass the purse netted \$324.63 for Our Brother's Keeper. The total of the 50/50 was \$586 and the winner received \$293.

Communications:

- Copies of Newman Student Center brochures were available for those who wanted more information. 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 somewhere for a substitute family unit. Let us help them find a good, solid Catholic one.

President's Report: Madonna Stapf

- Filling the role of president for the past two years has been an amazing experience. She remains inspired by the truly holy and generous women that I have come to know as friends from so many different parishes. She is confident that she is leaving God's work in the MEVCCW in the capable hands of this new executive board.
- She thanked her Executive Board, the women who served on the Nominating and Respect Life Committees and the Service and Spirituality Commissions, Maggie Burns, and all of her sisters in Christ from across the MEV.

Spiritual Advisor Report: No report available

Vicariate Committees:

- **Respect Life:** Dee Bayley
 - Please vote against five parts of House bill regarding Pro-Life. Reach out to your local representatives.

- On May 16, St. Mary parish will participate in a nationwide rosary at noon. Bring a chair if you want to attend.
- On another note, St. Mary's CCW hosted a speaker from Regions Bank that spoke on scams and banking problems. There are magnets available if anybody would like more information.
- **Nominating:** Maggie Burns
 - A description was given of what the Nominating committee did and their mission. The importance of recognizing gifts in others and help nurture those gifts and talents. We are never happier than when we are doing what we are meant to do.
- **Spiritual:** Mary Wuertz von Holt
 - A spiritual exercise about Spiritual Gifts was done prior to the meeting. We are the "same, but we are different."
 - In Romans Chapter 12, St. Paul writes of seven gifts of service.
 - ❖ The seven gifts are Prophecy, Ministry, Teaching, Exhortation, Giving, Leading, and Mercy.
 - Prayer Card for 1 Corinthians 1:4-9 handed out
 - World Day of Prayer was April 26. Nationwide Day of Prayer is May 7.
 - Encouraged us to continue praying for vocations. There are five seminarians currently and seven new seminarians starting. Currently, there are 40 Deacons in diocese. The deacon wives are also an integral part of the community. The wives also go through a period of discernment and must give their consent for their husband to become a deacon.
- **Hospitality-Box of Joy:** Carol Geluck
 - Carol gave her presentation prior to the meeting.
 - Box of Joy was started in 2014 as a service project for the NCCW. 134,159 boxes sent in 2025 to Central America, Caribbean, and Africa. 915,889 boxes were sent since program started. Cross Catholic Outreach networks with schools to hand out boxes.
 - New contraband added this year includes toothpaste and bar soap.
 - Tentative drop-off dates and location are Oct 10th-17th at Holy Trinity. Updated information will be given out later in the year.
 - Postage is still \$9/box this year.

Current Business

- The president called for a host of the 2027 Spring Day of Prayer. St. Clare of Assisi in O'Fallon volunteered to host.
- Induction of new officers
 - Jennifer Richards was nominated for President. Debra Buss was nominated for President-Elect. Vicky Dunn was nominated for Treasurer. Stephanie Burns was nominated for Secretary.
 - Susie Colbert-Curtis (Immaculate Conception, Columbia) made the motion that these nominees be inducted into these roles. Carol Geluck (Holy Trinity, Fairview Heights) seconded the motion. Nominations were closed. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.
 - The Nominees were installed into their nominated roles.

Parish Reports:

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

Upcoming Events:

- BDCCW quarterly meeting – Thursday, May 21 at St. Bruno, Pinckneyville
- MEVCCW 2026 Fall Day of Prayer/Meeting – Thursday, September 24 at St. James, Millstadt
- BDCCW 100th Anniversary Annual Convention – Wednesday, October 21 at St. Bruno, Pinckneyville
- MEVCCW 2027 Winter Business meeting – Date TBD, St. Henry, Belleville
- MEVCCW 2027 Spring Day of Prayer/Meeting – TBD
- MEVCCW 2027 Fall Day of Prayer/Meeting – Date TBD, St. Agatha, New Athens

The Meeting closed at 1:51pm with The Memorare.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Burns, Secretary