

**Metro East Vicariate CCW Business Meeting**  
St. Agatha Church, New Athens  
Saturday, February 7, 2026

**Call to Order:** President Madonna Stapf called the meeting to order at 9:19am with the Salute to Cross, Pledge of Allegiance, and the St. Agatha Chaplet led by Mary Wuertz von Holt.

**Roll Call:** Roll call was taken by Secretary, Stephanie Burns. There were 20 people in attendance (11 parishes represented with 9 current or past presidents, 16 members, and 4 Board Members).

**Minutes:** Fall Day of Prayer/Fall Meeting minutes approved by approved by Denise Foerg (SSPPCC) and Dee Bayley (St. Mary, Belleville). Those minutes are available on the MEV section of the Diocesan website. Loretta Kramer (St. Agatha, New Athens) and Marily Elam (St. Henry, Belleville) volunteered to review/validate minutes from this meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** The starting balance in January 2026 was \$4655.72. Income was \$863.81 and expenses were \$611.32. The ending balance was \$4908.21.

- **Call for Bills:** No bills noted.

**Communications:** President Madonna Stapf emails newsletters from the Newman Center to the president of each parishes' sodality group.

**President's Report:** Madonna Stapf

- Madonna recognizes that her 2 years as president have been such a rewarding experience. She has seen growth in the organization, made new friends, and has grown to respect and admire the women in our MEV parish organizations. Everyone deserves a round of applause. She wants to thank all the women of this organization. It has been an honor and a privilege to lead us.
- The BDCCW continues to be active and supports the Vicariate Councils of Catholic Women. They are busy planning the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary BDCCW Convention to be held in Pinckneyville on October 14. She will be forwarding the information on registration as soon as she receives it. There are other opportunities to convene with our sisters from around the Diocese:
  - The CCW of the North Central Vicariate will be hosting their Spring Conference/Day of Spirituality on April 29 at St. Teresa's in Salem. The theme is Day of Prayer - Joyce Barth will be their keynote speaker and Cheryl Sommer will present on different types of prayer. There will be Mass and then lunch. After a panel presentation all attendees will be invited to put together a Prayer Tool Kit. If interested contact Helen Essenpreis at [essenpreis@charter.net](mailto:essenpreis@charter.net).
  - West Vicariate CCW will be hosting their Spring Meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup> in Walsh, IL. The speaker will be Ann May and she will be talking about missionary work. The afternoon session will address wellness physicals.

- Our MEVCCW Day of Prayer/Meeting will be held at Queen of Peace, Belleville on May 5. Our speaker will be Father Godfrey Mullins. Registration information will be sent out in the next 2 weeks.
- Also, this is Messenger renewal weekend. Remember to renew or become a new subscriber. It is our diocesan newspaper. We need to have a source for local diocesan news and information. Our subscriptions keep it alive.
- Please follow our Facebook page. We post fundraisers, opportunities for spiritual enrichment, and occasional fun memes. Ask the members of your organization to check us out.
  - Metro East Vicariate CCW
    - ❖ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/443855994473256>

**Spiritual Advisor Report: Deacon Art Hampton**

- Deacon Art was unable to attend the meeting, no report at this time.

**Committee/Commission Reports:**

- **Spirituality:** Mary Wuertz von Holt
  - We are in the church dedicated to St. Agatha. Coincidentally, Feb 5th was St. Agatha's feast day. St. Agatha was born in the 2nd century in Sicily to a noble family and made a vow at age 15 to be chaste and to dedicate herself to Christ. The Roman governor wanted to marry her, but she spurned his advances. He then tortured her. St. Agatha is the patron saint of rape victims, breast cancer, and single laywomen. Because of how she was tortured she is an advocate for women today.
  - Sr. Sarah Harbaugh professed her final vows as an Adorer of the Blood of Christ at St. Augustine of Canterbury church in Hecker on December 6. Sister Sarah works with a child and family services organization in St. Louis.
  - The diocese of Belleville currently has five seminarians who are studying to be a priest. The weekly intention we have during the Prayers of the Faithful for vocations are coming to fruition. In the fall, four new seminarian candidates start their studies. To help support the cost of their education, there is a Seminarian Gala on Saturday, April 11 at Holy Trinity Church in Fairview Heights with Mass at 4 p.m., cocktails at 5 pm., and dinner and silent auction at 6 p.m.
- **Nominating:** Marilyn Elam
  - The nominating committee works within the vicariate & local councils to recruit leaders for the Metro-East Vicariate CCW, trying to inspire and motivate ladies that want to participate more in their local councils, but are hesitant or don't know where to start.
  - The members of the nominating committee would like to attend parish ladies' clubs' meetings to provide information on the creation of the NCCW and how much we can accomplish if we work together. We are looking for 1 or 2 volunteers to trial our presentation. Let one of us know today if you would like us to come to your meeting.
  - An idea we hope will help strengthen relationships in this group is a social hour after the business meeting. Please reach out to Marilyn Elam, Venus Kowalczyk, or Maggie Burns with any suggestions for more ways to have fun together.

- **Pro-Life:** Dee Bayley
  - 40 Days for Life starts February 18<sup>th</sup> at Planned Parenthood.
  - There is a March for Life in Springfield on March 19.
- **Box of Joy:** Carol Geluck
  - Carol was unable to attend meeting but sent report that was read by President Madonna Stapf.
  - Our area collected and Carol's team screened a total of 1,080 Boxes of Joy last year. About 13 different Parishes participated. She will be contacting more parishes this year to help them participate even if they do not have an official CCW group. Hopefully we can get info into their bulletins and get a contact person to help with the effort. Cross Catholic outreach delivered just over 135,000 boxes last year.
  - Boxes will be passed out at the Spring Day of Prayer on May 5. Suggestions will be given for a possible "Christmas in July" kickoff. Collection week may be around October 11th, but she will have the dates finalized by May 5, so that information can be shared also.

#### **Current Business:**

- Review of the Fall Day of Prayer
  - Evaluations of the Day of Prayer were reviewed.
  - President Madonna Stapf drew attention to the Day of Prayer registration fee. Discussion of raising the fee or keeping it at \$15 was had. Food costs were considered, since the host parish oversees the lunch and prices have gone up. There were also concerns about the price being a burden on some. Multiple attendees noted that their ladies group pays for their members to attend. The president of the MEV also volunteered to help those who would like to attend but could not afford otherwise. It was also suggested that the prepaid price could be \$20, but at the door, the price could go up to \$25. It was noted that there were not many walk-ins and the increased price would not make a big difference. If the price was raised to \$20 per person, the host parish would keep \$15 and the MEV would get \$5. Marilyn Elam made a motion to increase the registration fee for the Days of Prayer to \$20. The motion was seconded by Loretta Kramer. A vote was called and the motion passed.
  - President Madonna Stapf noted that, with her blessing, the host parish of the Fall Day of Prayer had a basket raffle to help supplement costs. A small discussion was held, and the attendees voiced their approval of future host parishes having a basket raffle, if they wanted. It was also suggested that for all those attendees that are prepaid for the Day of Prayer, maybe they could get a free ticket to the basket raffle. Ultimately, it was decided that it would be up to the host parish with the MEV board serving in an advisory role.
- BDCCW Convention
  - The 2026 Convention will be held on Wednesday, October 14, in Pinckneyville
  - The 2027 Convention will be held in the MEV. St. Mary Parish, Valmeyer is thinking about volunteered hosting.

- ❖ We as sister parishes are asked to respond to any requests of the host parish.
- ❖ Each parish or parish partnership is asked to donate a basket/gift item for the basket raffle
- Amendment of MEVCCW Bylaw Section 2A-Point 4
  - Role of nominating committee added: Works within the vicariate and local councils to recruit leaders for the Metro East Vicariate CCW.
    - ❖ Dee Bayley made the motion to add the role definition. Jennifer Richardson seconded the motion. Vote was called. Motion passed.
  - Section 2A(a): Propose to change sentence “Candidates for the Nominating Committee must have served two years as a CCW Executive Board Member, or two years as Chair of a CCW commission” TO “Candidates for the Nominating Committee should be active members of a local council.”
    - ❖ Loretta Kramer made the motion to change the wording. Debbie Buss seconded the motion. Vote was called. Motion passed.
  - Section 2A(d): Propose to change sentence “The Nominating Committee will notify the membership of the list of candidates at least 30 days prior to the date on which voting will begin” TO “The Nominating Committee will notify the membership of the list of candidates prior to the date on which voting will begin.”
    - ❖ Mary Lou Dugan made the motion to change the wording. Marilyn Elam seconded the motion. Vote was called. Motion passed.
  - There was also a motion to change the wording of Vice-President to President-Elect in our Constitution and Bylaws by Maggie Burns. Dee Bayley seconded the motion. Vote called. Motion passed.
- The president expressed a need for volunteers to fill the President-Elect and Treasurer positions. A handout on the descriptions of all the Vicariate Leadership positions was handed out.

**Parish Reports:** No formal report.

- St. Mary’s Belleville is hosting a Bake, Easter, Man Cave Rummage sale March 28<sup>th</sup> from 8-1.
- Ss. Peter and Paul in Waterloo is hosting Wurstmarkt and Quilt & Cash Bingo is Sunday, Feb 22 from 11am-3pm. Bingo starts at 1pm.
- St. Agatha in New Athens Knights of Columbus is hosting a Valentines Steak dinner on Feb 14<sup>th</sup> 4:30-7:30. They are hosting a Purse Bingo Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup>. Doors open at 11:30 and Bingo starts at 12:30. They also have a Pork Sausage dinner March 22<sup>nd</sup> 4:30-7pm. They will have a Fish Fry Feb 20, March 6, March 13, March 20, and April 3 from 4:30-7.
- St. Teresa’s in Belleville is having a Sausage Dinner and Quilt Bingo Feb 22 from 11-1.
- St. Luke’s in Belleville is having a Noon luncheon and Card Party the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in March. Doors open at 10:30. They are also hosting a Rummage Sale March 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Sacred Heart in Dupo is hosting a Trivia Night March 14<sup>th</sup>.
- St. James in Millstadt is having a Quilt Bingo March 22 at 1pm, doors open at 10:30. April 9<sup>th</sup> they are hosting their annual Noon Luncheon from 10-2:30pm. Their theme is Take Me Out to The Ballgame. The ladies will also have a garage sale on May 2.

**Other Discussion/Announcements:**

- Our President-Elect Jennifer Richardson has volunteered to be the BDCCW President-Elect.

**Upcoming Events:**

- BDCCW Board Meeting – Thursday, Feb 19 as a zoom meeting
- MEVCCW Spring Day of Prayer- Tuesday, May 5 at Queen of Peace, Belleville

- NCCW Convention – August 26-29 in Grand Rapids, Michigan
- MEVCCW Fall Day of Prayer – Thursday Sept 24 at St. James, Millstadt
- BDCCW Annual Convention- Wednesday, Oct 14 at K of C Hall, Pinckneyville
- MEVCCW Winter 2027 Business Meeting – **date and location be determined**
  - St. Henry's in Belleville volunteered to host at the meeting
- MEVCCW Spring 2027 Day of Prayer – **date and location to be determined**
- MEVCCW Fall 2027 Day of Prayer - **date and location to be determined**
  - St. Agatha's in New Athens volunteered to host at the meeting

Thanks to the ladies of St. Agatha's for hosting.

The meeting closed at 11:02 with The Memorare.