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Message from the President - Carlotta Lawton



Dear JDCCW Members,

The Lord is coming from heaven to visit his people. What a defining moment in time! We can only imagine the joy that came to Mary as she gazed upon her newborn son, Jesus. In the simplicity of Bethlehem, she experienced the closeness to embrace, care and provide for his needs. Mary is truly the shining example for motherhood. She knew joy, but also dealt with adversities.

During 2009, JDCCW has experienced much joy. On November 14th, we celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the founding of our organization. A "Mass of Thanksgiving" was celebrated by Bishop Imesch and a luncheon followed that was attended by 112 people. Another event that brought much satisfaction to JDCCW was, "Embracing in the Commission Spirit" a Commission Day held on August 1st at St. Mary's Parish in Mokena. The 92 attendees who participated listened to interesting and informative speakers that centered on the Commissions of NCCW. The season of Lent brought special meaning, when Father Nathan Gohlke, presented a Morning of Reflection entitled "With Love There Is No Fear".

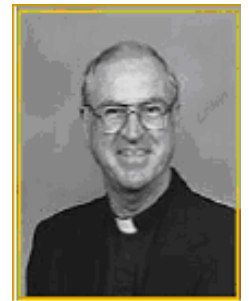
Also, JDCCW experienced some adversities along the way. We were told by the diocese that we would no longer have a secretary working for us two days a week. Thank God for the volunteers who come to staff our JDCCW office.

Prior to the 2009 NCCW convention, the national organization hired a consultant. This has been a quandary - Please pray for us.

As we reflect on the joys and adversities of our lives, may we be reminded of the awesome love Our Savior provided us with the coming of himself as a baby in Bethlehem. May we welcome him with open arms.

To you and your family, I wish a MOST BLESSED AND JOYFUL CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR.

Message from our Moderator - Fr. John Sebahar



As December begins, we once again turn our attention to our preparation for the feast of Christmas. Advent is a time of looking forward to experiencing the presence of Christ in our lives again. This year, Advent takes on a new meaning for me. As I recover from a knee replacement, I have come to realize how blessed my life has been. For the last 78 years, I have taken for granted many of the ordinary things in my life. Walking up and down stairs, getting in and out of my car, are so ordinary that I have never really thought about them. And I never considered them as special gifts from God.

With a replaced knee I am beginning to realize what a blessing my health is. As I again learn to bend my knee, go up and down stairs, get in and out of my car, I now see what a blessing my good health is.

All of us need to use the time of Advent to reflect on God's presence in our lives. Every single day the Lord blesses us in so many ways. We all need to take the time to see his presence in the things that take place every day.

How many times do we take for granted the gift of our families, our friends, and our parishes. Advent is a wonderful time to reflect on all of these blessings that the Lord continues to give to us.

The blessing of the Lord's presence in our lives will be better appreciated when we take the time to see and thank him for his watchful care over our lives. It takes just a few minutes of reflection to realize how the Lord touches our lives every hour and every day. Be aware of his presence and be thankful for the gifts and blessings he bestows on each one of us

Merry Christmas!

Joy is the true gift of Christmas, not the expensive gifts that call for time and money. We can communicate this joy simply: with a smile, a kind gesture, a little help, forgiveness. And the joy we give will certainly come back to us. ... Let us pray that this presence of the liberating joy of God shines forth in our lives."
Pope Benedict XVI (12/18/05)

Merry Christmas
 from
 the 2008-2010
 JDCCW Board



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