

# St. Mary's Altar Rosary Society



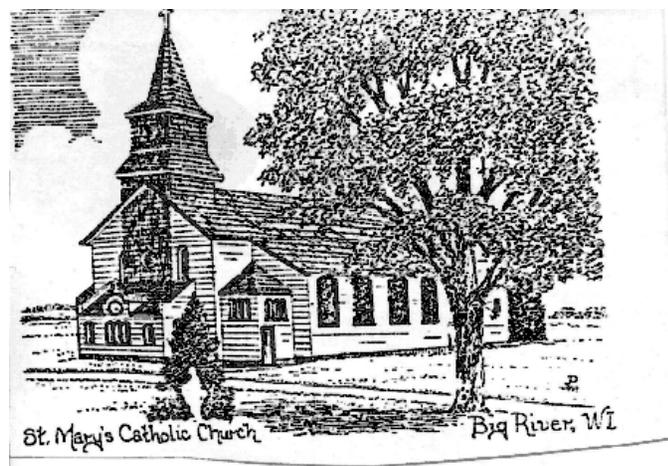
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## FORWARD

Because St. Mary's is a country parish, many people who move to this area do not realize its existence. Most often they have joined a parish in the nearest town or city before they meet their neighbors and learn of St. Mary's. To those of you who have found your way to "The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary", or "St. Mary's, Big River", as parishioners call her, we offer our sincere WELCOME!!!





Many years ago, beyond our current knowledge, it was decided that when a single woman or a family joined the parish or when a couple married and the bride was new to the parish, she would automatically become a member of the Altar/Rosary Society. This applies today and all ladies of the parish are members of the Altar/Rosary Society. All are encouraged to participate in the meetings, activities, and projects and to share ideas, prayer and support.

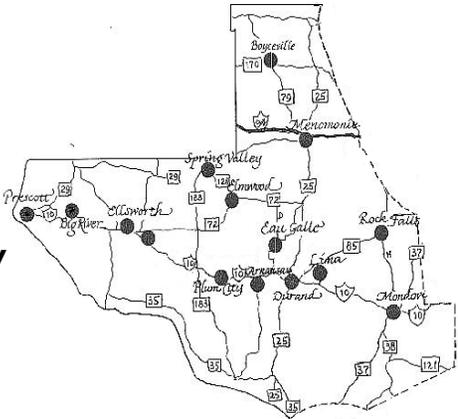
The Altar Rosary Society's mission is to promote spiritual and social unity among the women of the parish, provide financial support to causes approved by the **National Council of Catholic Women** (N.C.C.W.) and to assist on a local level in the parish and community. One of the best ways in which the members benefit is in the masses offered for the living and deceased members of the Society each year.

***We would like to share with you a little bit about the Altar Rosary Society's genealogy, mission and structure.***

One of 14 parish units belonging to the Durand Deanery Council of Catholic Women (Durand D.C.C.W.), St. Mary's Altar Rosary Society is also called St. Mary's **P**arish **C**ouncil of **C**atholic **W**omen (P.C.C.W.). The Durand Deanery Council of Catholic Women is one of 14 Deaneries of the LaCrosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

The LaCrosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women is part of the National Council of Catholic Women, uniting all Deaneries and parishes, and all Catholic organizations of women recognized by ecclesiastical authority. The LaCrosse D.C.C.W. was established in 1934, becoming active in 19 counties, 12 Deaneries and 169 parishes. It is a Diocesan-wide organization of Catholic women, affiliated with the **N**ational **C**ouncil of **C**atholic **W**omen, (N.C.C.W.).

**The Durand Deanery**





<b>OFFICERS:</b> President	Term - 1 year
Vice President	Succeeds to presidency
Secretary	Term - 2 years
Treasurer	Term - 2 years
Commission Chairpersons	Volunteer
	Church Communities
	Community Affairs
	Organizational Commission
	Family Affairs
	International Affairs
	Legislative

This structure imitates the Deanery, Diocesan and National level of the Council of Catholic Women.

Each Parish Council of Catholic Women pays dues to the Deanery, a part of which goes to the Diocesan C.C.W. and in turn some of which goes to the National C.C.W. for operating costs at each level.

Our Altar/Rosary Society is divided into six groups, covering different areas of the parish. These groups are St. Mary's, St. Rose's, St. Patrick, St. John's, St. Paul's and St. Theresa's. Each group has a chair and co-chair person.

The Altar/Society meets approximately once a month, except through the summer, and has several parish activities and duties as well as approved causes to implement. Date and time of meetings and events are published in the weekly parish bulletin. Each member pays dues of \$5.00 per year, which go toward supporting our causes and activities.



St. Mary's holds a fellowship after Mass, the first Sunday of the Month, except through the summer to welcome newcomers and offer an opportunity for parishioners to visit with each other. Each group takes turns serving the fellowship. Coffee and rolls are served and the group is responsible for the food, setting up tables and chairs and cleanup afterwards. We serve for social occasions of the parish such as, 1st Communion, Confirmation, retreats, graduation, Deanery meetings and also for funerals of group members or family.

During the year all groups take turns cleaning the church. Each group is responsible for a thorough cleaning usually on the first Saturday of the month assigned to them. The group is also to keep the church picked up, missalettes in order and the entry vacuumed throughout that month.

### **GROUP PROJECTS**

All groups prepare for, serve and donate to our annual parish fundraiser - St. Mary's Parish Festival (formerly Kolachy Day). This usually falls in August. Everyone is asked to help clean the parish hall before the festival and all parish members are asked to work the day of the festival. If a family cannot work that day a donation of \$50 is requested be made to the Altar/Rosary Society to support the fundraiser.

Each group is to have an annual fund raising project of their own; serve a wedding or anniversary dinner, card party, pancake feed, bake sale, auction or raffle. Or the group can decide to donate a set amount of money per person to the Altar Society.

**President**

The president establishes the date and time for meetings, publishes this information, as well as up-coming fellowships, events and church cleanings in the bulletin. She calls the group chairs about events and funerals. She makes sure there will be flowers at church, orders cleaning supplies and supplies for the school kitchen.

**Vice President**

The vice-president shares responsibility with the president. She attends the meetings, provides ideas, input and every assistance to the president.

**Secretary**

The secretary is responsible for keeping minutes of the meetings, checking the minutes for past events or motions and sending cards to First Communion and Confirmation students. The secretary is in charge of advertising for our festival and publishing a thank you to the festival donors.

**Treasurer**

The treasurer keeps an account of the Altar Society's finances, keeps the checking account in balance and ensures bills get paid. She gives a report at our meetings and prepares a monthly report for the Parish Finance Council. The treasurer also sets up cash boxes for our festival, helps count the proceeds and provides a final report of the festival for the Altar Society and the parish.



### **Chairperson Church Communities Commission**

The aim of the Church Commission is to create a community that is educated and dynamic. Catholic women called to discipleship and holiness respond with personal witness and service to the Church and to the world. The commission work reinforces faith and assists in meaningful ecumenical dialogue. It offers means to enhance public and private prayer, promote sound liturgical practice that is sensitive to the cultural diversity of the church, and provides resources for spiritual nourishment and development of the faith community.

### **Chairperson Organization Commission**

The purpose of this commission is to provide organization development, opportunities for leadership training, public relations resources, and publications to assure the successful organization and management of Council and its programs. It serves to strengthen the leadership team at every area of council.

### **Chairperson Family Commission**

The Family Life Commission helps us to place the family in the center of all parish activities. It offers assistance and education in the areas of family prayer, marriage enrichment, parenting and grand-parenting, Natural Family Planning, domestic violence and promoting vocations, among other areas relating to the family - the domestic church.

### **Parish Activities Committee**

The Activities Committee organizes, coordinates and trouble-shoots all things necessary for a successful event.



### **Chairperson International Concerns Commission**

The International Concerns Commission promotes responsibility for the world community through the conviction that our wealth and resources must be shared with all peoples. In response to this call for global solidarity, the commission creates awareness and educates us on the needs of women and children throughout the world. The commission encourages NCCW members to generously support the Works of Peace programs and the Works of Reconciliation Refugee Woman Emergency Fund implemented in partnership with Catholic Relief Services.

### **Chairperson Legislative Affairs**

The Legislative affairs commission keeps us informed on pertinent legislation that concerns abortion, welfare, affordable health-care, immigrants' rights, women's health issues, gun control and poverty. They also help to educate the parish about political responsibility and voting.

### **Group Chairperson & Co-Chairperson**

Each of the six groups in the Altar/Rosary Society has a chairperson who is assisted by a co-chair. They are responsible for attending meetings, calling group members when their group is scheduled to serve, and supervising/organizing activities within their group. The chairpersons call and welcome new members, invite them to meetings and introduce them to other members at various functions throughout the year.



**Madonna Plan**

Supports mother & child clinics, village water systems and training programs for young mothers in third world countries.

**Water for Life -**

Donations help to build water tanks to collect water in Kenya and other areas of Africa.

**Seminary -**

Helps to pay for the education of priests.

**Project Milk -**

Provides dried milk for the poor of our diocesan missions in Bolivia and Peru.

**Low Sunday Collection (DCCW) -**

Whole parish collection taken up by the women the first Sunday after Easter. Used for operating expenses and wherever the Bishop has a need.

**Sharing & Caring Hands -**

Twice a year St. Mary's serves a meal at Sharing & Caring Hands in Minneapolis. We cater the meal and all members provide a dozen bars and are asked to help serve





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