

LDCCW Winter Symposium Addresses “Women in Pursuit of Holiness”

The Lincoln Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (LDCCW) will host its second annual Winter Symposium at Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House January 20th and 21st. The goals of this year’s symposium are to help women 1) know they are loved and cherished by the Church, 2) understand their feminine genius and discover ways to use it to fulfill their own vocations, and 3) see how increased knowledge of the Church’s teaching on women, holiness and lay organizations can help the LDCCW more effectively participate in the New Evangelization.

Friday evening’s first priority is a vigil for the unborn, as yet another anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion passes. Afterwards, women are invited to enjoy each other’s company and share a few laughs as they snack on wine and cheese and get ready for Saturday’s symposium.

Saturday will start with a talk entitled, “I’m No Nun – Why Do I Have to Be Holy?” It will be presented by Bernadette Esposito of the Diocese of Omaha. Bernadette is a wife of 34 years, a mother of three (including a newly ordained priest), holds a BS in Nursing from the University of Delaware, an MS in Nursing from the University of California – San Francisco, and an MA in Theological Studies from Madonna University in conjunction with Ave Maria University. She has been teaching in the Catholic Biblical School in Omaha for the past 3-1/2 years, serves on the Board of Directors of the Serra Club of Omaha, the UNL Newman Center, the Children’s Scholarship Fund of Omaha and Maria Regina Cleri, and has given numerous retreats on different spiritual topics over the years.

The second talk is entitled, “What Say Thee Church about Women in the Modern World?” Who better to address this topic than the Lincoln Diocese’s own Shepherd and Pastor, Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz? With a brilliant mind and a father’s heart, the Bishop will address the women of his diocese. After the two talks, the attendees will participate in an exercise to determine “How Can I Become More Holy?”

The morning will end with Bishop Bruskewitz celebrating Mass for the attendees, followed by lunch. The afternoon session will start with a panel discussion of the ups and downs of pursuing holiness through the various vocations of a woman. Panel members will include Misy Fulton (a wife and stay-at-home mom), Michele Chambers (a wife and mom who works outside the home), Kay Wessel (a wife with no children), Marilyn Maney (a life-time single woman), Mary Ann Najmon (a widow) and a yet to be named religious Sister. The discussion will culminate with questions and comments from the audience. The afternoon will end with brief talks from LDCCW President Kris Sarver on “Why a Symposium on Women and Holiness?” and from incoming President Janice Goracke on “Thoughts on Becoming the LDCCW President”.

Check in at the retreat house on Friday night starts at 6 p.m., with the vigil for the unborn starting at 7. Cost for Friday evening and staying overnight at the retreat house is \$70. Saturday registration starts at 8 a.m., with the first talk beginning promptly at 8:30. Cost for Saturday (including lunch) is \$35. Total cost for Friday and Saturday is \$105. Please contact Janice Goracke to reserve a spot (vgoracke@aol.com or 402-423-3001). Capacity at the retreat house is limited, so women staying overnight will be given priority for attending Saturday’s symposium should seating become an issue.