

February 28, 2017



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In This Issue:

Message from the President



By Sheila S. Hopkins, NCCW President

My Dear Sisters in Christ,

**HAPPY 97th BIRTHDAY! CELEBRATE OUR
TWO MILLION WORKS OF MERCY!!!**

We have two exciting reasons to celebrate this March 4th! Not only do we have 97 years of spirituality, leadership, service and sisterhood but all your corporal and spiritual works of mercy add up to:

2,048,510

When Jane Carter, NCCW Supporting Member and Head Cheerleader, approached us with this idea to C-O-U-N-T mercies during the Jubilee Year of Mercy called by Pope Francis, my only question was - are you going to count them? THANK YOU, Jane and my sisters in Council, for keeping foremost in our service the needs of God's people. A certificate with this number will be created by Jane for presentation to Pope Francis.

In celebration of reaching this Two Million Mercies Milestone, I ask the affiliates to consider donating \$97.00 as your joyful expression of appreciation for the good work of NCCW. This would be a wonderful blessing to us!

The high school and college age prospective affiliates are beginning to join NCCW. We are finalizing the brochures for these to be used for contacts. This is new to all of us so we encourage you to check with the office before reaching out to any of these groups. We have an outline for action and some suggested activities. Molloy College, Long Island, NY was the first Catholic college to approach NCCW. Maribeth Stewart, President Elect, visited them and other Catholic colleges and high schools. The Archdiocese of Detroit CCW met with administration at St. Catherine of Siena All Girls Academy in Wixom, MI. They have sent in a check to be the first paid high school affiliate of NCCW. Welcome to our new members!

As we prepare for Lent, we decide how we want to mark this season - giving up

something or doing more of something. I recently read an article that may resonate with some of you. This woman decided she was going to give up reading Facebook for Lent. When she calculated all the hours she spent reading and sending posts, she decided it would be better to spend the time doing something that would make a difference in the life of another person like taking food to the food bank, praying the rosary for those who have no one to pray for them, volunteering at a homeless shelter or crisis pregnancy center.

Coinciding with 40 Days of Lent is the 40 Days for Life Campaign. All over the country, people are engaging in their mission of prayer, fasting and peaceful activism to turn hearts and minds from the culture of death to the culture of life. You can google 40 Days for Life to find a group near you.

May our Lenten season prepare us for the joy of Easter Sunday. Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us.

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NCCW Treasurer's Report

By Rose Martinet, NCCW Treasurer

Dear Sisters in Christ,

I hope all of you are well and surviving the winter. It has been such an unusual winter in the Midwest. January was filled with cloudy days and lots of rain while February has been sunny and unseasonably warm. As I write this my husband is out riding his bicycle for the second time this week!



The National Council of Catholic Women was founded March 4, 1920. We are 97 years old and that is a long time for any organization to survive!

Help us celebrate as we look forward to our 100th Anniversary by continuing to support us financially. Please consider making a "Birthday Present" donation of \$97.00, \$48.50, \$24.25 or \$9.70 or any amount you are comfortable with giving. We appreciate your support.

When you send in a check to the office, please indicate in the memo line what the check is for: annual giving, birthday club, dues, etc.

There are still some affiliates who have not paid their 2017 dues which were due Jan. 1st. Please remind your Councils so they are current and will continue to receive correspondence from NCCW. If you have any questions, please call the NCCW office at [1-703-224-0990](tel:1-703-224-0990). Your Province Director might be contacting you with a reminder.

Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us!

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From the NCCW Secretary

By Jean Kelly, NCCW Secretary

Even though Lent is later this year it seems always to catch me off guard. Instead of giving something up I always try to do something *more*. More prayer time, Stations of the Cross, Eucharistic Adoration or going out of my way to help someone--even if it is simply praying for them. If I read and reflect on all the daily email reminders and meditations I receive I will have accomplished more prayer indeed. I hope I can keep up with it!



If you are an archdiocesan or diocesan president you should have received the notice to complete the yearly interactive report. If you have not received this notice, please contact the NCCW office at [\(703\) 224-0990](tel:7032240990). We have simplified the report this year and it can be done simply by clicking on [this link](#):

A copy will automatically be sent to your Province Director. This should be completed at the end of your Council year. Thank you for taking the time to provide us with your information as it helps in future planning and keeps the lines of communication open.

Our Milwaukee Archdiocese has a radio program on Relevant Radio that airs on Fridays with our Archbishop Jerome ListECKI. It is called "Living Our Faith." I was honored to be a guest on February 17, 2017 along with our Archdiocesan President, Bea Sikorski. You can listen to the show by clicking on [this link](#).

If you participate in something similar in your arch/diocese, please share it with us!

Have a prayerful and peaceful Lent.

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From the President-Elect: CONVENTION NOTES

By Maribeth Stewart, NCCW
President-Elect and Convention
Chair

I am certain that you won't want to miss the fun, camaraderie, spiritual beauty and informative presentations at our Convention 2017 from September 6-9 in Dallas, Texas! All the Convention

Registration information will be on

line in early March so please make sure to consult our NCCW website, www.nccw.org and plan to join us at our 2017 Convention at the beautiful Hilton Anatole in Dallas, Texas.



I am excited as things are falling into place to make this a wonderful experience for all attendees. We have reduced the Early Bird Registration to \$300 for the full Convention, contracted for another hilarious visit from "Sister" in Sister's Christmas Catechism for our fundraiser, arranged for two optional tours prior to Convention: Sept 5 Dallas Highlights to include a visit to their gorgeous Cathedral and the Sept. 6 Highlights of Fort Worth to include a cattle drive down their main street! All in addition to a beautiful hotel filled with museum-quality antiques everywhere you look; moving liturgies with hundreds of our NCCW sisters and our wonderful Spiritual Advisors praying together; free parking for those staying at the hotel and \$10 daily parking for NCCW Convention attendees not staying at the hotel; a breakfast for all on Friday; informative interesting speakers; workshops from our Commissions and our Leadership Training Development Team; our Meditation Room; the power of praying the Rosary together; opportunities for Confession; the Silent Auction and the ever-fun Purse Auction; Exhibitors and our NCCW Store; our annual Business Meeting and officer installations; our closing recommitment ceremony; Province Dinners; meals for our Spiritual Advisors, members of the Associates of NCCW and for members of the Friends of NCCW for WUCWO and more--all facilitated by the gracious hostesses from our local Texas Councils who are working hard prior to and throughout our Convention to handle many details and projects and who are so integral to making everyone welcome and comfortable.

There will be much information in our next issue of *Catholic Woman* and on our website so please consult these sources and please plan to join us to celebrate 97 years of Council as we gather as ***Catholic Women: Living the Joy of the Gospel!***

PLEASE NOTE: The hotel reservation number listed on our website originally was incorrect for which we apologize. The correct number to call if you do not

wish to reserve your room on-line is [1-800-445-8667](tel:1-800-445-8667).

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2017 Candidates for NCCW President-Elect, Secretary and Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee presents the following nominations. Slate is in alphabetical order. NCCW will send a link to all individual members and current presidents of affiliates (diocese, deanery/vicariate, parish) who have provided NCCW with an email address.

Voting for officers and the nominating committee is May 1-22. According to the bylaws, the president on March 1 is the person who may cast the two votes for the affiliate (diocese, deanery/vicariate, parish). Please do not send in to the office your updated officers elected for next year until after May 22. This will keep confusion to a minimum as to who has the authority to cast the vote. Electronic ballots will be sent to those on record. Those with no email will be sent a paper ballot.

Candidates' statements, complete resumes and photos are posted on the [NCCW website](#) and will appear in the next issue of *Catholic Woman* magazine. Election results will be announced June 1. To be eligible to vote in the upcoming elections, an individual member must be current in her dues and affiliate presidents (receiving 2 votes) must be listed on the record 60 days prior to the electronic voting (Bylaws, Article VIII, Section I).

Nominee for President-Elect

Jean Kelly, Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Nominees for Secretary

Bev McCarvel, Diocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis

Teresa Sarzynski, Diocese of Amarillo

Nominees for Nominating Committee

9 candidates are slated for 2017 Nominating Committee; there are 7 positions:

Mary Sue Barnum, Diocese of Charleston, SC

Mary Ann Cummins, Diocese of Cheyenne, WY

Marlene Grover, Diocese of Charleston, SC

Michele Prado-Landreth, Diocese of Pueblo, CO

Sharon Ann O'Brien, Diocese of Washington, DC

Nancy Poll, Diocese of Nashville, TN

Arleen Roelike, Diocese of St. Cloud, MN

Diane Tugander Diocese of Miami, FL

Linnea Warda, Diocese of Joliet, IL

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Call for Bylaw Amendments

By Pat Reymann, NCCW Parliamentarian and Bylaws Committee Chairman

As you may recall from the Indianapolis Convention, the authority to amend the bylaws has been returned to the membership at convention. At this time, the Bylaws Committee is calling for proposed amendments from presidents on behalf of their affiliations or subdivisions; a group of 3 or more Individual members, and current Board members. The bylaws may be found on the NCCW web site.

A submission form is attached. Note that **all proposals are due to the Bylaws Chairman by St. Patrick's Day, March 17.**

Click on the link for the [NCCW BYLAW AMENDMENT SUBMISSION FORM](#)

*Complete a separate form for each bylaw amendment that you propose and email to the **Bylaws Committee Chair** by St. Patrick's Day, **March 17, 2017.***

The Committee and Board reserve the right to amend, consolidate or reject submitted amendments. All bylaw amendments (in some form) will be considered at the summer Board of Directors meeting.

Submit to Pat Reymann, patreymann@comcast.net by March 17, 2017

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Call for Resolutions 2017

By Patty Johnson, Resolutions Committee 2017 Chair

Resolutions are statements of direction for NCCW and members to use for program planning. Resolutions will be discussed and presented to the members for a vote during the Annual Business Meeting at the 2017 Annual Convention in Dallas, Texas.

Resolutions Committee. A Resolutions Committee consisting of seven (7) members has been appointed by the Board of Directors with Patty Johnson as Chair, Alison Mimms, Linda Smith, Karen Painter, Geri Kogut, Bev McCarvel, and Mary Rowley.

The Resolutions Committee will:

1. Review all resolutions based on the focus/theme.
2. Consolidate all similar resolutions into one that encompasses a similar issue.

Submission Process. All resolutions must be submitted with the NCCW 2017 Proposed Resolution Submission Form which will be available on the NCCW website, www.nccw.org, and must meet the submission deadline to be considered. The following information is a summary process for the consideration of resolutions:

Deadline for Submissions. NCCW Bylaws require that any resolutions offered by members for consideration at the Annual Business Meeting must be submitted six (6) months prior to the opening date of the Annual Meeting. This year that date is **March 8, 2017**. Please submit resolutions to NCCW at membership@nccw.org to arrive by the submission deadline of March 8, 2017.

For more information, please refer to the [NCCW website](#).

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Spirituality Commission: 40 Days of Lent

By Beth Mahoney, NCCW Spirituality Chair

"Lent is a favorable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ."-- Pope Francis

These 40 days of Lent provide us with a great opportunity to be in the presence of our Lord and Savior. How might we do this?

In his Lenten message, Pope Francis challenges us to open the door to those in need and recognize the face of Christ. Here are some suggestions:

1. Pray for those who are hurting within their families, work place or neighborhoods.
2. Invite a friend to the Stations of the Cross.
3. Volunteer at a soup kitchen.
4. Make a visit to a nursing home.
5. Take an evening and visit someone you have not seen for awhile.
6. Participate in your parish or diocesan Lenten mission.
7. Make a good examination of conscience and go to confession.
8. Prepare a meal for someone who is homebound.
9. Visit a school and ask to pray with the students.
10. Begin a bible study class in your parish.

These are all ways that we can live out the words of Pope Francis this Lent. As Catholic women, let us continue to bring the corporal and spiritual works of mercy alive within our families, society and church.

Lord Jesus,

As we begin our journey with you in these 40 days, we desire to open the doors to those in need and to recognize you in everyone we encounter.



You suffered much in your final days of life on earth, and died to free us from sin so we can receive the gift of eternal life.

Help us, through your grace, to be a living witness of your loving presence to everyone we encounter. May we be guided by your spirit during this Lent, to draw closer to you by spending time in prayer and doing corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

We ask this in total trust that you hear our every prayer and are with us in all that we say and do.

Amen.

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Service Commission: March is Food Shelf Month

By Chris Heiderscheidt, NCCW Service Commission Chair

Here in the northern part of the USA, our state of Minnesota has ear tagged this month as the month for the Minnesota FoodShare campaign, a statewide food drive that is a big deal for food shelves. The Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches launched the first spring campaign in early 1983. March became a big month for the campaign a couple of years later after food shelf directors determined that the need was greater then. The month also usually coincides with Lent, a season of prayer and sacrifice in which many Christians also help the less fortunate. So why couldn't all of us use this time of year to promote our local food shelf?

It's easy! Just contact the pastor in your parish and ask if you could set a plastic tub or sturdy container in the entrance of your church. I suggest you take it upon yourself to use a decent container, well labeled--not some tattered cardboard box. Then, provide the parish secretary with a bulletin announcement letting the parishioners know. Here's an example:

FOOD SHELF COLLECTION (or **MARCH FOOD DRIVE** or whatever title you wish to use)
During the month of March, our parish will be collecting food for the local food shelf. Please help with this food drive by bringing nonperishable food items and placing them in the bins located in the entrance of our church. We appreciate your kindness!

Then check the tub on a weekly basis and deliver it to your local food shelf or enroll their help in doing so.

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Leadership Commission

By Lindamarie Richardson Kelly, Leadership Commission Chair

I am sure most of you remember the story in the Bible about the "Widow's Mite." A woman who seemed to have nothing and depended on her children for nearly everything. She worked continuously for the small amount of spending money she had. Now we might not compare her to those living on the streets in third world

countries but she was close to poverty.

Even though she had nothing, she was a joyful person whose heart was filled with faith and her love of God. The appreciation for her many blessings, especially her children, could be seen every day. She was known for giving her last few coins to the parish collection. When asked why she gave her last coins her reply was, "God gave me that money and if I need more next week he will give me more." She was very generous with all that she had.

Now we don't know whether she ever received as much money as she gave but the point was that she knew God would take care of her. Jesus praised her sacrifices by saying "Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury." Jesus was praising her for the spirit with which she gave. Her actions and intentions should inspire us. This story indicates that sacrificial giving of our time, talent and treasures is indicative of our trust in God with our lives.

We can turn this story around by asking, how much are we giving of our time, talents and treasures to the Church and NCCW? All levels of NCCW are doing great things for the Church and our communities.

Do we make others aware of our great organization and all that is being done to educate women in spirituality, service and leadership? When your affiliate is having fundraisers, bake sales, retreats, meetings, and after Mass activities are you bringing forward information about NCCW? Do you have applications for NCCW membership available at these events? During your monthly meetings do you use items from the NCCW website? Are the programs developed by the NCCW commissions being used in your affiliate or Church? Have you ever had the LTD (Leadership Training Development) team to your area? These are all questions we should be asking ourselves.

If the answers are no, try appointing someone to handle some of these ideas. You can order membership brochures directly from the NCCW website by going to the home page and looking under NCCW Shop. Have a different member at each meeting present an item from the website. There is information on human trafficking, domestic violence and prayer services for vocations available on the NCCW website for FREE-- just to name a few. Look into having the LTD team do a workshop for you as a retreat or at your annual convention.

Remember the NCCW website, www.nccw.org, is a great source of information and ideas and it is there for you to use.

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Leadership Training Development: Is DEVELOPMENT a priority in your organization?

By Jane Carter, NCCW LTD Team, NCCW Supporting Member

Did you ever think about **LEADERSHIP**, **TRAINING** and **DEVELOPMENT** as the three "legs" of a successful organization? We know that a 3-legged stool does not wobble because at least 3 legs must be grounded at all times. So it is with an organization! There must be **LEADERSHIP**--a visionary with a gavel; a clear image and goals with order. There must be **TRAINING**--mentoring, skills learned and passed on, gifts encouraged. And there must be **DEVELOPMENT**--growth, change, progress and improvement.

DEVELOPMENT may be the least understood of the three, and possibly the most neglected in Council life. We nominate and elect officers regularly, we have by-law revisions and resolutions. Committees are chaired and events are planned. We know exactly who our leaders are. And good leaders understand the value of training, as every leader should be looking for her replacement and consistently mentoring newer and less experienced Council sisters. But what about **DEVELOPMENT**? Is **DEVELOPMENT** a priority? Set aside 20 minutes at your next meeting to brainstorm in small groups.

Use the words *growth*, *change*, *progress* and *improvement* as springboards and be amazed at the foresight and wisdom of your membership. Make a commitment to integrate at least one idea from each group. Make **DEVELOPMENT** a priority and watch as your organization grows, changes attract members and increase efficiency, your Council moves forward and members notice the improvements!

Consider hosting an LTD Program in your parish, arch/diocese, or province. Use the LTD team for A/DCCW convention presentations and workshops.

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Monthly Member Call

March Member Call

Next call: Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Subject: Call To Action: Techniques to utilize the Domestic Violence Resource-*Women Healing The Wounds*. It will be easier than you think!



Led by: Kathy Bonner

NCCW Members' Call Information

Call in number for all calls: [\(712\) 432-0375](tel:7124320375) - Pin 505816

Times are 5 pm (PT), 6 pm (MT), 7 pm (CT), and 8 pm (ET)

1. If you join the call after the start time, please do not announce yourself despite the instruction to do so.
2. When you join the call, please mute your phone by pressing *6. You can take the

phone off mute if you wish to speak by pressing *6 again.

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Sharing Ideas of Women in Action -- NEW!

By Kathy Bonner

In the *Connect* each month, we are highlighting the efforts of one of the councils who participated in the NCCW Women Healing The Wounds Achievement Recognition at the NCCW Convention. These works of mercy will inspire and provide ways in which Catholic women can join efforts to provide education and action and help those in domestic abuse/violence situations.

Highlighted this month: Lincoln Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, Nebraska

The board members of the Lincoln DCCW have found a way to be very unusual prayer partners. By working with the staff at the abuse shelter they were able to receive the first names of the women and children residents. The board members (Prayer Partners) write personal messages of encouragement on religious note cards, which are given to the families.

In February attendees of the LDCCW Winter Symposium designed Valentine cards for the residents and staff. Kolaches were baked and given to the Executive Director and staff as a token of thanks.

Along with supporting the staff and residents of this abuse shelter, which consists of 24 furnished apartments and is associated with Catholic Social Services and staffed by the Marian Sisters, they go well beyond with their efforts.

Each of the 13 deaneries will completely furnish at least one apartment and these items will be given to the women when they leave. Some Councils have already donated furnishings for 87 apartments.

In addition, since this was the LDCCW President's Project, each Deanery President presented one check at their Biennial Convention, representing the total monetary donation collected from each parish.

(The shelter is St. Gianna's Women's Home. Executive Director, Fr. Christopher Kubat. Information supplied by Sister Bernadette (one of three Marian Sisters who direct activities), and the then LDCCW President, Ann Jansky.)

There are endless ways each of us can help. We can all accomplish life-changing efforts by downloading the free *Women Healing The Wounds* resource (or ordering a bound copy for \$15) and the free *Women Healing The Wounds* educational brochure

from nccw.org.

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Legislative Advocacy Committee: Making the Internet Safer for Children and Families

By Karen Painter, Legislative Advocacy Chair and NCCW Representative to the Religious Alliance Against Pornography

A message from the President of ENOUGH IS ENOUGH (EIE), Donna Rice Hughes. National Cyber Security Alliance is a partner with EIE and they educate you with ways to protect your personal information and manage your privacy.

Please implement these recommendations to better manage your privacy:

- **Own your online presence:** Set the privacy and security settings on websites and apps to your comfort level for information sharing. It's OK to limit how and with whom you share information.
- **Lock down your login:** Choose one account and turn on the strongest authentication tools available, such as biometrics, security keys or a unique one-time code through an app on your mobile device. Your usernames and passwords are not enough to protect key accounts like email, banking and social media.
- **Keep a clean machine:** Update your security software, web browser and operating system to have the best defense against viruses, malware and other online threats.
- **Share with care:** What you post can last a lifetime. Before posting something about yourself or others online, think about how it might be perceived now and in the future and who might see it.

Enough Is Enough is working hard to make sure that parents know traffickers are targeting children--mainly between the ages of 12 and 19--right in our own backyards, and are using the Internet to entice them into a face-to-face meeting. The traffickers use the same tactics used by sexual predators to groom and exploit children online.

Did you know:

- Traffickers often set up fake accounts online to "friend" a teen, and lure them into meeting in real life.
- Teens from all different social economic and ethnic backgrounds are targets.
- Sex trafficking is the 2nd fastest growing crime in the United States, according to the FBI.

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Pope Francis' Intentions for March

Support for Persecuted Christians.

That persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help of the whole Church.

Find our Prayer Cards for Persecuted Christians (only \$6 for a pack) [here](#).

Also, consider praying to Our Lady Undoer of Knots. [Click here](#) for a link to the Novena prayers.



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In addition to [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) (@NCCW1920), we are now on Instagram!

Follow us at [NCCW01](#) and like all our posts.

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[National Council of Catholic Women](#)

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