



The Connect

August 2020

From the President

By Jean Kelly



This summer has been like no other. I am not used to shopping wearing a mask and keeping a distance from friends and family. I would normally be starting to pack for Convention, but instead I am thinking about ways to help bridge the gap we have because of the loss of revenue at what usually is our biggest fundraiser. Even though we offer all meals to you at cost and the cost of registration barely covers our hotel expenses, there are other convention-related activities that help us raise the necessary funds we need to continue to operate. The 50/50 raffle, silent auction and fundraiser evening will not be happening this year. Bishop donations were very low and few program ads were placed because of the pandemic. These funds help to pay our rent, utilities, office salaries and many costs associated with our organization until affiliate renewals are received along with our year end campaign. While we are working on cutting as many expenses as possible and have put a hold on the purchasing of items, we still will feel a shortfall.

I want to thank everyone who donated a portion or all of their registration from this year.

A letter was recently sent to all members asking for your help in this regard. I realize that many events were not held, but if your Council has funds that need to be distributed we would be grateful. I want to thank you in advance for always being so kind and generous.

On August 29th, the new Treasurer, Province Directors and Chair of Spiritual Advisors will be installed via Zoom. Please pray for them as they take on these new roles.

We won't be together this August, but that will make next August even more special when we can gather and rekindle our friendships. Keep in touch with each other and keep praying for the National Council of Catholic Women.

Be A Vision for the Future!

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From the President-elect



By Pat Voorhes, President-Elect

One of the things I enjoy doing is reading the CCW newsletters from around the country that arrive in my inbox from the NCCW Secretary. Thank you to all the A/DCCWs that send in their newsletters. One such article: Domestic Violence from the

Communiqué written by Joanne Nareski caught my eye. She writes: “Confinement is a breeding ground for domestic abuse. During the COVID 19 lockdown - between March 19-24 crime fell by 25% but domestic violence -a crime committed in private, in people’s homes - increased by 5%. Within the next two months it increased up to 20% in some states. Stay at home orders, unemployment, financial struggles all lead to stress, an increased factor for domestic abuse”. This is such an important topic and given the information above, even more important now. Please join us on the September 16, 2020 Member Call for a discussion led by Kathy Bonner discussing Domestic Violence and preparations for Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October 2020).

You have all heard by now that our 2020 Centennial Convention has been postponed to August 25-28, 2021. Many of our plans will remain the same: NCCW 100 Years: A Vision for the Future theme; Crystal Gateway Marriott; Centennial Mass and tour of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception; Gloria Purvis and Abby Johnson speaking; and the Jersey Tenors will perform.

Many thanks to all those generous people who donated part of their convention registration to help offset NCCW’s financial shortfall. Please continue obtaining new individual/supporting members. Thank you to all of you who participated in the membership contest to win a trip to the 2020 Convention that was postponed. All your efforts and hopefully more will be counted in the 2020 One Convention Membership Contest to be drawn at the May/June 2021 BOD meeting. This year, more than ever, we need your help with new members. Not having a convention puts NCCW in a serious financial setback.

Stay well and healthy this Summer!



Member Call Information

There will be no member call in August. Join us on **September 16, 2020** to hear Kathy Bonner discuss Domestic Violence. She will help to prepare us to observe Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October 2020). Visit nccw.org for the call in details.

Call for Nominations

The Nominating Committee of the National Council of Catholic Women is seeking qualified candidates for the positions of President-Elect, Secretary and seven (7) Nominating Committee Members. NCCW is looking for dedicated women of faith, poise, character, strength and leadership skills to responsibly represent the organization nationwide.

Election will be April 1 to May 1, 2021 (4:00 PM EST). Officers will be installed at the 2021 NCCW Convention in the Washington D.C. Area. Information and a nomination form with qualifications and requirements for the positions will be posted on the NCCW website, www.nccw.org. Please direct nominee's names and recommendations to the chair of the Nominating Committee, Chris Heiderscheidt, chrisheiderscheidt@gmail.com. All applications must be submitted electronically. The deadline to receive nomination applications is midnight, December 15, 2020. Nominations must include the nomination form, a letter of endorsement from the nominee's bishop and president of nominee's affiliate, and a 150-word statement of how you will fill the position. Also needed is a 200-300 word resume with experience listed in NCCW, Province, DCCW, Deanery, Parish, Education and other pertinent experience, and an interesting fact about your accomplishments, along with a current photograph (jpeg file format).

President-Elect

Beginning with her installation at the 2021 NCCW Convention, the President-Elect serves a total of six years on the Board of Directors, two years as President-Elect, two as President, and two as Immediate Past President. To be eligible for the office of President-Elect, candidates must have served as an arch/diocesan president and served on the NCCW Board of Directors for a minimum of two years. (Article VI, Section 2, Bylaws)

Secretary

The Secretary serves a two-year term, beginning with her installation at the 2021 NCCW Convention. Candidates for Secretary should be able to commit to serving 2021-2023. (Article VI, Officers, Section 8)

Nominating Committee

Members of the Nominating Committee serve a two-year term beginning with installation at the 2021 Convention (Article VIII Elections, Section 2). A candidate must be able to meet by conference call with other members of the Nominating Committee, have computer skills and the ability to communicate by email.

All candidates must:

- Be active Individual Members of NCCW.
- Preferably have held an office on the arch/diocesan, subdivision or local level.
- (President-Elect and Secretary) Attend three Board of Directors meetings a year and other meetings as requested, and be available for monthly conference calls with other members of the Executive Committee.

Election Timeline

March 2021 – Announcement of candidates and candidate information is posted on the website, in the Connect and March issue of Catholic Woman.

April 1 – May 1, 2021, 4:00 PM EST – Voting takes place

For complete application forms and NCCW Bylaws, visit www.nccw.org.

Members of the Nominating Committee: Chris Heiderscheidt (Chair): chrisheiderscheidt@gmail.com; Deanna Holmer: dean-naholmer@gmail.com; Jean Bazley: ladiebug39@aol.com; Mary Glosson: maryglosson@hotmail.com; Rose Guerrero: rose-guerrero51@yahoo.com; Debbie Keller: kelkrew@gmail.com; Joby Parker: jobyparker@hotmail.com

Since we will not physically be together this year for our 100th anniversary celebration, the **NCCW Spirituality Commission invites you to join us in prayer** on Friday, August 28th at 7:45 pm (EST).

Call in information:

4:45pm PT, 5:45pm MT, 6:45pm CT; and 7:45pm ET. Call in number for all calls: (515)-606-5163 Pin 703993#

Spirituality Commission

By Kathleen Penno, Spirituality Commission Chair

Recently, while enjoying a beautifully sunny and warm day, complete with a blue sky and a few white fluffy clouds, I took refuge from the heat by sitting under my shady oak tree. Contemplating the awesome designs of nature, my mind wandered back to a poem written in 1913. Enjoy!

Trees

By Joyce Kilmer

I think that I shall never see

A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in Summer wear

A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;

Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,

But only God can make a tree.



Photo by [Fabrice Villard](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Service Commission

By Mary Ann Cummins, Service Commission Chair

The NCCW Service Commission would like to remind you of several activities as summer winds down. Please consider being involved in any or all your CCW might wish to do.

The ***Friends with Pens Program*** that the virus interrupted is up and running with a new email. Go to maltapenpalprogram@gmail.com to sign up and/or activate your prison pen pal request.

Human Trafficking is all across the news with the Epstein case and Ghislaine Maxwell arrest. Continue to be informed and to boycott the movie stars and companies involved in this evil. Visit the [NCCW website](#) for resources related to human trafficking.

Gun safety is something to become familiar with for yourself and your family as our country grapples with slogans such as “defund the police” and anarchists in our cities and hometowns.

Walking with Moms in Need is especially important in these virus pandemic days, due to the financial crisis many women might find themselves in as well as the domestic violence they might be experiencing.

As summer winds down and your CCW becomes active again, make plans to support these “service causes” and become a part of the solution to these pressing needs in your own community. And always pray for evil to be defeated and God’s peace to reign again.



From the Treasurer

By Rose Martinet

I thought that last month was my last *Connect* to you but here I am again writing to my fellow supporters of the National Council of Catholic Women. You are the reason this organization has been able to help others for over 100 years. Thank you so much for all that you do.

Your continued support of Catholic Relief Services has helped so many. We sent a check to CRS in July for \$ 8,595.08 for the follow allocations, per your request:

Donations Help a Child	\$ 168.00
Donations Madonna Plan	\$ 383.00
Refugee Women Emergency Fund	\$ 155.00
Donations Water for Life	\$7,889.08

You were generous in your support of the [Vocation Purse Club](#). A check for \$ 11,924.22 was sent to the [National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations \(NFCRV\)](#).

Thank you for all your support of NCCW and these wonderful organizations.

I was so excited about being able to get the NCCW 100th Anniversary Wine. In my state, we are not able to get the wine delivered. That didn’t stop me! I called a CCW friend who lives in a neighboring state and asked if she would order for me and would meet to do a CCW wine exchange. I ordered 4 cases because several ladies had expressed an interest in the wine. I’ve sent out an email blast to our members and parishes and am arranging for pick up/or delivery. Several parishes are giving a bottle or two to their Spiritual Advisors. In my diocese, we’ll give some to our new bishop too. Place your order at www.holyspiritwine.com. Enjoy!

See you at convention **2020ne** in 2021.

Leadership Commission

By Ruth Warren, Leadership Commission Chair

Walking with Moms in Need Status Check

How are your plans for your Council events going? Like many, I am sure your plans for your Council and implementing Walking with Moms in Need (WWMIN) have not gone like you had hoped. According to a webinar on WWMIN from the USCCB, COVID has impacted or delayed the full implementation of the program in many dioceses. So, let us consider how we can get started now if your parish has not yet begun.

First, it is important to recognize that more than 1/3 of all dioceses have joined the Walking with Moms in Need initiative. An important first step would be to assess what resources your parish or diocese currently has to assist moms in need. Some parishes already have affiliations within their parishes like The Gabriel Project or Elizabeth Ministries; WWMIN does not need to supersede this but can enhance this. Perhaps your Council assists with these ministries. By evaluating how you let people know about this, you can better connect the moms in need.

How do you reach women who are not in the pews? This can be an important opportunity to connect women not just to the services they need but to your Council and NCCW.

After assessing what services you currently provide, communicating and collaborating with others to share what your Council or Parish can offer, what can we do next? Perhaps you have identified that your parish does not offer direct services to moms in need; this does not mean you need to start a pregnancy center in your par-

ish. The goal of WWMIN is to enhance relationships and connections. Supporting women in need is an opportunity to reach women who might not be familiar with our organization. Consider how your Council can support this initiative in a different way. Perhaps there is a local pregnancy center whose mission your Council or parish could support and collaborate with. This could be as simple as a one page list of resources and contacts.

Walking with Moms in Need aligns with our mission to support, empower, and educate women. If you have yet to begin the initiative, it is not too late. Consult your diocesan Respect Life coordinator by phone, email or in person. As always, be sure to follow your parish and diocesan COVID-19 policies.



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Legislative Advocacy

VULNERABLE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES NEED COVID-19 EMERGENCY AID

By Cheryl Sommer,

Legislative Advocacy Committee

During this pandemic, what do you need? Clean water, nutritious food, hygienic supplies or protective equipment? Many around the world don't have access to these things, but their desire for safety and good health echoes our own.

The social and economic impacts of COVID-19 are devastating. Vulnerable communities are experiencing the worst effects. To protect ourselves and our entire human family, we must make sure that everyone can stay safe and healthy.

Our faith calls us to support refugees living in crowded settlements with little access to clean water and soap, space to social distance and other basic needs. We're called to help hungry families receive their daily bread and support to continue farming and making a living.

Negotiations on the next COVID-19 emergency aid package are occurring in Congress now. Urge your Senators and Representatives to provide at least \$12 billion for the international response to COVID-19.

To put \$12 billion in perspective:

Thus far, Congress has allocated .1% of its COVID-19 response on international actions-- 2.4 billion of \$2.4 trillion.

\$12 billion would be a step toward the [\\$90 billion](#) that UN experts predict are needed to protect the most vulnerable 10 percent of people globally.

Comparatively, the U.S. provided [\\$5.4 billion](#) for just three countries to respond to Ebola in 2015.

When we unite our voices together, we not only prevent the spread of this virus, but also famine, death and disaster.

Emails may be sent through <https://support.crs.org/act/lead-the-way-covid>.

Calls : 202-225-3121 for Representatives, 202-224-3121 for Senators.

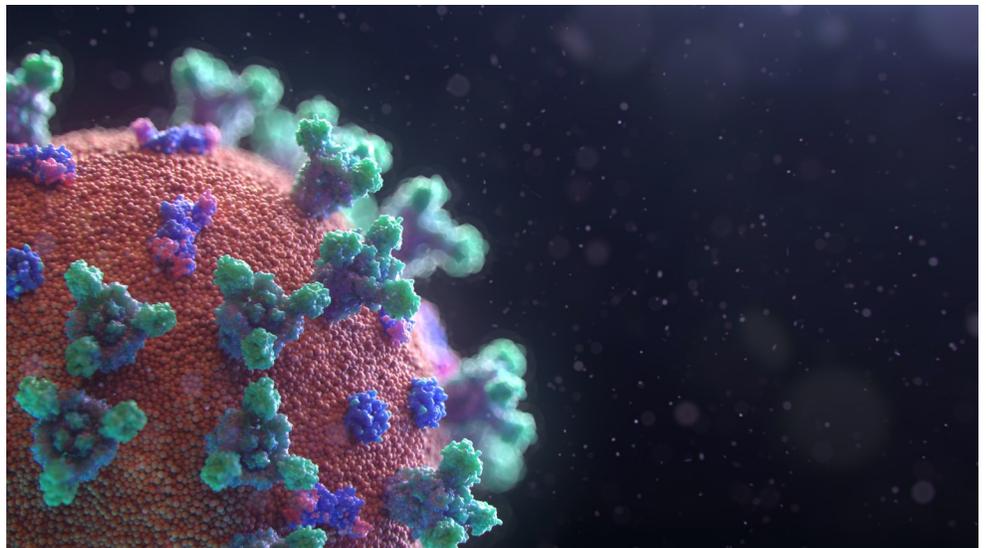


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Education

By Ellen Bachman, Education Committee Chair

When I was President of NCCW, we invited Susan Conroy to be a Convention Speaker. She was a young woman who had spent the summer in Calcutta with Mother Teresa. Her life-changing experience prompted her to write the book *Mother Teresa, Lessons of Love and Secrets of Sanctity*. She shared those inspiring stories with us. Today, I want to share a piece of her story along with Mother Teresa's daily prayer.

"Mother Teresa was so small in stature and humble of heart that she was both physically and spiritually able to reach the poor and sick people who gathered along her path. I loved to watch this. She would stop and bless each one and she brought so many smiles with her tender touch. I cannot express fully what love poured out of us all as we watched Mother. And everyone who saw her, even from a distance, was as touched as the people upon whom she rested her hands. It was like watching Jesus touch and heal those who were blind and sick. Mother Teresa's touch seemed to heal people's hearts of any sadness. Her presence instantly brought sunshine. Everywhere she went, she transformed sadness into joy, despair into hope, suffering into a sense of being privileged to suffer. I could truly see the radiance of love in her and touch everyone around her.

"Radiating Christ was the daily prayer Mother said and gave to us to pray daily.

"Dearest Jesus, help us to spread Your fragrance everywhere we go. Flood our souls with Your Spirit and Life. Penetrate and possess our whole being, so utterly, that our lives may only be a radiance of Yours. Shine through us, and be so in us that every soul we come in contact with may feel Your Presence in our soul. Let them look up and see no longer us, but only Jesus! Stay with us, and then we shall begin to shine as You shine, so to shine as to be a light to others. The light, Oh Jesus, will be all from You; none of it will be ours. It will be You, shining on others through us. Let us thus praise You in the way You love best: by shining on those around us. Let us preach You without preaching – not by words, but by

our example, by the catching force, the sympathetic influence of what we do, and the evident fullness of the love our hearts bear to You. Amen"

Reflection

Think of Mother Teresa and her daily walk through the streets of Calcutta. See her bending down and touching someone laying in the street. See the love on her face as she touches them and talks to them. Be that person laying in the street. What joy does her smile bring to you. Can you See Christ embracing you through her? Does her face become His face?

Think of a time when someone reached down and lifted you up. Who was it? What did you see in their face that captured you and made you feel whole again? Who was Christ for you?

Now ask yourself: today, will *you* radiate Christ? Perhaps to a neighbor, a friend or family member, or a young woman who looks to you for guidance and inspiration?

Dear Lord, help us to be your face to those in need. It may be our child, a younger parishioner, or someone in a grocery store that just needs a smile and hello. Lord, help us to bring your love to all we meet. We thank you for the daily opportunities you give us

to be Your light. Help us to recognize these opportunities. Lord, we love you and want to serve you here on Earth. Amen



Called to Save Lives

By Kathy Bonner

During these unusual circumstances, we may be isolated from our Council sisters—but only in distance, never in faith and action. Not being able to hold events or work on projects side by side does not affect our ability to continue our helping others. Actually, we are given an opportunity to take a closer look at the projects we support and the methods we used. We are witnessing amazing approaches using ingenuity to accomplish what seemed, at first, impossible. Women are known for thinking out of the box. Now is the time to take a creative look at what we can accomplish.

Let us assess what has been done to save those living in a situation of domestic violence. What have we done in our own backyard? NCCW has resources that can help you make a difference without time consuming fundraising or holding large events.

We can educate parishioners about the reality of domestic abuse in some Catholic homes. I grew up in such a situation; no one would have guessed what was going on in the home of those five perfectly behaved children and two parents sitting in the church pews on Sunday morning.

NCCW has a program to raise awareness and educate about the reality of domestic violence. Everything needed is provided. It is one of the easiest projects a group could do, yet the results may possibly save lives and change the outcome for future generations.

The September 16, 2020, NCCW member call will help you plan for October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, with the *Women Healing the Wounds* companion program *Mending the Brokenness... With Real Love*.

We will highlight how easy the program is to use. Also, we will share some successes and several other pieces of information. Order, or download, NCCW's *Mending the Brokenness... With Real Love* program from nccw.org. Join us in September.

YOU can help save lives.

Take a stand against
Hopeless Crime Physical Lonely Control
Hurt Children Fear Crying RAGE
Verbal Anger Depression Abuse
Apologies Trapped Resentment Insecurity
Heartache Why Lies Anxiety Assault
Partner Scared Anxiety Bruise Victim
Domestic Violence

Celebrate Wo-mentors

By Jane Carter, NCCW Supporting Member

Wo-mentoring is more than helping someone learn a new job or skill; wo-mentoring is a personal relationship with another woman. It is a listening and evolving adventure! Wo-mentoring is a gift to both partners—an opportunity to pray, grow, learn, and share together. Wo-mentoring is how Council of Catholic Women members find success and succession!

We all have multiple wo-mentors along our own journey, each one special and needed at different times. Council members who have communicated both the message and the spirit of our organization. Wo-mentors who have encouraged our ideas, affirmed our gifts, and nurtured our efforts. Wo-mentors who have fueled our dreams, prayed for us by name and lived our NCCW Mission with us.

We have been both wo-mentor and wo-mentored, knowing the gift it is to have and to be a wo-mentor. I encourage you to use this momentous year of our 100th Birthday to share the stories of how wo-mentoring has enriched your life. Write a personal note, give a short testimony at a Council meeting or through your website or FB page, start an annual Wo-mentoring award in your parish, put an ad in your Diocesan CCW convention program honoring your wo-mentors, host a Wo-mentor Luncheon or outside picnic, offer an hour of adoration for her—any way you choose, celebrate her!



Photo by [Christina @ wocintechchat.com](https://www.unsplash.com/users/christina) on [Unsplash](https://www.unsplash.com)

Leadership, Training and Development

A Council Enrichment Program

By Linda Clark, LTD Co-author and Lead Coordinator
Meet Wings. She is a beautiful caterpillar with so much potential. She does not realize how many possibilities and depth she has!

Nor does she have any idea what her creator has in store for her, and how her life will change. The LTD Team, along with Wings, has something special planned for all our sisters in Council!

Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor a **pandemic** will keep the NCCW Leadership, Training and Development Team from offering training presentations for the Council of Catholic Women. Our team is currently working on presenting virtual workshops for our members. We will be using Zoom or a similar tool to connect us all together.

We will be unveiling the workshops early this fall. Let us know if your CCW (on any level) is interested in resolving issues of concern or wants to know how to keep your Council's positive growth going.

These workshops will enhance your CCW with techniques, solutions, and training to fulfill our mission to support, empower and educate all Catholic women in Spirituality, Leadership and Service. Additionally, if you have discovered a great idea (that would benefit our members) and you would like to share with the LTD team, we would love to hear from you. We are all in this together.

NCCWltdcontact@gmail.com



Report from the UN

By Theresa Boscia, NCCW NGO representative to the United Nations

“Healthy People and Planet - Why Sustaining All Life Matters in a Post-Covid World”

During this pandemic, many people have asked, “Where did Covid-19 come from?” and “How did this virus get started?” A recent UN webinar attempted to answer these questions. Ms. Inger Andersen is the Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme.

She explained that nature is a finely tuned system that sustains everything. We have not taken care of nature but have backed nature into a corner. Covid-19 is sending a message - we cannot continue as usual. 75% of the earth’s landscapes have been altered by some type of human development. We’re losing tropical forests at an alarming rate. Air pollution has not been dealt with satisfactorily and CO2 levels have hit an all time high. The melting of the permafrost releases viruses. The management of waste; in particular, hazardous and medical waste, must be improved. And a more effective use of water resources needs to be explored.

When we don’t take care of nature, there is an increase in infectious diseases. If we don’t tackle climate change, we’ll experience more deadly storms.

There is a connection between human and animal health. 60% of new infectious diseases can be traced to zoonosis. The illegal wildlife trade is the world’s 4th largest crime. Animals are brought across borders despite treaties. Different species are caged together in highly unsanitary conditions. This practice promotes viruses.

People also require a clean outdoors. Nature and health are intimately connected. When you walk in nature, stress is reduced and cardiovascular health improves. In addition, we now know that children’s brains are healthier when exposed to “green.”

Nature is forgiving but we must take immediate action in order to turn things around. Solutions will include adhering to the “Half Earth” proposal, that is setting aside half of the earth for “green.” The shift to “green” will be especially important in the transportation and housing industries. Change demands cleaner cities, less pollution, zero emissions, more solar power, the elimination of chemical fertilizers, and better consumer choices. It was suggested that we take the environment into the voting booth with us. Vote for the future. We praise faith communities who have been extraordinary in working toward sustainability.

