

Our Catholic Voice

August 2020

We are the Voice of Catholic Women everywhere: from the Women in the Pews of the local parishes to the Deanery Councils, Diocesan Council, the Province of Saint Paul/Minneapolis, the National Council (nccw.org) and WUCWO (World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations wucwo.org) our International parent organization. This is one of the ways we share information up and down the lines of communication.

MISSION STATEMENT

The St. Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women acts through its affiliate organizations to support empower and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. DCCW programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world.



Saint Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Contact us: stclouddiocesancew@gmail.com

Website: stcloudccw.org

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

LINDA SCEPUREK

320-842-4805

Hopefully everyone is getting some normalcy back in their lives. I am so glad that the churches are open again and that we can attend Mass and receive the Body of Jesus. July is dedicated to devotion to the Most Precious Blood of Jesus.

With all the cancellations, not much has been happening with the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. We will be having a board meeting this month, with much work to do about all we missed. The meeting will be at Holy Cross Church in Menasha.

Our Annual Fall Conference will be held on September 19th at St. [redacted] Parish in St Cloud. We are joining with the Office of Marriage and Family with the [redacted] Conference. I'm keeping in contact with Janet Dusek from their office [redacted]. The theme will be "The Body of Christ: Together as One in the Eucharist." Hope to see you there.

I'm told that the corn needs warm weather to grow, well with the last few days, it must have been growing like everything. We were blessed with rain this last Monday, but we must have prayed too hard because we got 9 inches. My back yard is now a pool, I imagine that it will be that way for a while. But thankful my lower level of house did not get wet, like so many of the homes in Little Falls.

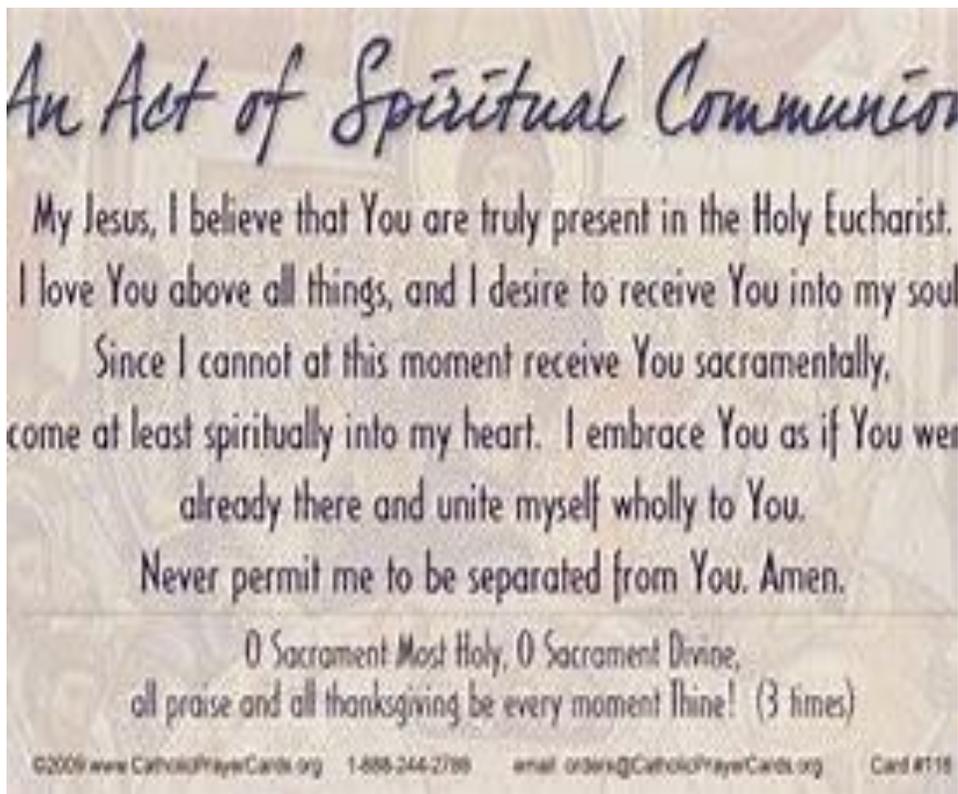
It is good to have the churches open for Mass and adoration; even if the pews are roped off and the floor is marked with tape to keep people 6 ft apart. Reconciliation is back in churches rather than in the parking lot. We continue to have a drive-in Mass every weekend. I have to say that I did go to it once, but it isn't for me. I like being in the main body of the Church.

Fr. Frederick Faber's book, "The Precious Blood", provides insight to fortify our prayers this month, everything that is holy on earth is either a leaf, bud, blossom or fruit of the Blood of Jesus. It is out of the Precious Blood that men draw martyrdoms, vocations, celibacies, austerities, heroic charities and all the magnificent graces of high sanctity. The secret nourishment of prayer is from those fountains."

Linda Scepurek, President

A NOTE ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION

If you prefer to receive holy Communion under “both kinds” — that is, the body and blood — it is important to note that “since Christ is sacramentally present under each of the species, communion under the species of bread alone makes it possible to receive all the fruit of Eucharistic grace” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1390). It is also worth noting that, in the United States, Communion in the hand is allowed by permission of Pope Paul VI, but the decision on which way to receive (in the hand or on the tongue) ultimately is left up to the faithful, not the extraordinary minister or the pastor. However, the Code of Canon law states that, in view of the common good, “ecclesiastical authority can direct the exercise of rights which are proper to the Christian faithful,” which means that, for reasons of the common good, the bishop may request and urge the faithful to receive holy Communion in the hand (see Canon 223). Finally, reception of Communion is not a requirement for those attending Mass. Indeed, the sacraments are gifts generously bestowed upon us by our Creator, and sometimes we find reason that we should forego the gift for a time. The tradition of the Church has long held that the faithful unable or unwilling to receive the body and blood of Christ at Mass might instead participate in a “spiritual Communion” — what St. Thomas Aquinas described as “an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and in lovingly embracing him.”



INTERNATIONAL REPORT

July 6, 2020 – The Trump Administration officially withdrew the US from the World Health Administration officially withdrew the US from the World Health Organization (WHO) accusing the organization of failing to make requested and needed reforms. This change will take place July 6, 2021. These WHO funds will now be directed to other deserving public health needs. The World Health Organization was founded after World War II in 1948 and is a branch of the United Nations. The organization is comprised of 7000 people from 150 countries working in 150 country offices, in 6 regional offices with head -quarters in Geneva. WHO has been a leader in tracking and publicizing COVID 19 statistics.

In July, Sean Callahan, CEO of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) urged the US Congress to allocate \$12 Billion to International COVID response. CRS continues to be on the front line where the most vulnerable suffer the greatest. Their goal is to reduce poverty, keep communities safe and help families to survive and thrive. Every year our DCCW forwards funds to the NCCW from the Madonna Plan and Water for Life – where they are directed to CRS.

COVID 19 continues to engulf the world with rising cases each day. As of July 14, 2020 – there are 13,413,675 coronavirus cases, 579,498 deaths, and 7,822,624 recovered. The US has the most cases at 3,532,549 and deaths at 138,988. Brazil has the next highest deaths at 74,133. Please pray for an end to this pandemic, and for organizations and countries to work cooperatively instead of politically against one another.

Worldwide protests continue amid the pandemic. Billions of dollars of damage and deaths have been reported. A common theme has been racial injustice and a call for systemic reform. Continued prayers are needed for peaceful protests and safety for innocent victims of this unrest.

Joyce Simones, Chair

CORONAVIRUS PROTECTION PRAYER FROM POPE FRANCIS

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Authored By: Pope Francis

Will the Real Catholic Voters Guide Please Stand?

By now, most of us have probably seen more than one “Catholic Voters Guide” telling us how to vote in the November election. These so-called “Catholic Voters Guides” may even be urging us to vote in completely opposite ways. What’s a good Catholic to do? How do we know what’s the real Catholic Voter Guide?

Here’s a few tips:

- Look at the source of the voter guide. As Catholics we have the magisterial teaching of our bishops to help. This doesn’t mean that these men are free from sin or never make mistakes. However, we believe that the Holy Spirit works through them as the official teachers of our faith. We should first turn to that teaching. Every four years, the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops releases an updated version of their statement, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*. This should be our first and foremost source for forming our consciences for voting. The statement as well as discussion and other resources may be found at <https://www.usccb.org/resources/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship.pdf>
- Avoid “Catholic” voter guides that tell you how to vote or give simple answers. In Paragraph 7 of *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, our bishops tell us, “We bishops do not intend to tell Catholics for whom or against whom to vote. Our purpose is to help Catholics form their conscience in accordance with God’s truth. We recognize that the responsibility to make choices in political life rests with each individual in light of a properly formed conscience, and that participation goes well beyond casting a vote in a particular election.” While it’s understandable to want simple answers, our bishops remind us, “Decisions about political life are complex and require the exercise of a well-formed conscience aided by prudence. (*Forming Consciences*, par. 31)
- Real Catholic Voter Guides will not endorse a particular political party. Our bishops encourage us to “use the framework of Catholic social teaching to examine candidates’ positions on issues affecting human life and dignity as well as issues of justice and peace, and [we] should consider candidates’ integrity, philosophy, and performance. It is important for all citizens “to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically, and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self-interest.” (*Forming Consciences*, 41)
- ONE FINAL THOUGHT: *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* is 91 paragraphs long. While that seems long, something as important as this deserves the depth at 91 paragraphs can give. Consider reading and pondering it with others with the resources on the website (listed in the second section of this article) May the Holy Spirit guide us in being faithful citizens this election and beyond!



Catholic Woman Magazine Volume 46, Number 2/2020
By Cheryl Sommer, Legislative Advocacy Committee

CALLED TO SAVE LIVES

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.

Called to Save Lives 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.

Kathy Bonner, Past NCCW Officer and LTD member



This is the standalone that NCCW used at the National Convention to promote awareness

RURAL LIFE COMMISSION

For the past five months, everyone has been affected, one way or another, by Covid-19. If you haven't read it already, there is a very good story in the Central Minnesota Catholic written by Nikki Rajala titled, "How has Covid-19 Affected Farmers in the St. Cloud Diocese?" You can read the full article on the website, the centralminnesotacatholic.org.

In this story, Jim Ennis, executive director of Catholic Rural Life, talks about the disruption in the food system. In the on-line article, JoAnn Braegelman said, "Farming requires a lot of faith, for good weather, seed growth, healthy animals, good harvests, fair markets. But Covid-19 puts faith into a different category, with many unknowns."

Joe Borgerding said, "It's an honor to care for a small corner of God's creation. It's humbling, after all these years of farming, to know that while I may plant straight, or timely, I cannot make the seeds grow by myself without help from above. That is the same help we need to call on to get through this trial."

Jim Anderson was quoted, "Every morning when I wake up, I'm thankful for another day, thankful that we can do our jobs as farmers. There are always challenges. We can't live in fear and run a normal farming business. No matter what happens, God is looking over you."

The annual Rural Life Celebration, scheduled for Aug. 2nd has been postponed due to Covid-19. The celebration should have been held on a farm in Hancock. "Two Families, One Farm, One Faith" is another good story, about this farm, in the Central MN Catholic.

This year eight farm families, in Stearns and Todd counties, will be receiving the Catholic Century Farm awards from Catholic Charities and the bishop of St. Cloud. This is the second year Catholic Charities has given out this award.

Also, in the Central MN Catholic are "10 Ways to Celebrate Rural Life." #7 is "Go for a bike or car ride in the diocese and pay special attention to the farms you see; pray for the farmers of those farms you pass." Farmers will appreciate your prayers!

Once again, I am very thankful we live where we do, on a farm, in rural central Minnesota.

Toni Borgerding, Chair



LITTLE FALLS DEANERY

Summer has arrived with anniversaries, graduation parties, and a few weddings. The farmers are praying for rain so the crops can grow.

On May 9th, the day before Mother's Day, my husband and I became grandparents for the first time. I was able to hold my beautiful granddaughter while wearing a mask. Life is so precious. Gazing into my granddaughter's face, I thought how anyone can kill such a precious gift from God.

During the virus, as Eucharist Minister, I was able to help my parish out by placing the monstrance onto the altar on Tuesday afternoons for adoration. I also was a substitute for adoration which gave me more time with the Lord. Phone calls were one way of keeping in touch with my family, neighbors, and other people in my community.

It's a blessing that we can attend mass on Sundays and receive the Eucharist again. Watching mass on TV just isn't the same as being there in person. We can now also attend Bible study with social distancing. Uniting our new 3 parish cluster in July will be a change.

Having to stay home because of the virus allowed me and my husband to accomplish getting some projects finished and gave us more time to read the bible and quiet time in prayer.

May God shower his blessings on all of us and keep us safe in these difficult times.

Darlene Nix, President

SAINT CLOUD DEANERY



Date to be announced

**Sacred Heart
2875 10th Avenue NE
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379**

REGISTRATIONS:
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: DCCW
MAIL TO:
Marylyce Plante
2293 Pinecone Road
Sartell, Mn 56377

SPONSOR: Saint Cloud Diocesan Council of
Catholic Women
HOST: St. Cloud Deanery C CW

"SAINTS WITHIN US"

- 8:30 am Registration, Refreshments
- 9:00 am Welcome
- 9:30 am Melanie Myklebust
- 10:15 am Break-Rosary-Confessions
- 11:00 am MASS- Fr Laura Vmieg, Fr Tom Knoblach, Fr Doug Liebsch, Fr Ralph Zimmerman
- NOON Lunch (gluten-free options available-please call before)
- 1:00 pm • Q & A "The Saints" Fr. Laura Fr. Tom, Fr. Ralph, and Fr. Doug
- 2:15 pm Closing prayers, door prizes
- Cost: \$15 by March 1, 2020 \$20 after March 1 or at the door.
- Handicapped Accessible
- For Information: stcloudccw.org
- Contact us: stclouddiocesancw@gmail.com
- Phone: 320-282-9941

There were MANY disappointed women either Friday, March 13 or Saturday, March 14 when our Spring Lenten Retreat was cancelled due to coronavirus.

The women hosting us in Sauk Rapids, had to deal with food problems. There were 250 - 300 shamrock cookies available...some went to the Salvation Army and some to Place of Hope. The food was distributed between the Poor Clares, the Crosier Fathers, and the Salvation Army. We know it was most appreciated.

Because many were very excited about "The Saints Among Us" we are hoping to present it another time. Keep your eyes open for more information.

THE SAINTS BE PRAISED

Mary Alice Tomporowski, President

MELROSE/SAUK CENTRE DEANERY

I will start by saying that I have been trying to focus on writing this report for almost two weeks. Many hours have been spent trying to come up with something that I wanted to say to all the wonderful ladies in the CCW. I have been focusing so much on trying to find women who were willing to be officers, that I was forgetting why I am part of this great team. I forgot that we are a team, and this is a team effort.

This morning July 7th, my 69th birthday, which should be a happy time, was feeling very heavy to me. I was sitting at my table trying to think of something insightful to say. So, I said Holy Spirit I need help, I want to be able to help women become involved in the CCW; this group of women do so much good we need to continue. But I feel lost help me. I took out a prayer card I received from Patty Voss at one of our meetings and recited the prayer.

*Dear Father,
Here I am God, renew my Faith, set my heart on knowing you better.
Build me up to be a disciple you want me to be.
Remove any unwholesome habits and bless me with new spirit.
Let me be a voice for hope and an ambassador for the gospel.
In Jesus name, I pray. Amen*

I got up from the table and went outside to work on the weeds. I was listening to Fr. Mike Schmitz; the title of the video was "Finding Balance in Your Walk with Jesus". Then the next video started it was a live show with Fr Mike. My phone rang, when I answered I saw it was from Jackie Massmann, who is the President of the New Munich CCW. She said. "I have been thinking of calling you for several weeks. This morning something nudged me to call." We believe that nudge was the Holy Spirit. We talked for about 30 minutes she gave me some wonderful ideas. She fueled my engines giving me strength to continue to give. It is amazing how things turnout sometimes.

So, with Jackie's help I am going to plan a zoom call to include all the Presidents in our Deanery. We need to talk about what will happen if we cannot get women to step up to be officers in our group. I need to call on the team to help solve the problem! Jackie and I came up with some points of interest to hopefully start to get everyone interested again and wanting to help.

Some of these points would include:

- Creating a care team to send cards or reach out and touch women in need of a gentle touch.
- Discuss how we can help the private schools.
- Rotating the leadership of meetings just like we rotate the location of meetings.
- Find out from local parish CCWs what were some of the best practices of their group. What makes their groups work?
- Discuss the article from June, 2020 Catholic Woman magazine, such as, "Why aren't more young people choosing to marry in the Church?"
- Maybe see if we could get Kristin Molitor to include a small insightful message in our newsletters.

We really came up with many good thoughts. So, all I can say is we have a starting point. We will not give up!

Linda Borgerding, President

LOOKING FORWARD WITH THE “NEW NORMAL”

The “New Normal” for social gatherings, including our CCWs, creates not only challenges but opportunities for growth and service. Life within the “New Normal” means staying at home, avoiding gatherings, keeping social distances, and wearing masks and gloves.

One opportunity is incorporating the “Stay-at-Home” ladies in our councils. Virtual meetings are becoming popular and are quick and easy to learn and use. Many of you have used some of the current apps to watch Mass. You can use some of these same apps to plan and conduct your meetings.

Popular free virtual meeting apps are:

- * Zoom <https://zoom.us/meetings?zcid=1231>
- * Facetime Live <https://portal.facebook.com/workfrom-home>
- * YouTube Live <https://www.youtube.com/howitworks/productfeatures/live>
- * TeamViewer <https://www.teamviewer.com/en-us/>

The above links connect to easy-to-follow directions, including videos to help set-up free accounts and run smooth fun meetings. Two necessities for successful virtual meetings are Security and Etiquette. Security should enable the host to:

- Lock the meeting
- Send invitations with codes
- Control who joins the meeting
- Remove participants

Etiquette requires the host to:

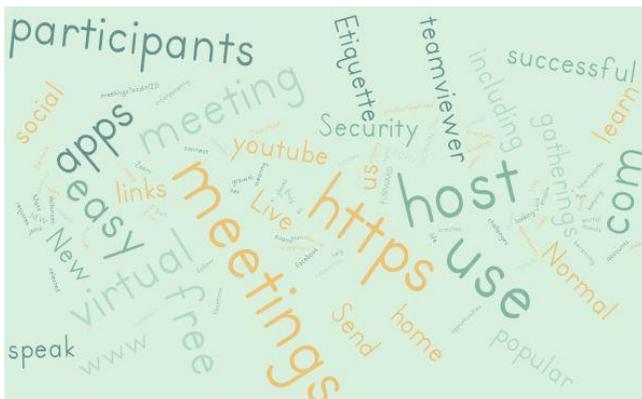
- Download and learn to use the selected app
- Send basic download and use instructions to participants
- Communicate the agenda, rules and goals

The host and participants should:

- Not monopolize the conversation
- Not interrupt - as with Robert’s Rules, the host gives you the floor to speak
- Use the “mute” button - only “unmute” the mic to say something
- Respect others right to speak.

Click the above links! Start planning your successful year now! It is easy and it is free!

Jeannie Wilian, LTD Consultant NCCW



REMEMBERING

We lost two of our faithful ladies so far this year, please remember them and their families in prayer.

Rosella "Rosie" Spanier



February 29, 1932 ~ June 26, 2020 (age 88)

Rosella K. "Rosie" Spanier, age 88 of Spring Hill, died peacefully on Friday, June 26, 2020 at the Pine Haven Care Center in Melrose, Minnesota.

Due to COVID restrictions, a private family Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Spring Hill with Rev. Marvin Enneking officiating. Interment was in the parish cemetery.

Rosie Barten was born February 29, 1932 in Elrosa, Minnesota to Nicholas and Cecilia (Deters) Barten. On June 13, 1951 she married Urban Spanier in Sauk Centre, Minnesota. Together they operated a family farm near Spring Hill.

Faith, family, and flowers inspired Rosie. She was an active member of St. Michael's Church where she found multiple ways to contribute. Her willingness to serve extended to several Catholic groups and organizations, but she had a special fondness for the "Harvest of Hope" project that supported families in Kenya. She was happiest working in her flower garden or preparing a big family meal.

Rosie was President of the Saint Cloud Diocesan Council of Catholic Women from 1993 to 1999.

Maureen Willenbring

July 23, 1937 ~ July 24, 2020 (Age 83)



Maureen Willenbring of Roseville passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on July 24, 2020. Maureen was a volunteer for the Council of Catholic Woman with various leadership roles at the local, province, and national levels. Maureen's dedicated and selfless service to the Church through her CCW roles and other volunteer activities earned her the highest papal honor that can be bestowed on a lay person, the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice.

Maureen was lovingly present to her family, friends, and community with a gentle, kind, and warm spirit.

In consideration of the risks associated with COVID-19, a Memorial Mass will be held at St. Odilia Catholic Church at a future date. A family-only burial took place at Roselawn Cemetery in Roseville.

Given Maureen was a lifelong advocate for the well-being and empowerment of women around the world, memorials are preferred to NCCW for the Madonna Program: National Council of Catholic Women, 200 N. Glebe Road, Suite 725, Arlington, VA 22203. In the memo, please indicate Madonna Program, in memory of Maureen Willenbring.

Or you may send your donation to the ACCW Office @ 777 Forest St. N., St. Paul, MN. 55106. Write Madonna fund in memory of Maureen Willenbring in the memo line. All donations will be consolidated and sent on to NCCW.

These priests were ordained in 2019.

Coming soon, photos of the priests ordained in 2020.



Father Greg Sauer received a portable Mass kit from the St Cloud DCCW. Presenters are Margaret Schluender, Jean Hopfer and Mary Alice Tomporowski.

Father Mark Botzet also received a portable Mass kit. Representing the St Cloud DCCW is Linda Scepurek.



Father Richard Aubol opted to receive a Spiritual Bouquet. Cards on the tree represented the prayers being offered. Women of DCCW are Toni Borgerding, Lois Wesber, Jackie Weller and Cheryl Weller.



National Council of Catholic Women

200 N. Glebe Road, Suite 725

Arlington, VA 22203

Washington, DC, August 24, 2020 -- The National Council of Catholic Women publishes 100 Year History

In 1920, there were more than 5,000 Catholic women's organizations nationwide—organizations that would eventually become the first NCCW affiliates. The purpose, as described by the US Catholic bishops at its founding, was to give Catholic women a common voice and an instrument for united action—not to replace the work of any existing woman's group but rather to stimulate their growth and unify them.

And so, in the same year American women earned the right to vote, the National Council of Catholic Women was born when nearly 200 Catholic women from around the country assembled on March 4, 1920 in Washington, DC, to unite and fortify their efforts in service to God and the Church! The NCCW mission is to support, empower, and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service.

Did you know:

- The first meeting on March 4th, 1920, was held at the National Catholic Community House in Washington, DC, with 126 voting delegates representing 13 of the 14 Catholic Ecclesiastical Provinces
- On May 7, 1921, the Board of Directors approved the creation of the National Catholic Service School for Women that held its first classes in November, 1921. Today, the National Catholic School of Social Services is housed at the Catholic University of America
- Mother Teresa's first trip outside of India was to speak at the 1960 NCCW Convention in Las Vegas!
- The NCCW Executive Secretary was present at the signing of the Equal Pay Act by President John F. Kennedy in 1963

Discover all this and more in a fascinating historical retrospective and stunning coffee table book!

"The research for this book has been a three-year journey. It has taken me through documents so fragile touching them could possibly destroy them, hundreds of photographs, magazine articles, bylaws, historical documents, and many conversations," says author Andrea Cecilli, Executive Director of the National Council of Catholic Women.

To purchase a copy of the centennial history book, visit the online store at nccw.org. If you would like to interview Jean Kelly, the President of NCCW or Andrea Cecilli, Executive Director, please contact Laraine Bennett at 703.224.0990 or email lbennett@nccw.org