

## NCCW Convention 2018

What a trip! It was inspiring. With a theme of “Reflecting God’s Joy” “Missionary Disciples- Mission Possible” we learned so much.

We arrived Tuesday, the day before the convention and toured some of the churches there. The Saint Anthony Chapel contains thousands of relics of the saints. The Cathedral of St. Paul is massive and has elements that were built in Germany. Some of the stained-glass windows are the same as my home parish. Immaculate Heart of Mary has lights everywhere, a pulpit in the middle and the front pews can be reversed so people can see the speaker. St. Stanislaus Kostka has beautiful murals, white marble, awesome stained-glass windows and a chandelier that resembles a crown of thorns.

On Wednesday, August 29, 2018, we started with Liturgy celebrated by Rev. Richard Dawson, NCCW Spiritual Advisor. At 12:30 we attended the Welcome Luncheon with Holly Joy McIlwain, “*A Mission of Joy*” in which she shared her story. We attended the board meeting, met the officers and Province Directors. We heard reports from the officers. NCCW is in good shape now. Kathy Bonner spoke about LTD and Women Healing the Wounds. We watched the movie *Indivisible* and went on a riverboat tour which cruised the Allegany and Monongahela Rivers. Their confluence with the Ohio River was right below our hotel.

Thursday morning was the general opening session from the presenting of the flag and greeting from our partners and affiliates. To name a few, USCCB, WUCWO, the representative to the UN, Catholic Daughters, Catholic women’s League of Canada, Young Ladies Grand Institute and others. Featured was the keynote speaker, Father Frank Caggiano, “*Disciples Called to be Joyful Signs of Contradiction in the World*”: his presentation was just what we need in this time of turmoil. The Liturgy was celebrated by Most Rev. David A Zubik. After lunch, presentations were given by the Spirituality and Leadership Commissions. Spirituality gave us 3 Retreats to use in our own areas and Leadership spoke about trafficking in the US, it’s bigger than you think. Remember the Trafficking Hotline number 888-373-7888. Province dinners and get togethers were done this evening. (Your St. Cloud Ladies+ won first place in Jeopardy this year.)

Friday morning, we had a breakfast meeting. Gina Loehr was the speaker who presented “Blessed is She Who Believed” Embracing the Impossible Mission. A dairy farmer from Wisconsin, she shared a great message. She said, “Think about how you touch the world-have courage to say yes.” The 10 a.m. Liturgy was celebrated by Most Rev. Gregory L. Parkes, Episcopal Liaison to the NCCW from the USCCB. After lunch, the Service Commission gave helpful ideas about the Respite program and encouraged us to use resources from NCCW.org to help us with all the programs. One of the programs started this past year was to partner schools in the US with schools in the Holy Land. LTD (Leadership Training and Development) was discussed and we are encouraged to have the team come out to help all ladies. At the General business meeting, Reports were given from many of the officers and committees. The

Treasurer was congratulated on her election; Bylaws were visited and resolutions were voted on and finalized. We had a free evening to connect with friends old and new.

Saturday Morning Bob Rice gave a musical presentation "Owed to Joy" Sharing the gift of Joy with thoughts for us to carry with us. "Happiness is fleeting, Joy is forever." The opposite of joy is fear. Mary did not show fear, her heart filled with joy and she composed the Magnificat. Say it often. The education committee presented "Joy of the Gospel", a booklet that divides *Evangelii Gaudium* into 5 sections with readings and questions to further understand it. We said an International Rosary with each decade said in another language. At the president's closing, New Province Directors were introduced. And an invitation was extended by Atlanta to attend the next convention there, August 21-24, 2019. Liturgy was celebrated by His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo with installation of new officers and PDs. The closing banquet was held in the evening with entertainment by a family known as Echo Valley.

Throughout the time of the convention, there were many other committee and smaller group meetings, such as Nominating Committee, Associates of NCCW, Friends of NCCW for WUCWU to name a few. Most of our meals were on our own, with the exception of the Welcome Luncheon and the Breakfast Meeting. Luckily there was a college nearby, so there was Market Place within walking distance with many eating places to choose from.

After some more small group meetings we flew home on Sunday afternoon.

Arleen Roelike

."