



Pencil Points

Council of Catholic Women Diocese of Pensacola/Tallahassee

President's Message

At my first board meeting as your new president I gave each board member a large bag with the words: Inspire...Dream...Laugh... Love and asked them to bring the bag back to our next board meeting filled with their inspiring ideas for our Council year, Dreams of what they wanted to see our Council accomplish, Laughter to share as we work together and make new friends and Love to serve our God and Council. As we reached into our bags we chose the following goals to accomplish this year.

The first of our goals is to increase our growth in spirituality and make ourselves more knowledgeable and open to the New Evangelization of spreading God's Gospel message. This year we are planning to partner with Diocesan Office of Faith Formation in offering a retreat at St. Joseph The Worker on February 21, 2015.

Second goal for this year is to unite more ladies of the Diocese to be One Voice with us. We will achieve this through better communication, publicity and outreach which includes personal invitation. We have already developed a new brochure, had it printed and distributed to the deaneries for the October Council Month.

The third goal is education of our leadership and members. We are reinstituting the OWL (Old Wise Ladies) program for ladies holding an office at every level of Council. We need to bring all of this wealth of knowledge and experience to the affiliations so the "OWL Team" will be traveling to the deaneries and holding workshops. Workshops are planned to begin in January 2015. Deanery presidents, please schedule your workshop dates with Carol Giguere

our Leadership Chairperson.

I had the privilege of representing our Council at the NCCW 2014 Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan in September and came back with new friendships and wonderful information to share and help our Council with the New Evangelization. I want to congratulate our Council sister Shelia Hopkins on being installed as the President Elect of the NCCW and we look forward to her installation as NCCW President in 2015.

I attended the FCCW Conference in Ft. Lauderdale along with 12 other ladies from our Council. We had the privilege and joy of seeing Jan Shiplett win the FCCW Our Lady of Good Counsel Award. Continue on page three.....

December 2014

Special points of interest:

- *Goals for DCCW in upcoming year*
- *WUCWO meets*
- *How easy is an NCCW conference call*
- *Prayer warriors unite*
- *Our turn to nominate an FCCW treasurer*
- *Caps of Love a huge success*

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USA Members at World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations

Twenty-two members of NCCW attended the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO) General Assembly in Fatima, Portugal, Oct 22-27, 2014 along with approximately 450 women from the 35 countries (56 organizations) that belong to this 104 year old organization.

Meeting every four years, the General Assembly began with reports from the officers and proceeded to breakout by regions of which there are five: Africa, Asia, North America, Latin America and Europe. In these meetings, countries discussed what priority they wanted adopted for work in their countries the next four years. The final priority chosen: **Hope in action in the service of family, youth, and the suffering of the world.**

Other agenda items were proposed by -law amendments (one passed and one failed) and the review of resolutions. The final resolutions adopted were:

Family: WUCWO will encourage and

support its member organizations and its representatives working at international level to give priority to the urgent challenges facing the family and youth.

Human Trafficking: WUCWO, its member organizations and its representatives at international level will work individually and in network with other professional and non-professional related organizations to end the tragedy of human trafficking.

Dialogue for Peace and Tolerance: WUCWO will create a climate of understanding and mutual respect to contribute to the achievement of peace around the world, cultivating and promoting a respectful dialogue with the world, with people from other Christian denominations and other religions, within the Catholic Church and among WUCWO's member organizations.

Addiction Prevention for a Life With a Future: WUCWO shall promote through its member organizations the incorporation of prevention and elimi-

nation of alcohol and drug addictions in its action programs.

Prevention and Fight Against Corruption: WUCWO, its member organizations and its International Representatives shall work with international bodies and national governments, communities and families, to eliminate corruption.

Right to Have Access to Clean Drinking Water and Sanitation: WUCWO member organizations shall encourage amongst its members good practices in the sustainable use of water and shall encourage governments to accomplish the same.

It is enlightening to see that other countries experience the same issues we have in America. Several beautiful liturgies were celebrated in the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity and all took the opportunity to participate in the nightly rosary and procession of Our Lady of Fatima on the beautiful grounds.

By Sheila Hopkins, NCCW President-Elect

My First NCCW Conference Call by Virginia Green

I am Virginia Green of St. Mary CCW in Ft. Walton Beach. I serve as the Spiritual Commission Representative for our CCW as well as for the WCDCCW. So when our President, Mary Sauvageau asked me to sit in on a conference call from the NCCW on the subject of Spiritual Adoption, I agreed.

In my "former life" as a civil servant

for the Air Force I had experienced conference calls, however I knew the folks on the line! This time would be different since folks were connected from EVERYWHERE....

I was pleasantly surprised to dial in with no problem and soon the Moderator welcomed us, and the information began to flow. Then a ques-

tion and answer period followed and the call ended. Duration was 45 minutes, I learned a great deal and it was a good experience. If you are asked to participate in a call of this nature DO IT, you will be glad you did. Sharing ideas and information with CCW members from all over our country can certainly be worthwhile.

President's Message....Continued

A deserving award for this remarkable Council sister — Congratulations Jan.

While at the Conference, Bishop Parkes ask me to help spread the word about the second diocesan-wide gathering *Celebrate Faith 2015 Hearts on Fire!* Registration is open now, see more at: <http://www.ptdiocese.org>. The gathering will be held Saturday, January 24, 2015 at the Emerald

Coast Convention Center on Okaloosa Island. The speakers include Dr. Scott Hahn, Father Thomas Rosica, CSB, Sara Torres and Bishop Parkes.

May the Advent season bring us peace as we prepare for the coming of Our Lord.

Our journey continues.. Be Blessed. Be a Blessing.

Cynthia Lacour, President

The Power of Prayer

Someone has said that if Christians really understood the full extent of the power we have available through prayer, we might be speechless.

During WWII there was an adviser to Churchill who organized a group of people who dropped what they were doing every day at a prescribed hour for one minute to collectively pray for the safety of England, its people and peace.

There is now a group of people organizing the same thing here in America. If you would like to participate... every evening at 9:00 pm Eastern time, stop whatever you are doing and spend one minute praying for the safety of the United States and for a return to a Godly nation and global peace.

If you know anyone else who would

like to participate, please pass this along. Spirituality Commission this is a natural fit. Our prayers are the most powerful asset we have. Please forward this thought to your praying friends.

Cynthia Lacour, President

“When in charity we feel we must give some spiritual counsel, we must never be so egotistical as to expect a hungry man, or one distracted by worry over the rent to listen to our words about God until we have helped to relive his misery.” Blessed Frederic Ozanam.

Lord, help me to keep in mind that the poor must be relieved of their misery before giving them your message.

This office is open to anyone as there are no requirements for the office in our by-laws. However, your involvement in Council will tell the story. The office of treasurer for the Florida Catholic Conference is our privilege to fill on a rotating basis. It is our turn at the next Conference rotation in June 2015. Term 2015 thru June 2017..

APPLICATION FOR NOMINATION AS FCCW TREASURER
REPRESENTING PENSACOLA-TALLAHASSEE DCCW

NAME _____ PARISH _____

ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____

List years in council and offices held:

List current/previous employment:

In no more than 200 words explain why you are interested in serving in this position:

A letter of recommendation from your pastor must be attached. Please mail this form and the letter by January 3, 2015 to Sheila Hopkins, 1554 Vernon Ct. Tallahassee FL 32317. If more than one person submits their name, a vote will be taken at the January 31, 2015 DCCW board meeting. Questions call Shelia at: 850-224-2585. It would require two meetings a year in Orlando and every other year attending a Conference, site to be determined. There are no travel expenses budgeted for this position. However, other members of the board would be attending and car pooling and room sharing would be available.

CAPS OF LOVE

We are receiving e-mails questioning Caps of Love USA. There is a rumor that it is a fraud. IT IS NOT A FRAUD! People who Google it or go to Snopes, are not reading carefully. There are several Caps programs, which claim they assist cancer patients with chemo or prosthetic limbs for soldiers. PLEASE DON'T CONFUSE THEM WITH Caps of Love USA founded by Valerie Jones-Mathieu. Valerie can be contacted through the website CapsOfLoveUSA@gmail.com.

There will be information and an interview with Valerie in our December *Catholic Women, Magazine*. It is very possible that Valerie will be participating in our Leadership call on December 10, 2014. This will be an opportunity for anyone to ask questions. This will be a good time to end the rumors!

Many of our members have legitimate questions about shipping the caps. Information has been provided on our website nccw.org under Caps of Love. It gives examples of creative ways to provide shipping. Hopefully it will inspire members to come up with creative ideas that will work for them. Also included is a photo and letter that Valerie forwarded. Please read about how our military in Afghanistan is sending caps home to Caps of Love.

We are now being asked to separate the "flimsy" clear water bottle caps from the hard plastic ones. These are worth more money if they are separated from the rest. This saves Valerie hours of work if we separate our own donations and put them in a separate zip-lock bag and then put them in with our donations.

Please visit the CapsOfLoveUSA@gmail.com for detailed information about the program.

Many attendees of the FCCW Conference brought donations of caps for Valerie. A half ton of caps were collected at the conference. Valerie spoke to us at the conference and explained her dedication to this ministry. Caps of Lovis is now a 501-C-3 organization. During the month of November she will distribute 11 wheel chairs to needy children. Since asking for help from the National Council of Catholic Women she has collected 11 tons of caps. Since her ministry began she has collected 40 tons of caps. She thanked us for our dedication and encouraged us in our efforts to make this ministry a success. Spread the word in your affiliations, this ministry is accomplishing a lot of good through everyone's efforts!

A Quilter's Prayer

*Take the pieces of my life
and stitch them together
according to Your will.*

*May I yield to the pricks
of Your needle*

*so that Your stitches
may surround me*

with the pattern of Your love.

*May I allow You to order
the squares, any way You want.*

*To pattern me by Your design
so that all will know*

You quilted me.

Bunco Party

January 15, 2015

St. Anne's, Bellview, Pensacola

1 to 4 p.m.

**To aide the fund for
Seminarians**

sponsored by the Northwest

Deanery, DCCW

for info call: Kay at 455-3245

NCCW CONVENTION HELD IN GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

SEPTEMBER 24-27

Grand Rapids, Michigan, was the site of the National Council of Catholic Women's 2014 National Convention. It was held at the historic Amway Grand Plaza Hotel from September 24-27. The annual gathering of women leaders was a huge success, with nearly six hundred registrants—representing hundreds of thousands of Catholic women nationwide, and even Canada, who attended talks and educational seminars, worshipped, and enjoyed fellowship.

Executive President Rebecca Woodhall said, "This has been a joy-filled convention. You can just feel the energy of the ladies in every session. The Holy Spirit and Our Lady of Good Counsel are with us!"

Nearly 40 priests and 7 bishops celebrated Holy Mass with the convention participants. Bishop James V. Johnston, Jr., Episcopal Liaison, Bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, was the Principal Celebrant of the opening Mass, which was concelebrated by Archbishop John Nienstedt, St. Paul/Minneapolis Archdiocese; Bishop Earl A. Boyes, Lansing Diocese; and Bishop Steven J. Raica, Gaylord Diocese. Friday liturgy was celebrated by Bishop James V. Johnston, Jr., Principal Celebrant; Archbishop John Nienstadt; Bishop Paul Bradley, Kalamazoo Diocese; Bishop Steven J. Raica; and Bishop Donald Hanchon, Detroit Archdiocese. The closing Mass on Saturday was celebrated by Bishop David Walkowisk, Grand Rapids Diocese. Beautiful liturgical music was provided by local choirs and musicians.

In addition to daily Mass, convention attendees were able to enjoy morning and evening prayer, Rosary on the River, reconciliation, and many lively activities such as a purse auction, silent auction, and "Padres and Madres on Parade," a talent show performed by the Spiritual Advisors to NCCW. Each day of the convention, the women enjoyed the opportunity to experience ArtPrize throughout the streets of Grand Rapids under a flawless blue sky.

Nationally known speakers and authors Dr. Ralph Martin and Teresa Tomeo were keynote speakers at the 2014 convention, whose theme was "Be the Voice of Catholic Women: Catholic Women United in Truth." Martin's talk, "Catholic Women and the New Evangelization: Why Bother" focused on what exactly is evangelization, and he stirred the women to action: "Why evangelize? Souls are at stake!" Teresa Tomeo discussed "Families and the Media: Helping Families Navigate Today's Cultural Challenges" and urged everyone to work to change the culture that objectifies women and erodes their self-respect through violent and pornographic media content.

Other speakers in the action-packed schedule included motivational speaker and humorist Sheri Wohlfert as a rousing breakfast speaker; Joyce Coronel, award-winning reporter and columnist for the *Phoenix Catholic Sun*; Jane Knuth, author of "*Thrift Store Saints: Meeting Jesus 25 Cents at a Time*"; and Vicki Thorn, the founder of Project Rachel and the executive director of the National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation & Healing.

A new program for evangelization, "We Are Called to Witness," specifically created for women by the NCCW Leadership Commission, was unveiled at the convention. This program is designed to help members and affiliations discover and actively participate in sharing the Good News, the joy of Jesus. The comprehensive program will be translated into three languages and will be available on the NCCW website, nccw.org.

Convention attendees donated a "mountain" of diapers along with baby layette items to HELP Pregnancy Crisis Aid, Inc. of Grand Rapids.

The 2015 Annual Convention will be held in Orlando, Florida in September. Make plans now to attend!

By Laraine Bennett, NCCW

NCCW We are the Voice of Catholic Women

WHO HEARS YOUR VOICE?

The **National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW)** was founded in 1920 under the auspices of the United States Catholic Bishops who recognized the influence on church and society already exerted by American Catholic women. The goals were to give Catholic women a common voice and a way to act in unity.

Members of the National Council of Catholic Women are:

- Members of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO)
- Recognized by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)
- Active participants in partnership with other Catholic groups

Our Aim is:

- To be a voice for American Catholic Women today
- To transform the world through prayer and action
- To unite more than 3000 affiliated Catholic Women's groups as well as individual members
- To support social action through Gospel Values
- To train Catholic women to become leaders in both Church and society
- To provide a forum for Catholic women to speak and act on matters of mutual interest
- To represent U.S. Catholic women in the national and international arenas

We partner with Catholic Relief Services, the official international Catholic relief and development agency of the USCCB and Cross Catholic Outreach. We support the fight against human trafficking both in the U.S. and abroad, upholding the sanctity of life from birth to natural death, the protection and sheltering of women in Sub-Saharan Africa and the prevention of mother and child mortality due to substandard housing and unsafe water supplies in third world countries.

Catholic women and their parishes benefit from affiliating with the National Council of Catholic Women through:

- An enriched prayer and spiritual life
- Having a united voice in policy advocacy through NCCW position papers and issue briefs on matter of interest to them
- Keeping up to date on Catholic women's concerns through a quarterly magazine and a monthly newsletter
- Program ideas to use in your own community
- Opportunities to be of service
- Formation of a real sisterhood of Catholic women

The support of parish affiliates enables **NCCW** to act as the voice of Catholic women through its association with **WUCWO**, the **USCCB** and other **Catholic Women's Groups**.

Add your voice to the voices of other Catholic women

For more information about joining NCCW or to affiliate your group go to: <http://www.nccw.org/>

**Council of Catholic Women
Diocese of Pensacola/Tallahassee**

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Pensacola FL 32502*



Important Dates to Remember

January 15, 2015 Bunco Party for Seminarians,
St. Anne's Pensacola

January 24, 2015, Celebrate Faith, Hearts on Fire,
Emerald Coast Convention Center, Okaloosa Island, FL

January 31, DCCW Board Meeting, St. Margaret's, DeFuniak Springs

February 15, Jubilee Mass, Cathedral, Pensacola

February 22, Jubilee Mass, Co-Cathedral, Tallahassee (11:45 a.m.)

February 22, Rite of Election, Co-Cathedral, Tallahassee (3:00 p.m.)

February 21, Women's Retreat, St. Joseph the Worker,
sponsored by the Office of Faith Formation

March 1, Rite of Election, Cathedral, Pensacola

March 3-4, Catholic Days at the Capitol & Red Mass, Tallahassee

April 25, DCCW Convention, Pensacola