



Pencil Points

Council of Catholic Women Diocese of Pensacola/Tallahassee

President's Message, Cynthia Lacour

As I sit to write this article, I cannot help but think that in six months my term will be over and I will hand over the gavel to possibly YOU! Peggy Clark is the chairperson of the nominating committee and soon the committee will be meeting to compile a slate of officers for 2016-2018 to serve our Council. I ask each of you to please prayerfully consider your answer if you get "the Call." If you would like to recommend someone please contact Peggy Clark.

I thank you for all your prayers over my term especially this past summer. Now our Council year has begun: in September I attended the NCCW convention in Orlando along with 37 other ladies from our diocese and came back with mounds of wonderful information to share with those of you not able to attend. I want to give a shout out to Sheila Hop-

kins on being installed as the President of the NCCW. Sheila is a great example of saying "yes" to serve our Lord and our Council, please keep her in your prayers.

October was Council month designed to encourage membership and I thank Bishop Parkes for the wonderful letter in support of the Council of Catholic Women, that was sent to all the parishes. October was also Domestic Violence Awareness Month and our new FCCW Province Director Diane Tugander will be focusing on this issue over her term.

I recently returned from the FCCW Board meeting in Orlando and once again the Hugs for the Homeless campaign to raise money for the homeless throughout our Province during the winter months of December thru February, is emphasized for all councils to participate. Also please

mark your calendar for the FCCW Conference to be held October 27-29, 2016 at the Crown Plaza Jacksonville, more information to come.

The plans for our upcoming convention scheduled for April 14-16, 2016 are in the process of being completed. West Central Deanery is the host deanery and the ladies are working hard and are examples of our theme, "Catholic Women Fully Alive in the Spirit." Please put the dates on your calendar and plan to attend.

As we work through our affiliated organizations to support, empower and educate all Catholic Women in spirituality, leadership and service let us always remember to: Inspire... Dream... Laugh.... Love.

May the approaching Advent season bring us peace as we prepare for the coming of Our Lord. Be Blessed. Be a Blessing.

November 2015

Special points of interest:

- *NCCW convention reports*
- *Comments on convention*
- *The gift of Service*
- *Deanery News*
- *Spiritual Book Club*
- *Legislation committee*
- *NCCW website opportunities*

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NCCW President's Message

Catholics in the United States are basking in the afterglow of the visit by His Holiness, Pope Francis. Tears flooded my eyes as I watched his plane land, joy for this visit and a little fear for his safety. As the week unfolded, his messages resonated with me because he was articulating what may be the best kept secret for many Catholics who have not experienced any church teaching in their adult years — the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. It was my privilege to work for the Church for 26 years so these were foundational in that work — for the clients served at Catholic Charities and for the advocacy efforts of the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops. These themes are: Life and Dignity of the Human Person, Call to Family, Community and Participation, Rights and Responsibilities, Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers, Solidarity and Care for God's Creation.

Speaking of afterglow, I am still re-

flecting on the wonderful 95th Birthday Convention that almost 700 participants experience in Orlando during September. Go to our website, www.nccw.org, to view pictures and read keynote talks, handouts from commissions and resolutions for use in your affiliates this year.

The spiritually uplifting liturgies, keynote speakers, commission trainings, assemblies, installation of new province directors and the special birthday celebration with Mickey Mouse concluding with the prayer — “We are Sowers of Hope” — will be lifetime memories for me and those who were able to join us. I am especially grateful to Archbishop Wenski who celebrated the closing liturgy and blessed the incoming officers at their installation — myself as President, President-Elect Maribeth Stewart and Secretary Jean Kelly.

Good news travels fast and we have had a member call the office saying they were so sorry to miss this con-

vention and asking when they could sign up for 2016! We know the place and date -- Sept. 7-10, 2016 in Indianapolis, IN. Now the work begins to plan another exciting convention so start planning to join your sisters in Council for this occasion. We are told that 50% of the United States is within driving distance of Indianapolis.

I am grateful for this opportunity to serve as your President and pray to God for his guidance as NCCW continues to be the voice of and for Catholic women. May we grow in His love and prosper the work of our hands in His name.

Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us.

Sheila S. Hopkins
NCCW President

Spiritual Advisor's Report

What a wonderful convention we had in Orlando this September! It was great to reacquaint with so many friends from throughout the country, and it was truly great to meet new friends. Many thanks to the Orlando Diocesan Council of Catholic women and the women of the Province of Miami for all their hard work and

dedication in putting this convention on. It was truly memorable!

I am happy to report that there were 48 Spiritual Advisors in attendance this year. They represented Council from throughout the country and showed their strong support for the women of council

Be assured that the Spiritual Advisors are supportive of the work of NCCW. It is our desire to work with our Councils and help the Councils grow in membership and continue to fulfill the mission of NCCW.

God bless all of you!

Fr. James G. Stembler

Impressions of a First-Timer at NCCW Convention, by Donna Keppel

It was a privilege to attend a NCCW Convention as President of an affiliation this September in Orlando FL, with almost 700 other women from around the nation. My first feeling was no less than joyful at a gathering of sisters celebrating the Eucharist, sharing experiences of their affiliations, and joining in break-out sessions which informed and educated us about current issues.

The Service Commission training session was a highlight for me in that it awakened in me a new perception of domestic violence. Through dramatic presentations, I gained knowledge in identifying victims and understanding of tools to use to counsel victims.

Perhaps even more pertinent to me

was the extraordinary presentation by author Brandon Vogt who shared five powerful strategies to share your faith. The emphasis on sharing the Gospel through social media, along with his vivid examples, challenges me to share this with our council that they may learn to embrace New Media as an essential tool in evangelizing. Evangelizing via the media connects us with the young people and the unchurched. Blogging, u-tube, twitter, Facebook, smart phones and other mobile devices are the popular communications that link all people together. Evangelizing through the use of digital content is an effective way to deliver the faith to many at a time when the world needs the hope of Christ.

I loved every minute I spent in the Exhibit room relishing the resources and fresh ideas. Here is one to share — ASAP, not “as soon as possible, but “Always Say A Prayer”. A fresh approach, right?

By the closing liturgy I felt empowered through witnessing the faith of the women present, their joy in serving the poor and marginalized and their dedication to share the hope Jesus gives to all people.

My hope is that I can be a better sower of hope to the ladies in my affiliation and those I meet in my daily life.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have attended and look forward to experiencing many more in the future.

A first timer's comment after attending the NCCW Convention:

“The NCCW Convention of 2015 made me realize how proud I am to be a ‘Piece of the NCCW Puzzle!’” —Donna Woolley, St. Margaret CCW, DeFuniak Springs

East Central Deanery News

East Central Deanery is in the process of re-forming. We now have members from eight parishes and are reaching out to others in the deanery with the hopes that they will join us soon. We have recently approved By-Laws and will hold an election at our spring meeting on May 21, 2016.

On the first Saturday in Lent, February 13 at 10:00 am, we will host a day of reflection titled *God's Mercy, Love that Restores* at Our Lady of the Rosary parish in Panama City. Deacon Andy and wife Kate Grosmaire will tell of their daughter's death at the hands of her boyfriend and how the two families working together found forgiveness, reconciliation, and restorative justice for the young man. All are invited: men and women, Catholic or non-Catholic, those who need to forgive and those who need forgiveness.

Service Commission

Seminarian Jack Campbell wrote an article on the “Power of Service” for our parish bulletin. His insight and perception caught my attention. “Power is an awesome thing: affirms your accomplishments, your abilities, your worth—it gets you ‘things.’ Power is a natural to strive for, enjoy and celebrate. Even though it seems to be a ‘natural-order’ of things, it is often the opposite of what Jesus teaches us: to forego selfish striving for importance, achievement and wealth: instead love your enemies...turn your cheek...give to the poor...take up your cross,” were among his thoughts.

At our recent NW Deanery General meeting, I listened to the descriptions of services accomplished by the affiliation council members: food and clothing drives, burse club drives, prayer services for our friends, relatives and our extended family going through difficult times, keeping God’s house clean, taking communion to the sick (at home, in the hospital or in nursing homes), community and parish events to raise funds to help those less fortunate, or funds for donations to local non-profit agencies, donating clothing, toiletries, and medicines to others in need. The list continues....

In reflection, Service is not just going to church and it is not reciprocal. Service is what God calls us to in an act of giving of ourselves for the gain of others. Seminarian Jack Campbell feels “service has some degree of aversion, some degree of discomfort.” However, the gift we receive, once we pass the obstacle of battling our inconveniences and discomfort, is finding a greater joy in giving rather than receiving, this is the true gift of service.

I think of the presidents and staff of all the catholic women across our diocese, women who give of themselves in their everyday lives for the gain of others, all through the grace of God. I am humbly grateful to be part of such a powerful group. Still, ‘seek ye first His kingdom, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.’ Thank you Seminarian Jack Campbell for your insight in “The Power of Service” article.

Charlotte Mackey

NW Deanery President

Pensacola-Tallahassee DCCW

Did you know?...

75,601 was the average attendance of FSU football home games in 2012.*1

76,138 was the number of pregnancies aborted in Florida in 2012.*2

Florida State Motto: “In God We Trust” Do we really?...

Psalm 139:13, You knit me together in my mother’s womb.

*1– ESPN.com

*2-- Florida Agency for Health Care Administration

DrLile@ProLifeDoc.org

West Central Deanery News

I have always had this idea in the back of my mind, although I am not sure how far back it started. I have often thought it would be nice to begin a book club, but not just any book club. One day, the Spirit must have moved me because I decided it was time (Leadership!).

Thus a Spiritual Book Club was born. Since I am the “founder” and a member of our parish’s CCW, it follows that the club is sponsored by our parish’s council of Catholic women (Spirituality!). The club is open to anyone interested and it has proven to be a good way to grow, share, and meet new people.

We have had as many as 12 people to as few as four participating at various times. We currently have 11 members and are reading our fifth book, *The Life of Faustina Kowalska: The Authorized Biography* by Sr.

Sophia Michalenko. We chose this book because of the Year of Mercy and because many of us are not too familiar with the Divine Mercy. Additionally, with each selection we read, the group decides on a “connectivity” which is an activity that connects to the book we are reading. We are investigating the possibility of visiting some elderly Polish nuns who live at a convent in Sunny Hills, Florida as the activity associated with this book.

If you are interested in learning more or starting a spiritual book club through your council, contact me at budandmaryjjj@cox.net.

Mary Sauvageau

St. Mary CCW, Fort Walton Beach

Upcoming Deanery Events

West Central Deanery

December 1, “12 Days of Christmas Bunco Party” at 11 a.m. at St. Mary Parish, FWB,
hosted by WCDCCW Convention Planning Team

December 9, Advent Day of Renewal, 9 a.m. hosted by Holy Name of Jesus CCW

Southwest Deanery

November 14, yard sale held at 3319 Bayshore Square, Pensacola FL 32507

December 5, Advent Morning of Reflection held at Holy Spirit Catholic Church,
beginning with an 8:30 a.m. Mass

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

Jan Shiplett
5797 Forest Hills Lane
Milton FL 32570
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Editor: Jan Shiplett
President: Cynthia Lacour

Diocese of Pensacola/Tallahassee
11 North B Street
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Up Coming Dates to Remember

January 30, 2016, DCCW Board Meeting, St. Margaret's, DeFuniak Springs

February 7, 2016, Jubilee Mass Pensacola FL

February 10, 2016 Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2016, Jubilee Mass and Rite of Election, Tallahassee FL

February 16-17, 2016, Capital Days at the Capital, Tallahassee FL

February 21, 2016, Rite of Election , Pensacola FL

April 14-16, 2016 DCCW Convention, St. Mary's , Ft. Walton Beach FL

October 27-29, 2016 FCCW Conference, Jacksonville FL
