



The Connect

May 2020

From the President

By Jean Kelly

He is Risen! Despite the Coronavirus quarantine I hope you are all still able to remember the beauty and glory of this Easter season.

We are still hopeful that we will be able to hold Convention in August. We are making our decision based on facts and not fear. Timing is going to be critical in our decision so as not to incur any financial obligation to NCCW. Thank you for your patience and if you are able to still send in your registration please know that if we have to cancel, all funds will be returned. **Early bird registration has been extended to June 10.**

Our NCCW office, under the direction of our Executive Director Andrea Cecilli is doing a fabulous job even while working from home. The staff is calling all members just to touch base and see how they are doing. They have been able to update any emails and addresses at the same time. Andrea is hosting a Weekly ZOOM gathering for anyone interested on Wednesdays at 2 pm Eastern. (Please refer to the "Weekend Wonder" for Zoom log in information.) It is a time to connect with members; on one call the group reflected on the word "Hope" which was perfect for this time as we hope for an end to the devastating effects of the Coronavirus.

Bernadette is hosting virtual tours of the website including the Members-only section and answering any questions you have. The recordings will be posted on the [NCCW website](#). Thank you for all your positive comments about these videos.

Many Councils are not able to hold their local conventions where you are able to reach out and gain new members. We are going to highlight on the website a resource that normally would be for members only. This way we will hopefully reach new members that might be looking for information about a women's group. The first resource we are highlighting is our wonderful [Catholic Woman magazine](#). Non members will be able to see a past publication and see one of the benefits of membership! Encourage your friends and family to visit [nccw.org](#).

The NCCW Board of Directors will be holding their May meeting via ZOOM instead of at the Washington Retreat House in DC. We will be voting on by-laws and resolutions to be presented at the Annual Meeting at Convention. Please keep everyone in prayer while we navigate a new and different way to hold our meeting. Pray for the sisters who usually provide us with wonderful hospitality while we stay at the retreat house. This pandemic has affected their income greatly.



Inside this issue:

President's Message	1-2
Treasurer, Spirituality	3
Leadership, Service	4
Legislative Advocacy	5
LTD	6
RAAP	7
WUCWO	8
Domestic Violence	9

The OLGC award deadline has been extended to May 8th, 2020. Send in those nominations now!

Continue to pray for all those that have contracted the virus, all those caring for them and their families.

From the President-elect



By Pat Voorhes, President-elect

The NCCW Executive Committee is continuing to prayerfully monitor the COVID-19 virus with our members, sponsors and spiritual advisors in mind. We are well aware of the tenuous situation we all face and have absolutely no intention of creating undue risk

for any of our members/ attendees; however, according to our contractual obligations, it is simply too soon for us to decide whether or not it will be feasible for us to meet in August. This is a difficult and fluid situation that varies by state. We understand why Convention registrations have dropped off, so we made some changes to encourage you to register:

- We extended the **early bird registration fee** until **June 10, 2020**
- **Registration fees** will be **fully refundable** should NCCW have to cancel or postpone the convention.

The deadline for the Convention Program Ads is coming fast: **Ads are due June 15, 2020.**

Don't forget to sign up for the **Jersey Tenors**, the nighttime bus tour and the day at the Basilica, if NCCW

cancels or postpones..... not to worry..... these are **refundable** too.

There are sponsorships available to help defray some of the expenses for throwing a huge birthday party such as this one and we need your silent auction items as well.

May 20th is the next Member Call. The NCCW Commission Chairs: Kathleen Penno (Spirituality), Mary Ann Cummins (Service) and Ruth Warren (Leadership) will be discussing what is going on in their respective commissions and giving us a preview of things to come.

We are making some changes to the time of the call due to problems encountered by members calling in at the top of the hour. All calls will begin 15 minutes before the hour: 4:45pm PT, 5:45pm MT, 6:45pm CT; and 7:45pm ET.

May Member Call

The May 20th member call —

Call in number : **(515) 606-5163**

Access Code: 703993#

Times are 4:45pm (PT), 5:45 pm (MT), 6:45 pm (CT), and 7:45pm (ET) If you are unable to join the call, it will be recorded and a link will be posted on nccw.org.

From the Treasurer

By Rose Martinet, NCCW Treasurer

Sending many Easter blessings to you and your families. It will be an Easter for all of us to remember.

In April we sent a check to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for the funds you have been sending NCCW for them during this first quarter..

We forwarded CRS donations as follows:

\$815.18 for the General Fund
\$4,924.34 for Water for Life
\$391.00 for the Refugee Women Emergency Fund
\$4,734.52 for the Madonna Plan
\$530.51 for the Help and Child Fund

For a total of \$11,395.55

Thank You so much for your continued support of the NCCW CRS programs. During this time your donations are especially appreciated due to the great needs around the world because of the Covid-19 virus.

I hope you sent in your requests for Mothers' Day remembrances at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. I just love the card that is sent to the families.

Hope you are making plans to attend the NCCW Convention in Washington DC this August.

We are planning a wonderful 100th Anniversary Celebration.

Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us.

Spirituality Commission

By Kathleen Penno, Spirituality Commission Chair

The special month of May is entirely devoted to honoring the Blessed Mother Mary, crowning her Queen of Heaven and Earth. Perhaps as a reminder, you might go into your garden and pick the most beautiful fragrant flower and place it near a statue or picture of Our Lady. It is also a perfect time to reflect and contemplate our own womanhood. What does that mean?

Go to the [NCCW website](#), log in as a member, and under **Members Only Resources** you'll find two mini retreats. The first one, *Dignity of Women*, is based on the Apostolic Letter *Mulieris Dignitatem* by Saint John Paul II on the dignity and vocation of women, stressing the importance of women in our church. The second one, *Journey of a Woman's Life*, examines our lives through the lens of the seven sacraments of our church. We also have available Rosary Meditations on the Dignity of Women. This an excellent source of information and inspiration for every day of the week.

The Spirituality Commission wishes all physical and spiritual mothers a beautiful Mother's Day.



Leadership Commission

Walking with Moms in Need Connects with Roses for Babies Program

By Yvette Carr, Leadership Commission

One of the many blessings of attending CCW meetings with other affiliates is learning about new ways we can help within our own affiliates. Several years ago we met at St. Anne Catholic Church in Richmond Hill, GA where they had a program they called Mary's Apron. St. Boniface started a similar program at our church and called it Roses for Babies.

We have an apron with 9 pockets in it. It is located on a shelf in the church vestibule next to a plastic holder that contains several small silk roses and forms that expectant mothers complete with information on her family, information on other children in household (if any) etc. The mother-to-be places a rose with her name on it in the pocket with the month corresponding to the number of months she is pregnant. For example, if she is 6 months pregnant, then the rose goes in pocket #6.

Our CCW members pray for the mom and family. Every month as she gets closer to her due date, the rose is moved up and when the baby is born, we deliver a meal and crocheted baby blanket to the mom. We also bring small gifts if there are other children in the household. We believe we are walking with moms in need with our Roses for Babies program.

Service Commission

By Mary Anne Cummins, Service Commission Chair

During this month dedicated to Our Lady, let us remember those women who are in need, those who are new mothers, those who are mothers who could use some help during this national crisis, pandemic. Please remember them all in your prayers. Please reach out to the new mom with a meal, a rosary prayed for her, an offer to get her groceries, a listening ear for her struggles.

Please reach out to the mom trying to do it all—homeschool her kids, work from home, do all the laundry and household cleaning and meals. Prepare a meal for her, pray a rosary for her intentions, call to listen and offer to help her child with his homework or to wash her car or weed the flower garden for her.

Please reach out to the mom of twins, the mom who miscarried, the older lady who is alone with no children around who might need you to compose a letter, garden for her, get her a meal, and pray with her through her struggles.

Go to the [USCCB website](#) and sign up to be involved in the Bishops' year of service, "[Walking with Moms in Need.](#)" We all need each other and our heavenly mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, to be with us on our journey.

Legislative Advocacy

Advocate for Nonprofits, Support Ethical COVID-19 Vaccines

By Sheila Hopkins, Legislative Advocacy Chair

We are now in the second quarter of our fight to avoid infection with the coronavirus named COVID-19. With job losses, non-profits are overwhelmed meeting the needs for funds to pay bills and provide food. Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Relief Services and over 130 nonprofits wrote a letter to leadership in the U. S. Senate and U. S. House of Representatives thanking them for including nonprofit agencies in the CARES Act. Their request is to expand nonprofit access to credit, strengthen charitable giving incentives, treat self-funded nonprofits fairly and increase emergency funding. Write your Senators and Representatives asking them to include nonprofits, the third largest employer in our economy, in the CARES Act relief programs. Go to www.usa.gov/elected-officials to find their contact information.

While companies and laboratories are working to develop a vaccine, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, along with 20 healthcare, bioethics and pro-life organizations, sent a letter to the United States Food and Drug Administration urging them to ensure that vaccines developed for COVID-19 are ethically produced and free from any connection to abortion. Some vaccines currently in development are being produced using old cell lines from the cells of aborted children. **YOU** can make your voice heard on this issue by contacting Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar II by emailing Secretary@HHS.gov. Let Secretary Azar know that any vaccine approved for use to protect us against COVID-19 should not be produced using old cell lines from the cells of aborted children since other cell lines and processes are available.

NCCW Birthday Club



There is still time to join **The NCCW Birthday Club**! This was started 10 years ago by Sheila Hopkins and will end on **May 15, 2020**. If you joined in 2010 the commitment was \$100 per year for a total of \$1,000. If you join now and make the entire \$1,000 commitment by May 15, you will be recognized in the 2020 Convention Program. There is also a Birthday Club pin.

The NCCW Legacy Circle is ongoing and you can join at any time. Individual members and affiliates participate in this program started by Patty Johnson; the commitment is \$1,000 per year for 10 years. We hope you will continue to support NCCW in this way.

Self Care for Leaders

By Amy Kennedy, LTD Consultant

If we are honest, most Council women tend to be a little more of a Martha than a Mary. Tending to the needs of others is in our nature as caring, nurturing women. It is also in our nature as leaders to step in, help out, and solve problems. A dear friend says women like us will need a casket three feet longer than usual because our arms are always raised volunteering to help. We spend our lives taking care of others, and too often we forget to take care of ourselves.

As I write this article, I am beginning my sixth week of working remotely due to the pandemic. I am fortunate that I can do almost all of my work at home and that my law practice has not slowed down. The stress so many of my clients are facing because of financial uncertainty, and social upheaval has made my cases particularly intense of late.

Late on a recent Friday afternoon, I was talking with a client who has been under considerable personal and business stress. As we were ending our call, I told her she was to take the weekend off, get some sleep, and try her best not to think about her case. Lawyer's Orders! She thanked me and said that I had better take the weekend off, too.

My client's words reminded me of one of my favorite catchphrases I use when teaching LTD programs on delegating and teamwork: *We are all wonderful women, but we do not have to be Wonder Woman.* Against my strong inclinations to put out one more fire before I logged off, to check my business email first thing on Saturday morning, and spend Sunday night restlessly thinking about the week ahead, I followed my client's advice. I took time for and took care of myself that weekend. Nagging to-do lists and council projects could wait . . . and did. I took time to pray, to reflect, and to relax. I began the week feeling more focused, refreshed, and ready to help my

clients than I have in a long time.

"Self-Care" is a trendy concept that I never truly appreciated until now. It is not an excuse to be selfish, lazy, or materialistic, as I thought. There is a reason why flight safety instructions tell us to put on our own oxygen masks before we help others with theirs: we need to take care of ourselves so that we can best take care of others. Below are suggestions to make sure you are taking care of yourself during these trying times.

- Listen to your intuition: it will tell you when the best answer is no.
- Listen to your body: it will tell you when it needs rest and sustenance.
- Listen to your heart: it will tell you when it is empty, full, or broken.
- Listen to your mind: it will tell you when it needs to slow down and refocus.
- Listen to your soul: it will tell you when it needs to be nourished and when it craves quiet time with our Lord.



Pornography and Covid-19

By Karen Painter, NCCW Representative to the Religious Alliance Against Pornography (RAAP)

With kids are at home using technology for school and entertainment during the COVID-19 crisis, it's critical now more than ever for parents and grandparents to implement the following safety measures to keep your child safe on all internet-connected devices. Several of the internet teaching sites being used for distance learning for kids have been found to have an abundance of porn sites pop up regularly.

40% of kids in grades 4-8 reported they connected online with a stranger. Of those:

- 53 percent revealed their phone number to a stranger
- 21 percent spoke by phone with a stranger
- 15 percent tried to meet with a stranger
- 11 percent met a stranger in their own home, the stranger's home, a park, mall or restaurant
- 30 percent texted a stranger from their phone
- 6 percent revealed their home address to a stranger

Please implement these 4 proactive steps to mitigate online harm to your children:

1. Review Safety Rules and Software Tools:

[Rule's 'N Tools Checklist \(English\)](#) or [Rules 'N Tools Checklist \(Spanish\)](#)

2. Set Up Parental Control Tools: Use parental controls on all internet-related devices (computers, laptops, gaming devices, tablets, cell phones, etc.) [Covenant Eyes](#) is a great resource for this.

3. Build An Atmosphere Of Trust and Communication Regularly: Establish an ongoing dialogue and spend time online with your children.

4. Teach Your Children To Avoid Sharing Personal Information and Communications With Strangers Online: Remind your children to think before they

post: there are no take-backs online.

For more information please go to InternetSafety101.org

Article taken from [Enough is Enough.](#)

Our Lady of Good Counsel Award



By Patty Johnson, Our Lady of Good Counsel Award Committee Chair

Do you know of a Council sister who exemplifies our NCCW mission statement to support, empower and educate all Catholic Women in spirituality, leadership and service? **The Our Lady of Good Counsel 2020 Award Committee is looking for a few women to be nominated for this award that will be presented at the 2020 Convention.** We all know Council members who are extraordinary women. Submission requirements and the application can be found on the nccw.org website. The application process opened March 9. Please make sure that your package is complete. It should include the nomination form, 2 letters of support, the nominee's resume and answered questions. Incomplete packages will not be considered. Nominations are due to the NCCW office by close of business on **May 8th, 2020.** **Even though you cannot meet with your Council in person, you can have conference calls or use zoom.com or another conference platform to meet virtually. Please send in your nominations now!**

A Million More Mercies?

By Jane Carter, NCCW Supporting Member

Remember when our amazing members participated in the *big count* during the “Year of Mercy,” adding up our offerings of Works of Mercy into thousands and ultimately over two million? What about now? Are you still being intentional about living out our promise to Pope Francis? When presenting them to our Holy Father, then NCCW President Sheila Hopkins, asked if we would promise to continue the Works of Mercy, replied “of course, Holy Father!” Have you used this time of lock down and quarantine to review the list to see what “little bit more” you might do, even from home? Here are six ideas to get you started!

Pray for the Living and the Dead: pray for all those dying alone, and for families unable to be with loved ones in hospitals.

Clothe the Naked: Closets and Cupboards: clean out/organize and create a “donate” box to deliver when the restrictions are lifted.

Visit those in Prison: Virtually visit through the [Prison Pen Pal program](#).

Bear Wrongs Patiently: Practice patience with everyone, and especially with those locked down with you!

Feed the Hungry: In as much as you are able, help those in need in your own neighborhood and donate to efforts in the larger community through your parish or local Catholic Charities.

Instruct the Ignorant: If you are among the million who are now home schooling, don’t neglect the children’s spiritual learning! Memorize a new prayer, read about a saint, or create a family prayer chain. [This is a golden opportunity to pass on faith!](#)

“MAKE ME A CHANNEL OF YOUR PEACE”

THE WUCWO NORTH AMERICAN REGION
CONFERENCE
25 AUGUST 2020

By Maribeth Stewart Blogoslawski

Please make plans to participate in WUCWO’s North American Region Conference to be held at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, Virginia on August 25, 2020 from 9:00AM-5:00PM.

We shall learn and participate in a discussion on WUCWO’s Resolutions, and, most importantly, pray together, enhancing our understanding and embrace of the beautiful petition that is our meeting’s theme, to become an instrument of peace.

Together with WUCWO’s President General, we shall enjoy speakers who will address us regarding the WUCWO Resolutions concerning protection of the vulnerable, elimination of discrimination and violence against women, and our call to holiness.

The day begins at 9AM with Holy Mass and proceeds to formal recognition of the two nations that comprise WUCWO’s NA Region, Canada and the United States of America. We then move to our first speaker who will expand the WUCWO resolutions concerning violence and protection. A delicious lunch will follow after which we shall hear an inspiring talk on our call to holiness. An interactive discussion session will then be held after which our WUCWO President General will address the assembly. The day concludes at 5PM with prayer. You will have time to get ready to participate in the Evening Tour of DC offered by the NCCW.

Please [click here for the registration form](#) and join us for a wonderful day of prayer, learning, and fun.

Women Healing the Wounds

By Kathy Bonner

How does Curiosity, Caring, Creativity, Cooperation, and Courage create a possible life saving event?

Julie Ann Farrell, from Palm Beach Florida Northern Deanery had the answer. Her **curiosity** to learn more to help prevent domestic violence led her to the NCCW *Women Healing the Wounds* program. Her **caring** encouraged her, as President of St. Sebastian CCW, to invite me to present the educational and interactive program at the CCW general meeting.

Cooperation was abundant. Council members decorated with purple tablecloths and *Women Healing the Wounds* educational brochures (ordered from NCCW) were provided for everyone. The name and number of the local shelter was placed in the provided space on the brochures.

Ms. Farrell approached the parish director of youth minister, Theresa Guirola, to suggest a **creative** way to involve the parish teens to make the appropriate cut-outs and signs to use for displays. While creating took place the teens were given a brief idea of why domestic abuse is not acceptable for any age, teens to senior citizens.

Courage came into play when Julie Ann decided it would be better to open the event to the surrounding deaneries and the entire community. She proposed the idea to her pastor, Fr. John Morrissey, who not only agreed but gave full support and attended the entire event. Julie Ann, with a background in marketing, began a full-scale campaign to invite the community to the event.

I am sure you would like to know the outcome.

That Thursday evening well over 100 attended, including women, men, and some parish staff. CCW members willingly practiced and participated in the interactive portions of the presentation. The CCW did not charge for the event but donations garnered a generous check that was presented to the shelter representative in attendance.

The most amazing outcome was when Fr. Morrissey came to me at the end of the evening and told me I needed to come with him to the rectory along with the counselor from the shelter, and Julie Ann. Two women, in abusive situations, had come forth to ask for help. Earlier, while setting up an older woman came to the hall and looked confused, I asked if I could help but she could not give me a clear answer so I invited her to the event later that evening but she said she would not be able to come. I gave her the *Women Healing the Wounds* brochure and said I would pray for her. The next morning, the counselor called Ms. Farrell to tell her he received a call from another woman that was at the event.

God works in mysterious ways. Answer His call to save lives.

