

Membership Talking Points for NCCW Leaders at every Ring of Council

First. Benefits of NCCW Membership to the Individual . . . why should “I” join?

By virtue of the NCCW Mission Statement, everything the National Organization does is for the good of the individual. It may be directed to the individual through the Province / Diocese / & Affiliate, but it is all for the good of the individual.

So the first benefit of Individual Membership in NCCW is full and conscious membership at the national level. For \$25, a fee that is very reasonable – the Member receives:

- **Representation / Information** on the National level and the Local level – NCCW representatives regularly attend meetings, summits, workshops and gatherings that address the issues most important to Catholic women of faith and action. For example, NCCW was represented at the United States Catholic of Catholic Bishops annual meeting, the Domestic Violence Decade for Change Summit, the Catholic Social Ministry gathering and the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change, just to name a few. Information collected is then disseminated to the NCCW members.
- **Catholic Woman magazine** – your connection to the national issues and the activities of the National Organization – receiving this extremely informative publication **FIRSTHAND** allows council members and the “woman in the pew” who is not ready for or interested in leadership at any of the available levels to stay informed and make her voice heard if she so chooses.
- **Get Involved OR Just Stay Informed** – there’s value in both to you as an individual Catholic woman and to your Province /Diocese / & Affiliate Parish -- because, there’s **strength in numbers**. Regardless of whether you have aspirations of great involvement or you pay your dues so that you can stay informed – you know you can count yourself among those Catholic women who have a voice in support of our Church and what it stands for in the world – **advocating for peace, justice, compassion and a culture of life.**

You will be **exposed to opportunities FIRSTHAND from your NATIONAL organization** to grow spiritually and enrich your Catholic Faith; you will have opportunities to understand more fully Catholic Social Teaching and what those teachings mean in a woman’s life.

There will be **opportunities for involvement** at every level. And, after 20 months of continuous membership, you will be given voting privileges in our National organization and may cast a vote for the National organization’s leadership and for the direction of the organization given in the Resolutions and Bylaws at the National Convention.

Regardless of your interests – whether in your home or at one of the many opportunities to attend meetings and events -- NCCW offers a broad spectrum of opportunities in the areas of –

Education (to grow and be informed)

Spirituality (to deepen my faith)

Advocacy (to raise my voice, joined with others)

Networking (meet other Catholic women)

Get Involved. Stay Informed. Either way it is vitally important to –

Join Us! -- and -- Be Counted.

Second. Benefits of NCCW Individual Membership to the Province/Diocese/Affiliate . . .

. . . why should we (the Province, Diocese and Parish Affiliate) care if the NATIONAL Organization has individual members? We have our own problems and we are already involved in the National Organization –

- A **STRONG NATIONAL** Organization means **STRONG LOCAL** Organizations!
It's a fact that if we can improve the financial picture of the NCCW then more can be provided to the Province Directors to offer to their A/DCCW organizations, who in turn can offer more to the Parish Affiliates. There are many examples that can be given in terms of current resources and programs as well as resources and programs that could be developed in response to the needs and wishes of the local organizations.
- **NCCW provides the Province, A/DCCW with the information and resources** needed to speak locally on national Church concerns – such as: poverty, culture of life issues, domestic violence, pornography, environmental issues, human trafficking and a host of other issues.
- **Effective & Productive Communication between leaders at every RING of Council** – with a strong National Organization, supported by tens of thousands of members, all aspects of communication would improve.
- **Raised Profile and clear, strong voice in support of our Bishops, Priests and our Church.**

Third. Benefits of NCCW Individual Membership to the NATIONAL Organization

. . . why is it so vitally important that the NATIONAL Organization have these individual members? Besides, every woman in my parish and / or diocese is already a member!

(Individual) Membership is the path to organization strength across all Rings of Council and the clearest path to truly fulfilling the NCCW Mission – The potential is limitless for the National Council of Catholic Women based on our mission – *to support, empower and educate all Catholic Women . . .* As NCCW looks toward its Centennial celebration, embracing the Mission mandates a new way of defining a member. There are over 30 million Catholic women in the United States according to the 2006 USCCB Survey. How many can we reach?

- **Strength in Numbers. Financial Strength.** Verifiable, paid members are necessary to be able to pursue other revenue streams such as advertising in Catholic Woman magazine, Corporate Sponsorships, Convention / General Assembly Exhibitors and Advertisers, etc.
- **Strength in Numbers! Organizational Strength.** Verifiable, paid members means a quantifiable rank-in-file membership that with it bring a host of benefits such as a larger pool of donors for Annual Giving and a larger pool of potential new leaders as NCCW prepares for an expanded role in the life of the Church in the 21st Century.
- **Strength in Numbers! Vocational Strength.** Verifiable, paid members will provide NCCW with the opportunity to represent its members more effectively in a variety of ways. It's a fact that verifiable, large numbers in any organization lead to a raised profile and greater influence. For NCCW strength in numbers means a clear and unified voice in support of our mission as a model and resource for all Catholic women at all levels of Church life as well as in our global society – *women of faith, women of action.*

Join Us! and Be Counted.

Sample Bulletin Announcement

**(MEMBERSHIP DRIVE and/or INFORMATIONAL EVENT) FOR Month Day - Day, 2008
or
NCCW SUNDAY SET FOR Month Day – Day, 2008 or etc., etc.**

The (Parish Affiliate Name) Council of Catholic Women, an affiliate member of the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) will host an event for all Catholic women of (Parish Name) that will include a short presentation on _____ as well as information on the activities and benefits of membership in the Council of Catholic Women.

(Fill in the blank and be creative – ie) get a local speaker from your diocese or church community, perhaps an auxiliary bishop OR get information on Women in the Church Today from the USCCB, the Vatican web sites or other Catholic Resources and designate a Facilitator to lead a discussion OR etc etc – the more interesting the program / speaker is to the Catholic Press and Community the better your chance of getting the event covered.)

The event will be held in the _____ and will begin at (X:XX PM). Refreshments will be provided. More information is available at www.yourwebsite.org or contact (Name, Phone and email of CCW Contact).