



BULLETIN BOARD

national council of
catholic women

IMPORTANT DATES

DECEMBER 2006

- 1 World AIDS Day
- 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 25 Christmas

JANUARY 2007

- 1 Feast of Mary, Mother of God
World Day of Peace
- 7 Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord
- 7-13 National Migration Week
National Vocations Awareness Week
- 17-21 NCCW Board of Directors meeting,
Washington, DC**
- 18-25 Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- 21-22 National Prayer Vigil for Life—Washington, DC
- 22 March for Life—Washington, DC
- 28-2/3 Catholic Schools Week

FEBRUARY 2007

- Catholic Press Month
- 4 World Day for Consecrated Life
- 9-14 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering—
Washington, DC
- 11 Day of the Sick
- 21 Ash Wednesday
- 22 Feast of the Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

MARCH 2007

- 1 Postmark deadline for Nominations for
NCCW officers and nominating committee**
- 20 Postmark deadline for proposed Resolutions
Postmark deadline for proposed Bylaw
amendments**

Dear Readers:

Those of you who attended General Assembly in September know how uplifting it was. Archbishop Timothy Dolan of Milwaukee celebrated our Opening Liturgy at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. We attended commission workshops on topics such as enhancing the spirituality of our councils and fighting the scourge of HIV/AIDS on the African continent. We celebrated the Our Lady of Good Counsel Award in the magnificent surroundings of the Milwaukee Art Museum. But nothing was more inspiring than the attendance—well over 800 members were there from all over the United States! And many of them were first-timers. We found joy in meeting new members and reconnecting with old friends, and we came home refreshed and renewed.

As we look forward to Advent and prepare to celebrate the holidays with family and friends, we can look back on the year gone by and examine how we have lived the ideals of council. Have we “respond[ed] with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society”? Have we reached out in charity to our neighbors and to our sisters in council? One of the greatest joys of our faith is that we can always ask God to forgive our failures and then make a new beginning. And one of the greatest joys of council is that we have our sisters to support and pray for us in our efforts. The new liturgical year is a perfect time to start fresh.

May the peace of the Infant Christ fill your hearts this Christmas.

The NCCW Commission Chairs

MISSION STATEMENT

The National Council of Catholic Women acts through its membership to support, empower and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. NCCW programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world.

As a fundraiser, you can organize and sponsor a religious articles sale in your parish. Contact Hurley's Wholesale Religious Goods at 1-800-437-4338 to arrange. Items are sent to you pre-priced. You return the unsold articles to Hurley's after the sale; the company then sends you a bill for the amount sold.

Through "Shepherds of the Field," parish CCW groups can support the priests of their diocese with prayers, short notes, and cards. Each year the Church Commission chair can assign shepherds to each parish and region, and to all diocesan board members.



Prepare now for the Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, to be held January 18-25, 2007. Your council can pray together with your parish and with other local Christian churches that we all may be one. For information and to order materials, visit <http://www.geii.org>.

Websites for Church Commission members

www.ewtn.com has up-to-date Catholic information including news, timely reflections, the readings for the day, and a helpful document library as well as an audio library, an audio version of morning and evening prayer for every day and links to other useful sites.

www.usccb.org contains news, reviews, and church documents as

Honoring Holy Women Selected Feasts & Memorials

DECEMBER

8 Mary the Immaculate Conception

JANUARY

4 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
21 Blessed Mother Marianne Cope

FEBRUARY



7 St. Josephine Bakhita
12 St. Apollonia

MARCH

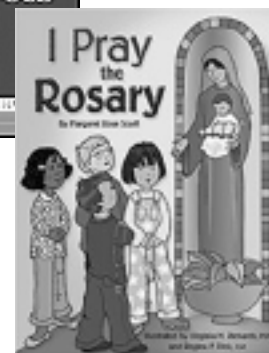
1 St. Katharine Drexel
7 Sts. Perpetua and Felicity
12 Blessed Angela Salawa

well as all of the bishops' statements. It also includes links to other sites.

www.catholic.com is a source for any question you have on faith. Catholic Answers is the nation's largest lay apostolate and is dedicated to serving Christ by bringing the fullness of Catholic truth to the world. They explain Catholic truth, equip the faithful to live fully the sacramental life, and assist them in spreading the Good News.

Bookshelf

Catholic Traditions: Treasures New & Old by Joanne Turpin is an excel-



lent reference book for those, young and old alike, seeking answers to questions about Catholic traditions, rituals, and nuances. Topics covered include the Mass, the church year, sacraments and sacramentals, devotions, prayer, Mary, and angels and saints. The book makes a wonderful gift for adults in the initiation process or for anyone seeking to improve their knowledge of the Catholic faith. St Anthony Messenger Press, www.AmericanCatholic.org.

I Pray the Rosary by Margaret Rose Scarfi, a perfect first rosary book for ages 5-8, offers children a simple, loving way to meditate on the lives of Jesus and Mary. It features all four mysteries and includes seven basic Catholic prayers. It is attractively illustrated by Virginia Helen Richards, FSP, and Regina Frances Dick, FSP. Visit www.pauline.org.

At the end of each day

I ask myself just two questions:

What did I do for Jesus today?

What did I do to Jesus today?

— Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

For a Christmas gift that truly gives glory to the newborn Christ,

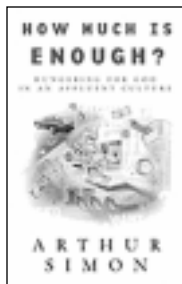


why not send your friends a card that notifies them that a donation has been made in their honor to Bread for the World. Cards are \$25.00 each or five for \$100.00. Or

choose greeting cards that keep Christ in Christmas while they help to feed our hungry sisters and brothers. Visit www.bread.org to view card designs. A package of 10 greeting cards and envelopes can be purchased for \$10, with free shipping and handling. Orders must be placed by December 15 to ensure delivery before Christmas.

According to this book

by Bread for the World founder Art Simon, a contribution of seven cents a day per American for fifteen years would cut world hunger in half. Invite your



sisters in council to make the calculation for a one-year period based on the size of their families and to con-



The Campaign for Children's Health Care is a coalition of organizations whose goal is to make high-quality, affordable health insurance coverage for all of America's children a top national priority. The Campaign conducts public education efforts across the country to highlight the fact that over nine million children in the United States lack health insurance and presses for action to ensure that all children will be covered. Visit www.childrenshealthcampaign.org to see how your council can help. Or . . .

. . . join the **Child Proofing our Communities** campaign in its efforts to reduce the level of toxins to which children are exposed. See www.childproofing.org for details.

tribute that amount to BFW over the course of the year. The book is available from www.breadstore.org/reandfa.html and is priced at \$10 for BFW members and \$12 for non-members.

Teaming with the Home-

bound. Here is an idea to draw elderly or homebound women into the life of your council: Ask them to help make "homeless bags." Fold over the top of a regular-size pillowcase a couple of times. Insert a piece of cord for a drawstring and sew closed. It's just the right size for a homeless person to use to carry some

of his or her belongings. You could do this as a group activity. Arrange to pick up those who need rides, or consider bringing a few women to do this project at the home of a shut-in, where you can do a worthwhile task while you offer an hour of conversation and socializing to a homebound woman.

Looking for service opportunities? Check out Volunteer Match, an online network that brings together nonprofits and those who are interested in volunteering. Visit www.volunteermatch.org.

FAMILY CONCERNS

In a Chastity Day talk sponsored in part by the Miami ACCW, Colleen Riley of Respect Life urged teens and parents to have a code word or phrase that, when said in a phone conversation, alerts parents that the teen needs to be picked up. Riley said teens should also go places with a friend or preferably a group of friends, and if something unexpected happens, they should grab a friend and get out. She also advised them not to drink anything they had not personally opened. From an article by Julie Conrey in *The Florida Catholic*.

Visit www.hhs.gov, the website of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, for a wealth of information on a variety of subjects that can be useful to your family, from pandemic flu to tips for youth about smoking.

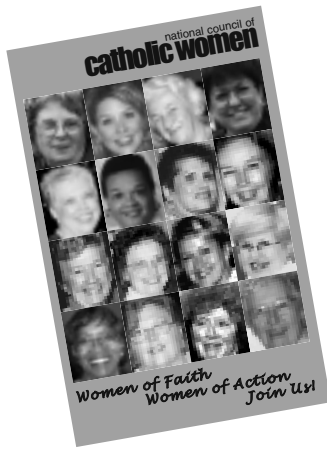


For those with troubled marriages, Retrouvaille offers weekends that help couples rebuild their relationships and learn to communicate again. The weekend program

is followed by regular sessions to help couples put into practice what they have learned. More information is available at <http://www.retrouvaille.org/>.

Worldwide Marriage

Encounter sponsors weekends for couples who want to strengthen their marriages. Couples spend time focusing on their relationship with each other and with God and learn a communication technique that will pay dividends for the rest of their lives. For more information, visit <http://www.wvme.org/new.html>.



Join Us. Be Counted!

NCCW's Individual Membership Recruitment Campaign

Membership in the National Council of Catholic Women is for you. NCCW responds with Gospel values to the needs of Church and society through
Spirituality • Education • Service • Advocacy • Global Solidarity

NCCW membership is open to all Catholic women and parish women's groups who support these concepts and mission—and membership can help you

- Grow spiritually, enriching your faith
- Understand Catholic social teaching
- Advocate for a culture of life and social justice
- Promote moral solutions to societal ills
- Develop leadership skills
- Form lasting friendships
- Nurture family faith and values

Who is the National Council of Catholic Women?

- ... individual women of faith and action
- ... a national network of diocesan, regional, parish, and national women's groups
- ... women united to support, empower, and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, in leadership, and in service.

Women of faith, women of action

The National Council of Catholic Women proudly represents hundreds of thousands of women in parishes across the country in over 4,000 affiliated groups.

In addition to our bi-monthly magazine *Catholic Woman*, we offer a full range of membership benefits and opportunities for spiritual enrichment.

Spirituality

Join a circle of prayer with Catholic women across the country.

Education

Periodicals, special publications, and workshops offer information, ideas for action, and training specifically designed to enrich the life and support the activities of faithful Catholic women.

Networking

Meet and work with Catholic women who share your values at local, regional, and national meetings of NCCW and its affiliated women's organizations.



Advocacy

Receive updates on legislative initiatives to inform and support your grassroots advocacy of a culture of life and social justice. Among the issues NCCW publications and resources help you address are the sanctity of life, morality in the media, women's health, domestic violence, sexual abuse and exploitation of women and children, environmental justice, and the safety and welfare of children. And, NCCW Board members represent you at the White House and on Capital Hill.

Gatherings

In alternating years, NCCW members convene at a biennial convention or general assembly to share information and learn from nationally recognized Catholic leaders.

- ✓ liturgy and prayer
- ✓ inspiring general sessions
- ✓ informative workshops
- ✓ leadership development

Count me in!

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$20 made payable to NCCW, for my 12-month NCCW individual membership.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Referred for membership by (full name, please)

I am a Catholic woman and a member of
_____ (name of parish)

In the City/State _____

And the diocese of _____

Please send your check and form to: NCCW, 200 N. Glebe Rd., Suite 703, Arlington, VA 22203.

Questions? Call the NCCW National Office at 703-224-0990 or visit: www.nccw.org.

INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS

Save lives in Sudan.
Support livelihoods in Nicaragua.



Buy a sweat shop-free Sudan t-shirt to support the CRS Sudan Emergency Fund. Visit www.sudan.crs.org for more information. This is a great activity for your diocesan council or parish affiliate to promote.

Get involved in the CRS Africa Campaign. Visit www.crs.org/getinvolved/advocacy/africa_campaign/index.cfm for additional information.

Maryknoll has produced a documentary, "Lives for Sale," about the tragic problem of human trafficking. The film illustrates the devastating toll trafficking exacts on human lives. It will be shown on public television beginning in January 2007. Watch your local listings.



CRS Fair Trade is a great place to do your Christmas shopping. Delight those on your list and give growers and artisans in developing countries a fair wage for their goods. These are gifts that give glory to the newborn Savior. <http://www.crs-fairtrade.org/index.cfm>.

New Water for Life video debuts. The new *Water for Life* DVD illustrates the plight of our sisters and brothers in the developing world who have little or no access to clean water. It explains how Water for Life, a partnership project of CRS and NCCW, provides resources to build water systems that can deliver potable water, creating jobs and developing skills in water sanitation.

The DVD was given to national

These newsletters may be just what you've been looking for:

Bread from Bread for the World, a nationwide Christian movement that seeks justice for the world's hungry people by lobbying and engaging in research and education on policies related to hunger and development. Go to www.bread.org.



In the Balance, the newsletter of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC). CLINIC is a non-profit organization serving the most vulnerable, poor, and low-income newcomers regardless of race, religion, or national origin. CLINIC works to reunite immigrant families, gains protection for those who fear persecution in their native countries, and helps lawful permanent residents to become U.S. citizens. More information is available at www.cliniclegal.org.

NewsNotes is a bi-monthly newsletter from the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns on international peace and justice issues. It is available by subscription from www.maryknoll.org. Click "Contact Us," then "Office for Global Concerns," "Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns," and "NewsNotes."

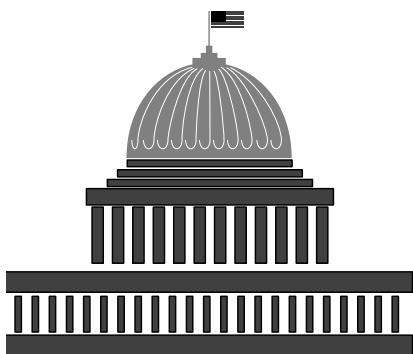
Stop Trafficking! Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter co-sponsored by a number of orders of women religious, highlights ongoing efforts to advocate for victims of human trafficking, particularly through legislative action. It is dedicated exclusively to fostering collaboration among organizations working to eliminate all forms of trafficking in human beings. <http://homepage.mac.com/srjeanschafersds/stoptrafficking/>.

The Advocate, the CRS monthly newsletter, is available to Legislative Network members and ready to be photocopied and used in parish bulletins or your own newsletters. Visit www.crs.org, select "Get Involved," then "At Home," "CRS and Advocacy," and "The Advocate" under the Resources heading on the right.

Board members and diocesan council presidents at General Assembly. Those who did not pick up their copy at General Assembly and the presidents of all paid parish affiliates will receive it by mail. A limited number of DVDs are available for a \$10.00 donation to the Water for Life program for each DVD, plus \$3 for shipping for each order. To secure your



copy, send a check for \$13.00 payable to NCCW with a designation on the memo line for Water for Life and mail to: NCCW, 200 N. Glebe Road, Ste. 703, Arlington, VA 22203.



Social Ministry Gathering.

Mark your calendar and consider attending the next *Catholic Social Ministry Gathering*, February 9-14, 2007, in Washington, DC. NCCW is once again a sponsoring organization for this gathering, which serves as the annual meeting of social justice ministry leaders from national Catholic organizations and dioceses throughout the nation. The theme for this year's meeting is

“Bringing Good News to a Broken World: Overcoming Fear with God’s Love.”

You will experience inspiring prayer and worship, challenging speakers, social ministry strategy sessions, and briefings on priority peace and justice issues affecting the poor and vulnerable. Along with other participants, you will visit Capitol Hill to bring a Catholic message on these issues to our Senators and Representatives. Registration, fees, and lodging information is available at <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/index.htm>.

Before Congress adjourned at the end of September, it passed the Secure Fence Act of 2006, an enforcement-only bill authorizing the construction of a fence along several hundred miles of the U.S.-Mexico border. Nonetheless, a significant chance for comprehensive immigration reform remains, as

These resources can help you educate yourself on issues and legislative activity:



www.epa.gov

the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's website



www.usda.gov

the U.S. Department of Agriculture's website. See especially “Laws and Regulations” and “Education and Outreach.”



www.usccb.org/ogc/guidelines.shtml

the webpage of the Office of General Counsel of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Here you will find information about permissible and prohibited legislative and political activities.



Information on a variety of subjects is available at FirstGov.gov and 1-800-FED-INFO, the federal government's official online and toll-free information resources. Operated by the Federal Citizen Information Center, which is a part of the U.S. General Services Administration, the website and toll-free number can provide answers to your questions about applying for Social Security, changing your address, finding government benefits, and many other topics.

demonstrated by Congress's defeat of other enforcement-only bills. Contact your Senators and Representatives to voice your support for comprehensive immigration reform and visit the website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Justice for Immigrants Campaign

(www.justiceforimmigrants.org) for other ways to get involved.

Visit the Pew Research Center's website, www.peoplepress.org, to inform yourself about the latest poll and survey results on a variety of issues.

ORGANIZATION

Save these dates.

The 2007 NCCW national convention will be held in
Columbus, Ohio, September 20-23.

If there are a significant number of Spanish-speaking

women in your community, try publishing at least part of your diocesan newsletter in two columns — English on the left and Spanish on the right. Thanks to the Rockford Diocesan CCW for demonstrating this great and welcoming idea in a recent newsletter issue.

Here's a beautiful way to express thanks to our retired priests for having served us and to get a new group of people active in council through planning a different kind of event. The Tulsa, Oklahoma, DCCW planned a Retired Priests Breakfast to honor



older priests in the diocese and to raise funds for the Diocesan Retired Priests Trust. The DCCW requested the presence of parishioners from parishes in which the elderly priests had served. Revenue came from ticket sales and a raffle. Thanks to the Tulsa DCCW for this terrific idea.

Consider leaving space in your diocesan council newsletter for news from parish affiliates around

The following diocesan council websites were shared with us from the Organization Commission Annual Reports. Explore them and pick up some new ideas:

www.aodonline.org then click on accw

www.arch.pvt.k12.ia.us then click on accw

www.nudccw.org

www.scdiocese.org

www.adccw.com

www.odccw.catholicweb.com

www.pbdccw.catholicweb.com

www.rdccw.org

www.scccw.org

Note: Some of the arch/diocesan websites you shared did not have any reference to your diocesan Council of Catholic Women. If you do not want a separate council website, you could probably ask the diocese to add a section for your diocesan council information. This would give you another way of publicizing the work of your councils.

the diocese. Interesting programs they have had or activities they have engaged in can provide ideas for other local councils, in addition to giving every council a chance to be recognized for the work they do. If space is a problem, run just one or two short pieces (100-125 words) in each issue.

The Miami archdiocesan council has a "Unity Banner" that it displays at conventions and other events. The banner is made up of fabric squares, each designed and made by an affiliate. Barbara Asfendis of Miami tells us that the banner is made up of individual

Continued on page 8

ORGANIZATION, Continued from page 7

squares, each approximately 10" x 10". It can be of any fabric, and the design can be created in paint, embroidery, or just about any other medium. Miami laid out the squares end-to-end in a single row, so it is very long and can be draped across the front of a stage or around a long banquet table. This arrangement makes it easy to add new squares, but your diocesan council may want to arrange your banner in a traditional quilt shape. Members of the Miami council were inspired by a similar banner they saw displayed at the 1992 Florida Council Conference. The banner can be a wonderful ongoing project and can serve as a living history of your council.

Volunteer Hours. If you are a parish affiliate president, be sure to keep track of the volunteer hours your members put in each year. Any kind of volunteer work your members do as a council, or representing council, counts—whether it is running a booth at the parish picnic or helping to restock shelves at the local food pantry. This infor-



mation gives us some measure of the good work that our diocesan councils and parish affiliates do, and we can draw on this in promoting council with other organizations with whom we work and with potential donors and grantors, among others. Please ask your commission chairs to keep track of the hours for their commissions (from May through the following April) and report them to your diocesan president, commission by commission, so the diocesan president can send them to national each May in her Annual Report.

Ideas from the Annual Reports. Here are a couple of wonderful activities that are being done in our councils around the country. These are taken from the Organization Commission Annual Reports and are shared in the hope that they will serve as inspiration!



"Hats Off to NCCW" was a program created as a tribute and celebration of the history of NCCW. Council women used hats of different styles and colors to represent the varied calls and roles in which Catholic women have served and continue to serve in the world today. It showed how the NCCW accomplishments mirrored the history of each of its decades of existence. What a great way to inform and promote the work of NCCW in a fun way—celebrating all of the good things that women have done in its 80-plus years. Why not plan a program in your diocese using the NCCW history book "The First Seventy-Five Years" as a resource?
From the Knoxville Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Develop an annual theme for your council. One parish used Kathy Coffey's book *Women of Mercy* as a theme for the year. You could study the life of St. Faustina and pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet along with studying the works of mercy and examining how we practice them in our daily lives. Other possible themes are "The Gift of Life" or "Living the Beatitudes".

From the Greensburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women



Training new leaders is so important! How can we grow or attract new members if we do not know what we are about? The *NCCW Resource and Guidance Manual* is a terrific resource. It can be purchased from the national office for \$45.

Give, Use, Enjoy these new Signature Items

NCCW 2 in 1 Ballpoint Pen	
Pen and hand sanitizer spray	\$ 3.00
Pen and lens cleaner	3.00
NCCW Memo Pad	\$ 5.00
NCCW Portfolio	\$25.00

To place your order, call toll-free, 800-506-9407, and leave a message, or e-mail: lmendoza@nccw.org. For information about other NCCW Publications and Signature Items, visit us at www.nccw.org.

