

BULLETIN BOARD

IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH 2010

90th Anniversary of NCCW

- Women's History Month
- 22 World Water Day
 - 25 Annunciation
 - 28 Palm Sunday

APRIL 2010

- 1 Holy Thursday
- 2 Good Friday
- 3 Holy Saturday
- 4 Easter Sunday
- 7 World Health Day
- 25 World Day of Prayer for Vocations

MAY 2010

WUCWO Day of Prayer

- Older Americans Month
- 6 National Day of Prayer
 - 11 Proposed Resolutions due at national office**
 - 13 Ascension Thursday
 - 15-16 NCCW Board of Directors' meeting, Washington, DC**
 - 23 Pentecost
 - 31 Memorial Day

Dear Readers:

One of the ways NCCW is changing to meet your needs is more frequent publication of the *Bulletin Board* newsletter. Beginning this year, we have moved to a quarterly publication schedule: Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall. This new schedule will eliminate the need for interim issues of the "SpeedRead" web-based publication of recent years.

We hope you will find the resources and program ideas in these pages useful in your personal lives, in your volunteer activities in council and in your community, and even professionally.

As we celebrate NCCW's 90 years of Gospel values in service to Church and community, we encourage you to use these resources to reach out to other women in your parish or neighborhood. Plan an educational program, share this issue of *Bulletin Board* with your parish catechists or social justice committee members, invite your Easter catechumens and candidates for full Communion to attend a council event, promote NCCW membership to ensure the next 90 years of service to Church and society.

May your final days of Lent be a spiritual journey that reads you for the lasting joy of Easter.

Karen Painter, Service Commission Chair
Joanne Pohland, Spirituality Commission Chair
Judy Powers, Leadership Commission Chair

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.

Daily Prayer for the Success of “Building a Campaign for Human Dignity” Almighty Father, please help the National Council of Catholic Women educate and inspire its members to embrace the Campaign for Human Dignity. Help the members show leadership by writing or calling their legislators or by informing others about the importance of human dignity from conception to natural death. Let us be open to a deeper understanding of the truth God is proclaiming in our own bodies—that we are created to give. Let us learn to be a gift to all as we reach out to help others. May a study of John Paul II’s Theology of the Body inspire and educate us in the meaning of life. We ask this through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel. Amen.



Divine Mercy Sunday In His revelations to St. Faustina Kowalska, Jesus Christ asked that the first Sunday after Easter be designated as the “Feast of Divine Mercy,” when his graces will be available in an extraordinary way to all those who ask. On Sunday, April 30, 2000, Pope John Paul II formally announced that the Sunday after Easter would henceforth be known as “Divine Mercy Sunday.” A way of preparing for Divine Mercy Sunday is to pray the Novena to the Divine Mercy. Information on the Divine Mercy and Divine Mercy Sunday can be found at <http://www.marian.org/divinemercury/prayers.html>.

Catholic Vacation Bible School Growing with the Saints,

The Holy Father’s April Prayer Intentions

Fundamentalism and Extremism

General: That every tendency to fundamentalism and extremism may be countered by constant respect, by tolerance, and by dialogue among all believers.

Persecuted Christians

Missionary: That Christians persecuted for the sake of the Gospel may persevere, sustained by the Holy Spirit, in faithfully witnessing to the love of God for the entire human race.

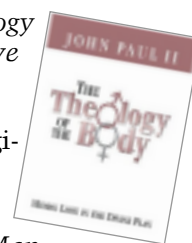
Inc. was founded in 2001, in response to parents and religious educators who were searching for a truly Catholic Vacation Bible School Program. They believed children needed an opportunity to grow in their faith and learn about the sacred traditions of the church. They responded to this void in the Catholic market by writing and publishing a new and completely Catholic Vacation Bible School Program. In July 2003, Our Lady of the Hills Catholic Church in Columbia, South Carolina, piloted the program. Donna Tomasini, the parish Director of Religious Education, said, “This was a great program! The crafts and activities were age appropriate. It was refreshing to work with a VBS program that incorporated a saint, and gives another opportunity to teach our children about the early followers of Christ.” In 2005, St. Patrick and the Holy Trinity VBS received an Imprimatur from the Diocese of Lafayette in Indiana for its doctrinally sound content. You can review past years’ curricula, 2007—The Assorted Saints and the Virtues of Faith, Hope and Love—and 2008—Parachute with the Angels and St. Catherine Labouré. The hope is for children everywhere to answer God’s call to holiness by

imitating the real faith heroes and heroines. Check it out at www.growingwiththesaints.com.

Prayers for Haiti Now, more than ever, we need to stand with our Haitian sisters and brothers, both those in Haiti and their friends and relatives around the world worried about their well-being. Go to the Pauline website (see link below), and there you will find an “e-prayerbook” that is a useful way to focus intentions and be in spirit with those who need us most. They have made it easy to get this into the hands of millions of people around the world who can’t go to Haiti in person but can pray. The Haitians are giving us an impressive example of faith and prayer. Let us lift up their needs now that they will be able to rebuild their lives, their church, and their nation. This e-prayerbook is free. You can download it at <http://www.pauline.org/FreeEbookofPrayersforHaiti/tabid/375/Default.aspx>. Then you can tweet it, embed it in your blog, and post it on your own site or Facebook page. Use the prayers in bulletins, prayer groups, parishes, or in the silence of your own heart.

Theology of the Body Resources—to Get You Started

John Paul II. *The Theology of the Body: Human Love in the Divine Plan*. Boston. Pauline Books, 1997. (This was the original book.)



John Paul II, translation by Michael Waldstein. *Man and Woman, He Created Them: A Theology of the Body by John Paul II*. Boston: Pauline Books, 2006.

West, Christopher. *Theology of the Body for Beginners: A Basic Introduction to Pope John Paul II’s Sexual Revolution*. West Chester, Pennsylvania. Ascension Press, 2009.

“What is the Theology of the Body and How Can it Change My Life.” Ascension Press, 2009.

A Compilation

The Leadership Commission presents an opportunity to involve members through subcommittees. The subcommittees may include "Membership," "Publicity," "Newsletter," etc. As these are subcommittees of the Leadership Commission, the subcommittee chairs do not need to sit on the Board. They should prepare reports and submit them to the Leadership Commission Chair who has a seat on the Board. This will support a small, nimble board and attract members interested in serving but who not be able to add another meeting to their schedule. One important thing to remember—technically every member is a member of the Membership Committee. We all can recruit other women to our organization.

Communication—Smoke Signals to Text Messaging



Methods of communication have certainly undergone many changes over time.

There are so many options for communication these days including the telephone—land lines and cell phones, letter writing (with a stamp!), faxes, email, text messaging, Facebook, and web pages to name a few.

Cell phones are not only for phone use but for texting and emailing. So with all these forms of communication, how is it that some members claim they never get any information? The form of communication is only as good as those using it. NCCW now sends *FYI* not only to A/DCCW presidents but also to all members for whom it has a valid e-mail address. Just like that commercial from long ago, "If you tell two friends, and they tell two friends, and so on and so on...then everyone will know!" So Communicate—Communicate—Communicate! An informed membership is an active, enthusiastic membership!



Leadership Training Development

Looking for a great program idea and ways to improve your organization? Look no further than the LTD Program, a custom designed program for you. Just select "Leadership Training Program" on the front page of the NCCW website for all the information.

And the Nominee Is...

It is that time of year, when nominating committees begin their work putting together the slate of officers for the next Council year. It is important to make sure that the nomination process follows your organization's bylaws so review your governing documents such as bylaws and operating procedures. The selection process for the Nominating Committee is an important factor in finding the best officers to lead the organization. It is also important to have clear job descriptions for the officers. Many members shy away from taking an office if they do not fully understand the duties and responsibilities. A clear job description will enable a member to make an informed decision about accepting a nomination. Finally, if you are asked to take an office, pray about it. Chances are your fellow members see in you your gift for leadership. Many of us underestimate our abili-

ties. Consult your mentor or previous officers to help you discern your gifts.

How Attractive Are Your Meetings? Be honest, most people do not like to attend meetings. Also, many people have very tight schedules and may feel that attending a meeting is a waste of their time.

Make your meeting more attractive:

- ✓ Have a greeter at the door to meet members, to direct them where to pick up any handouts, and especially to welcome new members.
 - ✓ Assign a member to sit with the new member so she feels welcomed.
 - ✓ Have a clear agenda and follow it.
 - ✓ Consider having the minutes sent out ahead of time for the membership to read or have them approved by committee. It will save time if the minutes don't need to be read.
 - ✓ Make sure to have a copy available for anyone who would like to review them.
 - ✓ Do a silent roll call by having members sign in.
 - ✓ Consider a time limit on reports and make sure that committee work is not taking place during your meeting.
 - ✓ Have interesting, timely programs.
 - ✓ Finally, evaluate your meeting. This is a simple exercise. The next time you attend your affiliation meeting pretend it is your first meeting. Does the meeting drag on? Is it interesting? Was everyone made to feel welcome? Did it offer you something? Most importantly, would you come back?
- Meetings are necessary to conduct business, report on activities, educate the members through programs, and provide valuable social time with members. Meetings should also be interesting, professionally run, and create enthusiasm in the members.

Family, Community & International Concerns

New Partnership to Fight Alzheimer's Disease

Alzheimer's disease affects approximately 5.3 million Americans, not to mention their loved ones around them. That is why Senior Helpers, the nation's fastest growing provider of in-home care for seniors, is teaming up with Alzheimer's Early Detection Alliance (AEDA) to spread the word about the 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's Disease. The goal is to raise awareness of the disease's warning signs and for organizations to turn to the Alzheimer's Association as the center for help and hope.

Alzheimer's Association 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's Disease

- Memory changes that disrupt daily life
- Challenges in planning or solving problems
- Difficulty completing familiar tasks
- Confusion with time or place
- Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships
- New problems with words in speaking or writing
- Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps
- Decreased or poor judgment
- Withdrawal from work or social activities
- Changes in mood and personality

For more information on this partnership contact Jennifer Miles-Losapio at jmiles-losapio@seniorhelpers.com or 866-353-3743 ext. 210.

U.S. Bishops Announce Push For Immigration Reform in 2010.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) on January 6, announced steps to push for the enactment of immigration reform legislation in 2010. Bishop John C. Wester, bishop of Salt Lake City, Utah, and chairman of the USCCB Committee on Migration, and Bishop Howard J. Hubbard, bishop of Albany, New York, and chairman of the International Policy Committee of the USCCB, made the announcement. "It is our view, and that of others, that the American public, including the Catholic and other faith communities, want a humane and comprehensive solution to the problems which beset our immigration system, and they want Congress to address this issue," said Bishop Wester. On March 19, several Hispanic bishops joined Bishop Wester in sending a letter to all Representatives in the House urging them to include immigrants in health care reform.

Steps announced by Bishop Wester include:

- The launch of a nationwide post-

card campaign under the Justice for Immigrants campaign, with 1.5 million postcards already ordered.

- The launch of two websites, a new Justice for Immigrants web site with tools for parishes (www.justiceforimmigrants.org) and the National Migration Week website, which provides other resources (www.usccb.org/mrs/nmw/index.shtml).

- A nationwide action alert asking for Congress to enact immigration reform as soon as possible.

Family Watch International

Boys who view pornography are more likely to harass girls, according to a study done by Australian Research Center in Sex, Health, and Society. Researchers found that boys who view pornography are more likely to engage in casual sex and are less likely to form healthy relationships when they are older. The study also found that these boys are more likely to believe that there is nothing wrong with restraining or sexually harass-

ing a girl. The average age that boys first saw pornographic images has dropped from 15 to 11 in less than a decade. The study was performed in 12 countries. fwi@familywatch-international.org



Icare...

about protecting children

Young Kids and Cell Phones. The Mediamark Research and Intelligence study, "American Kids Study 2009" shows a 68 percent increase in the past five years of children ages six to eleven years old who have their own cell phone. More than 12 percent of parents with children in this range intend to buy their son or daughter a cell phone in the next 12 months. Study results to note:

- Girls are more likely to make calls and text while boys use instant messaging and access the Internet to download games/music/videos.

- Kids with cell phones are 15 percent more likely than the average child to use the Internet and 84 percent state their parents "let them go anywhere they want online."

- Kids who have their own cell phone appear to multi-task better than the average child. While watching TV, these kids are 268 percent more likely to text message, 107 percent more likely to talk on the phone, and 49 percent more likely to do homework.

Parents need to remain the primary educator for their children in this wireless age. There are ways to limit children's exposure to objectionable material: Install filtering and monitoring programs on all desktop and laptop computers and enable parental controls on your child's cell phone. National Coalition for the Protection of Children & Families is working with the wireless communications industry to make sure all parents have access to the means to protect their children. More information is available at www.nationalcoalition.org.