

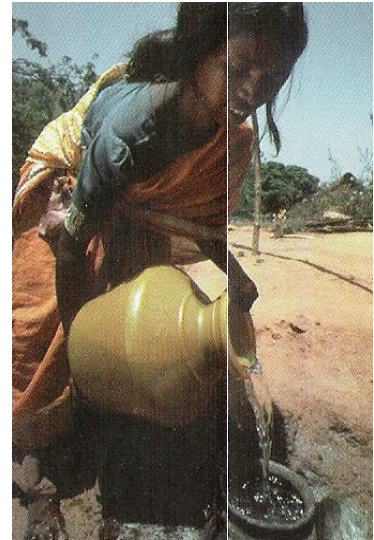


Works of Peace are joint fundraising programs of the National Council of Catholic Women and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to support development projects that benefit women and children in poor countries. Works of Peace such as *Water for Life* strengthen communities and help people escape poverty by empowering women to improve their family's health, nutrition, and economic status. Catholic Relief Services is the official overseas relief and development agency of the US Catholic Community. The fundamental motivating force of all activities of CRS is the Gospel of Jesus Christ as it pertains to the

alleviation of human suffering, the development of people, and the fostering of charity and justice in the world. CRS and NCCW have worked in partnership since 1946, when Council women began collecting clothing for CRS to distribute to the refugees of World War II.

Water for Life was established in 1978 to make safe, clean water available to women and their families. In the developing world, women often bear the burden of traveling long distances every day to provide water for their family's cooking and washing needs. Historically, *Water for Life* has funded wells in villages throughout Africa and Latin America.

Today, *Water for Life* funds are used in integrated water system projects. They combine construction of irrigation and/or sanitation systems with education about basic hygiene. In this way, *Water for Life* does more than build wells. Water for Life contributes to the development of stronger communities, such as in Morocco, where a water and health project funded by NCCW provides drinking water to 120,000 people in 117 villages. The project also improves hygiene awareness and practices of women, supports the development of women's groups, and organizes villagers to maintain and repair the local well pump.



For 2008-10, the board of the East DuPage Deanery has adopted *Water for Life* as its Deanery Project, and we invite the Parish Councils to join us. We would like to encourage collections for *Water for Life* in Parish Councils throughout the Deanery for the year, and collect the funds at our Spring Institute, after which we will present a check to NCCW from our Deanery, listing all parish contributors. Ideas you may wish to adopt:

- 1 Hold a special liturgy or prayer service for *Water for Life*, and incorporate contributions into the presentation of the gifts.
- 2 Put this page in a stand behind a collection jar at your meetings
- 3 Create a 'water' bottle for your collection jar
- 4 Use a tabletop water fountain as a visual for your collection jar
- 5 Challenge your women to donate a quarter or dime for every time they turn on the tap and use fresh water on a single day, rather than having to walk to a well.

Remember, this is just an idea for your Parish CCW. You may incorporate it or not, as it fits into your own program for the year; you may make a collection at one meeting or several. However, if your Council does participate, plan to bring your collection to the Spring Institute. Checks should be made payable to the National Council of Catholic Women, with *Water for Life* in the memo line.