

Service Commission

The National Council of Catholic Women's Convention at the beginning of September had many dynamic speakers and excited Commission chairs explaining the wonderful programs offered by the Council and through groups working with the Council of Catholic Women. Here are some of the programs and projects that are available to work on in your parish councils.

Through the Catholic Relief Services: For 70 years these two organizations have partnered to help women and children to have better living conditions. Programs offered through Catholic Relief Services in partnership with the Council of Catholic Women are: Water for Life, Refugee Women Emergency, Help a Child, Maternal Health and Fair Trade. Information on each program can be found at crs.org/NCCW. If your Deanery or parish is interested in doing a Fair Trade sale you may also contact the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Service Commission Coordinator. There is also a DVD on Water for Life in each Deanery and one copy at the Diocesan level.

Cross Catholic Outreach is sponsoring a special program for children in their 3 support areas for Christmas. The program is called A Box of Joy, to find out how to participate go to BoxofJoy.org.

Catholic Charities is also partnering with the Council of Catholic Women in a project for the homeless in the United States. The project consists of a pair of brand new socks and small hygiene items placed inside the sock. These socks are then given to the warming centers in your area.

The Council of Catholic Women has new brochures for the Respite Program and Women Healing the Wounds which focuses on how to help women and children in abusive situations. The Council is also promoting the program Anti-Trafficking Initiatives sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

There are many ways to help the poor, to show Mercy to the peoples throughout the world and right here at home. Encourage your women to get involved even in a very small way. As Mother Theresa told us many times "Do small things with great love."