



NEWS & VIEWS

La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Newsletter

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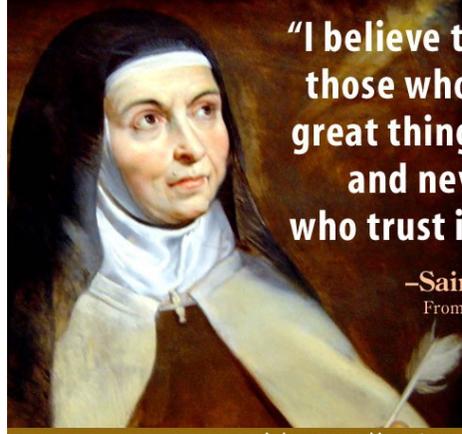
summer Catholic camp where they do a lot of cool things, but start every day with adoration and Mass. We started a grant program to help victims of human trafficking. We support the production of the televised masses for the homebound and those in assisted living arrangements. And we are donating money to a seminarian gathering happening this summer. All the seminarians from around the state of Wisconsin, just shy of 100, and their bishops, will be coming to the Diocese of La Crosse for a weekend retreat. Isn't that just amazing? Thank you!

From Your President

YOU are incredible and your roles in the work of the Councils of Catholic Women. You see, you are far more than just your local PCCW. You are part of a Diocesan, Province and National Council that is that backbone of mission and ministry in our parishes and communities throughout our entire nation and stretching throughout our world. We are all called to be leaders in our parishes, united in faith, united in mission - to support, educated, and empower women in spirituality, leadership and service - responding with Gospel values to the needs of the church and the world. And what a response we have! Together we have donated \$14,000 to help fight pornography and making our homes safe havens. We have donated to allow couples to go to Marriage Enrichment retreats

building up the Domestic Church, we help teens go to

Saint Teresa of Avila



"I believe that God helps those who set out to do great things for His sake and never fails those who trust in Him alone."

-Saint Teresa of Avila
From *The Spiritual Relations*, 1560

gloriaromanorum.blogspot.com

Televised Masses—Please help out!

In my visiting home bound and those in assisted living situations, I see first hand how much our parishioners appreciate our support of the televised masses are to them. Often, my husband and I deliver communion on Sunday mornings after our own morning mass. When we arrive at the home, often the television is on, tuned to Mass. Several have mentioned to me how much they appreciate seeing all the different churches in our diocese and all of our priests celebrating Mass.

Bishop Callahan would love to see the ladies who support the televised Masses also participate in the taping. Below is a schedule of taping times throughout the diocese. Some dates have yet to be confirmed. have yet to be confirmed. Our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Eugene Wolf will be celebrating (or concelebrating) as many as he is able. When a Mass will be taped in your area, please attend, and volunteer as a reader, musician, or usher. Mostly, please pray for our home bound parishioners as they need our prayers and their prayers are powerful, indeed!

Televised Mass Schedule

Thorp Deanery – June 4, 2019 @ St. Mary's in GREENWOOD ✓ CONFIRMED

Durand & Arcadia Deaneries – July 8, 2019 @ St. John the Baptist in PLUM CITY —TENTATIVE

Marshfield & WI Rapids Deaneries – August 5, 2019 @ St. Joachim in PITTSVILLE —TENTATIVE

Richland Center & Prairie du Chein Deaneries – September 9, 2019 @ St. Philip in ROLLING GROUND ✓ CONFIRMED

Eau Claire & Chippewa Falls Deaneries – October 7, 2019 @ St. Rose of Lima in CADOTT —TENTATIVE

Wausau & Stevens Point Deaneries – November 20, 2019 @ St. Francis Xavier in KNOWLTON ✓ CONFIRMED

Tomah & La Crosse Deaneries – December 16, 2019 @ Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary at ST. MARY'S RIDGE ✓ CONFIRMED

Now, this is what we are accomplishing as a diocesan council. I'd like to hear about what this deanery is excited about! Why? Because this fall, we will be having our Share Shop... where we will share one showcase item from each deanery. We will also be blessed to have Anna Nuzzo with us. She is a very talented singer/songwriter from Kenosha, WI. She has an amazing voice and you will enjoy her immensely! So mark your calendars for Saturday, September 14, 2019 at St John the Baptist in Marshfield.

Blessings to you!

Lorraine Riedl,
President



La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Come see what's happening across our Diocese as deaneries showcase their projects

Listen to Anna Nuzzo's beautiful music and inspirational stories!

Inspire each other as you learn from one another

SEPTEMBER 14, 2019 SHARESHOP

Featuring Anna Nuzzo... acclaimed International Christian Recording Artist, Catholic Singer/Songwriter TV Host, and Pilgrimage Host known for her consoling music and beautiful prayer songs. Since her Marian consecration in 2012, she has felt called to write songs of prayer and hope, reminding others of God's unending love and mercy. She has been featured on many radio, web, and TV interviews, including EWTN, Shalom World TV, and Relevant Radio. Anna has been blessed to sing for many Masses, retreats, pilgrimages, and special events including in the Holy Land, the Vatican's St. Peter Basilica, and elsewhere across Italy. She has sung in Carnegie Hall, as well as in Canada, Trinidad, and more. She has four albums available, and she lives in Kenosha, WI with her husband and two sons. annanuzzo.com

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

201 W. Blodgett St.
Marshfield, WI 54449

www.ldccw.org

Saturday, September 14, 2019

Mass 8:00 am

Program 9:00 am to 3:00 pm



Serving the deaneries of Arcadia, Chippewa Falls, Durand, Eau Claire, La Crosse, Marshfield, Prairie du Chien, Richland Center, Stevens Point, Thorp, Tomah, Wausau, and Wisconsin Rapids

NCCW President Elect

I am counting on seeing a great number of you at our Convention in Atlanta this year! You will enjoy the Renaissance Waverly Hotel and all the area has to offer but we all know the best part is gathering once again with our council sisters from across the country. I especially look forward to the Province Dinner!

Don't forget about the Convention Contest – WIN with NCCW. The deadline is May 15, For every new member you refer your name and their name will be entered into a contest to win convention registration and 5 nights at the Renaissance Waverly Hotel in Atlanta. Two second chance drawings for \$100 in NCCW merchandise will be awarded.

More information is on the [website](#) or call the office.

The deadline for early bird registration for Convention is June 1. The Tour on Tuesday is to The World of Coke, Welcome Luncheon, Province Dinners, The Fundraiser is a select ensemble of a Youth Chorus called Harmony from Atlanta and the Banquet are all on the registration form. You can donate a silent auction item by using the form on the website.

Wednesday evening the Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience will be open to all who wish to attend. This experience mimics a real Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Don't forget the fun of the purse auction appropriately named "Puttin' on the Ritz: Georgia Belles" and is organized by a group of Province Directors and Fr. Willger our auctioneer returns again. Enjoy time to connect with sisters in council from all around the country.

I plan on seeing you in Atlanta!!

Jean Kelly

NCCW Convention Chair and

President Elect

I Ate Chocolate During Lent

by Candace V. McGrath

Service Commission

My nickname is Candy, so I try to know all about the different kinds of candy and I am a really sucker for chocolate, especially dark chocolate. During Lent, each Friday is a day of abstinence from meat. Every Friday of the year is a day of abstinence but it can involve not only giving up meat but instead giving up TV for the day, giving up alcohol or giving up chocolate.



Every Friday I try to give up meat and only eat fish. It's a suffering. Especially if I'm at a potluck or a luncheon and I forget that I shouldn't have a delicious piece of sausage. Or I forget myself, and bite into a big, juicy cheeseburger and then remember it's Friday. If I haven't eaten any chocolate yet today, that can be my sacrificial offering.

It's especially difficult for me to give up chocolate because I keep a storage container in my house full of knickknacks, baskets, chimes, jewelry, coffee and Divine Chocolate. I don't know how you are when you have sweets in your house, but they tempt me and it only costs \$1.50 in the middle of the night to give in to that temptation. I'm my own best customer. I've been trying to substitute rice cakes.

I'm a convert so I've only been celebrating Lent faithfully for a few years. I've given up chocolate and yes it was challenging but I did it. I refrained from going to Taco Bell one year and the money I would have spent went into the mite box I was given at church. One year I gave up Facebook to feel the sacrifice for Jesus Christ's 40 days and 40 nights in the desert.

This year I've been watching a lot of Father Mike Schmitz videos. He speaks about a wide variety of topics on YouTube. The young Priest suggested giving up the snooze button for Lent. When the alarm rings, just get up. I seriously abuse the snooze button and I decided to give it a try. I am pleased to say there was only one day I used the snooze button, twice, but it's about progress not perfection. I will admit many times I lay in bed and listen to the clock radio for ten minutes.

The important part of giving something up for Lent is you want our savior, Jesus Christ to know we appreciate how he suffered for us and we are willing to suffer with him. Many times, we are giving up bad habits during Lent, like drinking too much. When this time is over and we celebrate the Miraculous Resurrection of Jesus at Easter, maybe we can stop doing those things throughout the year. Maybe I can just get up instead of using the snooze button. And maybe I can stop eating so much chocolate in the middle of the night. May God bless you with a joy filled Easter.

Digging Into Lent

Digging into Lent this year reminds me it has always been uplifting for me to observe others and marvel at their faith expressions - praying the rosary, making the Stations of the Cross, sitting or kneeling in quiet prayer. These signs of faith always inspire me and make me wonder if Lent is going in the right direction for me.



The wonderful opportunity I have is not to have to travel or even go outside to go to our chapel. When I go to the chapel I hope, but not selfishly, it will be empty and I can be alone. There is something about being in the quiet for a while.

Observing others and reflecting on my own life during Lent helps to look to Easter and new life. Obviously, lent to Easter is to remind us of this life to the next and as Lent is the time to prepare for Easter, this life is to prepare for eternal life.

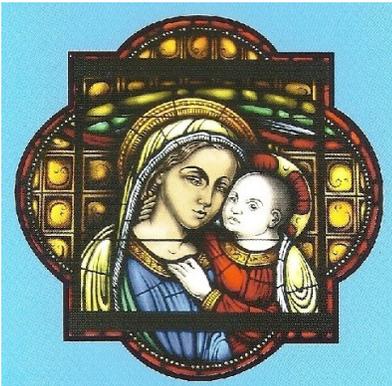
Mistakes are made, goals are not reached but in our relationship with Our Savior we can be assured of the Divine Mercy of God which we celebrate on the Sunday after Easter.

May this lent be a blessing for all of us.

Father Eugene Wolf

Spiritual Advisor

Be a Part of Something Bigger Than Yourself



We are women who:

- ☞ Love the Lord
- ☞ Live our faith
- ☞ Learn together
- ☞ Support each other
- ☞ Pray with and for others
- ☞ Help others in our communities
- ☞ Help women around the world
- ☞ Promote Pro-Life and just laws
- ☞ Act on Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy

Join us! Contact us to find out how you can get involved. Check out our brochure:

www.ldccw.org

Women at work– no matter what council ~~~~

FROM THE LA CROSSE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

LEADERSHIP COMMISSION CHAIR, Lu Miller

A very Blessed Easter to you and your family.



I will join other past Presidents in sharing with all that one of the most special perks in serving in the office of Diocesan President is sitting in the company of so many ladies at their assemblies; the spring assemblies are currently taking place. So please add your deanery spring assembly to your calendar; come and join one another in listening to the invigorating and powerful message delivered by our current President, Lorraine Riedl. She would love to see you. And for those parishes hosting an assembly, thank you, as you are opening your doors and allowing so many eyes to see not only your beautiful parish but the beautiful women inside.

At the Diocesan level, much activity is going on as our annual collection is right around the corner and as I share with many, it is the one weekend, across our entire Diocese, that all ladies are recognized for all the work they do. We are always so very appreciative when our bishop approves this collection to take place. Parishes will show their individual support as this collection is being taken; together, all parishes unite to show even stronger support for our entire women throughout our beloved Diocese. With so much support, we are truly humbled.

Also, at the Diocesan level we are all preparing for our Shreshop day scheduled for September 14th with Marshfield Deanery hosting. This is going to be a day full of much “sharing” involving the areas of the Spirituality, Service and Leadership Commissions to, and including, our individual deaneries showcasing something they want to share in representing who they are. For those unable to attend, please remember to keep this day in your prayers; for any ideas that might be of help to others, I will be including those in my leadership report in August.

Onto the next level of council, the National Council of Catholic Women, and the activity that is going on concerning that level is the beautiful Convention being held in Atlanta, Georgia. More specific details regarding the Convention can be found on their website: nccw.org. Early-bird registration is currently underway. We hope to see many Wisconsinites at this convention as there is even more excitement in the air concerning this Convention. If you are from Wisconsin, you will be witness as our Jean Kelly will be installed as President. How can a state not be so proud of; happy, joyful and excited to be a part of this?



If you are unable to attend this convention, again, please pray for Jean as she continues on with her leadership team in this journey.

Any questions you may have , I am within email reach at:

luannmiller55@yahoo.com

Thank you for the blessing each and every one of you are - Lu

At one of our past meetings, at my exhibit table, I had a handout for the Deanery Presidents to take and share at their assemblies with all their ladies. There will be a perfect moment to read to anyone in attendance these Beatitudes for Women. The originality of the author of this writing remains anonymous. But, no matter who scripted this, you and I have met the women being blessed.

BEATITUDES FOR WOMEN

*Blessed is she who suffers with
the very young, the very old, and the very lonely
for she has compassion.*

*Blessed is she who greets the
world with joy,
laughter, and anticipations,
for she has courage.*

*Blessed is she who speaks gently,
lives humbly,
and chooses to give freely,
for she has dignity.*

*Blessed is she who listens and hears,
and extends her hand as a friend,
for she has understanding.*

*Blessed is she who gives simply,
loves deeply,
and walks joyfully in life
for she has awareness.*

*Blessed is she who has
compassion and courage,
freedom and dignity,
understanding, sincerity, and awareness,
for she is a woman, a gift, a blessing.*

Thank you for the blessing each and every one of you are - **Lu**

Letter From Carol, our Province Director

I hope all of you had a very spiritual, faith filled Lenten journey and a joyful Easter. Spring is always an uplifting time of renewal as we look around us and see green grass, trees budding, and flowers popping up. We feel energized with the bright sun and warmer temperatures.

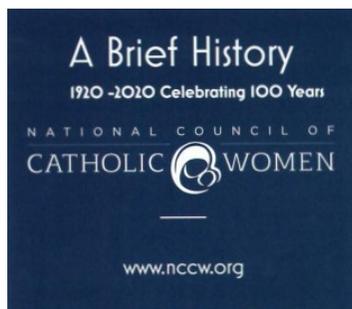
Many of you are having your spring deanery meetings. The Council of Catholic Women (CCW) provides wonderful opportunities for women of faith to come together to pray, share and learn. It encourages us to reach out beyond our parish borders and connect with others in our deanery and diocese.

The National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) emphasizes Spirituality, Leadership and Service as ways for us to live our faith. We have so many wonderful, varied programs and resources at nccw.org for you to use in your councils and even in your personal life. By being a member of NCCW you can access these and download many for free. Use them, adapt them to your councils – you don't have to reinvent the wheel.

Some **NEW** NCCW items on their website:

CALLING ALL CATHOLICS! PASSING OUR FAITH TO THE NEXT GENERATION – This was developed in response to members' concerns about the many young people leaving the Catholic Church.

HISTORY OF NCCW BROCHURE – We celebrate 100 years in 2020.



"WHAT DOES COUNCIL DO FOR ME"

This past year we concentrated on programs regarding God's creatures: victims of Domestic Abuse, Human Trafficking, the poor and needy, and pro-life issues, etc. Please continue these programs as they are ongoing challenges. One of our Resolutions at the last NCCW convention was that members of NCCW advocate for reduction of disposable plastic bottles/items and increase the recycling of them. We will be expanding on this theme.

Letter From Carol, page 2



NCCW Convention is August 21-24 in Atlanta: “*CARING FOR GOD’S CREATION*” – based on Laudato Si’. Come join us for this spiritual, renewing, motivating, empowering as well as fun event. Jean Kelly from the Milwaukee Archdiocese, past MACCW Co-President, past Province Director, past NCCW secretary and current President-Elect will be installed as NCCW PRESIDENT! I think this may be the first NCCW President from the state of Wisconsin (or Province of Milwaukee). Jean represents all of us from this great state. Come to convention and help support her as she is installed.

I have had the privilege of meeting and working with CCW ladies from across our state as well as from across the nation. You are awesome women! I am always amazed at your faith, caring, sharing, friendliness, enthusiasm, creativity, energy and willingness to jump in where needed to help others. Pray and help those suffering from disasters such as hurricanes, fire and floods. Our work is never done. Together we can accomplish so much more than if we go it alone.

Let NCCW continue to give you ways to grow in your faith as well as ways to live your faith. All you PRAYER WARRIORS and PEACE MAKERS keep up the good work.

Yours in Our Lady of Good Counsel,

Carol Brennan,

Milwaukee Province

Director

National Council of Catholic Women

Please go to nccw.org for a more complete update of what is being worked on at this level of council. Continuing to be a major and ongoing focus involving leadership is membership. Also, resources on mentoring are listed out there as well as resources specific to Human Trafficking, a project continuing to remain very close to many of our hearts. Also, for those of you who have the Guidance and Resource Manual, there is now an updated version to help with the operations of your council.

Resolutions? What are those?

by Melanie Frei President-Elect

In the final meeting of the annual convention of the National Council of Catholic Women, all voting delegates are asked to approve a series of “resolutions.” These are printed in the Convention booklet. When I first began attending NCCW Conventions, I really didn’t understand the purpose of the resolutions—what are they and why should I care?

To put it simply, Resolutions are our “marching orders.” They bring forth issues, topics, or needs that the NCCW has determined to be important areas for us to focus on in planning our ministry agendas. Each resolution puts forth a problem, with some background and some reasons why the problem deserves our attention. Then the resolution offers several solutions to help address the need.

I think going through the Resolutions process is an excellent tool for keeping our ministry fresh! It means that every year, we can re-evaluate needs and strive to focus our ministries in meaningful places. Not just same old, same old...but taking a fresh look at where we need to be working!

This year, when I saw on an NCCW email that resolutions were being called for, I decided to try my hand at writing one. The resolution must follow a very specific rubric for its presentation. The instructions are on the NCCW website. The most challenging part for me was the limitation on the number of words I could use!

I followed the instructions, and I also asked President Lorraine Riedl and Vice President Susan Tully to add their input and join me in submitting the Resolution to the National Committee. I don’t know if our Resolution will be selected and presented at the Convention. It really doesn’t matter to me because the exercise of doing it was fun and challenging and helped me focus a lot of my thoughts and feelings about an issue. I enjoyed it so much that I recommend it to all of you— go ahead and offer the challenge to ladies at the Parish Council level. You may find some great new ideas to energize your Council!

Attached is the Resolution we submitted.

GUARDING YOUR MIND AND HEART IN A MEDIA SATURATED CULTURE

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

When I read George Orwell's book 1984 in high school, one of the most puzzling questions I had was: "How did the totalitarian government get all the Media to lie for them?" Were they really all so scared? In my naïve youth and having been formed with a conscience deeply sensitive to lying, I never suspected that some in the Media wanted to lie for the government.

I have attended the March for Life in Washington, DC four times in the last 20 years. When I first started attending, this was a favorite joke of the participants:

"The FBI has been talking to the March for Life organizers to find out their secret."

"Oh, what secret is that?"

"About how they can hide hundreds of thousands of March participants in Washington DC from the Press!"

This joke is not so funny anymore. Many in the Media have gone far beyond simply ignoring the March and are now engaging in withholding essential facts, fact manipulation, and disseminating outright lies which have a consistent and clear purpose: to promote an agenda for America that is completely opposed to our Judeo-Christian world view and the design of our Founding Fathers for this Republic.

To carry out this nefarious purpose, they are determined to propagate any narrative, whether true or not, that supports their political agenda and to repress, distort, or censor any narrative that weakens their agenda. Furthermore, it is becoming a common practice to regard traditional Christian teaching and practice and the language used in their communication as "hate speech" which can and should be censored.

The true journalistic calling involves a dedicated pursuit of the truth, and it is indeed a worthy calling. It is a tragedy for our society that so many have abandoned it for unworthy aims. I did not think our Media was capable of sinking any lower than the egregiously dishonest coverage of the Brett Kavanaugh confirmation hearing, but then the same social media mob tactics were directed at a sixteen year old Catholic boy at the March for Life. These are only two recent examples of the abuse which our mainstream media is committing.

What can we do to preserve our heritage? We still have our tradition and laws regarding free speech and free press. Despite the censorship and repression practiced by our mainstream media and social media sources, we still have other options for learning the full story on any given issue. Although it takes more time and effort, we still have access to truth. But we must take the initiative. We can no longer be passive consumers of news. We must accept the sad realization that our major news sources are neither neutral nor fair. We must work to find truth on vital issues. We cannot and should not rely only on reports from those who hate who we are and hate what we believe.

With this background, we (Lorraine Riedl, Melanie Frei and Susan Tully) wish to submit this Resolution to the National Council of Catholic Women.

**LET'S MAKE THE EFFORT TO
SEEK FOR THE TRUTH!**



This picture is real and was not edited, the stone is real, the trees are real, the soil is real and the sky is real.

Now the only thing you have to do is to change your point of view, look at the picture upside down!

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: we still have access, by God's grace, to a free press and freedom of speech;

WHEREAS: we, as leaders of Catholic women, are responsible for promoting God's truth and have an obligation to seek the truth and to form our conscience with the truth that we find;

WHEREAS: much of our mainstream media, by what they systematically report and fail to report, in what they repress, manipulate, and censor, have shown hostility toward Christian thought, teaching, and speech;

CALL FOR SPECIFIC ACTION

RESOLVED: we should be vigilant in seeking truth from media sources committed to our Judeo-Christian worldview and moral teaching;

RESOLVED: we should make a commitment not to limit ourselves exclusively to news sources which are hostile to our beliefs and practices;

RESOLVED: we should strive to cultivate critical thinking, both in ourselves and others, regarding all news reports, by asking questions such as: Is this true or even credible? Does the news source have a political or philosophical agenda? Is there more to the story which would lead to a very different conclusion?

DRAFTED BY: Melanie Frei President-Elect of the La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (LDCCW)

SUBMITTED BY:

Lorraine Riedl President of the LDCCW

Melanie Frei President-Elect of the LDCCW

Susan Tully Vice President of the LDCCW

NCCW Membership Form

Be the Voice of Catholic Women

When you join the National Council of Catholic Women, you are part of a national organization that speaks for your Catholic values and supports, empowers and educates all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service.

NCCW Individual members also:

- * Are represented at the biannual meetings of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
- * Have access to NCCW Spirituality, Leadership and Service Commissions' programs and resources
- * Are invited to serve on NCCW Commission teams and Committees
- * Share friendships with other Catholic women from all over the country
- * Are represented at the United Nations, The World Union of Catholic Women Organisations (WUCWO), Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, Religious Alliance Against Pornography
- * Share in Partnerships and Collaborations with Catholic Relief Services, Cross Catholic Outreach, Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Catholic Climate Covenant
- * Can participate in Monthly Advocacy and Leadership Calls
- * Access to NCCW website members' only site (under development)

Please select your membership category:

- Supporting Member (\$100) – Benefits Include:
- * Annual subscription to the quarterly *Catholic Woman* magazine
 - * Annual subscription to the monthly *NCCW Connect* e-newsletter
 - * Eligibility to vote in NCCW elections and at the Annual Business meeting

Exclusive Benefits for Supporting Members Only:

- * Supporting Member pin that demonstrates your commitment to NCCW
- * Special Supporting Member ribbon at Annual Convention

- Individual Member (\$50) – Benefits Include:
- * Annual subscription to the quarterly *Catholic Woman* magazine
 - * Annual subscription to the monthly *NCCW Connect* e-newsletter
 - * Eligibility to vote in NCCW elections and at the Annual Business meeting

I wish to pay for my membership by:

- Credit Card Check (enclosed) made payable to NCCW check # _____

Credit Card Information:

- MasterCard Visa Discover

Name as it appears on card _____

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____ Security Code _____

Member Information: **Enroll** _____ **Renew** _____ **Member # (found on back of magazine)** _____

Name _____ Title _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Parish and Diocese Information:

Parish Name _____ Parish City/State _____

My Diocese _____ My Province _____

Please return this application with your check or credit card information to the following address:
Membership Department, National Council of Catholic Women 200 N Glebe Rd, Suite 725
Arlington, VA 22203, Phone: 703.224.0990, Fax: 703.224.0991 membership@nccw.org

JOIN ONLINE AT WWW.NCCW.ORG