

Service Commission Report
Knoxville Diocesan Council of Catholic Women
Saturday, January 14, 2012

“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Jesus had: Who, being the His very nature equal with God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His advantage; rather, He made Himself nothing, by taking on the very nature of a servant...”

Philippians 2:5-7

In 2011, the CCW as a whole continued to be involved in many Service-oriented projects throughout our Diocese, Nation, and around the world. From involvement at the Affiliate and Diocesan level at Pregnancy Centers and in Pro-Life issues, to the support of local food pantries and assistance to the poor, to the more broad support of legislative actions and concerns which directly affect the practice of our Faith, our ladies have been very busy in “serving” the Church through the CCW.

As we move into this new year, I invite all Service Commission Chairs at the Affiliate and Deanery level to re-think with me what “Service” means, and how it directly relates to the other two main branches of the CCW’s mission: Spirituality and Leadership.

I encourage this “second look” because it is very easy to get into the rut of “the way it has always been done”. We become satisfied with our favorite service projects and endeavors, and sometimes are hesitant to look outward to further horizons where more are waiting to be served by loving hands, and assisted by loving hearts.

I want to thank each Affiliate and the ladies of the KDCCW as a whole for all they do to support the current “service-oriented” projects now in action.

I want to challenge each Affiliate, also, to look with me at the “further horizons” where we may serve together. Some of these, suggested by the NCCW, are:

The NCCW Respite Program -

RESPITE trains local volunteers to help family members care for loved-ones at home by offering relief and renewal to the family caregivers. The NCCW program includes a curriculum to train volunteers, materials to promote the program, and a group insurance program for Respite volunteers. The NCCW Respite program is implemented by local parish or groups of affiliates, often in collaboration with local agencies.

NCCW Drug & Alcohol Sunday –

NCCW encourages affiliates to designate a Sunday in February to focus on this significant issue effecting women and children.

World Refugee Day –

The NCCW approved a resolution in 2001 which states that the “NCCW [shall] promote and observe United Nations World Refugee Day designated for June 20th each year... and reaffirm our commitment to established NCCW and Catholic Relief Services programs that provide aid and recognition of refugee women.”

There are also other plans, such as “Adopt-a-Minefield” and cooperation with the Child Labor Coalition, which are possibly “new” to some Affiliates.

We must, of course, keep up the support for the Service-oriented projects and organizations we are now supporting; but let us broaden our view, and take in more of the suffering, more of those in need, than we first thought possible for our arms to hold.

I am asking each Service Commission Chair at the Deanery level to designate and promote a Sunday in February as NCCW Drug and Alcohol Sunday 2012. Next week, I will be sending a “suggestion promotions” packet to each Deanery Service Commission Chair, with helpful hints and suggestions on how to promote this Sunday to the Affiliates.

Communication seems to have been a bit of a challenge in 2011. Therefore, in order to better facilitate communication between the Diocesan Service Commission and the Deaneries and Affiliates, I will be sending out a monthly newsletter beginning this month, which will highlight Service Commission activities being conducted here at home in our own Diocese, as well as in other locations around the “CCW World”. The name of the newsletter will be the theme for this 2012 year:

Service: Faith in Action

As Sacred Scripture tells us:

***“The son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,
and to give His life as a ransom for many”***

Mark 10:45

So we, too, are to serve one another.

Catholic service has been a shining light of the Love of Christ and His Church for many, many centuries. It is time now to “let our light shine” in an even brighter, more public way. With the attacks on the Church and the free exercise of religion in our country, we as Catholic women must stand up and be counted, and unabashedly serve with Christian love and charity to all, even in the face of criticism and ridicule.

You, ladies, are members of the CCW because you felt the call to serve in some way. Thank you for answering that call. I look forward to serving with you this year, and welcome suggestions you may have for Service Projects.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Perkins

KDCCW Service Commission Chair