

It was both humbling and exciting to be elected to the office of President for the National Council of Catholic Women. The voting took place at the recently held National Council of Catholic Women's convention in Jacksonville, Florida. Due to an extended Business session, the polls were very late in opening with voting taking place until around 2:00am on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. The candidates were notified of the results in a prayerful meeting held during the wee hours of the night. At 3:30 am all were sleeping, so there was no immediate celebration. The real excitement began at the Installation Breakfast on Saturday morning when all convention attendees were notified. I was very pleased and proud of the large Tennessee delegation to the NCCW convention who offered much love and support to me. I am also grateful for the confidence that Council women from across the United States placed in me by electing me their President. With God working through me, I will be a servant leader.

We are all created to know love and serve our God. For the next two years I commit myself to this fundamental truth of our Catholic faith. The women of council are united in prayer and service. Acting on this belief, I will promote attendance at daily Mass, reading scripture and acting on the word of God as we serve our brothers and sisters with love and joy.

It is my vision that our NCCW membership will grow as we extend the open invitation, a sincere welcome and offer true hospitality to all Catholic Women. I believe that every woman has a place in the National Council of Catholic Women. Feeling confident of your support, I implore you, the women of Tennessee, to help accomplish my vision. Seek out a local council woman in your parish for information on becoming a member of the National Council of Catholic Women or go to the NCCW web site, [www.nccw.org](http://www.nccw.org) to enroll as a member of this Catholic faith based organization. You will then stand united with women from across our Nation who are speaking for life and human dignity of all persons, who are acting to protect our God given resources and who are working for Peace and Justice in the world.