

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

Preparing for Convention's Memorial Mass

Perhaps the most important function of the Spirituality Commission during our annual diocesan convention is the Memorial Mass on Thursday night. What a wonderful tradition we have of remembering all of the women of our parishes who have passed away during the last year. I am asking each deanery president to provide someone who will contact each parish in your deanery to get its lists of deceased women so that your deanery will be represented at this Mass.

Vocations

Arranging lunches for the Diocesan Discernment Program has been my greatest challenge in this position. Only Smoky Mountain Deanery has even responded to my requests to help arrange these monthly lunches at the Chancery. I am indebted to Smoky Mountain Deanery for covering the lunches for November and December and for arranging coverage for February. I still need someone to commit to providing lunch on Saturday, March 17, at noon. Volunteers just need to drop off food in disposable containers or arrange to have something like pizza delivered to the Chancery. If there is no interest, then we need to reassess whether this is something KDCCW will commit to for next year.

I encourage everyone to support vocations, especially within our diocese. Please support the upcoming Seminarian Concert and remember to pray for our seminarians, priests, and all those in consecrated life.

The Vocations Promotion Board has not met this fall, but Fr. David Carter expects that we will meet sometime soon. I look forward to representing KDCCW on that board.

Promotion of NCCW's Campaign for Human Dignity

Please pray for the success of Building a Campaign for Human Dignity as well as for the individual issues included in the campaign: Domestic Violence, Energy and Integrity of the Environment, Immigration, Pornography, Human Trafficking, Marriage, National Health Care Reform, and Respect for Life. What could be more basic to our faith than to promote the dignity of all persons from conception to natural death? If you have any non-copyrighted prayers on these issues that you would like to share, please send them to me, and I will post them on the KDCCW website.

Let us continue educating ourselves not only on these specific issues but especially also on the Catholic Social Teachings about these issues. It has been my pleasure to tell you about local events as I come to hear about them, and I ask you to let me know of any other upcoming events so that we can get the word out throughout the diocese.

As a Certified Domestic Violence Chaplain and a member of the Speakers Bureau for the Knoxville Family Justice Center, I am also available to speak on Domestic Violence and its spiritual implications. I appreciate the opportunity I had to speak at Five Rivers Deanery's Fall General Meeting, and I look

forward to speaking at a community event hosted by St. Joseph's Church in Norris as part of Speak Out on Family Violence Day on Sunday, January 22.

Education and Support for the Implementation of the Revised Roman Missal

The new Roman Missal is now a reality in the daily life of Our Church. While most of us are still struggling with slipping into old responses and perhaps finding it a little hard to grasp all of the new language in the prayers at Mass, I pray that we are all also stretching ourselves to take advantage of this opportunity to experience more deeply the mysteries of our faith.

Smoky Mountain Deanery had Fr. Randy Stice speak at their Fall General Meeting, explaining the upcoming changes and their possible benefits. I have also seen in the East Tennessee Catholic that some parish CCW's have had speakers on the topic. In addition, I was delighted to present a different take on this topic to both Our Lady of Fatima's and St. Mary Gatlinburg's PCCW's this fall, using the inspirational and entertaining book *Who Moved My Cheese?* to focus on how we deal with change and how we could adjust to unsolicited change in more productive ways.

Prayer Request E-mails

Thanks to Aimee Place for her attentiveness to our prayer requests and for connecting all of us to pray for needs throughout our diocese. What a blessing for those being lifted up in prayer and for those privileged enough to support others through our prayers. God loves it when we live and pray as community!

Share Spirituality Opportunities with Other Affiliates

I am encouraged to see information shared through our e-mail chain inviting other women of Council to Days of Reflection and other events in our parishes and deaneries. I know that attending some of these events have been a blessing to me personally, and I am sure it has been for others as well.

Please share with me information about any recommended speakers or resources that other groups might want to consider. I would love to post these on the KDCCW website.

Spirituality is the reason we do what we do in Council. It is the foundation of why we care about serving others, advocating for legislation that reflects our beliefs, and even for keeping our organization going. We need to pray about what we do before we do it, wrap it in prayer as we're doing it, and then send our thanks and praise to God for bringing it to fruition!

Prayerfully Submitted,
Marilyn Hafner
KDCCW Spirituality Commission Chair