

## Augusta Deanery Council of Catholic

### Women

Eleanor Willingham, President

Service Commission Report (Fall 2013)

Report presented by: Betty Jones



### SERVICE

Family, Community and International

The aim of the commission is three-fold:

1. Support and enhance the importance of family life within the Church and society. The Commission works to assist families in achieving a truly Christian life to carry out responsibilities within the Church, the civic community and the world.
2. Engage the members of NCCW and all people in working to address the needs and concerns of their individual communities. It focuses on actions that affect the life, growth, productivity and the well-being of all people, especially women and children and the communities in which they live.
3. Promote global solidarity and the conviction that our wealth and resources must be shared with all peoples. The commission creates awareness and educates about the needs of women and children throughout the world. The Commission encourages NCCW members to support generously the Works of Peace and Works of Reconciliation implemented in partnership with Catholic Relief Services as well as other programs through Catholic charities and other similar groups.

The Augusta Annual Life Chain spent an hour of silent prayer for life on behalf of the unborn along with the fathers and mothers who are affected by abortion. They met October 5. The event was sponsored by the Alleluia Community. Everyone should consider this annual event.



### SAVANNAH DIOCESE

Members of councils have collected clothes and diapers for Family Advancement Ministries, decorated a community home that offer temporary housing for women who have recently been released from incarceration.

They have held family movie night, supported community outreach through Relay for Life, March of Dimes, Head Start, Habitat for Humanity, Ronald McDonald House, Nazareth Home, and local food pantries.

Councils across the diocese have purchased items for various rooms in new rectories for priest, collected pillows for foster children, books and magazines for schools and medical facilities, collected pennies for “Refugee Women, and school supplies for homeless children.

They collect food for needy families and offer child care for parishioners, and make monetary contributions to local charities and to their own parishes.

*The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified. They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. Isaiah 61:1-4*



### NATIONAL

### Serving the Needs of the Homeless and Hungry

Catholic Social Teaching reminds us to consider the needs of the poor and vulnerable. Our Catholic teachings remind us that every person has fundamental rights to life, adequate shelter, protection and food. Those without shelter and protection have a high risk of hunger, health problems, and spiritual and emotional hopelessness. Those without these basic needs are vulnerable to violence and abuse.

As members of the National Council of Catholic Women, and at all levels of council we are all asked to pray for the needs of persons facing homelessness and hunger, particularly during the NCCW Day of Fast and Prayer to end hunger, November 20, the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

Members are called to support their local agencies and services that aid the homeless and the hungry. Members should also encourage personal involvement, help the homeless and hungry, and pursue opportunities that both allow and offer spiritual support and hope, by sharing the love of Christ.

#### NCCW and Cross Catholic Outreach's Women Helping Women Campaign

NCCW has a partnership with Cross Catholic Outreach. NCCW invites all individual and affiliate members to join in the “Women Helping Women Campaign.” This series of programs directly address NCCW’s Campaign for Human Dignity and puts into action the resolutions passed during the 2010 Annual Convention. Members now have an opportunity to end human trafficking, build homes and provide maternity care for the desperately poor in Vietnam, Ethiopia and Kenya. Contact Cross Catholic Outreach representative. 1-800-914-2420 x246 or [SLantz@CrossCatholic.org](mailto:SLantz@CrossCatholic.org).

<http://www.crosscatholic.org/pages/page.as>

Augusta Deanery Council of Catholic Women

Eleanor Willingham, President  
Spirituality Commission Report (Fall 2013)  
Developed by: Eleanor Willingham  
Report presented by: Geoclyn Williams



**SPIRITUALITY**

Church and Legislative Commissions

The aim of the Spirituality Commission is to create a community that is educated and dynamic. Catholic women, called to discipleship and holiness, respond with personal witness and service to the Church and to the world. It serves as a conduit for helping councils focus on the spiritual aspects of our faith and how we can act on our convictions in the public sphere, through daily mass attendance and praying of the Liturgy of the Hours, the official prayer of the Church that unifies us with women and men throughout the world in giving glory to God; promotion of Eucharistic Adoration, the personal connection we have with our Savior here on earth; praying other favorite devotionals which keep us connected to God; and providing support materials. The commission also provides information and materials from the US bishops on Catholic social justice principals and issues that form the basis for legislative advocacy. The commission work reinforces faith and assists in meaningful ecumenical dialogue.

Our ADCCW President, serving also as SDCCW & ADCCW Spirituality Commission Chair, emailed a Welcome to the Vine Newsletter “A Call to Prayer for Peace in Syria”. An additional vineyard walk on Domestic Violence was also forwarded across the diocese. This call to prayer was intended for abused women throughout the world and particularly those in India who have died and been humiliated by the terror of rape. Members were also asked to join in prayer for women who suffer or have died of cancer and other diseases and illnesses.

*Pope Francis will consecrate the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary October 13th . In preparation for this event, please pray the*

*Novena to the Immaculate Heart of Mary . This Novena began Friday, October 4th!*



**SPIRITUAL ADVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

- ~Consults regularly for spiritual direction and advice on important Board matters
- ~Keeps Spiritual Advisors/pastors well informed as to time and place of board meetings, workshops, institutes conventions and all CCW activities
- ~Include Spiritual Advisors/Pastors on important committees
- ~Recognizes their support, in the name of the Board, vocally and with Thank You's when appropriate
- ~Advises personally when deaths of family members of the Board of Directors have occurred, so that the proper condolences can be given

**SAVANNAH DIOCESAN COUNCIL**

Council women throughout the diocese have responded to the Church's call by giving their time, talent and treasures. Council members serve as Eucharistic ministers, lectors, ushers, parish council members, as CCD teachers, choir members, RCIA candidate sponsors, cantors at Masses, and also serve on community boards. Additionally, members participate in prayer chains, attend adoration and daily Mass. They serve as greeters in churches, work with the RCIA program, and help maintain altar linens and flowers. They also work in the parish office.

Affiliates generally begin their meetings with Mass and prayer. They conduct Days of Reflection and Lenten Retreats. Some affiliates support Seminarians and Deacon-Elect. A “Gifts of the Spirit” workshop was held at a Ronald McDonald House. They support pro-life, bring the Eucharist to shut-ins, hosted receptions and delivered goody bags to the sick and shut-in. Many women attend The Living Rosary held annually at Aquinas High School. “My Broken Christ” retreat was sponsored by SDCCW under the coordination of the Diocesan Spirituality Commission Chair, Eleanor Willingham and Columbus Deanery members who so generously gave of their time. SDCCW Deanery Presidents, and members across the diocese, assisted by recruiting attendants for this

inspiring, faith-filled retreat. A special thanks to St. Joseph's Council in Macon and Fr. Allen McDonald.



**NATIONAL COUNCIL**

**Conscience Protection and Religious Liberty**

NCCW indicate:

- ❖ that councils must inspire and energize the membership to advocate for Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship for Religious Freedom.
- ❖ ensure that as Americans we retain our religious liberty which safeguards our right to bring our principles and moral convictions into the public arena,
- ❖ our rights need to be both exercised and protected, as some legislation seeks to mute the voices or limit the rights of religious believers and religious institutions, and
- ❖ each Church and faith-based institution must be free to carry out its mission and contribute to the common good without being pressured to sacrifice its fundamental teachings and moral principles.
- ❖ that NCCW women and members use available resources to become informed advocates for conscience protections based on Catholic Church teachings as they relate to current legislation and mandates; and
- ❖ that members of NCCW advocate for conscience protections at the local, state, and national levels consistent with Church teaching and continue to pray for religious liberty.

~On October 16 Cross Catholic Outreach teams up with Catholic Schools to stand in solidarity and fight world hunger. The goal is to educate Catholic youth on the issues facing the poor and on the importance of practicing one's faith. On World Food Day, you can change the world through Christian charity-*prayer* and provision for the “least of these”. Donate to World Food Day: Cross Catholic Outreach 2700 N. Military Trail,

## Augusta Deanery Council of Catholic Women

Eleanor Willingham, President

Leadership Commission Report (Fall 2013)

Report presented by:

Virginia Martin, Deanery Commission Chair



### LEADERSHIP

#### Leadership and Organization Commissions.

Leadership is the skill of influencing individuals to work toward goals for a common good for an organization. The Leadership Commission provides organizational development, leadership training, public relations resources and publications to ensure the successful organization and management of Council and its programs. A further aim of the Leadership Commission is to establish the organization as a leader in the Catholic Church and in local, state, national and world communities. NCCW has led the way with programs that recognize the basic human dignity of all persons such as those on domestic violence and human trafficking. We must continue to take a leadership role in the protection of the dignity of life and respect for life from conception to natural death.

#### AUGUSTA DEANERY

Commission & Parliamentarian Training - 9/14

Executive Committee Meetings - 8/10, 9/1, 9/14

Augusta Deanery's theme this year will be Leadership Development: An Invitation to Lead. The deanery will act to support, empower and educate members in leadership, spirituality and service—the Council of Catholic Women's (CCW's) three commissions. Utilizing the NCCW Guidance and Resource Manual and leadership development training materials provided at the SDCCW 2013 Convention, the leadership commission chairs will be tasked with training all chairs and interested members in

executing the three commissions with fidelity. A Bylaws Review Committee will also be established.



### SAVANNAH DIOCESAN COUNCIL

The Leadership Commission's focus this year on the diocesan level has been on membership and how to strengthen councils. The NCCW Leadership Development (LTD) program conducted training at the SDCCW 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, hosted by the Augusta Deanery under the leadership of Joe Howe and her dedicated committee chairs and volunteers.

It is SDCCW's belief that each council's responsibility is to set the example and embrace leadership roles that draw upon members' individual strengths, gifts and talents so that we satisfy our mission in supporting, educating and empowering all women.

Judy Powers reminded us in the Catholic Women magazine that, "As members of the Council of Catholic Women, we strive to live our Catholic values and ensure that our voice is an active of the larger Catholic voice . . . We are the Church. The question is, "How will YOU participate in the front line?"

Debbie Hocker, the current SDCCW President, has asked us all to join her in prayer as we continue our goal to empower, support and educate our members, add our voices to those of all Catholic women, advocate on behalf of their needs and develop their strengths as women of faith and leaders in our homes, churches and communities. She indicated that there is power in prayer and, together, WE CAN make a difference! Her goal for the 2013-14 year is to increase membership across the diocese. She is requesting a current roster of all CCW members in an effort to maintain a membership directory.

SDCCW Third Vice-President, Eleanor Willingham submitted articles for publication to the Southern

Cross on membership and SDCCW Council Post on ADCCW News.



### NATIONAL COUNCIL

#### **Communication and Membership Development**

The National Council of Catholic Women desires to strengthen the relationship and communication between and among all levels of Council including affiliate members and individual members. NCCW seeks to increase both individual and affiliate membership.

NCCW believes that the ability of individual and affiliate members to communicate the purpose and values of NCCW and all levels of council can promote the mission and encourage membership.

It is recommended that all members of NCCW, especially NCCW leaders such as province directors and affiliate presidents, familiarize themselves with existing resources and the solutions they provide for membership and leadership development.

They are recommending that all members of NCCW renew their efforts to use existing NCCW communications, programs and leadership development resources to share the mission and message of NCCW.

They recommend that all NCCW members and councils use existing communication and developing technologies to communicate with current and prospective members.

[http://home.catholicweb.com/NCCW/files/2012\\_Resolutions\\_Final.pdf](http://home.catholicweb.com/NCCW/files/2012_Resolutions_Final.pdf)

