
ORANGE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF

CATHOLIC  WOMEN

Fragments

SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

ODCCW Mission Statement

*To promote among our Catholic women a greater devotion to Christ and the Church,
as we share the Blessed Mother's role of bringing others to Christ
through spirituality, leadership, and service.*



There is an appointed time
for everything,
and a time for every affair
under the heavens.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Janine Meckler
ODCCW President

It is with great excitement that I welcome you to the 2023-2024 ODCCW year! I have missed you and look forward to spending time together. Please bring a friend with you to our General Gatherings which meet the third Tuesday of each month from
(continued on next page)

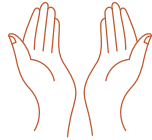
9:00am-12:00pm with a registration fee per gathering of \$25 per person that includes a continental breakfast, lunch, guest speaker, and fellowship.

We look forward to growing together in relationship with one another and with the Holy Trinity. All are welcome! We are always looking for more women to join us as we live out our Catholic Faith side by side. Blessings to all as we go out and "seize this day".

Janine Meckler
ODCCW President



SEPTEMBER PRAYER



As we gather here in the harbour of your safety,
we thank you for fellowship and family.

We ask that you strengthen us, restore us
and inspire us with your love.

Lord, would you fill us with your peace
So that as we journey onwards
We would pour out your love and grace to
others.

We ask that our souls would catch the wind of
your spirit
so that we would take our promises to all the
earth. Amen.

BLESSED SACRAMENT POEM

By John Henry Freeman

You, Lord Jesus, are the greatest poet I've
ever met.

You, the Silent Sentinel, quietly writing your
Verse on my heart!

Your Love and Your Beauty are inexpressible,
yet your Spirit impresses just the right poetic
images on my soul;

How could I refuse!?! You lifted me closer, and
made me One with You, the Word, the Poetic
Word of Father God...



NCCW NEWS



Please join the National Council of Catholic Women in praying
the rosary together by phone. The Rosary Call will take place
on the 13th of each month at 4:30 PM (PT). All are welcome.
Please join in. Free Conference Call Number: (202) 926-1107 -
Access Code: 703993



REPORT ON NCCW CONVENTION

Carol Palmer

Province Director, Ecclesiastical Province of Los Angeles

I had the privilege of attending and participating in the NCCW Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, August 23-27, 2023.

Of course, the convention was filled with the usual business – board meetings, committee and commission reports, as well as emergency bylaw amendments and adoption of a new resolution. Take a look at our new resolution:

Purpose:

To foster belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

Whereas, the Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "The Eucharist is 'the source and summit of the Christian life,'" (CCC 1324)

Whereas, The Bishops of the United States have called for a three-year Eucharistic revival, *My Flesh for the Life of the World*, at all levels of the Church in our country; and

Whereas, A personal encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist brings healing, grace and strength for us as missionary disciples;

Resolved, That members reflect on Church teaching by utilizing National Council of Catholic Women's Study Guide Based on the Encyclical Letter of St. Pope John Paul II: *On the Eucharist in its Relationship to the Church* (nccw.org) and promote this study at the parish level;

Resolved, That NCCW affiliates would supplement this study by encouraging member-led participation in frequent and regular Eucharist Adoration that may include recitation of the Rosary, Chaplet or other devotions; and

Resolved, That each NCCW Province be encouraged to and make every effort to send a representative to the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, July 2024.

We were all blessed to participate in engaging liturgies, group rosaries, hear amazing speakers and participate in activities that lifted us up and brought us together as we made plans for the coming year.

Save the date for the National Council of Catholic Women's 104th Annual Convention August 15-17, 2024 at the Omni Hotel in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

LETTER FROM OUR NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Dear Council Sisters,

As I write my last President's Report, I am reflecting on the Prayer to the Creator at the end of *Fratelli Tutti*,

May our hearts be open,
To all the peoples and nations of the earth.
May we recognize the goodness and beauty, That you have sown in each of us,
And thus, forge bonds of unity, common projects,
And shared dreams. Amen.

It doesn't seem possible that 2 years have passed since my installation as President in Arlington, Virginia. The time goes by very quickly. My heartfelt thanks to Bishop Bill, Father Miguel and the Spiritual Advisors, the Commission Chairs, the Committee Chairs, the NCCW Staff, the 2022 and 2023 Province Directors, and especially the Executive Committee for your support of the shared dream and the NCCW Mission. Looking back and taking stock is something people do when they are leaving a position so pardon the reminiscing.

Throughout my two year term, we made a difference for you, the members, because NCCW was always first and the goal was to accomplish our mission to support, empower, and educate all Catholic women in Gospel values. We covered chapter 7 of *Fratelli Tutti* at the 2022 convention in Minneapolis. With wide open hearts abiding in faith, hope and Love we embarked on the Path of Renewed Encounter with Christ journeying to Salt Lake City, Utah to cover Chapter 4 of *Fratelli Tutti*.

In 2022 we participated in Synod 2021-2023 For a synodal Church Communion, Participation, Mission --hosting ZOOM listening sessions. Over 385 of you joined in these sessions to let your voice be heard at the USCCB and the Vatican. A 10 page report was submitted to the USCCB to document our thoughts.

2022 was a year of generosity. NCCW initiated special funds for natural disasters occurring in the United States like Hurricane Ian and the Kentucky tornado as well as Internationally for Ukraine. Each time your generosity was overwhelming. This prompted us in 2023 to establish the Catholic Charities General Fund. Similar to the CRS fund we will send the money donated on our website to Catholic Charities USA on a yearly basis to help with disasters.

We made a difference by providing resources, projects, and programs to help the members accomplish the goals of our mission statement. *(continued on next page)*

LETTER FROM OUR NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Resources such as Regain, Retain and Grow Your Council & Why Vote (Leadership Commission), Updated Anti Trafficking Resources & Called to the Joy of Love (Service Commission), and a Prayer for Adoration prayer card, My Faith Journey, Pray the Rosary with the National Council of Catholic Women, Eucharistic Journal, & a study guide to On the Eucharist in its Relationship to the Church (Spirituality Commission).

The Education Committee provided a resource to start a Latina group, showed us how to diversify our councils and be inclusive and how to start a junior council.

Projects such as establishing and awarding the first National Golden Rose Award to a young woman aged 14-21 who received the Golden Rose Award from her local A/DCCW or Province.

Programs such as updating the Respite Program and the Women Healing the Wounds Resources. NCCW established an easy payment tab on our website for those who want to donate to the Vocation Purse Club. The Leadership Training and Development Team is now under the NCCW umbrella provided by a Bylaw amendment in 2022. The LTD presented via ZOOM in 2021 and 2022 due to Covid 19. They are now back to in person.

These Resources, Projects, and Programs are only a smidgeon of what you have accomplished in your parishes, deaneries, dioceses, and provinces. Your dedication to the NCCW mission and your good works towards accomplishing the mission is inspiring.

After two years of leading the National Council of Catholic Women, I turn over the gavel to Beth Mahoney for her to lead, forge bonds of unity, common projects, and shared dreams.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel ask her Divine Son to bless the NCCW and our new leaders. May we recognize the goodness and beauty in each other.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Voorhes, NCCW President 2021-2023.

World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO) General Assembly 2023

Assisi, 20 May 2023 - The General Assembly of WUCWO has just ended in Assisi after a week of intense debate and discussion. The central theme was "WUCWO women, artisans of human fraternity for world peace".

The event brought together representatives from all over the world with the aim of addressing global challenges and analyzing the fundamental role of women in promoting peace. Over 67 organizations from different parts of the globe attended the Assembly, with a total of 832 participants from 38 countries on all continents.

At the end of the Assembly, the new WUCWO president was elected, and will represent the organization for the next four years. The person entrusted with the mandate is Mexican Mónica Santamarina, former general treasurer of the organization.

"Thank you for your trust by choosing me as a candidate. We will follow consolidating all the good that has been done, which has been a lot" said the newly elected.

"We will continue to move towards the professionalization of WUCWO, whether concerning finances, the secretariat, authorities, committees and working groups," Santamarina continued, outlining some priorities for WUCWO. Among these, she mentioned 'young people', with whom she hopes to promote intergenerational dialogue.

The President further explained that it is her intention to work so that member organizations have 'the necessary tools to implement the six resolutions (areas of focus) passed by the Assembly'.

The resolutions adopted are:

1. WUCWO will consolidate, develop and expand the World Women's Observatory.
2. Religious freedom: the basis for the path of fraternity and peace (FT 279).
3. Global food crisis. Care for our common home. Call for ecological conversion.
4. Let us set out with renewed conviction on the joyful path of family love, motherhood and fatherhood.
5. Building the future with migrants and refugees.
6. "Enabling everyone to participate is an essential ecclesial duty!" (Pope Francis): Synodality. Formation and participation of women.

Join us in our Fall Service Project



FOR CHILDREN WHO WISH
FOR JUST ONE GIFT

Box of Joy is an annual Christmas shoebox gift ministry organized by local Catholic schools, parishes and groups across the United States and facilitated by Cross Catholic Outreach. Participants bless children suffering from extreme poverty by filling boxes with toys and other gifts, sharing the joy of Christmas and planting seeds of hope. We will collect boxes, items and monetary donations at our **October** meeting so we can send them off in time for Christmas. See below for more information or learn more at boxofjoy.org

GIFT IDEAS

PERSONAL NOTES & PHOTOS

Children who receive Box of Joy gifts love when you enclose a personal note or a handmade Christmas card and share a photo of yourself or your family. (It is advisable for parents or teachers to review notes written by children.)

TOYS

Handheld toys
Small plush animals*
 Small balls (tennis, etc.)
Ball (deflated) with pump*
 Cars or trucks
Doll*
 Mini puzzle
 Finger puppets
 Unopened fast-food toys
 Binoculars
 Lego building blocks
 Harmonica, kazoo or other small instrument
 Jump rope
 Yo-yo
 Slinky
 Mini board games
 Balloons
 Craft kit (beads, elastic, etc.)

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Pencils, colored pencils
 Solar calculator
 Pencil sharpener
 Small board books
 Erasers
 Pencil case
Crayons*
 Pens, markers
 Ruler
 Glue stick (no liquid)
 Safety scissors
Coloring book*
 Notepads
 Stickers
 Flash cards

HARD CANDY & GUM

Please do not include any candies that will melt (Jolly Ranchers, chocolate, etc.). Please place candy in a sealed bag.

APPAREL

Socks
 Shorts
 Underwear
T-shirts*
 Flip-flops
 Bandanas
 Hats
 Plastic poncho
Dresses*

NECESSITIES/HOME

Comb or brush
Cup or bottle with lid*
Bar soap*
Toothpaste (still in the box)*
Toothbrush and floss*
 Bandages
 Hand wipes
 Lip balm
 Manicure kit
 Nail clippers or emery board

ACCESSORIES

Watch
Purse or wallet*
Sunglasses*
Necklace*
Hair ribbons*
Hair bands or headbands*
 Barrettes
 Bracelets
 Earrings
 Scarf
 Cross or rosary

USEFUL ITEMS

Sewing kit
 Utensils
 Compass
 LED flashlight keychain
Drawstring bag*

*Highly desired items.

PLEASE DO NOT PACK

The items listed below are not acceptable for packing in a Box of Joy. Please do not include:

Toy Weapons • Knives or Tools • Combative or Military-Style Toys • Bottled Liquids (Shampoo, Body Wash, Nail Polish, Etc.)
 Glass or Breakable Objects • Food or Beverages • Cash, Checks or Gift Cards • Chocolate or Jolly Ranchers
 Medicine or Vitamins • Bubbles • Gels (Hand Sanitizer, Etc.) • Vaseline • Lotions • Battery Flashlights • Liquid Paints or Glues

SEPTEMBER 2023

ODCCW EVENTS

September General Gathering

Tuesday, September 19, 2023 | 9am-12pm
Santiago de Compostela Catholic Church
21682 Lake Forest Dr, Lake Forest, CA 92630
Speaker: From WISEPlace

Register for our events at <https://ocdccw.org>

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS



When Women Pray - Annual Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, September 30, 2023
8:00-1:00pm
St. Thomas More Catholic Church
51 Marketplace, Irvine, CA 92602
Speaker: Renee Bondi

For more information and to register:

<https://www.whenwomenpraystm.org/wwp-2023/>