

Please join NCCW in the Centennial Prayer Service on Friday, August 28, 2020, at 4:45 pm (PT), 5:45pm (MT), 6:45 pm (CT), and 7:45 pm (ET).

Call in number: 515-606-5163 Access Code: 703993#

While we may not be gathering at Convention this week, we can pray together for the National Council of Catholic Women and for our new Treasurer, Province Directors and Chair of Spiritual Advisors. Pray that we have a good start to our new year of Council during these challenging times. Praying together is the basis of our organization. Join us.

Prayer Service (abbreviated) for the 100th Anniversary of the National Council of Catholic Women

*****Leader's Guide--**This document is designed for shorter (less than one hour) prayer times, specially suited for video or telephone conference meetings. The full-length service can be downloaded from the nccw.org website.*

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

(Leader) Come Holy Spirit,
Fill the hearts of your faithful,
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit,
And they shall be created,
And you shall renew the face of the earth.

(All) O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise, loving, and courageous leaders and ever enjoy His consolations. Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

(Other opening prayers may be used: The Magnificat, Prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel, etc.)

(Leader reads)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Heavenly Father, we give you all honor and glory for the goodness you have shown to our National Council of Catholic Women during this first century of our existence. We thank you for the overwhelming love and mercy You have bestowed upon us.

- For the clergy who called forth our Catholic Sisters years ago to live the Mission of the National Council of Catholic Women; **R. Thank you, Lord! (response)**
- For the vision of our early members and their willingness to give of themselves to develop our organization; **R.**
- For the women who have supported the NCCW with their time, talent, and treasure throughout these 100+ years; **R.**
- For the insight of our commissions in developing relevant programs that enable our members to help others; **R.**

- For the many NCCW office staff members that are, and have been, so dedicated to our efforts; **R.**
- For the many Spiritual Advisors that guide, assist, and support our affiliates; **R.**
- For the talents that shine in our members as they work in our affiliates and in parishes; **R.**
- For our association with grace-filled partners that assist us in our efforts to live the Gospel message. **R.**

(All) Loving Father, we ask you for holiness to be effective servants and to model the role of true Christians. We thank you, Lord, for this first century, and we humbly ask that you continue to shower our NCCW with Your blessings in the future! We make this prayer in the name of Your Divine Son, Jesus, who is united with You and the Holy Spirit, the One True God, forever and ever. Amen.

Scripture *(Reader prepares with Bible available; full text on page of this guide)*

(Reader)

A reading from the Gospel according to St Luke (1:39-45) *(NABRE)*

(Pause for reflection)

(Brief readings from the four female Doctors of the Church. You may wish to designate four different readers.)

Leader: Some of the greatest examples of spirituality, leadership, and service come from the four women Doctors of the Church. These women have been given this designation by the Church for their eminent learning and high degree of sanctity, exemplified in their writings. Let us listen and reflect on their words.

St. Hildegard of Bingen

1098-1179

Canonized in May 2012—Named a Doctor of the Church in October 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI

“Listen: there was once a king sitting on his throne. Around Him stood great and wonderfully beautiful columns ornamented with ivory, bearing the banners of the king with great honour. Then it pleased the king to raise a small feather from the ground, and he commanded it to fly. The feather flew, not because of anything in itself but because the air bore it along. Thus am I, a feather on the breath of God.”

From her first major visionary work *Scivias (or Sci vias Domini, Know the Way of the Lord)*

(pause for reflection . . . Leader: Envision yourself as a feather on the breath of God.)

St. Catherine of Siena

1347-1380

Canonized in June 1461 by Pope Pius II—Named a Doctor of the Church in October 1970 by Pope Paul VI

“Oh eternal Trinity! oh Godhead! Which Godhead gave value to the Blood of Your Son, You, oh eternal Trinity, are a deep Sea, into which the deeper I enter the more I find; and the more I find the more I seek; the soul cannot be satiated in Your abyss, for she

continually hungers after You, the eternal Trinity, desiring to see You with light in Your light.”

The Dialogue of St. Catherine of Siena, A Treatise of Obedience, How this most devout soul, thanking and praising God, makes prayer for the whole world and for the Holy Church, and commending the virtue of faith brings this work to an end.

(pause for reflection . . . Leader: Do you truly hunger for God? How can you increase that hunger?)

St. Teresa of Avila

1515-1582

Canonized in March 1622 by Pope Gregory XV – Named a Doctor of the Church in September 1970 by Pope Paul VI

"Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you, all things pass away: God never changes. Patience obtains all things. He who has God finds he lacks nothing. God alone suffices."

Poem found in St. Teresa's breviary, in her own handwriting, as cited on October 15, 2015 by Gretchen Filz at getfed.com

(pause for reflection . . . Leader: This quote speaks to the heart of trusting in and resting in God's presence. How do you find rest in Him?)

St. Therese of Lisieux

1873-1897

Canonized in May 1925 by Pope Pius XI – Named a Doctor of the Church in October 1997 by Pope John Paul II

“Dear Jesus! tis Thy Holy Face

Is here the start that guides my way;

Thy countenance, so full of grace,

Is heaven on earth, for me, today.

... Oh, leave on me some impress faint.

Of Thy sweet, humble, patient Face,

And soon I shall become a saint,

And draw men to Thy saving grace.

So, in the secret of Thy Face,

Oh! hide me, hide me, Jesus blest!

There let me find its hidden grace,

Its holy fires, and, in heaven's rest,

Its rapturous kiss, in Thy embrace!”

Excerpts of "Canticle to the Holy Face" written August 12, 1895, translation quoted in the First Part of "Poems of St. Teresa, Carmelite of Lisieux, known as the 'Little Flower of Jesus'" in *The Story of a Soul*.

(Pause for reflection... Leader: Close your eyes and picture the face of Jesus, and stay there a while.)

Leader: Please **stand**

Litany of Women Saints

Leader: As we strive to be loving and courageous leaders, let us ask the Saints to intercede for us.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,	Pray for us (<i>response</i>)
St. Ann,	Pray for us
St Mary Magdalene,	Pray for us
St Elizabeth,	Pray for us
St. Veronica,	Pray for us
St. Cecilia,	Pray for us
Sts. Felicity and Perpetua,	Pray for us
St. Hildegard of Bingen,	Pray for us
St. Clare of Assisi,	Pray for us
St. Catherine of Siena,	Pray for us
St. Gertrude,	Pray for us
St. Joan of Arc,	Pray for us
St. Rita of Cascia,	Pray for us
St. Rose of Lima,	Pray for us
St. Kateri Tekakwitha,	Pray for us
St. Teresa of Avila,	Pray for us,
St. Margaret Mary Alcoque,	Pray for us
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton,	Pray for us
St. Theodore Guerin,	Pray for us
St. Catherine Laboure,	Pray for us
St. Bernadette,	Pray for us,
St. Therese of Lisieux,	Pray for us,
St. Josephine Bakhita,	Pray for us
St. Theresa Benedicta of the Cross,	Pray for us
St. Maria Goretti,	Pray for us
St. Frances Xavier Cabrini,	Pray for us
St. Gianna Beretta Molla,	Pray for us

St. Faustina,	Pray for us
St. Teresa of Calcutta,	Pray for us
St. Jacinta,	Pray for us
St. Azelie-Marie Martin,	Pray for us
All holy women,	Pray for us

(Leader(s) reads & all respond)

Prayers of the Faithful

Mindful that God is our shelter and strength, we, His children, Sisters in Christ, ask our Heavenly Father with confidence to gently cradle these petitions in His loving hands close to His heart--

That the spiritual growth of all Catholic women in every state of life be enhanced through the sisterhood of the National Council of Catholic Women. We pray to the Lord . . . *Lord hear our prayer.*

That the work of present and future Council membership be fruitful through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Council. We pray to the Lord . . .

For greater understanding of the needs of refugees and victims of human trafficking and for laws that uphold their safety and dignity. We pray to the Lord . . .

For families wounded by domestic violence, suicide, or addiction, that they would receive help and compassion. We pray to the Lord . . .

For all members of Council who have passed to eternal life that they enjoy peaceful rest in the place God prepared just for them. We pray to the Lord . . .

(All) Heavenly Father, bless us, our families, our parishes, and the work of the National Council of Catholic Women as we now place these petitions before You with heartfelt humility knowing they will be answered in Your time and according to Your will through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Leader: To conclude this time of prayer and reflection together, let us now, as members and friends of the National Council of Catholic Women, recite the Centennial Anniversary Prayer recognizing the priceless gift this organization is to all Catholic women.

(All pray--)

Centennial Anniversary Prayer

Heavenly Father, we give You thanks and praise
for the National Council of Catholic Women's
100 years of service to the Universal Church.

We are thankful for the Bishops who founded NCCW in 1920 and for the beautiful and inspiring legacy provided by our leaders, Spiritual Advisors, and NCCW sisters who have preceded us.

We give thanks to Our Lady of Good Counsel for guiding us to be loving and courageous leaders in building the Kingdom of God.

Lord, we pray that You stir the hearts of all Catholic women to realize the value of serving Your Church and society through membership in the NCCW.

Bless us with many more workers in the vineyard as we embark on our next century of Spirituality, Leadership, and Service.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Optional Closing Hymn *(select an appropriate song)*

For All the Saints

Anthem (Tom Conroy)

Go, Make of All Disciples (text-Matthew 28:19-20, Leon M. Adkins, tune: Ellacombe)

Bring Forth the Kingdom (Marty Haugen)

(Additional text for use throughout the program)

A reading from the Gospel according to St Luke (1:39-45) (NABRE)

During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

The Gospel of the Lord R: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ