Make Your Council the Best It Can Be!

What is needed to make your Council of Catholic Women the best it can be???

The right ATTITUDE! What does the right attitude look like?

Here are some words of wisdom from Jody Waterman, NCCW trainer for the Leadership Training Development Program. Jody’s advice appeared in the May issue of The Connect, the newsletter of NCCW and is reprinted here with permission (and gratitude).

A is for ASPIRATION. Every leader and all members need to aspire to be the best they can be, and to do the best they are capable of, to make their unit successful.

T is for TEAMWORK. Teamwork is essential to get a job done and to get it done right. As a leader, don’t try to do everything yourself. As a member, resolve to capably complete any task you agree to do.

T is for TECHNOLOGY. Great advances have been made using technology to communicate with members and for publicity. Find a tech-savvy member to help you use today’s technology to its fullest extent.

I is for INFORMATION. A group is most successful when information is shared. Decisions can be made by committees, but share them with everyone so that things will run smoothly.

T is for TENACITY. Never give up! Perseverance is sometimes needed, but it is worth the effort.

U is for UNDERSTANDING. Sometimes situations arise that are not what we planned or envisioned. Be understanding and work toward making a potential problem into a success story.

D is for DEDICATION. A dedicated leader and dedicated members are an unstoppable combination. Commit yourselves to making your unit a shining star in your community.

E is for ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE. By displaying an attitude of success, you will become part of a self-fulfilling prophecy and everyone will become part of this great experience! Enjoy your success and plan for greater success in the future!

Editorial Note: In an effort to be more cost-effective with our newsletter, issues will be emailed to many recipients on our mailing list when an address is available. Each CWC unit will receive a printed copy in the mail. Please share it with your members.
Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Mission Statement

Diocesan Council of Catholic Women ⋆ Diocese of Steubenville

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) of the Diocese of Steubenville is a group of “called and gifted” Catholic women organized on parish, deanery, and diocesan levels and is affiliated with the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW).

By God’s call we endeavor to foster and encourage the spiritual development of our members and support the application of Catholic principles to all areas of social concerns.

Through the prayerful study of NCCW directives on the commissions, we attempt to instruct and motivate our members to accept their responsibility of bringing about God’s kingdom in the world for God’s honor and glory.

We recognize and address the spiritual and temporal needs of the family, the parish, the community and the world.
Activities in Miltonsburg

The women of St. John the Baptist CWC, Miltonsburg do a lot for their parish and St. Sylvester Central School. Upcoming events for the group include the Parish Festival on August 4 and their stand at the Barnesville Pumpkin Festival on September 26-29.

Thank you, Eileen Ackerman!

St. Agnes CWC Treats Local Veterans

For a second year, local veterans in Jefferson County were treated to breakfast by the ladies of St. Agnes CWC in Mingo Junction. Twenty-seven veterans took advantage of the meal served in the church hall and the program on preplanning for burial benefits provided by the Jefferson County Veterans Service Commission in Steubenville. Notice of the breakfast was promoted through the church bulletin and the newspaper. While the veterans thanked the women for their hospitality and delicious buffet, the women told them it was their honor to serve the veterans and thanked them for their service to our country.

Submitted by Pat Cramblett, CWC President

Ice Cream Social Generates Friendships

The ladies of St. Joseph CWC, Bridgeport celebrated summer by inviting the ladies of Assumption CWC, Barnesville and St. John’s CWC, Bellaire to join them for an Ice Cream Social in July. Rev. John Mucha and Rev. Dave Cornett joined the 25 ladies for a laughter-filled evening as the attendees enjoyed a wide selection of ice cream flavors and toppings in unique ice cream bowls which they kept as souvenirs, cookies and beverages. Simple games were played and prizes were won. The fellowship was as wonderful as the ice cream!

Thank you, Barbara Trytko, CWC President St. Joseph
2019 Lenten Day of Spirituality
Submitted by Angela Cross, DCCW Spirituality Commissioner

On a beautiful spring day in Lent, Catholic women from all across the diocese made their way to St. Clairsville for our annual Lenten Day of Spirituality.

This year Dr. Nadia Mitchell led us in retreat, during which she took us on several fascinating journeys, including her conversion from contented Protestant to conflicted Catholic, her journeys half-way across the world to walk in the steps of millions of fellow pilgrims across landscapes where saints lived, served and worshipped, and her metaphysical journey into the meaning and mystery of pilgrimage.

Throughout the day of retreat, Nadia wove a beguiling narrative sharing her many insights inspired by the pilgrimages. She explained how a woman who doesn’t even like to walk managed to hike hundreds of miles from sacred place to sacred place carrying everything she would need for as long as a month at a time in a small backpack. She showed us exactly what she carried in that backpack, where she found shelter and food, and introduced us to the characters she met along the way.

Nadia’s talk was accompanied by a backdrop of photographs of spectacular views from Spain, France, Italy and England. She also shared photographs of hidden details of the fascinating buildings which punctuated the pilgrimage and the insights that they inspired.

We are most grateful for Nadia’s willingness to share her very personal journey and her teaching us how we can live our lives as pilgrimage too. She made our retreat day journey most worthwhile.

Next year’s Day of Spirituality is scheduled on Saturday, March 28, 2020 at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption in Marietta.

Retreat in Little Hocking

The women of St. Ambrose CWC invite all the women of the diocese to a wonderful fall retreat in Little Hocking on Saturday, October 5. Please watch The Steubenville Register for details concerning the schedule and reservations for this wonderful event in Visitation Deanery.

Prayer to End Trafficking

(Distributed at this year’s DCCW convention with the theme “Love Saves Lives”)

Loving Father, we seek your divine protection for all who are exploited and enslaved, for those forced into labor, trafficked into sexual slavery, and denied freedom. We beseech you to release them from their chains. Grant them protection, safety, and empowerment. Restore their dignity and provide them a new beginning. Show us how we might end exploitation by addressing its causes. Help us reach out in support of victims and survivors of human trafficking. Make us instruments of your spirit for their liberation. For this we pray through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

From USCCB handout for World Day of Peace

DCCW Convention speaker Eileen Spencer reminded us to pray without ceasing.
Our Newest Shepherd  - Rev. Nicholas Ginnetti

Fr. Ginnetti’s parents, siblings, grandparents, other family members, Christ Our Light parish family, DCCW/CWC members, Knights of Columbus, and friends from across the diocese were present to witness the powerful moment of ordination, when the Diocese of Steubenville welcomed our newest shepherd. An almost indescribable moment was shared between Fr. Ginnetti and his mother Christine when he held the consecrated host in front of her and proclaimed, “The Body of Christ” and she responded, “Amen.” The spiritual connection between mother, son, and their Lord was undeniably profound.

The next day, Fr. Ginnetti spoke about his call to priesthood at a young age while at a Holy Hour with his family at Sts. Peter & Paul Church in Lore City. He recognized the influence his upbringing had on his accepting and pursuing his call to priesthood. He expressed his thanks for all the prayers and support he has received from others from the time of his calling until the moment of his ordination.

The Steubenville DCCW, Deanery CCWs and parish CWC units have been loyal supporters of Fr. Ginnetti (and all seminarians) over the last 8 years. Several CWC units and Deanery CCWs adopted a young Nicholas Ginnetti through the DCCW Adopt a Seminarian program and supported him with prayers, greetings, and donations throughout his seminary years. The DCCW sponsors a Basket Raffle each year at the annual convention to benefit all the seminarians of our diocese.

As with past ordinations in the diocese, our faithful women served as needed. The St. Mary of the Assumption CWC prepared a dinner for Bishop Monforton and priests of the diocese before the ordination and then magically rearranged their social hall and provided a reception for guests after the ordination. The Christ Our Light CWC assisted the parish Faith and Life Team by organizing a themed table reception at Sts. Peter & Paul Social Hall after Fr. Ginnetti’s Sunday Mass of Thanksgiving. The three-day ordination celebration came to a close as “our newest shepherd” moved on to lead God’s people as a Priest of Jesus Christ.

The Catholic women of the Diocese of Steubenville should be proud to be ever-loyal in supporting all of our seminarians and priests and praying for vocations to the priesthood.

Submitted by Sandy Broom, Christ our Life CWC President

Veronica’s Viewpoint
THANK YOU

THOUGHTS FROM VERONICA WAY, OUTGOING PROVINCE DIRECTOR

What a wonderful three years it has been! I have gotten to meet so many wonderful women on all levels: parish, deanery, diocese, province, and the NCCW Board. It has been my pleasure to serve you and represent all Catholic women from our area as Province Director. You truly are a group of “called and gifted women.” You are all great mentors to the women of your parishes, and I pray for your continued guidance from the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Patroness, that your councils will continue to grow and flourish. May you be blessed with the JOY of wonderful relationships through the Catholic Woman’s Club at whatever level you are involved.
One of the joyful events of the convention this year was the *Gather Around the Table* sharing. In our lives, one of our most important meeting places, whether for family celebrations or organizational meetings or church activities or worship, is around a table. Our gathering at the convention is a once a year special occasion for this DCCW family to gather around the table and share the good news of what’s been going on in our units for the past year. This was not a presentation of awards, but rather a recalling of events and projects where gifts were shared. In return, each sharing unit received a small framed image of Our Lady of Good Counsel to display whenever the unit meets. The DCCW Executive Board has one on the table whenever they meet as a reminder to ask Our Lady’s guidance in their deliberations and discussions. Deanery presidents were given one to display during deanery meetings and this connection will continue to the units as they meet in their parishes.

We all know that children gathered for celebrations learn much from the adults who are present. Gathered around the table we had some CWC units who assisted with activities designed for children. St. John the Baptist, Miltonsburg sponsored a *Blessings in a Backpack* project where the blessings came in the form of food distributed to students who live with food insecurity to support hunger-free weekends. Holy Family Parish in Steubenville enlisted the assistance of older children to hide eggs and serve snacks after an *Easter egg hunt* for children ages 10 and under. The CWC of St. John’s in Churchtown donated $300 to help cover the cost of Totus Tuus, the parish *Vacation Bible School* attended by about 50 children. The ladies of Our Lady of Lourdes in Wintersville joyfully come to the table this year with news of their *Easter egg hunt* which included a piñata, games, and bottles of bubbles. St. Sylvester’s *Blessing in a Backpack* project in Woodsfield served 250 students who received a backpack containing 2 breakfasts, 2 entrees for lunch and dinner, and 2 snacks during the school year and continuing through the summer.

Other ladies came to the convention table to share ideas of projects which built the community spirit of their CWC units as well as their parishes. The ladies of Christ Our Light in Cambridge & Lore City were *Rolling in Dough* as they enjoyed the fun and fellowship of baking nut rolls together to raise money for their various projects. The ladies of St. Paul and Christ the King in Athens comfort those who are mourning in their community by offering bereavement meals with heart-felt compassion. *A Day at the Movies* highlighted the year for St. Francis Xavier in Malvern as the CWC raised funds to help with the new Good Shepherd Hall community center. Harrison County’s CWC
(including St. Teresa, Cadiz; Sacred Heart, Hopedale; St. Matthias, Freeport) sponsored a Bus Trip to Cleveland for the ladies of the parishes so that they could tour the oldest church there and enjoy a boat ride and lunch on Lake Erie. St. Peter’s CWC in Steubenville tried something new with a Hardy Mum Sale in September that brightened up the homes of their participants.

Other ladies at the table had gone out into their communities to let their Love Saves Lives. They had to put a few extra leaves in the table to accommodate the people they have served. The ladies of St. Casimir in Adena worked with the ladies from St. Adalbert in Dillonvale to make Activity Pads for Alzheimer Patients at Liza’s Place in Wheeling, WV to keep the patients’ hands and minds busy. St. Mary of the Hills in Buchtel became involved in Restocking the Food Cupboard in Nelsonville using a Giving Tree in church to invite participation. A Veterans’ Breakfast was sponsored by the ladies at St. Agnes in Mingo Junction to provide 27 veterans with a delicious breakfast as well as a program concerning their preplanning burial benefits. The Morgan County United Ministries benefits greatly from the charitable works of the CWC ladies of St. James in McConnelsville who volunteer their time and goods in a variety of ways. St. Joseph CWC in Bridgeport addressed the human trafficking problem in their Blessings from the Heart project which sent gift cards and notes and items of support to an agency in Tiffin which assists adult female survivors of human trafficking. Every year for Father’s Day after the morning masses, the women of St. Louis CWC in Gallipolis serve a fabulous Brunch for the Fathers in the parish and their families. St. Frances Cabrini CWC in Colerain sponsored a parish Family Fun and Movie Night after a Saturday evening mass which included a cook out, games and door prizes, as well as a movie. The ladies of Holy Cross in Glouster have a Bake Sale on the first Sunday of each month from June to September which has evolved into a small country market including home grown produce, canned goods, noodles, and salads among other items. The units in Mother of Hope Deanery hold an annual Day with the Bishop which is a day of spirituality and friendship when the ladies present a monetary gift to the Bishop for one of his charities – the Seminarians Assistance Fund.

Still others at our table felt the call to extend themselves beyond the boundaries of our table to other countries with international projects of note. Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Barnesville involved the parish in filling over 50 Boxes of Joy with toys and gifts for Cross Catholic Outreach to deliver to children in five foreign countries. For the second year, St. John Fisher Church in Richmond served as a Drop Off Center for the Boxes of Joy project for the deanery. 524 boxes left the church to brighten Christmas for children. The ladies of St. Ambrose CWC in Little Hocking raised funds through various projects to send over $2300 to Nepal through the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth.

It was a wonderful sharing that reinforced the convention’s theme Love Saves Lives. Sometimes we don’t realize how much good the small (and big) things that we do can impact others within, as well as outside, our DCCW family.

Please plan to attend next year’s convention on June 3, 2020 as we celebrate the 75th anniversary of our Steubenville Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

Eileen Ackerman, DCCW Leadership Commissioner and Donna Turner, Newsletter Editor prepare the basket of gifts for the Gather Around the Table participants.
Prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel

God of heavenly wisdom, you have given us Mary, Mother of Jesus, to be our guide and counselor. Grant that we may always seek her motherly help in this life and so enjoy her blessed presence in the life to come. O Mother of Good Counsel, patroness of the National Council of Catholic Women, intercede for us, that we may be wise, courageous and loving leaders of the Church. Help us, dear mother, to know the mind of Jesus, your son. May the Holy Spirit fill us with the reverence for God’s creation, and compassion for all God’s children. May our labors of love on earth enhance the reign of God and may God’s gifts of faith and living hope prepare us for the fullness of the world to come. Amen.