

RESOLUTION: CHILDREN IN ABUSIVE SITUATIONS

Purpose: To provide information to the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) on the issues surrounding child abuse and explore what is referred to as Children in Abusive Situations.

Whereas, Pope Francis attended the World Meeting of Families in the United States and called on all to restore the sanctity of family life; and

Whereas, Families are called to grow in love with each other and with God, that their children are gifts from God and need to be cared for;

Resolved, That NCCW members pray for the issues of child abuse; that they partner with their Catholic Charities Offices or other social service agencies to educate themselves on the needs of children, and support or initiate programs to help families in abusive situations;

Resolved, That NCCW members will work to eliminate all forms of abuse involving children.

Submitted by: Spirituality Commission

Author: Beth Mahoney, Chair

RESOLUTION: HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Purpose: To provide information and bring awareness to the alarming problem of Human Trafficking which exists world-wide. There are more than 30 million victims of trafficking and human slavery. There are more slaves today than at any other time in human history. Victimization often includes trafficking for sexual exploitation, child exploitation, forced labor, and organ removal. In the United States, human trafficking is the second largest illegal business just behind drug trafficking. In the United States, an estimated 300,000 children yearly are victims of Human Trafficking.

Whereas, The Catechism of the Catholic Church (#2414) states, “The seventh commandment forbids acts or enterprises that for any reason...lead to the enslavement of human beings, to their being bought, sold and exchanged like merchandise, in disregard for their personal dignity.” and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), has made the elimination of Human Trafficking a priority; and

Whereas, On April 10, 2014, Pope Francis stated, “Human trafficking is an open wound on the body of contemporary society and a scourge on the Body of Christ...it’s a crime against humanity”;

Resolved, That the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) members become more informed about human trafficking and advocate for legislation to eradicate human trafficking;

Resolved, That the NCCW will promote the International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking, on February 8, the Feast Day of Saint Josephine Bakhita; and

Resolved, That the NCCW will support victims of Human Trafficking with prayer and ministry.

Submitted by: Service Commission

Chair: Chris Heiderscheidt

Author: Joyce Piersanti, Service Commission Focus Group Member

RESOLUTION: IMMIGRATION and CATHOLIC CHURCH SOCIAL TEACHINGS

Purpose: To provide information and resources to the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) membership in support of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) pastoral statements/guidelines on Immigration and promote awareness of the three basic principles of Catholic Social Teaching on Immigration, reinforcing our moral obligation to treat the stranger as we would treat Christ Himself. To encourage our membership to take action to alleviate the suffering of immigrants, refugees, and individuals searching for shelter in a land of religious freedom and safety, we shall contemplate the word of God, “I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.” Matthew 25:40.

Whereas, People have the desire to migrate to sustain their lives and the lives of their families, and each person should be shown dignity, provided with education, and religious freedom;

Whereas, A country must regulate its borders and control immigration, we as Catholic women recognize immigrants, refugees, unaccompanied children, and other vulnerable populations; and

Whereas, We as Catholic women value the importance of humane enforcement of U.S. immigration laws and the treatment of all immigrants and refugees with justice and mercy;

Resolved, That the NCCW make available through its website, a link to USCCB Catholic Social Teachings that could be used at the affiliate level to promote understanding of cultural diversity;

Resolved, That NCCW encourage affiliates to invite foreign born individuals within their community to share their stories of relocating to the United States and the cultures they left behind; and

Resolved, That the NCCW website will post a link to the Divine Mercy Chaplet to be prayed at the Hour of Mercy (3:00 p.m.) daily or whenever possible for all God's suffering immigrants and refugees searching for shelter in a land of freedom, safety, and for a just solution by countries throughout the world.

Submitted by: Service Commission

Chair: Chris Heiderscheidt

Authors: Olga Dickieson and Mary Bisett, Service Commission Focus Group Members

RESOLUTION: ENSURING OUR FUTURE

Purpose: To establish a program to welcome high school and college age women into the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW).

Whereas, The NCCW is an organization for all Catholic women; and

Whereas, This program will provide benefit to the young women as they participate in Council programs that enhance their spirituality, leadership, and service and will benefit the NCCW by gaining members who may become full members of the NCCW when they exit these programs;

Resolved: A complete plan will be developed by the NCCW for use by those wishing to start or incorporate a high school or college age group into the NCCW structure.

Submitted by Leadership Commission, Chair: Lindamarie Richardson Kelly

Author: Maribeth Stewart, NCCW President-Elect