

MDCCW LEADERSHIP REPORT Spring 2016

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We have several wonderful resources to help us and our organizations. Some of these are the NCCW website, The Catholic Woman Magazine, and NCCW's Connect newsletter. A few leadership ideas we can do are:

*Share your copy of the Catholic Woman magazine and the Connect newsletter or copy articles and share with others. When talking to others mention where you got your information.

* Encourage attending convention as that is a time to hear wonderful speakers, grow spiritually and connect with many wonderful Catholic women. It is like a retreat, workshop and reunion all in one. If need be have fundraisers to help defray the cost of convention. Once you go you'll want to come back.

*Get the next generation involved: have programs for them or work on *their* projects.

Be the Voice of Catholic Women every minute!

God has given us a great gift of our National Council of Catholic Women organization. Through its many programs that promote life, protect human dignity of those with no voice; the unborn, very young, very old, the suffering and immigrants. As the Catholic Woman magazine says, "*Every Life is Worth Living*" but sometimes we get so busy in our lives we forget about others. By becoming **Individual Members of NCCW** or having our organizations become **Affiliate Members** we enable NCCW to provide these programs and "we are able to put our faith into action, spread the Good News of Jesus, have a stronger Catholic voice that instills HOPE."

MDCCW offers these same benefits on a more local scale. We share this information to help your councils be more active and so that we can share in your faith journey.

CCW is made up of Catholic women with beautiful and amazing gifts. When we come together we can accomplish great things.

A MILLION WORKS OF MERCY! "Women of Prayer and Action, Celebrating the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, Living the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy Every Day". This is our latest NCCW program and reflects beautifully the Pope's Year of Mercy. We want this program to unite members in a common goal as well as share our dedication to helping others. The program runs from April 3 - November 20. Information is on website.

It's that time of year again when our organizations are looking for ladies who will serve as officers and committee chairs. Why do we always feel: "I'm not worthy, I could never do that, I don't have any talent for getting up in front of a group, I don't have time, I served my time....."?

You know what, you are not alone. Moses was called and he said he wasn't a good speaker, Sarah said she was too old, Mary probably felt she was not worthy or able to handle raising such a special child, Jeremiah said he was too young. Do you think Peter felt worthy when he couldn't even stay awake while Jesus prayed - or after denying that he knew Jesus? Paul had been persecuting Christians so why would God call him?

God knows we are not perfect and he sees potential in us we don't see.

Jesus is calling each one of us to go on a life changing journey that is spiritually fulfilling and directed by God. Listen to his call.

John 15:16 "It was not you who chose me, says the Lord, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit...."

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PRAY, PRAY, PRAY to the Blessed Mother that we may be wise, courageous, loving leaders of the church.

When you are called, LISTEN, and have the courage to say "YES." You are not alone, the Holy Spirit is here to guide you.

I close with some of my favorite quotes:

Pray for wisdom: in what to say and in what to do.

We are never too old to serve God.

It's one thing to receive gifts of the Holy Spirit, it's another thing to use them

The next time you hear God calling have the courage to say, "Here I am, Lord. Send me!"