

President's Report

December 2015

Convention Thoughts: Sowers of Faith

The Madison Diocese once again was well represented at the National Council of Catholic Women Convention (NCCW) in September by the following members: Ellen Martin, Carolyn Zentner, Mary Stasek, all from the Columbia North Vicariate; Bernadette Schaefer, Grant Vicariate; Coreen Marklein, Sauk Vicariate; and me from West Dane Vicariate.

The theme of this convention was "Be the Voice of Catholic Women: Sowers of Hope." The NCCW Spiritual Advisor reminded us that "none of us follow the Lord by ourselves, we need each other to grow ourselves, and help one another." We are the "tender face of God, we welcome rather than exclude. The church needs each and every one of us."

We are the "Voice of Catholic Women." It is our responsibility to speak for the homeless, the poor, and the downtrodden; for we are the hands and feet of Jesus. It is important for us to leave our comfort zone to make our world a better place. You should never underestimate the work that you do. Every time you welcome a newcomer to your parish, support a local charity, serve on a committee you are sharing your God given talents .

Thank you for realizing the importance of sending a representative to the NCCW convention. Please call on the convention attendees if you would like further information on what we learned from this experience. I encourage you to go to the nccw.org website for more in-depth and excellent reading information on topics discussed at the convention. If you need a program for an affiliate meeting, consider reporting on a topic from the NCCW Website. We came back with a wealth of knowledge from learning how to streamline our meetings to an update on CROSS International and Catholic Relief Services (CRS). Did you realize that 97 percent of what is donated to CRS goes directly to the people they are helping? These are the two international charities that NCCW encourages us to donate to.

It is my hope that you will make plans to attend the 2016 NCCW Convention in Indiana.

The following beautifully written statement can be found in the program *We Are Called to Witness* (available free at nccw.org). Our work in the NCCW is an opportunity for women throughout the country to come together in a spirituality of communion — one mind, one heart — to evangelize the truth of the message of the Gospel through the fulfilling of our mission.

Do you really believe our mission statement? Working together, side by side will enable us to help each other to support, empower, and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership, and service. You are a member of a Catholic organization that will enable you to respond with Gospel values to the needs of the church and society in the modern world?

Be proud that you belong to NCCW through your local organization of Council of Catholic Women. Evangelize — Spread the word. The Lord has given us work to do!

Wishing you all a wonderful Advent Season.

Rosa Ropers

President