

Province Director's Report

December 2015

Challenge to Increase Membership

Greetings and the Blessings of God to all of you. Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us.

It is with anticipation, joy, and humility that I begin my term as your Province Director. Thank you for putting your confidence in me. With God's help I will do my best to represent our Wisconsin dioceses well.

As Province Director, I am on the Board of Directors of the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW). During my term, I will be traveling to Washington, D.C., twice each year for board meetings. We also have board meetings at the annual convention. As my predecessor Jean Kelly has done during the past two years, I will bring our message back to you. I will be working to support our NCCW mission: to support, educate, and empower all Catholic women in Spirituality, Leadership, and Service.

My goals for the next two years are to promote the resolutions adopted at the NCCW annual convention, the NCCW website, and NCCW programs and work to promote membership. Resolutions deal with consecrated life, the persecution of Christians in the Middle East, influence of the media on marriage and family.

The NCCW Website www.nccw.org features our excellent programs, including Media: What is the Message? and We Are Called to Witness, Women Healing the Wounds.

We all know that our basic rights of freedom of religion are being challenged. We need a voice to speak for us, and NCCW is that voice. This organization is part of who we are. Through affiliation with the U.S. Council of Catholic Bishops, NCCW works to protect the God-given rights of all Catholic women. Our memberships in NCCW are vital to keeping our organization able to be that voice.

I am asking those parishes that are not currently affiliate members of NCCW to fill out an application and send it in. I am also asking for all women who are able to do so, to apply for Individual Membership. Individual Membership is only \$60.00 annually; that is just \$5.00 per month. To make things exciting, we have a Membership Challenge contest. Each member who signs up a new member will have the chance to win a full registration including banquet and hotel for the 2016 convention, plus up to \$400 travel expense. There is a "One Member-One Chance" form that must be used for the contest and be submitted by May 15, 2016. If you are not able to join now, please pray for NCCW.

I am issuing a challenge to each diocese to increase Affiliate Memberships by 25 percent and Individual Membership by 25 percent by the time of the 2016 National Convention. My hope is that all of us can reach that goal and even exceed it. We are "The Voice of Catholic Women: Sowers of Hope"

Lucille Brandner

Director, Province of Milwaukee