



Greetings to everyone!

It was with great pleasure that I was able to attend the rallies for the March for Life this year in Washington DC and represent the National Council of Catholic Women along with other National Board Members. It was amazing to see the crowd of over 500,000 which was comprised of so many young people from all over the United States and Canada.

The Mass for Life the night before the March was attended by over 8,000 men, women, children and students and was held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The procession of seminarians, priests, deacons, archbishops and cardinals was over 45 minutes. I felt honored to be there. It is something I will never forget and hope that someday you, your children or grandchildren can be there too.

Our board meetings were held the 2 days prior to the March and much was accomplished as we heard from all the committees and commissions. We were also given a tour of the USCCB. So many programs were presented this past year and are being used in the various arch/dioceses. The New Evangelization, Mary's Mantle, Spiritual Adoption of the Unborn, just a few we hope you are using. The *Women Healing the Wounds Domestic* program on domestic violence should be on the website soon. This is what sets our organization apart from so many others. We encourage the use of so many programs and many have been produced by our members. Most of them can be downloaded from our website.

One of the items we are asking everyone's help with right now is our database. With the \$20,000 matching grant and the donations we received we were able to purchase a new database and website. The data that we have right now has been compromised. You may not have received a renewal notice but we need your memberships! Check your Catholic Women magazine for your renewal date and if you have not renewed in time, do so now. Send in your correct information including email address to the office so you also receive the monthly e-newsletter Connect. Thank you for your help!

The Convention this year is at the Hilton Buena Vista in Orlando Florida (Disneyworld) and the good news is the committee is busy negotiating for you. Already we have been informed that the registration will be reduced to \$320.00!! More information will be coming out soon in Catholic Women magazine and Connect. I hope we can have a wonderful group from Wisconsin again and can enjoy a Province dinner together. Plan now, have a fundraiser to help with expenses. Whatever you can do to get there it is going to be a celebration of 95 years and will be fun!

Thank you for all the good work you do for the National Council of Catholic Women. If you have any questions you can always contact me.
Blessings,

Jean Kelly, Province Director
(jeanakelly@hotmail.com)