

Message from Our Province Director

Lucille Brandner

April 2017

Updates from NCCW

I hope you had a blessed Lenten season and look forward to new life with the risen Lord on Easter Sunday.

In a few weeks we will celebrate not only our own mothers but also our mother Mary, the mother of Jesus. For Mother's Day, the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) gives us a special way to honor our mother, daughter, daughter-in-law, sister, aunt, niece, godmother, or any woman who has played an important role in our lives. By making a contribution in their honor to NCCW, they will be remembered in Masses celebrated on Mother's Day weekend at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. The donation request form can be found on page 9 or can be downloaded from the NCCW website at http://nccw.org/Public/Public/Mothers_Day_2017.aspx

Membership Contest

WIN BIG!! [Sign up](#) as a new Individual or Supporting Member (membership form can be found on page 8), or [rejoin](#) (if your membership is expired a year or more), and you will receive an entry to win a registration for the 2017 NCCW Annual Convention in Dallas, TX, a free hotel room at the Hilton Anatole for Sept. 6–10, and one Closing Banquet ticket! Contest began April 1 and ends June 1. Winner will be drawn on June 2 at the NCCW Board meeting in Washington, DC.

Membership in the National Council of Catholic Women, means you are part of a national organization that speaks for your Catholic values and supports, empowers, and educates all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership, and service. I thank all of you who are currently Individual members of NCCW and encourage any who are not to go to <http://www.nccw.org> and take this opportunity to join and possibly win a trip to the annual convention in Dallas.

New Programs

Just a few of many new programs being provided to us by NCCW are:

Vocation Purse Club. The purpose is to raise funds in support of Catholic women wanting to pursue a religious vocation. These women are eager to answer their call to holiness and to begin their journey with a specific religious community. Host a fundraiser or take up a collection in your group.

Respite. NCCW chose the acronym RESPITE to designate "renewal: spiritual/temporal" which the program provides to families who receive the services of a RESPITE volunteer. Respite means temporary intermission of labor, and interval or rest. Volunteers serve as companions to the elderly; come to the home on a regular basis; are sympathetic listeners (no medication administration nor household chores).

Women Healing the Wounds. Raise awareness of the signs of domestic abuse. Educate yourselves and invite speakers from local resource agencies to your meeting. Donate to shelters such items as personal hygiene kits, towels and bedding, diapers, and first aid supplies.

Honoring Mary

Also special this year, in May we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima. The message of Fatima highlights many central truths and devotions of the Catholic faith: the Trinity, the Eucharist, Penance, the Rosary, and sacrifices for the conversion of sinners. There is special emphasis on the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which is a refuge of maternal love for us all and a sure path that leads us to God. In the end, Mary's Immaculate Heart will triumph because Mary is full of God's grace and is all pure. She has the heart of a mother who cares for her children and wishes them to be saved by her divine Son, Jesus.

God's blessings to all as we celebrate these special events.

Lucille Brandner

Director, Province of Milwaukee

*The Province of Milwaukee encompasses all of Wisconsin.