

# Service Commission Report

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November 2019

## Coreen Marklein

Service Commission Chair

I have been invigorated in service, spirituality, and leadership since attending the NCCW convention. I have reviewed many service projects throughout the past year and have decided upon two specific projects for the Madison Diocese. In order to accomplish these goals, I need each of you and your parishes and vicariates to adopt these projects for 2020.

Cross Catholic Outreach has partnered with NCCW. One of their projects is Boxes of Joy, which provides a Christmas gift to children in third world countries, including Latin American countries. My goal is to have every parish/vicariate participate in this Service Project for the **2020** Christmas Season. That is a lofty goal, but I am hoping as many parishes as can be will participate.

- Step 1.** Select a project coordinator from your parish by October 15, 2020. The project coordinator will be the contact between your parish and Cross Catholic Outreach. Contact [Cross Catholic](http://CrossCatholic.org) (crosscatholic.org) and click on Boxes of Joy. You will be able to register your group and request the boxes you believe your group can fill.
- Step 2.** Organize. The project coordinator will receive a kit which includes materials for a successful faith-in-action activity. Kickoff is in October to engage and motivate your Box of Joy group. The boxes are preprinted with information. Individuals select age and sex for whom they will fill a box.
- Step 3.** Shop and Pack! Cross Catholic provides a list of items from which to choose your gifts. Groups shop for children's gifts and pack Boxes of Joy. A \$9 donation (check) is attached to the box to cover the cost of shipping and to support priests and nuns ministering to the children.
- Step 4.** Fill boxes of joy, November 2 to 10. All boxes are packed during this time if not already filled by the participants. Boxes are brought to the group's meeting place.
- Step 5.** Project Coordinator delivers Boxes of Joy to the area's drop-off center between November 2 and 10.
- Step 6.** Blessings are on their way to the children in greatest need around the world.

The next project is Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. Recycling is nothing new for many of us. If we each pick an item or a few items that we will work during the rest of 2019 and 2020 to reduce, reuse, or recycle, the environment will be impacted. The City of Baraboo came out recently with guidelines for recycling. They indicated that when the residents put plastic bags in the garbage (like from Wal-Mart or the grocery store) that Baraboo's recycling firm will not accept the entire load of garbage. They suggested we turn in our plastic bags directly to stores that accept these bags for vendors that recycle these bags. The NCCW Service Commission shared with us 10 ways we can Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

1. Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.
2. Volunteer for cleanup.
3. Educate on importance of natural resources
4. Conserve water. Brush your teeth without water. Save rainwater and use to water plants
5. Choose sustainable foods.
6. Shop wisely – use reusable shopping bags.
7. Use long-lasting light bulbs.

8. Plant a tree.
9. Don't send chemicals into the waterways.
10. Bike and walk more; drive less.

Take photos of your Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle efforts. Take photos before and after picking up trash, recycling, etc. Send the photos to NCCW to post on its website and Facebook page. Share your success stories.