

Greetings!

Hope this newsletter finds our councils and our many members excited and energized about starting a new year! Remember, for those who may not have email, we suggest that a “hard copy” of this e-newsletter be made available at affiliate parish CCW meetings. E-newsletters are also posted on our website: [www.ptdccw.org](http://www.ptdccw.org).

---Your 2020-2022 PTDCCW Board of Directors



**From PTDCCW President Joan Walker**



Dear Sisters in Christ:

The 2020ne Convention of the National Council of Catholic Women was truly a great event! As always, the speakers made us laugh, cry, and reflect on God’s goodness in our lives. The presence of the Holy Spirit could be felt in all the liturgies; presentations by the commissions were interesting, enlightening, and filled with new ideas for our local councils; the joy and enthusiasm of all the women finally being together was contagious, as you can imagine, after so many months of isolation and zoom meetings; and we all left renewed in our mission to support, empower, and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership, and service.

Every convention has a take-away, something that stands out, that you remember and think about often, something that you can apply to your Council work or daily life. At the first convention I attended in Orlando one of the speakers made a comment about the preference of today’s working women: *They probably won’t attend your meetings, but they will attend your events.* That was my big take-away. Meetings are necessary for any organization, but don’t belabor them and don’t drag people into them who are not interested in the organization part (yet). Invite them to a day of growth and camaraderie; feed them with what they need and let God fill the emptiness in their hearts. Hopefully they will want to be more involved, if not right now, maybe when their children are grown and they have more time to give.

So what was my take-away from this convention? It was again about membership - do we want members? Yes, we want women to feel they belong. But do they want to just be a member of a group? Maybe we want volunteers? Yes, we want to provide an avenue for those have who something to give to a parish or the community. But do they always want to be asked to give and give and give? The answer from this speaker was -- we want disciples. Who would say no to being a follower of Jesus? Who does not want to learn from Him and help to carry out His mission? Members change their membership and loyalties; volunteers work for a while and burnout. But disciples grow in love for Christ and in love for the people of Christ, especially those who are struggling. His grace increases in them to continue the mission, to persevere, even to feel the weight of a cross. Disciples walk and work with Jesus and He cares for them as they care for others.

Can members and volunteers also become disciples? Is it a matter of semantics, or is it the infusion of grace? I know what I would prefer to be called. Let’s go out to all the world and invite more women to become disciples of Christ!

## Spirituality

Contributed by Carla Vivrette, Spirituality Commission Chair

September is upon us already. Schools are back in session, fall cannot be far behind, and we have just returned from a wonderful convention in Arlington, Virginia. What a blessed time we had at the 100 plus one National Council of Catholic Women Convention. It was a time of celebration, reflection, prayer, and contemplation about what we as women can do to better our world. We were all thinking the same thing,

“I am just one woman, how can I do anything to better the world?” By making a difference in you, and your life. Even when things are hard, and there are horrible things going on in our world, we can still be the light of Christ for others, just by being who we are. Even when we are faced with sickness and death, sadness and adversity, we can still be the one kind act of Jesus that others will feel. Even when we feel we can do no more, we can get down on our knees and pray for all those in need and shine our light in the darkness. And as one of the speakers at the convention reminded us, “We know how this ends, it ends in Glory!” So, shine your light, lift your voice, and make a difference in you and the world around you.



THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE  
I'M GONNA LET IT SHINE  
THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE  
I'M GONNA LET IT SHINE  
THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE  
I'M GONNA LET IT SHINE  
LET IT SHINE. LET IT SHINE  
LET IT SHINE.

## Pope Francis' Intentions for September, October & November

### September—An Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle

We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.



### October—Missionary Disciples

We pray that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavor of the Gospel.

### November—People Who Suffer from Depression

We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.



## **Service: Earthquake & Hurricanes-Help Needed**

Contributed by Ruthie Kress, Service Commission Chair

Hurricane Ida left devastation from Louisiana all the way to the east coast. If you are interested in helping these victims, many who are homeless or hospitalized, you can give a donation by visiting Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida at [www.ccnwfl.org](http://www.ccnwfl.org). You can also visit [www.ptdiocese.org](http://www.ptdiocese.org) to donate. Help is needed in many areas. If possible, you could make a trip to Louisiana to help with distribution of food and water. During Hurricane Michael, we were blessed with all who came from other states to help. We unfortunately know firsthand what these families are going through.

Haiti was hit by a 7.2 massive earthquake followed by Hurricane Grace. More than 2,000 people lost their lives during the earthquake and more during the hurricane. These victims are without food, water, power and are helpless. You can go to [www.ptdiocese.org](http://www.ptdiocese.org) to donate to Haiti.

Many people have come to aid the victims of both Hurricane Ida and Grace. Our prayers and support are needed...

IN THEIR DISTRESS THEY CRIED TO THE LORD,  
WHO BROUGHT THEM OUT OF THE PERIL:  
HE HUSHED THE STORM TO SILENCE,  
THE WAVES OF THE SEA WERE STILLED.

PSALM: 107:28-29

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## **Hugs for the Homeless-Follow Through**

The West Central Deanery presented its Hugs for the Homeless proceeds to Opportunity Place, Inc. in Ft. Walton Beach on June 29. Fiona Deveney, OPI's new executive director, was thrilled and surprised to receive the funds and to learn about the Hugs campaign and CCW. Pictured below (l. to r.): Betty Otto, Service Commission Chair; Deveney; and Patti Wolfrom, President.



Here is a picture of the presentation of the check for \$2,116 to Mr. Doug Hemanes of Calhoun-Liberty Ministry Center, Blountstown. Members of East Central Deanery & SFA/HC CC, Audrey Cannon and Marie Alday, enjoyed a tour of the store, food distribution center, office, prayer area and social services buildings. Mr. Hemanes shared the future plans for short-term lodging for fire victims' families and other homeless situations.



# **Leadership: Planning Effective Commission Programs**

From the NCCW Guidance & Resource Manual (Jan 2011 Ed.-Note a revised edition is available at [nccw.org](http://nccw.org).)

Programs are vehicles for implementing goals and purposes of organizations. They are the showcase by which people often judge whether an organization is worth their time and commitment. Commission chairs are the primary program planners of NCCW councils and affiliated organizations, and the success of their program planning can be equated with the success of the organization.

## **Busy women today expect worthwhile, well presented programs that:**

- Reflect the interests of members;
- Are presented in an engaging format;
- Implement the goals, purposes and resolutions of the organization;
- Motivate people to participate
- Are scheduled at a time and in a manner that will attract maximum participation.

## **To plan successful programs, commission chairs need to:**

- Understand the purpose, aims and scope of their commission;
- Be familiar with the direction provided by NCCW for providing programs related to their commission;
- Become familiar with the interests of the members;
- Know the resources of the community and church for assisting in implementing programs;
- Advocate for financial support for commission work in the council budget.

TWO ADDITIONAL TIDBITS: 1) The Commissions should not be “one person” commissions.  
2) Commissions can be broken down into sub-committees.

# **Legislative Advocacy**

Contributed by Sue Steverson, Legislative Commission Chair

As the new “CCW year” begins in your parishes and you are putting together your calendar of activities for the year, don’t forget to include Catholic Days at the Capital which will be February 1-2, 2022.

There is an excellent resource available to all of us through the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops. It is called FLCAN (Florida Catholic Advocacy Network). Several of you may already have signed up for this network, but if you have not, please consider doing so. As stated on their website, this resource was established by the bishops of Florida to connect, educate, and mobilize Catholics on public policy issues pertaining to life, dignity, and the common good. This is especially useful and important during Florida’s Legislative Session. To sign up for FLCAN, go to [www.flaccb.org](http://www.flaccb.org), click on the box for FLCAN, and follow the simple directions. Those who sign up will receive the following information via email:



- Action alerts on key bills at state and federal levels that allow for quick and easy messaging to elected officials
- Reports, summaries, educational materials identifying legislative proposals affecting issues important to our faith
- Calls to prayer for the people of our state and nation and our elected leaders

Pope Francis reminds us, “Each son and daughter of a given country has a mission, a personal and social responsibility.” As Catholics, we are called to participate in public life and to apply Gospel values to our political activities as a joyful public witness to the Church’s social teachings.



## **NCCW Convention Celebrates 100+ Years with a Vision for the Future**

Contributed by Sheila S. Hopkins, Immediate Past Province Director

The National Council of Catholic Women was finally able to celebrate 100 and 101 years of spirituality, leadership and service at their 2020ne Convention in VA August 25-28. Close to 500 participants gathered for liturgies, training, and other events such as the Purse Auction and Silent Auction. A Disney character quilt, made by our deceased member Lois Dougherty, raised \$200 in the Silent Auction.

One of the most dynamic speakers, in addition to Bishop Bill, was Gloria Purvis, a commentator on various media outlets including EWTN, PBS, NY Times and other outlets and is host of The Gloria Purvis Podcast from America Media. Her topic was “Women Persevere in Faith” and she related her life challenges and how God had been by her side as she dealt with the barriers she faced.

We are blessed that our own Bishop Bill is the USCCB Episcopal Liaison to NCCW and he spent considerable time with us celebrating liturgies and speaking. The Miami Province (Florida) dinner had the largest number with 71 present and I was surprised with a beautiful almost 3 ft. Madonna as a gift for my two years as PD.

Every year, NCCW awards an Our Lady of Good Counsel recognition based on a member’s service to the Church, society and NCCW. This year there were two awards, both from the Diocese of Orlando: Winkie LeFils, past NCCW President and officer on the World Union of Catholic Women’s Organizations Board and Kathy Bonner, training expert on domestic violence.

Pictured are Bishop William A. Wack, Fr. Rick Dawson and members of our PTDCCW at the recent national convention.



**Mark your calendar! 102<sup>nd</sup> Convention in Minneapolis, MN Nov. 2-5, 2022**

## Winner! Winner! Chicken Dinner?

I was the lucky winner of the *DCCW "Lunch with the Bishop" Drawing*. How blessed I was to have lunch with him along with several members of the Nativity of Our Lord Council of Catholic Women. As current president of Nativity CCW, I decided that we would draw names from our membership for the opportunity to join me for lunch with the Bishop.

We enjoyed a delicious meal on Wednesday, August 11 at O'Brien's Bistro in Pensacola. It was great to have the opportunity to sit down with Bishop Bill in an informal, relaxed situation. We all enjoyed hearing his stories and the information he shared with us about happenings in our diocese.

Thank you to the DCCW for the wonderful opportunity!

Sincerely,

Mary Bailey, President

Nativity of Our Lord CCW

Attending were:

Left side: Evelyn Black, Ruth Drexler, Bishop Bill, Mary Bailey (me)

Right side: Sharon Harmon, Carol McDonald, Sarah Katis





# Welcome

*On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, ladies of Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church in Crestview celebrated the official establishment of their Council with approval of their by-laws. Officer elections were held and their first meeting was September 7. Congratulations to President Mary Ann Shrader, officers and OLV members! Well done and HOORAY!*



# Faith

A reflection submitted by Maureen Young (at the suggestion of her daughters), Saint Rose of Lima Parish

Faith is like sugar. It is sweet, soft, and addictive. Once added, it cannot be seen and yet it enhances every purpose. In a recipe, sugar adds flavor, bulk, and structure, just as faith enhances our lives. Faith gives purpose to our days, strength for the journey and a cornucopia of sweet blessings over the years. Just as sugar retains moisture, faith retains the living water that refreshes our soul,

Faith is all about how you hold hands with God. When you are an infant, you first grasp your mother's finger. Instinctively, you know that touch represents love and security. You realize that grasping her finger will solicit a smile, a soft word and soothing comfort.

As a child, you will hold your mother's hand, a touchstone of reassurance, having learned you can depend on her strength and knowledge. As a child, your mother will sometimes take you by the wrist, to remove you from danger or to reprimand you for disobeying. Again, you learn; no means no and now means now.

As a young person, you discover the strength of your own hand, and how to gently stroke a kitten. You marvel at how your hands can play an instrument, plait a braid, field a ball and wield a rod with a flick of your wrist. You can swing from a rope, climb a ladder and knead dough. You discover the thrill of holding hands with someone, a new and exciting feeling, unlike all the rest.

At your marriage, you will slip a ring onto a finger, wear one on your own finger, and promise to love each other forever. Forever is a very long time. Holding hands, you will face adversity, challenge and change. You will clap for joy, accomplishment and success. In your old age, you will cleave to each other just as the priest promised, in sickness and in health, in good times and bad, forever. You will hold hands again and help each other continue the journey.

But all of that takes only one hand. Where have you placed the other hand? If you close your eyes and imagine God is holding your other hand, you will always be at peace. God touches us gently with His love. He pulls us away from danger. He scolds us with a gentle wag of His finger. He enables us to seek, to learn, to have great courage and to conquer adversity. We can do all things through Christ, who strengthens us.

Not too long ago, someone asked how I make it through the day, caring for a handicapped loved one. I told them it was simple. Find something that gives you five minutes of true joy. Enjoy every minute of it. Then do something that you absolutely must get done. When times are hard, take a quick shower and change into a favorite shirt. Then hold your loved one's hand and tell them a story of a very happy time that you shared. Then complete your next task. When times are good, linger another minute or two to enjoy the sunrise, the birds singing, children laughing, the smell of freshly mowed grass. Make a little treat that you both can enjoy. Then complete the next task on your list. When times are really tough, sit on the back porch and hug your dog's neck; cry as long and as loud as you want to. Then complete the next task on your list. Do not take a good day or good times for granted, ever. Store up the golden memories to brighten the darkest days. Do not take a good friend for granted, or a loved one, for life is short and the end always seems so sudden when you have truly loved. If there is something that you can give or buy or make or do for someone who wants or needs it, do it now. Don't wait; life is short. Each morning, think of someone you know who is worried, sick, upset or overwhelmed. Let them know you are thinking about them. A card, a call, a slice of homemade cake – all say that you remembered them, you thought about them. How they receive that gift, and what they do with it, is their part of the bargain, a link in a different chain.

With faith, you will find God in the small, quiet moments. You will reach out for His hand. He will touch you in the quiet and lead you into the light. Amen.





# **Burse Club**

Please do what you can to support the Burse Club  
in your councils and in your parishes.

[Click here to view a thank you video from Rev. Timothy Holeda](#)

**Pray for our seminarians!**

**Join the Burse Club.**

**Purchase a Burse Mass card(s).**

POCs For ED & ECD: Sue Weathersbee [sueweathersbee@comcast.net](mailto:sueweathersbee@comcast.net)

For WD & WCD: Jan Shiplett [arloo607@bellsouth.net](mailto:arloo607@bellsouth.net)

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**Members of Western Deanery congratulate Father Rick Dawson on his 40 wonderful years as a priest. God Bless you Father and thank you for answering God's call.**

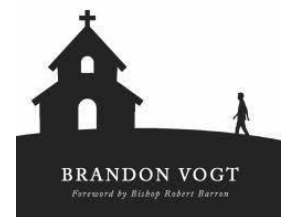


*Congratulations!*

## A Book Review

Contributed by Teresa Blumenstock, Member St. Mary CCW Spiritual Book Club

The Book: *Return-How to Draw Your Child Back to the Church* by Brandon Vogt



Do you remember when you were a parent of a young child? They were so sweet, so well behaved at Mass. They transformed into angels when going through the sacraments. So adorable wearing your Holy Communion veil or your son wearing his Dad's first Holy Communion pin. Who could forget the pageantry of Confirmation? Family, tradition passing down through the generations. Do you wonder if your communion mementos will be worn by a future grandchild? Faithfully, you sent your children to Catholic school or Catholic education programs provided by your parish. Going to Mass was standard on Sunday. Who could forget stopping by the bakery on the way home for cream-filled doughnuts? Maybe your family prayed Novenas, Holy Hour Devotion or the Rosary. Time rolls by and now your child is grown and has just informed you that they do not believe anymore. Mass was a habit they say and do not want to continue. Your heart breaks and the raw openness is filled with guilt and self-incrimination. You demand to know why and how this has happened. The how and why will reveal itself in due time, but what you need to focus on is how to get your child back on the proverbial track. Crying, assuming blame, screaming and giving up are not viable options. The "Return" by Brandon Vogt is a start in your healing and understanding. This book is a journey laid out step by step of reconciliation for you and your child. Brandon Vogt understands a parent's pain when a child withdraws from the faith. His book starts off with a section titled "Understanding the Problem" to "Game Planning" and finally the last section is "The Big Objections." The thoughtfully written sections help in understanding what is happening within the secular world. It will discuss some of the distractions and untruths that may have been experienced by your child. The book is filled with references to other books to enrich your faith and to give you a deeper understanding of how our faith is perceived. As you turn each page you will be reminded why you believe. It will help you to remember your faith journey and suggests you write it down. You will learn how to have a calm discussion with your child (who perhaps is now an adult) or grandchild without drama and hysterics. The purpose is not to find fault or to assign blame to anyone. The purpose of this book is to provide faith driven guidance to open a dialogue of love and understanding not just for a child that has wandered away but anyone who has become lost.

"The Lord says ...Stop your crying and wipe away your tears. All that you have done for your children will not go unrewarded.... There is hope for your future; your children will come back home. I, the Lord, has spoken."

---Jeremiah 31:16-17 GNT

The Club's "connectivity" (an activity associated with the theme of the book) was to watch the film, *God's Not Dead*.

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**Looking for something wholesome to watch on Netflix?**  
**If you are a fan of Dancing with the Stars, you may want to check out**  
**the film: *Faith, Hope & Love*.**  
**The film has some drama, humor and dancing.**



## **HELP STILL WANTED!**

We are looking for someone to serve as our PTDCCW webmaster. If you have the time and talent, contact our current webmaster, Linda Husbands, to find out more information. [lindah403@gmail.com](mailto:lindah403@gmail.com)

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**PTDCCW Official Insignia Embroidery Pattern** is available for download on our website: [www.ptdccw.org](http://www.ptdccw.org).

Wearing our official insignia on our shirts unifies our members as part of our larger diocesan-wide organization, can start conversations about your parish affiliation that can lead to potential new members, AND it just looks good and professional!

Simply download the digitized files onto a thumb drive and take it to a local embroidery shop.

**Feel free to have the name of your council or your first name embroidered on the opposite pocket side of your shirt.**

**Terms of Use:** The DCCW Insignia and font style may not be altered in any way since it is the official insignia of the Pensacola-Tallahassee Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. The only exception to alteration is the font color of the organization name located above and below the insignia. (See model.)



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What's going on with your affiliation or deanery?  
Submit photos with captions and articles describing council activities to  
the Pencil Points E-Newsletter.

**Next deadline for submission is December 1!**

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**From the Editor...** If your deanery or affiliation has something you'd like shared, email me at [budandmaryjjj@cox.net](mailto:budandmaryjjj@cox.net). I hope that you enjoyed reading this e-newsletter! Remember we have a website: [www.ptdccw.org](http://www.ptdccw.org). You can also submit photos and other information to our Webmaster, Linda Husbands at [lindah403@gmail.com](mailto:lindah403@gmail.com).

#### **SUBMISSION DEADLINE SCHEDULE**

December 1 is the deadline for the December 10 issue

March 1 is the deadline for the March 10, 2022 issue

June 1 is the deadline for the June 10, 2022 issue

September 1 is the deadline for the September 10, 2022 issue

**As new members join parish CCW affiliations, there is a change of email address or a deletion** it is important that the individual's name, affiliation and email address be sent to [budandmaryjjj@cox.net](mailto:budandmaryjjj@cox.net). This will help assure that new members receive the Pencil Points E-Newsletter!

Mary Sauvageau, Editor

## **Prayer to St. Michael**

St. Michael the Archangel,  
defend us in battle.  
Be our defense against the wickedness and  
snares of the Devil.  
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,  
and do thou,  
O Prince of the heavenly hosts,  
by the power of God,  
thrust into hell Satan,  
and all the evil spirits,  
who prowl about the world  
seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



## **Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us.**

