

## NCCW

NCCW is an organization uniting over 4000 Catholic women's organizations representing millions of Catholic Women.

- Be an informed Catholic Woman by joining the National Council of Catholic Women as an individual member.
- Become an individual supporting member of NCCW.
- Individual NCCW members receive the bimonthly *Catholic Woman* magazine as well as the monthly e-newsletter and announcements about new programs and resources.
- Fee – \$30.00 per year for individual membership
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## JDCCW Mission Statement

The Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women acts through its affiliated organizations to support, empower and educate Catholic Women in spirituality, leadership and service. JDCCW programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world.



### *Prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel*

*God of heavenly wisdom, you have given us Mary, Mother of Jesus, to be our guide and counselor. Grant that we may always seek her motherly help in this life and so enjoy her blessed presence in the life to come.*

*O Mother of Good Counsel, patroness of the National Council of Catholic Women, intercede for us, that we may be wise, courageous, and loving leaders of the Church. Help us, dear mother, to know the mind of Jesus, your son. May the Holy Spirit fill us with reverence for God's creation, and compassion for all God's children. May our labors of love on earth enhance the reign of God and may God's gifts of faith and living hope prepare us for the fullness of the world to come.*

*Amen*

## Joliet Diocesan



Our Lady of Good Counsel

## Council of Catholic Women

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## JDCCW – Who We Are

The Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (JDCCW) is an organization representing thousands of women throughout the Diocese of Joliet. It was founded in 1949 at the request of the Bishop. Still today, JDCCW receives the support and encouragement from the Bishop of Joliet.

JDCCW is an affiliate of the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) uniting women nationwide. The entire state of Illinois comprises the Province of Chicago. Within the province there are six dioceses: the Archdiocese of Chicago, Belleville, Peoria, Rockford, Springfield and Joliet.

The Joliet Diocese is comprised of seven counties divided into six deaneries: East Will, Eastern DuPage, Ford/Iroquois, Kankakee/Grundy, West Will and Western DuPage/Kendall. Each deanery has a CCW Board consisting of elected officers and appointed commission chairs, whose duties are to serve and assist the parish organizations.

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all women of the diocese. All parish women's organizations are invited to affiliate with JDCCW.

### PURPOSE

- To unite Catholic Women's organizations throughout the diocese
- To provide a medium for Catholic women to speak and act with one voice upon matters of common interest in Church and society
- To support social justice issues and the protection of human life at all stages
- To promote Catholic spirituality and prayer
- To train Catholic women to become leaders in Church and society

### BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Enhancement of faith life and spiritual enrichment
- Leadership roles in the church
- Opportunities to recognize and use one's gifts and talents
- Education opportunities through the Diocesan Biennial Convention, Commission Days, Deanery Institutes, workshops and leadership training
- Provide an opportunity for women to participate in various areas of interest

## Commissions

*The mission of JDCCW is carried out through the work of six commissions. Each Commission, under the direction of the diocesan commission chair, works to support and enhance activities at all rings of council, educates about issues of concern to Catholic Women and empowers women to respond in faith and with justice and compassion. The JDCCW Commission system is based on the second Vatican Council's Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity and understanding of the nature of baptism and confirmation. Through baptism and confirmation the laity "are commissioned to be apostles by the Lord himself."*

The six commissions are:

### Church

### Family Concerns

### Community Concerns

### International Concerns

### Organization

### Legislation

## CHURCH

The aim of the Church Commission is to create a community of God's people that is educated and dynamic. Its program of study and action in the areas of scripture, liturgy and ecumenism lead to the experience of community of Christ's own life.

## FAMILY

The aim of the Family Concerns Commission is to assist members in achieving truly Christian family living and to preserve Christian principles in those areas that pertain to the welfare of all families. Its program is concerned with child and parent education, preservation of family unity, sex education, formation for marriage and parenthood, care for the aged, reverence for life and religious vocations in the family.

## COMMUNITY

The aim of the Community Concerns Commission is to involve Council members in working to answer the needs of their individual communities. Its program, determined by local needs, include such areas as environment, housing, urban development, rural life, safety, healthy and welfare, and government.

## INTERNATIONAL

The aim of the International Concerns Commission is to waken in all Christians a conviction of their responsibility for the international society and to create through this conviction a brotherhood of all peoples. Its concerns are peace, education, international relief and development, hospitality to foreign students/visitors and participation in meetings of an international nature.

## ORGANIZATION

The work of the Organization Commission is to act as a service bureau for all the NCCW affiliates and to give supportive service to the five substantive commissions. Its services include organization development, field services, leadership training, mentoring and public relations.

## LEGISLATION

The goal of this commission should be to follow the church's role in the political order in the following ways: 1) Education regarding the teachings of the church and the responsibilities of the faithful, 2) analysis of issues for their social and moral dimensions, 3) measuring public policy against gospel values, 4) participating with other concerned parties in debate over public policy, and 5) speaking out with courage, skill and concern on public issues involving human rights, social justice and the life of the church in society.