



# Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Our Lady of Good Counsel, Patroness

## ***JOLIET DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN*** RESOLUTIONS as of November, 2006

The resolutions on the following pages are the current prayer, study and action programs of the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women adopted in annual and biennial conventions over our more than 60 years as a diocesan affiliate of the National Council of Catholic Women. They are divided into topics under our Commissions; the Table of Contents is on the last pages.

These resolutions are specific issues and means to which we are “responding with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world .  
...from our NCCW Mission Statement

Please feel free to duplicate and distribute as desired.

Note: resolutions marked \*06 were adopted at the 2006 Convention; \*04 were adopted at the 2004 convention; '02 were adopted at the 2002 Convention; all others were adopted or re-adopted (from those adopted at conventions between the inception of the JD CCW and the 2000 Convention) at the 2000 Convention.

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**CHURCH COMMISSION**

The aim of this commission is to create a community of God's people who are educated and dynamic, with programs of study and action in scripture, liturgy and ecumenism.

**CHURCH ISSUES**

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women encourage a deeper love of Christ by seeking holiness with vigor through a variety of means including, but not limited to: personal daily prayer, meditation, liturgies, reception of sacraments, bible readings, and by promoting programs of spiritual growth such as Bible/Scripture Study groups, Charismatic Renewal, Cursillo, Marriage Encounter, religious retreats, holy hours, hours of recollection; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women promote ecumenism through the Church Commission by encouraging the celebration of Christian unity, by consistently being a living witness of our own Catholic faith, and by a continuous effort to develop ecumenism and interreligious dialogue, and be it further

RESOLVED, That we implore the intercession of the holy American saints who provide role models for our daily lives.

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women uphold the Pledge of Allegiance as it is written today to include the words "...under God..." \*'04

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women encourage the reading of papal encyclicals, the Gospel of St. John, Chapter 6, and other literature and information pertaining to "the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist", \*'06

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women encourage and teach a better understanding of the 'Real Presence'. \*'06

**DIVERSITY**

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women be welcoming to women of all races and cultures through liturgies and spiritual programs designed with diversity, such as music, readings in various languages at liturgies, and promoting special feast days, etc. \*'04

**WOMEN IN THE CHURCH**

RESOLVED, That Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women express our responsibility in the lay ministry by assisting and working in harmony and unity with our Bishops and priests in areas of "Proclaiming the Word", encourage and foster full participation of women in daily and Sunday liturgies as well as all the other spiritual, social and educational ministries available, and continue to seek out further legitimate ministries in which the special talents and abilities of its members will find expression for the building up of the Body of Christ; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women through its parish affiliates plan for the religious education of its members, carry out ministries of service through the programs of the six Commissions, and motivate women to take advantage of our Bishops' and Pastors' requests for nominees to parish, deanery, and diocesan Council of Catholic Women boards, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women implore the intercession of Mary, the blessed mother of God, and since under her title, Our Lady of Good Counsel, she is the Patroness of the Council of Catholic Women, seek her protection and guidance in all our endeavors.

**VOCATIONS**

RESOLVED, That we set the good Catholic example for children which inspires Christian living and fosters religious vocations, stimulate the vocation aspirations of our children through family prayers, the example of faith and the support of love, and encourage the youth in our diocese to look for a call to the priesthood and religious life by asking God for guidance in determining their future role in their Catholic life, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women encourage the establishment in each parish of one or more organized programs of prayer for an increase in, and/or affirmations of, vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Such programs could include, but not be limited to: the “31 Club , “Decade a Day program, the “Adopt a Seminarian program or other programs fostering new and strong priests and religious for the Church of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Millennium, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women encourage each parish in the diocese to set aside one day annually as an APPRECIATION DAY to express gratitude and show support and appreciation to those who have chosen to serve God as priests, brothers, deacons and nuns, and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage members involved in lay apostolic movements to place their talents at the service of the parish, community and/or diocese, and be it further

RESOLVED, That families and women throughout the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women be encouraged to pray regularly for the intentions of our pastors and other religious leaders, our Moderators, our Bishops, and our Pope.



## FAMILY CONCERNS

The aim of the Family Concerns Commission is to assist members in achieving truly Christian family living, and preserving Christian principles with regard to families and women and children.

### FAMILIES

RESOLVED, That we, as members of the Council of Catholic Women pray to the Holy Family, looking to them as our role model in our efforts to promote Christian family life, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, through its Family Concerns Commission, work to encourage the social mission of the family toward the total human community, initiate and support programs of educational awareness to help identify symptoms and effects of family separation and crisis and

reach out and promote spiritual rehabilitation and reawakening of an inherent self esteem in each individual: a reaffirmation of our dignity as God's children within the family, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will seek out ministries with the Catholic Church that support sacramental marriage and work in collaboration with them to strengthen the foundation of the "domestic church", and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women continue to assist our Bishops in implementing their pastoral plan to strengthen marriage and family life ... addressing six areas of major concern:

- 1.-ministry to the engaged
- 2.-ministry to married couples  
(including the separated & divorced)
- 3.-ministry to parents
- 4.-ministry to developing families
- 5.-ministry to hurting families
- 6.-ministry to helping couples  
and families themselves

RESOLVED, That Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women commit itself to preserve the sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman as the only or valid, and advocate to preserve this definition of marriage. \*'06

### CHILDREN

RESOLVED, That we continue to encourage increases in financial resources to significantly raise the level of services benefitting children, and be it further

RESOLVED, That special attention should be devoted to disadvantaged children - for example, children living in slum areas, children of migrant workers, abused children, orphaned children, children of unwed mothers, children exposed to drugs and crime, physically and mentally challenged children, and the vast category of children suffering from malnutrition; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we work and pray for the success of programs that, in accordance with Christian principles, impart to children the love of Jesus, His Most Blessed Mother, Mary, and the love of all, inspire them to achieve the best of each person's ability, and help our children and ultimately our country and world.

### ABUSE

\*'02

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women commit itself to protecting our children, and be it further

RESOLVED, That work through its various commissions to aid in the healing of all victims.

### WOMEN

RESOLVED, That the women of Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women should be a light in the community marked by courage and high principles, clothed in the model of Mary who showed us how one can be visible but unselfish, patient but firm, kind while just, and moderate in all things except faith and love, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women support efforts to provide opportunities for the emotional, personal, and spiritual growth and development of women; and furnish, evaluate and update programs that affirm these roles.

### EDUCATION

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women encourage parents in their role as educators encourage parents in the of their children, teaching them the love of God, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women urge parents and guardians to educate themselves to the problems of society and to seek out programs of education and assistance for our parish schools and our religious education programs, in order to strengthen the moral and spiritual development of themselves and their children, and be it further

RESOLVED, That we lend political support to legislation which would give equitable distribution of educational funds so that children may attend church-related schools without economic penalty; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women promote adult education through Scripture studies, lectures, prayer groups, small faith communities, etc. with the emphasis on Catholic teaching.

## **MEDIA ENVIRONMENTS**

\*'02

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women provide staunch moral support and education to all Catholic women in efforts to insure that all environments used by our children and families be free of media portraying violence, explicit sex, pornography and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women work diligently with the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and all agencies that promote safe and moral media environments, to educate and raise the awareness of the evils from irresponsible media.

## **PORNOGRAPHY**

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women urge the enforcement of Federal and State laws and municipal ordinances prohibiting the publication, manufacture, transportation and sale of pornography involving the use of children, and urge our members to promote citizen awareness and cooperate with law enforcement agencies and other concerned groups in an effort to eliminate child pornography; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women work to eliminate the transmission of pornographic materials through television, radio and telephone, and the internet, and the immediate adoption of a policy of vigorous enforcement of Federal obscenity laws.

## **REVERENCE FOR LIFE**

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocese Council of Catholic Women promote the Lapel Red Rose as a "Symbol of Pro-Life" in the Diocese of Joliet to convey the message of Pro-Life, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocese Council of Catholic Women

oppose all violations that devalue life, including every form of abortion, sterilization, the selling of and research on aborted baby parts (stem cell research), infanticide, assisted suicide, euthanasia, genocide, prostitution, murder, and

encourage all its members to support a moratorium, and eventually a ban, on the death penalty, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocese Council of Catholic Women

work actively to support respect for all human life by praying individually, and

support and promote programs of religious education and pastoral care in our parishes and diocese that emphasize the doctrine of the sanctity of life, joining prayer groups to pray for alternative solutions to abortions, and advocating adoption as an alternative to abortion, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Joliet Diocese Council of Catholic Women provide compassion and outreach to those women suffering the effects of post-abortion grief and who are seeking forgiveness and conversion, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Joliet Diocese Council of Catholic Women support educational endeavors that teach reverence for all human life at every stage, providing its members with current and accurate information on medical, moral and ethical issues, and legal, cultural, and scientific developments that affect human life.

  
**COMMUNITY CONCERNS**

The aim of the Community Concerns Commission is to involve members in working to answer the needs of their communities and provide an environment aligned with gospel values.

**NATURAL DISASTERS**

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women encourage its members to educate themselves in ways to be prepared for the many types of Natural or other Disasters using the resources available in the community, their library, the internet, etc., so that they can protect themselves and their families and assist others during and after a natural disaster. \*06

**VIOLENCE IN SOCIETY**

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women encourage our legislators to vigorously enforce the laws that deal with all types of substance abuse; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women support and actively promote programs designated to stop domestic violence and encourage programs that show compassionate concern for victims of domestic violence *as well as programs that seek to rehabilitate abusers*, \*as amended '06

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women support legislation to ensure responsible controls of handguns, especially a requirement for all manufacturers to equip all guns with safety locks and prohibit the sale of guns to persons younger than 21 years of age.

**SUPPORT OF OUR TROOPS**

\*'04

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women pray for, reach out and provide support to our troops and military and veteran families at home and abroad.

**PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY CHALLENGED**

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women examine our perceptions and attitudes concerning the disabled; be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women encourage participation in the liturgies by persons with disabilities; be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women seek out the disabled in our parishes, help them when necessary, work with them and raise our voice with them and all members of society who are their advocates.

**HEALTH CARE ISSUES**

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women support efforts to implement the best health care for all people regardless of economic status, including adequate and affordable medical care for all persons, programs to assist families facing decisions on care for the terminally ill, and caring and compassionate community programs for the terminally ill to enable them to remain as long as possible in their homes and with their families; be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women promote and encourage prayer and spiritual support for care givers and their families, and make a more concerted effort to encourage people to take part in the Respite Program, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women support programs of authentic Catholic teachings and an awareness of the need to provide care and understanding to those afflicted with AIDS and their loved ones, and be it further

RESOLVED, That Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, in conjunction with the National Council of Catholic Women, educate women on osteoporosis, and advocate for the passage of a law that would identify bone density testing as a preventive measure covered by private insurance.

**RURAL LIFE/ENVIRONMENT**

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women inform and emphasize the seriousness of the farm crisis and its effect on rural life and urban areas; be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women institute programs and distribute materials promoting environmental concerns.



## INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS

The aim of this commission is to waken in all Christians a conviction of their responsibility for the international society, and through that conviction, create a brotherhood of all peoples.

### **TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS** (Also See Children Around the World)

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women work to educate and inform their members on trafficking, and be it further \*'06

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council Catholic Women cooperate with other social justice organizations within the Church to encourage the creation of effective anti-trafficking laws. \*'06

### **WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD**

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women work to elevate the status of women throughout the world, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women encourage all members to actively support the Refugee Women's Emergency Fund through financial assistance, educational awareness, and prayer.

### **CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD**

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women demonstrate its concern for disadvantaged children through the world by supporting the many Works of Peace which are ultimately designed to improve their lives, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocese Council of Catholic Women, in conjunction with the National Council of Catholic Women pledges to work with such organizations as The Campaign to End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT-USA) to stop the sexual exploitation of children through education and the advocacy for stronger international laws eradicating commercial sexual exploitation of children.

### **WORLD REFUGEE DAY**

\*'02

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women promote and observe United Nations World Refugee Day designated for June 20<sup>th</sup> each year, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women reaffirm our commitment to established NCCW and Catholic Relief Services and continue to actively support the Refugee Women's Emergency Fund through financial assistance, educational awareness and prayer.

### **WAR and Prisoners of War**

\*'04

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women pray and support our troops in using moral and sane judgement in fighting war and treating prisoners.



**LEGISLATION COMMISSION**

The goal of this commission includes education regarding the political responsibilities of our Church members; analysis of current issues for their social and moral dimensions; measuring public policy against gospel values; participating with other concerned parties in debate over public policy and speaking out with courage, skill and concern on public issues involving human rights, social justice, and the life of the church in society.

**POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY**

RESOLVED, That every citizen, especially every Catholic, be encouraged to register and vote, embracing their political responsibilities to register and vote; to understand issues and assess candidates' positions and qualifications; and join others in advocating for the common good, and be it further and

RESOLVED, That every citizen, especially every Catholic, carefully study proposed legislation , measure it against Gospel values and speak out with courage, skill and concern on public issues involving rights, social justice and life of the Church in society.

**ADVOCACY**

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women encourage a discipleship of faithful citizenship with consistent participation in public life, bringing Catholic moral convictions to civic tasks and choices, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women seek ways in which all elements of society can work against injustice, overcome poverty, pursue the common good, and care for God's creation, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women affiliates and members advocate for the causes adopted by other commissions of this council, and those requested by our bishops.

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**ORGANIZATION SERVICES**

This commission supports the other five commissions by providing organization functions, membership and leadership development, and public relations.

**COMMUNICATION**

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women encourage Catholic women and men - if they have access to the Internet - use it to expand their means of communicate; view parish, diocesan and CCW websites; use web resources for personal education; and consider using the web to advocate for church, family and community issues, including national and international issues of peace and justice. \*06

**MEMBERSHIP, MEETINGS, COLLABORATION**

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women fully support the National Council of Catholic Women's Organization Commission programs and initiatives, including - but not limited to - membership development, communication, leadership training, and mentoring, and be it further

RESOLVED, That we as Catholic women never forget that prayer at our meetings is our foremost priority, urging the use of a prepared para-liturgy, and/or a time for personal reflection, so that we nurture the spiritual side of life, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women implement environmentally friendly meetings, gatherings, and conventions; be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women foster awareness of the challenges of the disabled, and work to make our meetings, gatherings and conventions fully accessible; be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women promote women of ethnic origins to recognize their capabilities and develop their leadership potential, and be it further

RESOLVED, That every effort be made to strongly encourage the active participation of women in the 18 to 30 year old age group in the life of our parishes, as well as in the Council of Catholic Women, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women invite and encourage Women Religious to become more involved in the activities of parish, deanery and diocesan councils, and be it further.

RESOLVED, That, to facilitate the work of all rings of the Council of Catholic Women, all materials received be read and passed along, a prompt reply be forthcoming when information is requested, and that the lines of communication be kept open among all parties, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women and its commission system work in cooperation with existing diocesan offices and parish structures to implement study and action for peace and justice, liturgy and family, and make a concerted effort to encourage the women of the diocese to take part in the programs offered.

**DIOCESAN NEWSPAPER**

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women support our diocesan newspaper through readership; promoting wider circulation among friends and neighbors; and encouraging local business and industry to use advertising space; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women on parish levels support and encourage their pastors in complying with our Bishop's goals regarding our diocesan newspaper.

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