**NCCW Convention 2019**

**Atlanta, Georgia**

**"NCCW Caring for God's Creation"**

**August 21 – August 24, 2019**

**Wednesday, August 21, 2019**

**8:30 AM -** Welcome Liturgy

Celebrant: Rev. Richard Dawson, NCCW Chair of Spiritual Advisors

**12:30 PM** - Welcome Luncheon

**Speaker** *– Mother Dolores Hart, O.S.B. of Abbey of Regina Laudis*

Our guest speaker was Mother Dolores Hart who is the prioress of the Abbey of Regina Laurie in Bethlehem, Connecticut.  She was a bright and beautiful college student when she made her film debut with Elvis Presley in Paramount's 1957 “Loving You.”  She acted in nine more movies with other big stars.  She also gave a Tony-nominated performance in the Broadway play The Pleasure of His Company and appeared in television shows, including The Virginian and Playhouse 90. An important chapter in her life occurred while playing Saint Clare in the movie Francis of Assisi, which was filmed on location in Italy.  Born Dolores Hicks in Chicago, Mother Dolores has travelled a charmed yet challenging road in her journey toward love, serenity, and yes, God. In 1963 she stunned Hollywood when entered the Abbey of Regina Laudis in Bethlehem, Connecticut, not in Eder to leave the glamorous world of acting she had dreamed of since childhood, but in order to answer a mysterious call she heard with the "ear of the heart." While contracting for another film and engaged to be married, she abandoned everything to enter a contemplative monastery.  She remains a voting member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences.  She spoke of our love for each other and our gifts of service, love. Support of our husbands is the "Mystery of Love".  "Putting other people before yourself."

**Thursday, August 22, 2019**

**9:00 – 11:15AM - Opening General Session**

Welcome by Mary Elizabeth Stewart Blogoslawski, NCCW President

Opening Prayer - Mary Rowley, Chair of Spirituality Commission

Presentation of Flag and Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions of Board, Province Directors, Commission Chairs, Associates of NCCW, USA Rep for WUCW, NCCW Past Presidents, USA Rep NCCW NGO, NCCW Leadership Training Development Team Lead Coordinator, NDW Rep to Religious Alliance Against Pornography, NCCW staff, and Convention Co-chairs

Introductions of Gold Sponsors - Catholic Relief Services (helping all especially the immigrants), Cross Catholic Outreach (Box of Joy Ministry - box of Christmas gifts for children - 58,000 last year), Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help (only place in US that the church recognizes the apparition Our Lady in 1859) - stop, pray and listen to our Lord.

Greetings from Atlantic Province Director, Assist. Director Marriage and Family life, Laity, USCCB, Young Ladies' Institute, Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Catholic Women's League of Canada, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO). Most Reverend Gregory L. Parkes, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Episcopal Liaison to NCCW was unable to attend.

**Keynote Speaker** *- The Most Reverend Peter A. Rosazza D.D., Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus, Archdiocese of Hartford*

Title:*"Women Respond to Pope Francis's Plea to Save Mother Earth"*

Social justice includes women playing professional sports such as soccer and basketball as is women's right to vote!  Socialized Government is dangerous for society due to the control on the individual to act to the needs of our earth.

Solidarity is everyone from the same set of parents.  We are all the children of God.  We have human rights of which we are entitled.  Health care is a right.  Freedom from fear is a right of all.  Global Warming has been the subject of several Popes.  We realize we have a responsibility and it is an essential part of your faith.  If man is not at peace with God then the earth is not at peace with God.  Pollution is a lack of respect for life.  Praise be you my Lord for your Son, for the heaven and stars, wind, clouds and every kind of weather from which you give substance. Thank you for the light of night.  Sister Earth cries out to us due to our abuse of her.  We are very dust of the earth and we receive our needs from her gifts to us.  Discover God in all things and people.  Be focused on others.  We must care for our brothers and sisters in mental environments.  We can bring about significant changes in our earth and environment.  Climate change can be addressed even if one feels it is a political issue as we have a moral and ethical obligation to address it.  The pollution causes the heat to be trapped close to earth.  The intensity of hurricanes are due to climate changes.  They destroy trees which are needed to make our oxygen.

We have created a monster in climate change - environmental pollution.  Ocean has risen 46 degrees in the last 50 years therefore our ice glaciers are disappearing.  The water from the glacier melting is causing the loss of land.  People fall through the ice and die of avalanches.  Pope Frances calls for a new attitude about pollution and climate change on a worldwide basis.  Out of this will emerge a solidarity. We must leave a better place for our grandchildren.  Movement for the protection of Mother Earth.  We have faced other problems collectively and been successful. Put people at the center of everything we do.  Focus on the human person.  Encourage reusable sources of energy - wind, waves, etc.  The Blessed Mother grieves what is happening to people on this earth and the earth itself.

Lunch Blessing was said.

All gathered for a group photography for the 100 year History Book.

**11:45 AM -** Opening Liturgy

Celebrant: The Most Reverend Joel M. Konzen, S. M. Auxiliary Bishop of Atlanta Archdiocese.

(Lunch on our own)

**3:00** - *Spirituality Commission Session - Mary Rowley, NCCW Spirituality Commission Chair - "Bullying, Suicide, Loss of a Child"*

Bullying - We hear about it everywhere.  How should we respond?  The acts of bullying goes way back.  It makes us feel less than others and gives us think poorly about ourselves.  It makes bullies feel better to bully someone.  It makes them feel superior.  We have all been subjected to it at one time or another.  Each one of us has a responsibility to say no to bullying.  Zero tolerance!  Teach your children and grandchildren to stand up to a bully.  Shaming is a form of bullying – about size, freckles, etc.  Communication is our best tool.  Listening is the second part of communication. God created all things and was pleased with what he created.  Why should we put anyone down? Bullying begins at home.  It is a learned pattern.  Our kids need to trust us and be willing to come to us.  Bullying has lead to suicide.  Reinforce your children with a positive feedback to them.

Suicide - We all will be touched by suicide or have been touched by suicide in our lifetime.  We could openly talk about this subject.  The signs are:  history of prior attempts or self injurious behavior, current/past psychiatric disorders, hopelessness, anxiety/panic, global insomnia, command hallucinations, family history of suicide, humiliation, shame or despair, medical illness, physical or sexual abuse, social isolation, discharge from psychiatric hospital and access to firearms.

What can we do?  Suicide Prevention number 1-800-273-talk (8255).

Suicide has increased 35% in the past few years.  It is in the top 10% of deaths.  Reasons for the rise has been about economy, sickness, marital status and not knowing where to turn.  Family members struggle to understand why.  How do they heal from this?  Talk to close friends and go for counseling.  The biggest aid is our faith.

The Catholic Church believes the love of God is constantly there for us.  We are always a child of God.  God's love never fails us.  Family can be sure that their loved one is with God.  Anyone thinking about suicide should be told it is a temporary problem.  Encourage them to be happy about who they are.  The family must teach their children to use media properly.  They need time with the family - meals together, talk, play games all without media!  We take Christ with us wherever we go.  Tell them that.  A little kindness goes a long way.  Suicide is a final solution to a temporary problem.  Don't be afraid to talk to them about what they are going through.

Loss of a child by: (personal witnesses)

Suicide - He hung himself in the garage.  The questions always comes - why did he do it? The signs were there.  Shame devastated the family.  Many people don't want to talk to the family in fear of the family not wanting to talk about it.  The signs were there but we missed them.  The family wants to celebrate his life. Just attending the funeral service is important to the family.  Prayer is a powerful tool to the family to overcome their guilt.  It has helped her to minister to others who are experiencing suicide in the family.  Be there to comfort them.  Rosary for suicide is on the NCCW website.

Sickness - Baby was born with many abnormalities.  We suffered the grief even before he was born.  She went into labor. He was still born but was blessed and baptized immediately. We grieve just like anyone else even without all the memories another might have.  You have a right to grieve.  Help families to grieve in a healthy way.  Honor children.  They were created by God.

Miscarriage - You feel anger but honor all children.  She knows when she dies she will see her babies.

Accident - She lost a child at 2 years old.  She ran into the path of a truck.  Mom attended a life in heaven seminar.  She asked God for relief.  She felt the baby was in their lap after praying for help.  She felt grief in many ways.  She finds joy in knowing her little one is in heaven.

Grief is different for all of us.  These are a few suggestions:

Recall good memories

Consider what your gained from that life

New tradition - celebrate their birthday, etc.

Focus on the Trinity

Resources:

Peace and Healing Rosary is available on the NCCW.org – Spirituality Commission 2019 – Rosary Resource .

"Kind Cards" - Love, Friendship and Kindness - Pass out to anyone you feel needs it. Available at the NCCW.org store.

**4:20** - *Leadership Commission Session - Bev McCarvel, NCCW Leadership Commission Chair*

*(During the presentation of this session, “commercials” were done about preserving Mother Earth)*

Video about NCCW by Linda Clark was shown and is downloadable from the NCCW website. Great video to show at Mass or a membership drive.

*Commercial: Protect your environment by not using those plastic bags - use reusable bags.  Save our wildlife - don't throw your mascara wands instead send to Appalachian Wildlife Refuge, P. O. Box 1211, Skyland, NC 28776.*

Leadership tools that are needed:

Protocol Points, have a meeting agenda, bylaws, to be hospitable and welcoming, NCCW manual, Commission/committee chairmen, and parliamentary procedures.

Visit the NCCW website to get so many other tools you could use as a council or individual – NCCW.org.

Placemat is on the website.  Just log on.  Visit their store for many resources as well.

What do children think about why mom gets out by herself?

Making friends, time away from the kids, learns stuff, and dad cooks dinner.

What is a leadership behavior that encourages people to attend:

Include everyone, have a well-planned meeting, gather opinions/information from others, encourage and develops future leaders.

*Commercial: Take care of our water - check for leaks, use rain barrel, brush teeth without running water, install low-flow faucets and shower heads, rinse produce in a bowl, shorten shower, rinse produce in a bowl and use water for plants, use garbage disposal sparingly and install low volume toilets.*

Spiritual directors advised how parish affiliations can flourish:

Pray often, open to new ideas, follow examples of Mary and Jesus - say yes, and do everything from LOVE.

100 CCW people from their many years of experience in NCCW advised to:

Pray, willingness to serve, make new friends, increase your faith, welcome everyone, happy to be in her position, Leadership commission presentation, and belonging to something bigger than yourself.

**6:30** - Province Dinner/Pictures

**Friday, August 23, 2019**

**8:00 AM** - Breakfast for all registered convention attendees

**Speaker:***Kim Michael Polote*

Title:*"Divine Shopping Spree...Being a Kept Woman In His Word*

*She is an American Traditions Gold medal winner and travels around the world singing and inspirationally speaking.*

It began with a powerful rendition of "How Great Thou Are".  We are one body which is a beautiful thing.  If one steps on another's foot, another should say "ouch".  She can't hold back, the love of God just comes out in the form of song.  She is a kept woman in the word of God. Life is a puzzle.  The pieces will fit because it is the plan of God.  Don't every give up.  Physical things will not bring you happiness.  You cannot handle everything by yourself.  We cannot buy into our pain of the past.  Divine shopping spree is in the scriptures.  It will give you the "armor" you need for life.  Our struggle is against the powers of darkness.  You have to be familiar with the real thing in order to protect yourself.  The belt of truth fits all.  John 17:17 - God's word is true.  It is a gift of God.  Grace is God's riches at Christ's expense.  Peace is an adjective of God's character.  He forgives us our sins.  We don't have to understand, we must trust!!  We are one - put on your armor.  Extinguish the flaming arrows of the evil one.  Cover yourself with the word of God before you leave the house as the evil one is out there.  Don't allow yourself to believe them.  Don't be an open target.  They mean well but they say the wrong thing.  Don't let it spoil your day - pray for them!  Don't give them that power.  Remember you are saved by the death of Christ.  It cost you nothing.  Don't say something to someone that you would not like to be said to you!  Guard the words that come out of your mouth.  Mercy should be always a part of your interaction with others.  It is how you respond is what sets you apart - to make the world better with want what we have - Christianity.  Are you wearing your faith well?  Make everyone want to a part of it!  People are watching you.  Poem was recited.

  "Surprise In Heaven"

I dreamt death came the other night
And Heaven’s gate swung wide.
An angel with a halo bright
Ushered me inside.

And there! To my astonishment
Stood folks I’d judged and labeled
As “quite unfit”, “of little worth”,
And “spiritually disabled”.

Indignant words rose to my lips
But never were set free,
For every face showed stunned surprise --
Not one expected me!

There is no peace in anything tangible.  There is nothing counterfeit about Jesus Christ.  People are watching you.  If they see you worrying, etc.  Why would anyone else want it?  The gift of God is free to all.  Jesus' on the cross was free to all of us.  Love kept him on the cross for us.  Be you through Christ.  Be confident in Christ.  Get rid of the garments of bitterness, un-forgiveness, etc.  You are well "dressed" - be a great Catholic!

**10:00 AM** - Liturgy for our Deceased NCCW Members

**11:00 AM** – Lunch on our own

**1:30 PM -** *Service Commission Session - Diane Tugander, NCCW Service Commission Chair*

(Part of this presentation is also in the most recent Catholic Woman Magazine, Vol. 45, No. 3)

**Care of Creation Prayer**

In the beginning, You created the heavens and the earth, light and dark, sky and waters, plants, birds and creatures of the sea, living animals of all types and then male and female in the image of You. With all that was created you were pleased and saw that it was all very good. Millions of years have passed since and mankind has not treated Your creation well.

Help us to be more aware of our use of resources and the products we choose so that we do not harm Mother Earth any further and so that we care for Your creation as You desire. Primarily, help us to love each other so that we respect one another in all actions and value all human life from conception to nature death. Amen (*Mary Rowley, Spirituality Commission Chair 2019*)

The Great Pacific Eastern Garbage Patch or N. Pacific Subtropical High and Western Garbage Patch are expected to converge. Collectively they are called the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. The Pacific is the largest trash dump on earth. It is over 705,000 million pounds of trash.

According to biologist, by 2050, half of earth’s species could go extinct unless we ALL address man-made climate change.

Protecting OUR Planet Begins with YOU.  So, what can you do now?

1. Three R’s – Cut down on what you throw away. Reduce, Reuse and Recycle to conserve natural resources and landfill space.
2. Volunteer – Volunteer for cleanups.
3. Educate – When you further your own education, you can help others to understand the importance and value of our natural resources.
4. Conserve Water - The less water you use, the less runoff and wastewater ends up in the ocean.
5. Choose Sustainable Foods – Learn how to make smart food choices and help the earth.
6. Shop Wisely – Buy fewer plastic products and always have a reusable shopping bag for your purchases.
7. Use Long-Lasting Light Bulbs – Energy-efficient light bulbs reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Also, turn the light switch off when you leave a room.
8. Plant a Tree – Trees provide food and oxygen.
9. Don’t Send Chemicals into Our Waterways – Choose non-toxic chemicals in the home and office.

10.Bike/Walk More. Drive Less.

Over 8,000 cigarettes were picked off the street to recycle. It takes 18 months to 10 Years for butts to decompose.

[4ocean.com](http://4ocean.com/) picks up trash from our oceans. Check out their website for ways you can help.

St. Francis's Canticle of the Sun was recited.

Protect and heal God's Creation!

**2:45 PM -** *Leadership Training & Development Session - Linda Clark, LTD Chair and members of the LTD Team*

Title:  *Strengthening Our Councils with Seeds of Knowledge*

 *Preparing, planting and nurturing yields a thriving harvest*

The Life Cycle of affiliations was discussed. They range from Birth or Rebirth to Death. The following are some ideas to keep your affiliation alive and doing well.

Committee to call those who do not attend meetings.

 Mentoring is necessary for new and old members

 Go over bylaws and standing rules

 Build a relationship with your spiritual advisor

 Don't get complacent and have spiritual programs

 Bylaws must be followed.

 Don't always do the same thing

 Don't say Lady of Good Council Prayer

 Don't want to do anything differently

Don't run to the Spiritual Advisor - call your Deanery or Diocese

What to do if your affiliation is at the Death stage:  The secret of change is the focus all your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new.  Relationships will make this different - with our Lord, with our members, with our Spiritual Advisor will make it different.

Leadership is not a position or a title, it is an action and an example.

Being an effective Leader is not about being

the brightest star in the night’s sky.

It’s about making sure all the stars shine.

(We did a breakout session to discuss our councils and their problems.)

A custom program can be designed by the LTD group to fit the needs of your affiliation/deanery/diocese.

**4:00** *- General Session/Business Meeting*

Call to Order

Opening Prayer - Father Dawson

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of USA

Introductions of Board (Pat Reinman - Profession Parliamentarian)

Opening Remarks

Credentials Report

Adoption of Convention Rules - Adopted

Approval of the Agenda – Adopted

Report of the 2018 Minutes Committee - Minutes were approved by committee.

Appointment of 2019 Convention Minutes - Members of committee announced.

President's Report - Brief summary of 2019-20 NCCW activities were presented.

Treasurer's Report - Letter from auditor, Mullins, P.C., was presented. The complete financials are located on NCCW.org and were audited. The purse auction held at NCCW Convention raised $12,470. Use Amazon Smile to raise money for NCCW. They receive a small percentage of the amount of your purchases.

Immediate Past President's Report - Sheila Hopkins

NCCW Executive Director's Report - Andrea Cecilli - 1133 Individual, 332 Supportive Members, 28 High School Members, 12 College students, 1 High School, 1 College, 1238 Parishes, and 83 Diocese. The 100 Year NCCW History book will be complete and available for presale now and at the 2020 NCCW Convention for $30.00.

Chair of Spiritual Advisors' Report - Fr. Richard Dawson – This is the last year of his term. He challenged brother priests to assume this position.  Website being developed for Spiritual Advisors.  Encourage your advisor to register on the site.

Priest’s NCCW stoles are available through the NCCW office who has the information to contact a volunteer to make them.  Stoles will cost $100.

Convention Committee Report - Jean Kelly - Thanks to all who make it possible.

Nominating Committee Report - Nancy Poll - President Elect and Secretary Elect  were elected.

Bylaws Committee Report -

Article IC, Section 1 Executive Committee, Composition –Passed

Article V, Section 2(a) Board of Directors, Composition – Passed

Article VIII, Section 2(a) Elections, Nominating Committee – Passed

Article VIII, Section 2(d) Elections, Nominating Committee – Passed

Article XI, Section 3 Resolutions, Approval Process – Passed

Article XVII, Section 1(c) Amendments – Passed

Article III, Membership Section 1 Individual Members – Failed and sent back to committee.

Complete amended Bylaws will be available on NCCW.org

Resolutions Committee Report - Yvonne Pygatt

Resolution #1 – Suicide Awareness - Passed

Resolution #2 – Opioid Crisis Affecting Our Nation – Passed with changes.

Resolution #3 – Bullying And Harassment – Failed and referred back to committee.

Resolution #4 – Reuse Products and Reduce Consumption – Passed with changes.

Complete Resolutions will be available on NCCW.org

United Nations Report - Theresa Boscia

Attended meetings at the UN and reported on various topics that have been discussed.

World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations - Maribeth Stewart Blogoslawski, Vice President General and USA Representative to WUCWO

Closing Prayers

Saturday, August 24, 2019

**9:00 AM** - Last Day of Convention

**Speaker:***Dan Misleh, Catholic Climate Covenant*

**Title:***“Practical Approaches to Sharing Laudatory Si' in Your Community” He is the executive director of Catholic Climate Covenant.*

Catholic Climate Covenant does education, outreach, advocacy and facilitates the Catholic teaching on Care for Creation.  Eight hundred Catholic institutions have signed the Catholic Climate Declaration including 51 Arch/Diocese.   Pictures from space during the Apollo mission found our earth is very fragile.   We have thickened our atmosphere.  This is caused by agriculture, coal mining, oil production, forest burning, industrial processes and fertilization to name a few.  We have put too much carbon in our atmosphere.  Every decade changes in that we are becoming warmer because the infrared rays cannot escape.  Our surface temperature is accelerating.  Two hundred twenty-four locations around the world broke records for increased heat.  Ninety-three percent of the extra heat is trapped in the ocean.  The extra heat accelerates storms, floods from torrential rains, wildfires, lightning strikes, food prices increase, worldwide catastrophes, melts our glaciers, etc.  Water scarcity is becoming a bigger problem.  The health impacts of climate change demand immediate action.  Mosquitos carry disease which make us all more vulnerable.  Catholic Social Teaching Video - Caring for creation which is a gift of God.  Care for the environment.  The poorest are the most affected.  The wide ranging vision includes:

 A teaching document meant for “every person”.

 A moral vision, not a policy or scientific blueprint.

 Human values must guide technology.

 About conversion, not public policy.

 Offers hope: “The Creator does not abandon us…”

A call for dialogue where “interests or ideologies will not prejudice the common good.”

 About facing reality.

Laudato Si': Energy Responsibility is a two day reflection and is on the NCCW website. There is an urgent need to develop policies so that, in the next few years, the emission of carbon dioxide and other highly polluting gases can be drastically reduced, for example, substituting for fossil fuels and developing sources of renewable energy. It is a teaching document meant for every person.

St. Francis:

An inspiration for the Pope, an inspiration for us

(St. Francis) show us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace. Francis helps us to see that an integral ecology calls for openness to categories which transcend the language of mathematics and biology, and takes us to the heart of what it is to be human. - Pope Francis (LS, #10, 11)

The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth! We have solutions:  wind mills, storage of power in batteries.  LED lights, solar energy power - progress is up 109 times - clean energy, natural gas, energy efficiency.

Catholics care about our environment. Parishes have creation care teams - kits are available from Catholic Climate Covenant. "Catholics are still in".

Catholic Energy Mission

Reduce energy waste in Catholic facilities to enable more resources to go towards mission-related activities. Provide education and resources to engage Catholics to live their faith authentically, including our common call to be stewards of God’s creation and to seek justice for our vulnerable sisters and brothers.

Parishes are going solar, paid for by inventors.  The parish pays the smaller electric bill and the investor which is guaranteed combined is to be less than their electric bill was before solar.  Catholic Climate Covenant will arrange this for the parish.

“A great cultural, spiritual and educational challenge stands before us, and it will demand that we set out on the long path of renewal.” - Pope Francis (LS #202)

Catholic Climate Covenant inspires US Catholics to care for creation and care for the poor. To learn more, visit [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org).

*Education Committee - Beth Mahoney, Chair*

“The Care of God’s Creation” is on the NCCW website (Laudatory Si’ care of creation).

The High School CCW Group Facilitator's Guide is on the NCCW website.  It contains information such as how to face the problem of interfering with other girls’ groups at school.   The guide will help you.  Key Points are:

Contact the NCCW office to inform them of your intent to form a High School affiliate

Special rate for HS and Collegiate affiliates.

Diocesan President and Province Director connection

Check with your Diocese. Your Bishop may require his permission to establish a High School Affiliation if it is in a Catholic School.

Every girl in the Youth or Collegiate affiliation must become an individual member. There is a reduced rate.

The resource is the on website.  Click on "Get Involved", "Youth" and click on facilitators guide.  Free to download.  Step by step instructions.

The Golden Rose Award is for High School students who have shown outstanding service to her school/parish and the people of God. Evelyn Getty is the President of the CACCW program.

Making a Nomination

Selecting a young lady:

Please submit her name, address, high school, parish, her email and phone number along with a description of her service.

 Submit the information on a single sheet.

 Have the sheet signed by the Pastor.

Then send all responses to Name & Address of Board member accepting the registration. (Award Chair)

Awards Chair

Works with committee to notify candidates of award and details.

Acts as contact between recipients and Vicariate or Diocesan President.

What else can you do to adopt and promote the Golden Rose Award?

Request local sponsorship.

Write a letter to the parish priests, youth directors and parish school teachers asking them to identify a candidate.

The recipient of the Award should:

Exemplify NCCW values in service, spirituality and leadership by:

 A young woman who is a High School Student.

 This young woman should show Leadership.

 This young woman should portray Spirituality.

This young woman should have gone above and beyond in a service project when compared to her peers.

This young woman should be a practicing Catholic who attends Sunday mass regularly.

Golden Rose Award Disclaimer

Use of the Golden Rose Award can be modified for your Diocese by the name must be maintained.

Use of the Golden Rose Award documents needs to include: “Reprinted with Permission, Chicago Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, Evelyn Getty, President, August 1, 2019”.

How to keep the recipient involved with CCW:

Breakfast with your Bishop.

Ask her to be a guest speaker at a meeting.

Help her achieve service points as needed.

Ask her to write an article for the diocesan newsletter.

Invite her to be featured in The Connect or Catholic Women magazine.

They could form a Jr. CCW in their school which will keep them involved.

**11:30** – Lunch on our own

**1:30 PM** - Speaker: *Matt Holzmann on Mental Health*

He was a successful business person and met a woman later in life who had three children with mental problems.  Mental health affects all of us.

 Ground Rules:  Know the Rules!

 What happens here, stays here.

Listen to and respect each other’s opinions and perspectives.

 One person at a time.

 Quick Facts:

One in five Americans will face a mental health crisis in their lifetime.

Six to seven percent of our population suffer from incapacitating mental illness

One person with mental illness affects 4 to 6 others close to them.

People with mental illness are disproportionately impacted by social injustices such as poverty, prejudice, unemployment, or inadequate housing.

Definition: A mental illness is a medical condition that disrupts a person’s thinking, feeling, mood, ability to relate to others and daily functioning.

Some indicators are misbehavior, acting out, depression and problems processing. Symptoms begin showing in childhood!

Our jails are now our mental health facilities. They are not equipped to help the mentally ill in jail. This should be addressed.

What can we do?

 Help them to get connected to help.

 Training of clergy, doctors, nurses, and police.

 Teach them that they are not alone.

Two-thirds of those with mental illness do not seek treatment. Why? – stigma, bias, distrust, stereotyping, fear, embarrassment, anger and shunning.

What to do and not do:

Use “person first” language. “A person with mental illness instead of a mentally ill person.”

 Never use words associated with mental illness as metaphors.

 Meet fiction with facts. Speak out when you hear misleading information

 Acknowledge that mental illness is a common human condition

 Don’t accept demeaning language.

 Work to create acceptance and compassion.

 Facilitate belonging

 Know them for their personhood, not their illness.

Understand that sometimes it is the symptoms and not the person that are speaking.

 Listen.

 Love unconditionally.

Reach out to the family and friends. Remember, every family member is affected. Often friends as well.

Confusion, guilt fear, anger bewilderment and other responses are to be expected.

What can our faith community do?  Share our fellowship, share our prayers, form family support groups, post mental health resources on line or in prominent places, sponsor mental health education events and help each other to become whole. "We are our brother's and sister's keepers."

**2:00 – 3:00 PM**

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Reports of committees/Associated Organizations:

Education Committee Report - Beth Mahoney, Chair

Developed resources for all of us which are posted on the website.  Articles are in the Connect and in Catholic Woman magazine.

Leadership Training Development Training - Linda Clark, Chair

Council enrichment programs. Application on website to apply. They work to customize programs to assist a council in any difficulty they are having.  They travel to you to present the program.  You pay their expenses.  There is no charge except their expenses.

Legislative Advocacy Committee/NCCW Representative to RAAP - Karen Painter & Sheila Hopkins, Co-chairs

Get involved at all levels of government.  Pay attention to your legislators.  [USCCB.org](http://usccb.org/) will help you with any issue with their opinion of that amendment.  Important to listen to all candidates to find out their views on topics.

Representative to the Religious Alliance Against Pornography - Karen Painter, NCCW Rep to RAAP

Their mission is to combat pornography.

Religious [Alliance.org](http://alliance.org/) has webinars available for your viewing.  One goal is to make the internet safer for families.

Associates of NCCW Inc. Report - Alison Mimms, President

Associates of NCCW was founded in 1970 to assist NCCW. Fundraising blanket sales was complete at this convention. Incoming officers have been elected.  Check was presented to NCCW $10,150.00 for printing of  the NCCW History Book and $1000 to the PURSE Club.

Friends of NCCW for WUCWO Report - Myrna Wong, President

They are a supporting arm of WUCWO which represents 65 countries.  New officers were announced. They want to make a difference all over the world, one woman at a time.

National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations - Phil Loftus Executive Director

The National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations began four years ago.  Educational debt is an obstacle to vocations. They established the NFCRV in 2015.  Forty grants have been awarded to date which is done in step payments (quarterly). Over the last 4 years NCCW has donated over $85,000. Thank you for your support!

Installation of New Province Directors

Invitation to 2020 Convention:  Arlington, VA, August 26-29, 2020 - Washington, D.C. Area.

NCCW Recommitment Service - Jean Kelly, NCCW President Elect

Closing Prayer

Adjourn

**4:00 PM** - Closing Liturgy/Installation o New Officers and Commission Chairs

Celebrant:  The Most Reverend Jerome E. Listecki, Archbishiop of Milwaukee.

**7:00 PM** - Closing Banquet - Our Lady of Good Counsel Award

Submitted by: Virginia “Ginny” Hagan, ODCCW Executive Officer