

## KDCCW Board Meeting – September 21, 2019

### Spirituality Commission Chair Report - Lucy Brown

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The National Council of Catholic Women acts through its members to support, empower, and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership, and service. NCCW programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world.  
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It is my joy and honor to once again serve you of the Knoxville Diocese Council of Catholic Women as Spirituality Commission Chair, returning from that same post from 2015-2017. So you will know me a bit better -- especially if this is “our first meeting” -- at the end of this report is included a link to “About Lucy” that you may find within another online adventure of mine, *The Secret Place*, my ongoing spirituality resource at KDCCW. (A word about that at the end also.)

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We at the diocesan level are a vital link in the chain between the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW), the deanery level (four deaneries in our diocese) and the local parish level of CCW. Therefore, we must regularly be aware of what our NCCW is emphasizing and providing for each of our endeavors and commissions. Consequently, <https://www.nccw.org/> is our “home away from home” for this information that is meant to descend to us “from the top down.” In general this wonderful website is for public use although personal NCCW membership is needed in order to access and use the free resource material now available. Specifically regarding Spirituality, once you have logged in, you can find many resources for Spirituality, Faith Formation and Prayer within the “Get Involved” section on the home page. Additionally, the “store” section offers hard copies for purchase of many of those resources and publications.

I would like to encourage the use of our diocesan retreat center in Benton, Tennessee, for extended opportunities to delve more deeply into our Catholic faith. This is the perfect setting for a CCW deanery, large parish affiliate or a grouping together of a few smaller parishes within a region for a retreat on whatever topic is desired.

[The Christ Prince of Peace Retreat Center](https://dioknox.org/christprinceofpeaceretreatcenter/) is located on 52 peaceful and scenic acres nestled between the Hiwassee River and the Cherokee National Forest in Benton, Tenn. Approximately 60-90 minutes from both the Knoxville and Chattanooga areas, the Christ Prince of Peace Retreat Center was acquired by the Diocese of Knoxville through generous donors. The property includes guest residences, a chapel, meeting rooms, recreational facilities, and numerous places to pray and reflect while surrounded by the natural beauty that God created. [Click here for video](#). Click the link above for more information and to book your retreat. (excerpt from <https://dioknox.org/christprinceofpeaceretreatcenter/>)

Several mini-retreat curricula are in ready-to-use form at <https://www.nccw.org/> in the “member only resources” section. One I especially notice is “Gifts of the Visitation.” <https://nccw.z2systems.com/np/clients/nccw/neonPage.jsp?pageId=1&&orgId=nccw>

Now for the major theme I personally plan to develop for KDCCW during this term: **“in the company of saints”** is already being presented through my periodic, but not too frequent, correlated Spirituality Commission emails sent through Aimee Place’s KDCCW prayer chain. Future emails will highlight certain characteristics of saints in

general, quotes from a particular saint's writings, related articles for your perusal as desired and ... oh! just a potpourri of good things. Hopefully, these will help us in our own ongoing goal of becoming saints ourselves! I am archiving these emails for future reference and will gladly supply previous issues to whoever asks me ([mellucy1967@yahoo.com](mailto:mellucy1967@yahoo.com)). Thus far, June 28 and September 4 are available. Here is a teaser from the June 28 issue:

**"... within the Heart of Jesus and our friendship with Him there"**

and one from the September 4 issue:

**"Now the consciousness of this friendship of Jesus Christ is the very secret of the saints. ... it is the maddening joy of the conscious companionship of Jesus Christ that has produced the lovers, and therefore the giants, of history."**

(quote from - Monsignor Robert Hugh Benson (+1914) was a British convert to Catholicism who is best known for his novels about the Faith. The above is excerpted from his *The Friendship of Christ*, ©1955, The Newman Press. – from *Magnificat* April 2019, pp. 90-91

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Now for "my other online adventure." Most of you know that during my first term as Spirituality Commission Chair I developed what is now the continuing KDCCW spiritual resource *The Secret Place*, which exists "to aid one's spiritual growth toward a deepening personal relationship with Jesus Christ." <http://www.kdccw.org/TheSecretPlace.html> I will still be continuing *The Secret Place* but not as part of the Spirituality Commission since, as of the end of my 2015-2027 term, it came under the banner of KDCCW itself. So while I do hope you will become a *Secret Place* participant if you are not already, just know that *The Secret Place* is a separate entity from my work as Spirituality Commission Chair. Even so, you will notice some overlapping from time to time since this is nearly unavoidable given the subject matter.

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You may find "About Lucy" on pp. 25-27 of *The Secret Place Part I* download at <http://www.kdccw.org/TheSecretPlace.html>.

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Let us keep one another in loving prayer, serving one another and others by and in the grace-filled power of our merciful Lord.

*Lucy Brown*

alias Ruth the gleaner



[http://www.wikigallery.org/wiki/painting\\_83781/Hugues-Merle/Ruth-in-the-Fields](http://www.wikigallery.org/wiki/painting_83781/Hugues-Merle/Ruth-in-the-Fields)