

KDCCW Board Meeting - January 11, 2020 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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Joyfully, we begin our new year together! We are starting now to focus as a full board on active preparations for our 2020 KDCCW Convention, hosted by Five Rivers Deanery, April 23 – 25, at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church, Morristown, with the theme “Mary’s Fiat, Our Yes: A Vision for the Future.”

As your Spirituality Commission Chair, I have a special request of ALL DEANERY PRESIDENTS. (Check out your special paragraph at the end of this report.)

But now, I have a story for you which is presently being acted out and will be as we move forward together.

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As I closed out my September 21, 2019, Spirituality Commission report, I signed off as “Lucy Brown, alias Ruth the gleaner” with a small picture of “Ruth in the Fields” by Hughes Merle at the very end. It is time now that I tell you why I am bringing this moniker into play in this KDCCW arena.

Many years ago when our children were teenagers Mel and I were part of a particular small home group, one of many in the large church that was our spiritual home for many years. The hosts were parents of one of our daughter’s friends so we also knew them outside of the home group setting. Long after the little group disbanded, the wife surprised me one day over coffee with telling me that her husband had long seen me as “a Ruth.” No explanation, just the statement but with a quietly complimentary tone to it. The scope of the comment was entirely spiritual. My response was a mere, “hmmmm” with a polite nod of my head but I never thought much more about it then. Knowing Ruth’s history and character as chronicled in scripture, however, I let the statement sink into my inner being, and have been reminded of it through the years on rare occasions.

It is occurring to me of late -- especially as I began to serve the women of East Tennessee from my position on our KDCCW Board from 2015 onward – that great joy is mine when in my reading, spiritual experience or relating to others, I find and pass along nuggets of heavenly nourishment that seem to me and the Holy Spirit, can help others, especially those of my readership. This gathering and passing along to others certain information is, I am seeing, much like Ruth’s gleaning in the barley fields of Boaz after the main harvesters had taken their fill. Here and there Ruth would find small tufts of left-behind grain to take home as future sustenance for herself and Naomi, both widows devoid of regular provision. Her full story winds up being one of high romance and genealogical significance in the line of King David and, subsequently, Jesus Himself but all that is quite beside my point here. I am merely content to find morsels of spiritual goodness to pass along to you, to pique your sense of adventure, perhaps exhort to challenge and to invite you into wonder!

All this, of course, feeds wonderfully into the Spirituality theme I chose to begin developing at the start of our new KDCCW term: **"in the company of saints."** This theme is now being presented through my periodic, but not too frequent, correlated Spirituality Commission emails sent by Aimee Place on her 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 whomever asks me (mellucy1967@yahoo.com). You might even want to save some of your favorites for future meditation.

Following is a list of what has been sent so far: (* indicates an email directly related to the theme of **"in the company of saints"**)

6/28/19	Welcome from your new Spirituality Commission Chair!
9/4/19	*Second of Lucy's "in the company of saints" series (official kick-off of series)
9/9/19	*this is very time sensitive (Heroic Virtue: invitation to digital series on the saints by The Catholic Company)
9/18/19	Crusade of Prayer and Fasting for Amazonian Synod
10/26/19	*Peeking into a Saint's Prayer Corner
11/19/19	*Within the Company of Saints "Raiding the Larder"
11/25/19	"Only love can" ...
1/4/2020	Ponder these most precious Quotes of the Day...Blessed be the Most Holy Name of Jesus without end!

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Special Note to Deanery Presidents:

Beginning now and in preparation for the Memorial Mass at our 2020 Convention, the names of women from each parish who have died between _____ and _____ need to be gathered and emailed to me **no later than** _____ so a script can be prepared for each deanery spiritual advisor to read at the Mass.

Deanery presidents, please gather those names by contacting each of the church secretaries within your deanery. Please compile all names, by parish, into a final list before emailing it to me. (Please mark "Memorial Mass Names" in the subject line. Send to:

mellucy1967@yahoo.com)

Lucy Brown



http://www.wikigallery.org/wiki/painting_83781/Hugues-Merle/Ruth-in-the-Fields