

**NCCW convention report**  
**August 25-28, 2021**  
**Arlington, VA**

There are a lot of things I could say about the convention. The days were full and there was a sense of party mainly because we were celebrating the 100+1 anniversary.

The commission reports and the business meeting were informative. Information that affiliates should know. The speakers were very very good and should be considered at some point for a diocesan convention. Gloria Purvis from Thursday spoke on her conversion and the support she received from her parents who did not convert. On Saturday we heard from Elizabeth Tomlin, who talked about her experience with joining the NCCW as a military wife. Friday was breakfast with Bishop Wack, who is a delight and is our liaison to the US Bishops.

So Thursday afternoon started with the leadership commission:

The leadership commission was working on mentoring for the last two years. They gave some pointers on how to mentor; some things to do and some things not to do. They started off by showing a brochure that they've updated on an introduction to NCCW . You can find it in the members only area <https://www.nccw.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/An-Introduction-to-NCCW-June-2021-Update.pdf>

So some suggestions:

1. When either a new person is invited or comes to a meeting; assign her a mentor who can introduce her to other women and give her background on what is happening in the group.
2. Possibly, have a folder, basket or "goody bag" for the new person. Include the Introduction to NCCW and other things that represent your CCW.
3. Make sure someone follows up with her within a couple days of the meeting.
4. The mentor should stay with her for at least one other meeting. But longer if necessary.

### Spirituality

Spirituality commission broke their report into four sections:

1. Prayer for the end of racism - I have copies to distribute
2. The rosary commission - the rosary meditations are all on the website
3. Praying for priests - beautiful tribute to mother's of priests
4. The one hundred anniversary prayer service - can be used in parts or as an hour program.

### Service

The service commission did a skit starring our own Pat Ryan. In the skit, they talked about the services that they have been working on the last two years.

These included:

1. Domestic violence - they have flyers and other information on the website
2. Human trafficking - what to do if you believe you are seeing someone in trouble
3. Friends with pens - writing letters to prisoners
4. Mother's in Need - helping new mothers with necessary food or other items or even babysitting.

LTD explained who they were and how they have continued their work through Zoom calls.

The business meeting did not fail to be exciting and full of controversy. The two most important things that came out of the business meeting was the resolution and the bylaws.

What you need to know about the resolution was that it is put together by the spirituality commission but the service commission also did one very similar but was rejected by the resolution committee. So there was a little edge to start out. The resolution is on healing racism. One woman was very upset over anyone calling anyone in the room a racist. But other women talked about their own experiences; not necessarily from anyone in the room but in the community.

The resolution passed. And part of that resolution was that the province Director will report back at next year's convention about what their province did. One of the things that can be done is praying the "Prayer to love: healing racism." I have copies so everyone can take them back to their deaneries.

The bylaws committee put forth eight potential changes in the bylaws. Of those only three were accepted. What was really interesting about this is that voting members had their little red cards and there were women who would count the actual number not just assume there were enough votes. A few of the bylaw changes were defeated by less than 10 votes. And during the votes the room was locked. In fact they asked a few spiritual advisers to stand in front of the doors and not let Women in or out. So if you had to go to the bathroom you were out of luck.

There were parties and people dressed up in outfits from the last 100 years. And I would recommend that if you can join us in Minnesota please do.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Peckham, Vice President