



To all ladies in the Diocese of Knoxville,

First, I would like to thank immediate Past President Julie Bomar, and the Board of Directors, for the positive direction of our organization during the pandemic. What a challenge! I appreciate your assistance as we transition into a new term for the Knoxville Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

Next, I would like to thank the 2021 KDCCW Convention “Heart to Heart” Chair, Michelle Peckham for such an exceptional job and I look forward to the 2022 Convention on April 28-30 at St. Therese of Lisieux in Cleveland under the direction of MJ Uhlik and her committee.

I also want to thank the ladies that took the time out of a very busy schedule, on a Saturday, to attend “The Trickle Down Effect” training on Aug. 14 at Cathedral Hall in Knoxville. So much information was presented in a few short hours by a great team of ladies! I encourage everyone to review the NCCW Guidance and Resource Manual as you plan a new year or revise the current one.

As you can see by the above logo, I have chosen “Faith like a Child” as the theme for the 2021 – 2023 term of KDCCW. Yes, my family has influenced this decision by the awe and wonder of my granddaughter and my husband’s journey of faith from diagnosis to transplant and beyond. God is good. This theme reflects humility as we simplify what is most important in our efforts... building the Kingdom of God.

Three areas or goals, have been identified to concentrate on:

- **COMMUNICATION:** As the pandemic has taught us, we had to think outside the box to keep our ladies informed and involved. We have a wonderful team of ladies, on our Board of Directors, involved with emails, website, social media, directory, printed material and the latest edition of our quarterly newsletter, Dogwood Connect. Welcome to Emily Booker, who will be joining our team as Communication Chair, to assist in this area.
- **MENTORING:** The NCCW Mentoring Program can be utilized on all levels of council. Ladies in a new position would benefit from a Mentor as they begin a new role and ladies who have served many years in a role, could also benefit from a Mentor or being a Mentor to someone else for a refresher on the focus of council work. All this information is available from our Leadership Commission Chair, Kathy DeAngelis, who is eager to share the benefits of this program, and it is on the NCCW website.
- **MEMBERSHIP:** Our parishes, deaneries and the diocese are affiliated with the National Council of Catholic Women, however individual membership has its benefits too. Karen Vacaliuc, our Membership Chair, has introduced a friendly challenge to increase NCCW membership. Membership also includes ladies in our own parishes or ladies in a parish that is not associated with NCCW. Cumberland Mountain Deanery “Adopt a Parish” program, under the direction of Deanery President Donna Curry, has targeted non-affiliated parishes to introduce ladies to our council and include them, as Catholic women.

Lastly, I want to thank all the current Board of Directors for your willingness to serve the ladies in the Diocese of Knoxville in your respective role. Together, as the body of Christ, we will strive to live up to the mission statement we proclaim at our gatherings. May almighty God bless us all for our efforts!

Your sister in Christ,
Susan M. Collins, KDCCW President 2021-23

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