

Knoxville Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Service Commission Report - September 2021

I would like to begin by introducing myself. My name is Joan Rowe, and I am a member of Christ the King Catholic Church in Tazewell. As a matter of fact, I am a charter member of Christ the King. I am the immediate past president of Cumberland Mountain Deanery. I have served as historian of KDCCW. Currently, I am president of our affiliate (again).

Before we can be of service to others, we must be serving God. Remember this question from the Baltimore Catechism: Why did God you serve God? In his own words from Matthew 25:40, "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has given NCCW the initiative "Walking with Moms in Need". Think of moms in your church who may be struggling, especially now. They definitely need our prayers. However, they may need more. They may need a break. Cook a meal, clean house, babysit, invite them to join CCW activities, or just be there to listen to them.

What are the needs in your community? These are all different depending on location. Most of us are aware of the need for food and clothing, but lets go a step further. Find organizations in your community that provide mentoring for women. You just might be what they need to boost their self-esteem, and encourage them to take a step they have been hesitant to take. Make yourself aware of the resources that Catholic Charities of East Tennessee provides. I have attached some information on this.

We need to be generously supporting the work of Catholic Relief Services. Besides providing emergency relief for those affected by disasters and civil conflict, CRS fights poverty and disease. It supports long-term programs in agriculture, education, water, and peace building. Check out ways to serve through Cross Catholic Outreach. Participate in Boxes of Joy. The boxes provide Christmas gifts for children around the world. Plan a food packing event. You can find information about each of these and other projects at crosscatholic.org.

Participate in projects the promote the care of our environment and natural resources. We all know about reduce, reuse, recycle. The destruction and abuse of our environment is at a critical stage. Get involved.

Finally, I look forward to hearing about service projects in each of your deaneries and affiliates. We can all learn from each other.

This concludes the report.

Joan Rowe

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. Mark 10:45



CATHOLIC CHARITIES

OF EAST TENNESSEE

Catholic Charities of East Tennessee (CCETN) was founded to provide social services to East Tennessee communities, and as a member of Catholic Charities USA, is part of one of the largest social service agencies in the United States. Empowered by the grace of Jesus Christ, CCETN fosters human dignity of the vulnerable through shelter, counseling, education, advocacy, and the reverence for life.

- Services are provided to anyone with demonstrated need, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability.
- Clients range in age from newborn to old-age and come from the East Tennessee region.
- It is estimated that fewer than 5% of clients are Catholic, with the only common feature being a vast majority are low-income or in many cases 'very' low-income.
- CCETN offers 10 innovative programs throughout the 36 counties of East Tennessee.

Children's Emergency Shelter - for children birth-17 years removed from home due to allegations of abuse and/or neglect.

Community Supportive Housing - permanent, supportive housing for adults with chronic mental illness.

The Home Place - low-cost supportive housing to men and women living with HIV/AIDS

Pregnancy Help Centers (5) - provide parenting support and education to pregnant women and families.

Columbus Home Assisting Parents - home-based education and support services for parenting skills, crisis intervention and case management.

Crazy Quilt Friendship Center - food pantry in Campbell County serving rural Appalachian families facing financial hardships.

Office of Immigrant Services - the only USDOJ-recognized program in East TN that assists immigrants in navigating the complex path to citizenship in the United States.

Samaritan Place - an emergency shelter for seniors age 60+ experiencing homelessness or a housing crisis.

Hope Kitchen - a partnership with the Diocese of Knoxville parishes that serves a warm meal on the fourth Saturday of each month to the homeless and those most in need.

Counseling Services- designed to benefit those in need experiencing emotional, behavioral or adjustment issues.