

Knoxville Diocesan Council of Catholic Women
Service Commission Report
April, 2022

The Service Commission has been busy over the past few months preparing for the KDCCW food packing event on March 26 through Cross Catholic Outreach. Our goal was to pack 40,000 meals by raising \$13,000. We underestimated the generosity of those in our Knoxville Diocese. We raised over \$15,000 and were able to pack over 50,000 meals. Besides the financial generosity, the people of the diocese were generous with their time and energy. Volunteers included, not just CCW women, but their husbands, children, and friends. There were volunteers from the Knights of Columbus and University of Tennessee. (We needed that man power.) These were all volunteers who had the desire to serve. I might add that there was lots of joy in that room as we worked to feed some of the hungriest in the world.

Now let's use our energy in a couple of other ways. We need to be educating our communities about domestic violence and human trafficking. Identify organizations in your community that help survivors, and make yourself aware of warning signs. Every 2 minutes a child is bought or sold for sex, and the average age is 13. On average, victims don't live past 7 years. Tennessee had 130 cases in 2021. You can get more information through "Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking" at www.sistersagainsttrafficking.org. In 2020, Tennessee had 69,385 cases of domestic violence. Tennessee ranks 10th in the nation for the rate at which men kill women. In the United States, 3 women are killed each day by a man who says he loves her. We have to do more to protect women and children.

"Walking with Moms in Need is a time of service in which Catholic parishes and communities 'walk in the shoes' of local pregnant and parenting women in need." If we are going to advocate for life, we need to be supporting local pregnancy centers and other organizations that provide help to women and their children, born and unborn. Some suggestions from Yvonne Pygatt, NCCW Service Chair, include clothing drives, infant supplies, support group, prayer time with them, and time in your day to pray for them. Being a mother is hard. Being a pregnant woman alone and a single mom is even harder. Walk in their shoes!

Joan Rowe
Service Commission Chair