

KDCCW Spirituality Commission Report

April, 2022 Submitted by Kathleen Kelly

As CCW women, we pledge to help all women (including ourselves) to grow in Spirituality, Leadership, and Service. It is hard to imagine how one can grow spiritually and NOT grow in at least some of the skills of leadership and innumerable means of service. Lest it seem that I am ignoring Legislative Work, consider the special blend of Spirituality -- right relationship with God and right relationship with the other—which is the correct definition of biblical justice. Add those spiritual gifts along with the Leadership skills of perseverance in respectful listening, researching unjust structures, and discerning the appropriate God-given, even prophetic response needed. Include then the call to Service, wherein legislative justice calls all of us to action in accord with the fulness of each one's own gifts. In short, to grow as women of the gospel, we need ALL the gifts of Spirituality, Leadership, Service and Legislative Action.

We are living in troubled times, and we need all four legs of the table functioning in order to provide a suitable altar upon which we can honestly consecrate ourselves and our blind, often brutal world to Christ through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. If all four legs of the CCW table are not fully functioning within ourselves and our affiliates according to each woman's best gifts, then it is all too easy for our daily prayers to become mere words or vague hopes. Diedrich Bon Hoffer called this "Cheap Grace."

If we separate Spirituality from the work of Leadership, Service, and Legislative responsibility, we run the risk of embracing a "Jesus and me" mentality that ignores the needs of neighbor and our world, and the structures that cause such needs, all the while expecting a heavenly reward. This is not the Christian life that cost Christ, the Saints and Martyrs their very lives. On the other hand, to focus too heavily on the tasks of Leadership, Service, and Legislative Responsibility without seeking a richer, ever more intimate, just and discerning relationship with God we run the risk of finding ourselves burned out and despairing of ever making a difference, or ever really building the Kingdom of God.

I challenge each of us as KDCCW women of faith to get a copy of Pope Francis' Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and over these next weeks and months to meditate on it phrase by phrase, asking our Mother to open its meaning and its implications for our communal and personal lives. If nothing within it convicts our hearts, demanding something more of us, than perhaps we had better meditate on it phrase by phrase all over again. Our world needs us to do this loving work. Our Mother Mary is asking it of us, and the whole Church is supporting us in it.

May we: 1. Examine the words.

2. Speak them from the heart.

3. Feel the need for forgiveness.

4. Make use of the Sacraments that Christ has given us: Reconciliation and Eucharist

5. Embrace both Russia and Ukraine with love, genuine love for their very souls.

6. Celebrate Easter with humble joy.

Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief.

Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now.

You are not obligated to compete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.

The Talmud