

Legislative Advocacy Commission

Jane Carter, Chair

Women of Council are Women of Commitment and Compassion!

Was your first impulse to respond “YES!” when you read that statement?

Did you immediately identify with those words?

Do you usually consider yourself a Legislative Advocate?

According to Network, a Catholic Social Justice Lobby, “**It doesn’t take specialized skills to do legislative advocacy; it does take commitment and compassion.**” What that means is that all of us, the women of KDCCW, are equipped and qualified to do the work—to become informed, to speak up for the oppressed, to be the voice of those who cannot speak, to fight for the common good, to hold all of our efforts in prayer and to do it all in the public square because that is where our elected officials and legislators will hear us. We should all have Legislative Advocate on our resume!

It is important to remember that legislative advocacy is an **ACTION**. We must all commit to doing the work to make our voice clear and impactful; to bring the message of Jesus, the mercy and compassion, to the current events and issues of our community, state and nation.

- ❖ **Commit to praying for the issues** you are addressing or studying. Ask your Spiritual Advisor to include the issue in the Prayers of the Faithful at Mass, use your e-prayer chain and social media platforms to engage others.
- ❖ **Commit to reading and studying** *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: The US Bishops’ Reflection on Catholic Teaching and Political Life in the Catholic Tradition*. This USCCB publication can be easily downloaded as a PDF from the website www.usccb.org
- ❖ **Commit to discussing** excerpts from the document at specific time—at a meeting, on ZOOM, after morning mass, in a Confirmation Prep class, with an RCIA group.
- ❖ **Commit to meeting** your elected officials in person at their local office, at community events, or at the Capital office buildings if you are able to travel to Washington, DC.
- ❖ **Commit to voting in EVERY election** from your community to national. Encourage friends to discuss issues of importance. Be bold—speak your faith!
- ❖ You may even find that you are ready to **Consider stepping up and running for office!**

“In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. “People in every nation enhance the social dimension of their lives by acting as committed and responsible citizens” (Evangelii Gaudium, no. 220).”

--from the Introduction, Section 13 of *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: The US Bishops’ Reflection on Catholic Teaching and Political Life*.