



To all ladies in the Diocese of Knoxville,

Blessed and Holy New Year to each of you as we begin 2022 in the Diocese of Knoxville. I would like to thank the Deanery Presidents that have graciously invited me to their respective meetings in the fall of 2021. It was really nice to share the Theme “Faith Like a Child” and the goals of “Communication, Mentoring and Membership” that have been set for the Knoxville Diocese Council of Catholic Women with our deaneries.

I hope you had a chance to read the November edition of the Dogwood Connect Newsletter that featured the Commission / Committee Chairs working so diligently on the goals set for our diocese. Please utilize these ladies as a resource as we continue to open the communication with our affiliates. The next edition of Dogwood Connect will be mid February and the deadline to submit an article is January 31. We will feature our hardworking Deanery Presidents and the work being done in their respective deaneries. I am amazed at the projects accomplished in our affiliates and look forward to hearing about more of them.

Our Service Commission Chair, Joan Rowe, has been working with the Food Packing Project Chair, Patty Johnson, and her committee to raise awareness of Cross Catholic Outreach and the funds needed for us to complete the project of packing 40,000 meals for the less fortunate. Thank you to everyone who have donated to date however, funds are still desperately needed for this to become a reality on March 26th. We not only need additional funds, we also need many volunteers to complete the task. You can also read more about it in the Dogwood Connect or contact our project chair for more information.

Please be sure to mark your calendar for the 32nd annual Knoxville Diocese Council of Catholic Women Convention on April 28-30 at St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church in Cleveland, TN. The theme is “The Holy Family, our guidance and strength” and speaker topic will be Holy Family related. The speakers include Deacon Scott Maentz from Holy Ghost Parish in Knoxville, Arlene Webb of St. Stephens Parish in Chattanooga, Leah Carroll (<https://www.facebook.com/jacobleah.bellcarroll>) and Sr. John Catherine Kennedy a Dominican Sister of St. Cecilia in Nashville. Hampton Inn in Cleveland will be our host hotel and rooms are available for \$130 double occupancy. Registration forms will be available soon so spread the word to all ladies about the wonderful time of food, fun, and spiritual fellowship they will have with other ladies of our diocese.

I encourage all of you to take the Synod Survey for the Diocese of Knoxville at www.synodsurvey.org to let your voice be heard. Several parishes will be having listening sessions for you to participate in as well. The information gathered will be used during the Bishop Synod in 2023. More info can be found on www.dioknox.org and on the National Council of Catholic Women website.

Also check out our website for commission & committee reports for the Knoxville Diocese Council of Catholic Women at www.kdccw.org and of course the information on www.nccw.org for the National Council of Catholic Women, especially affiliate happenings. It is so humbling to serve in this capacity for an organization I truly believe in.

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