

**PROVINCE REPORT**  
**THEOLA COPELAND, PD**  
**PROVINCE OF LOUISVILLE**

**January 11, 2022**

My term as Province Director had gotten off to a busy start. NCCW had a zoom training meeting for Province Directors which I attended on September 18, 2021. The training involved going through all of the rules and guidelines for new Province Directors. One thing that was stressed was being prepared and being organized. You must check and answer emails daily! Our first assignment was to contact all of the bishops in our province! Our role in is to serve as liaison to the National organization, to assist the President as she strives to carry out the goals and mission of the organization by serving on various committees. I am serving on the Education Committee, chaired by Ellen Bachman.

On September 25, 2021 I traveled to Knoxville for my first meeting with the Knoxville DCCW. Susan Collins is the President. I was warmly received by everyone. I was seated next to Pat Ryan, the immediate past province director, who was very helpful to me as we went through a very full agenda for the meeting. Those in attendance were Diocesan Board members, Deanery Presidents, Diocesan commission chairs, and the Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Dan Whitman. The Diocesan Council voted on a service project to fill a semi-tractor trailer with food for Cross Catholic Outreach. This project will conclude in March 2022. Karen Vacaliuc, the Membership chair asked me to provide the list of NCCW Individual Members. I was able to do that for KDCCW. She is initiating a membership challenge with prizes for the affiliates with most members. This challenge ends with the convention in 2022.

On October 20, 2021, Betty Moshea, the Acting -President of Nashville DCCW and I met with Bishop Mark Spaulding, prior to Nashville DCCW Board Meeting scheduled at 11 am at the Catholic Pastoral Center. At that meeting I asked Bishop Mark for his assistance to send an email to the Bishops in the Louisville Province to introduce me to them. He agreed to do that and he followed through about a week later. Other matters were discussed which included: Spiritual Advisor, continuation of the Seminarian Breakfast, financial assistance from the bishop, and the 50 million Nashville Diocesan Legacy Campaign.

On October 23, 2022 I attended the Cumberland Mountain Deanery Meeting in Clinton, TN. The President of this Deanery is Donna Curry. Again, I was warmly welcomed by all. The meeting began with prayer, the NCCW Mission statement and the US Pledge of Allegiance. The secretary called the role of Parish Affiliates and how many members were in attendance. At the meeting, they had five charitable organizations make 5 min presentations to the Deanery. Later on in the meeting. Ballots were passed out. The members voted for their favorite organization for their

service project. The organization with the most votes would be their project for the next two years or one year in the event of a ty.

On October 13, 2021 I attended the Fall meeting of the Nashville DCCW. This was the first meeting of the NDCCW since February 01, 2020. After the Mass, there was installation of officers. Usually, the general diocesan meetings are hosted by a parish, but due to many factors, such as having the Vice-President acting as President, because the President had serious medical problems, so she could no longer fulfill the duties as President, she re-signed. Fr. Michael Baltrus announced that he would serve as the Spiritual Advisor for NDCCW.

Plans were made for the Winter meeting that will be Held at St. Luke Parish in Smyrna, TN, which is the home parish of Betty Moshea, President of NDCCW. The President appointed a committee to work on the Spring Spiritual Retreat which is to be in March 2022.

On November 3, - 13, 2021 I emailed letters to the Bishops of Province of Louisville. I did not request a formal visit with Bishop Richard Stika, because he had met with the KDCCW President earlier. He is a great supporter of the Knoxville DCCW and gives them great financial assistance. There are five dioceses in the Louisville Province: Knoxville, Nashville, Memphis, Louisville (Archdiocese), Owensboro, Lexington, and Covington. In all of these letters I expressed a desire to come spend a week in the diocese visiting with a few of the women groups, to tell them about NCCW, requested a map of the diocese with names of parishes and names of Pastors. I received positive responses from the dioceses of Lexington, and Memphis. I received a negative response from Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, and no responses from the dioceses of Covington and Owensboro.

On December 10, 2021 a series of deadly tornados hit portions of Memphis, Nashville, and multiple towns in Western Kentucky, including the towns of Mayfield and Dawson Springs which were nearly destroyed. These towns are in the diocese of Owensboro. I spoke to NCCW President, Patricia Vorhees, several days after the tornado. She reported speaking to the Chancellor of Owensboro. A fund-raising campaign has been set up for the Diocese of Owensboro by NCCW. I forwarded this information to Nashville and Knoxville to be emailed to our members in the Nashville and Knoxville Diocesan Councils. The people of western Kentucky will need our prayers and financial assistance for months to come. Rebuilding can be a slow and long process.

Knoxville Diocesan CCW and its affiliate Deaneries and Parishes have completed service projects and/or currently working on projects that are serving the local communities. KDCCW Service Commission reported that 673 Boxes of Joy for Cross Catholic Outreach were filled. Ten affiliate parishes participated in the project. Cumberland Mountain Deanery voted to support two community organizations for the next two years: Crossroads Center of Hope and Sleep in Heavenly Peace. As mentioned earlier, the Knoxville Diocesan service project requires raising \$13,000 and needs over 100 volunteers on the day of the event in March 2022.

Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksville, TN and St. Michal's Parish in Springfield, TN participated in Boxes of Joy for Cross Catholic Outreach. ICC filled over 414 shoe boxes. I have

not heard how many boxes was collected from St. Michal, but they did complete the project. St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church has an ongoing Outreach Ministry which helps the North Nashville community. I am encouraging Nashville DCCW to get affiliate councils to report on their service activities.

Thanks to all who did reports, written and oral to help in the writing of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Theola N. Copeland, PD

Province of Louisville