

KDCCW Spirituality Commission Report

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The Latest Issue of **Catholic Woman** focused on *three things* that our affiliates might well relate to:

- **First, is Kathy Bonner's** (Kathy is the 2021 recipient of the Our Lady of Good Counsel Award) **witness following St. Therese's spirituality of doing small things with great love.** It is good to remind ourselves of the basics now and then, and The Little Flower is a great mentor for getting the foundation of our lives, our spirituality, and our mission on the right track. It is, after all, ALL about love – love of God and love of neighbor without exception.
- **Second, the "Love of neighbor without exception"** is something we need to take very seriously in our present political and even religious climate of demonizing those who think quite differently than we do, whether it is about vaccinations, January 6 insurrections, who is really our President, or even who can and cannot or ought-not receive eucharist, as well as whether we agree with Pope Francis as he struggles to gather together and lead our One, Holy, and Catholic an Apostolic Church. If we CCW Women cannot accept that NO ONE is to be demonized, or demeaned, because every person without exception is God's precious child, how can we expect to thrive as communities of love and women of love in our world which is sorely in need of love today? **See Cheryl Sommer's article entitled: Responding to Pope Francis' Call for A Better Kind of Politics.**
- **Thirdly, in Kim Pandan's article,** writing as Spirituality Commission Chair, Kim focused on the Incarnation of Christ, **When God Became Human.** She writes that the NCCW Spirituality Commission will be delving into the gift of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament throughout 2022. Given that some studies conclude the only about 30 to 40 percent of Catholics actually believe in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, it behooves all of our sister CCW affiliates to come back to the basics regarding the enormous self-gift of Jesus' everything: body, blood, soul, and divinity, that he so humbly surrenders to us in holy communion. We need to individually and communally plunge deeply into the Gospel of John, Chapter 6 as we read, reflect, pray through and renew our commitment to this most foundational belief of our Catholic Faith.

Our own Karen Vacaliuc has shared a call for "9 Days for Life", a novena for the protection of all human life, because ALL life is precious to the Creator of Life itself. The novena is from January 19-27. Of course, the novena can be said during any nine day period, but there seems to be a gathering of powerful graces when huge numbers of people are praying at the same time. The website for a pdf of the novena is: <https://www.usccb.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/22-9-days-novena-print.pdf>.

As you know, the coming synod is asking for our input through answering an online questionnaire. As women dedicated to fostering lay leadership in our Church, it is counterproductive to be lukewarm about responding to what our Pope, our “in Persona Christi” has asked of us. We need to take leadership on this, and respond personally and urge others to respond.

