

Spirituality Commission Report
September, 2022
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Since I have not had much opportunity to develop a program or even consider Spirituality goal-setting since my last report at the board meeting during the Chattanooga convention I began to look to the NCCW for direction. In the most recent Catholic Woman magazine I found such direction.

1. The spirituality commission report was entitled “promoting a culture of life” and it focused entirely on October as respect life month and while the author, Kim Padan, mentioned the “heated rhetoric” gripping our nation since the Supreme Court reversed Roe v.s. Wade, she dealt not at all with the unexpected consequences of that decision. I don’t believe that the CCW women across this nation can ignore the complexity that women and girls are now facing; 10-year-old rape victims, women who have tubal pregnancies that are never viable (and there are more of these than we may realize), along with the threat of imprisonment for doctors and families who are trying to deal with these very real circumstances and are hampered even when it comes to saving the life of the mother.

It seems to me that as hard as we women worked to overturn Roe v.s. Wade, we need to be at the forefront of discerning, praying, and working for more realistic limits to these bans on abortion and consider with compassion all those involved in these and other impossible situations. Also, Pope Francis has called for October to be a time for prayer to end capital punishment. It has always bothered me that the Right to Life movement never saw the need to include respect for the life of those on death row or respect for the life of our earth.

It seems clear to me that we need to reconsider Respect for Life, embracing it in its broadest and most compassionate sense by including all aspects of Life issues in our prayer and even in the petitions that we write for communal prayer at Mass. Let’s remember that God so loved the world that through his own son he emptied himself even to death on the cross so that all people and all creation may have life and have it more abundantly.

2. In the same magazine, I was pleased to read the Legislative Advisory Report (which could easily have been the Spirituality Report) offering a series of JustFaith programs advocating Catholic Social Teaching — the best kept secret of the Catholic Church. Reading that report, I felt like I could breathe again. Please read your recent Catholic Woman magazine and join me in one or more of their eight-week programs of JustFaith Ministries. Cheryl Sommer notes that these ministry sessions can help “Catholics to know and live out the beauty of our Catholic Social Teaching.”

3. Dynamic Catholic is again offering a book at the cost of \$1 per book as a way of enriching the spiritual life of our parishes. This year’s offer is Holy Moments. It is enticing to think that with enough simple everyday Holy Moments, consciously chosen by simple everyday people, we could change our world. Think about it.

