

## 2000—Onward

- Created the Water for Life Fund and Madonna Plan to support the ongoing efforts of Catholic Relief Services .
- Implemented *Vocation Purse Club* to assist women seeking to enter religious life with their financial obstacles.
- Formation of a mentoring program, *Women Embracing Women*.
- Implemented and continue to implement new communication strategies, through online and digital media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, new databases and updated web presence.
- Worked to end Human Trafficking with affiliated organizations and US Catholic Sisters.
- Established outreach program with children in the Holy Land and students in the USA.
- Established CCW levels for high school and college age women.
- Provided formal program of formation in our faith for members.
- Developed series of mini-retreat resources.
- Established Leadership Training and Development program.

## History of Print Communication

- 1963-1971 Word Magazine published 10 times per year.
- 1971-1975 People
- 1975-present Catholic Woman Magazine published quarterly
- 1980-1993 Colloquy published 3 times per year. Commission and Legislative Advocacy updates.
- 1994-2004 NCCW Bulletin Board
- 2005- present Connect



## National Council of Catholic Women

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## A Brief History

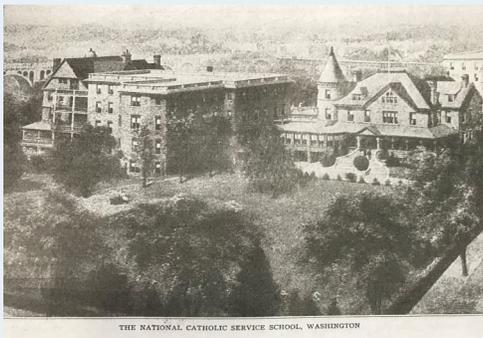
**March 4, 1920, the National Council of Catholic Women was founded by the United States Bishops (National Catholic Welfare Council) with the stated purpose:**

- To give to the Catholic women of the country a common voice and an instrument for unified action in all matters affecting Catholic or national welfare.
- To ensure proper Catholic representation on, and the proper recognition of Catholic principles in national committees and national movements affecting the religious, moral and material well-being of the country.

## Historic Highlights

### The First Year Twenty Five Years

- Emphasis was given to the education and formation of Catholic Women so they could exercise their new found civic duties granted them as the “Right to Suffrage” in 1920.
- Under the direction of the National Catholic Welfare Council, the NCCW participated in an inaugural program called Immigrant Aid to assist Catholic immigrants with their relocation experiences.
- Focused on the promotion of Catholic education and the establishment of Parent Teacher Associations, catechetical instruction, and affiliation with university Newman Clubs.
- Created and funded the National Catholic School of Social Services in Washington D.C., now housed at Catholic University of America.
- Endorsed the work and actions of the Children's Bureau and the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor.



- Diligently promoted social justice and world peace and the diminution of armaments among all governments of the world.
- Promoted the sanctity of marriage and the threat to the family structure posed by divorce and birth control.
- Affiliated with the International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues now known as World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO).

### 1945-1969

- Pledged support for the United Nations and its affiliated international organizations.
- Focused on international relations, just peace treaties, human rights and the opposition of genocide.
- Started an International Affairs program and collaborated with the National Catholic Welfare Council's War Relief Services now known at Catholic Relief Services (CRS).
- Endorsed minimum wage, Social Security and health insurance legislation.
- Promoted the Catholic Press and “healthy reading habits” through the establishment of parish libraries and subscription to diocesan newspapers.
- As a result of Vatican II women began to fill lay ministry roles in the Church. The NCCW established training programs and developed resources to help them fulfill these roles.
- Launched the Military Council of Catholic Women.
- Developed a formal leadership training program know as the *Leadership Institute: Fashion Me A Person*.

### 1970-2000

- Commenced working toward an end to abortion and euthanasia.
- Created and implemented the RESPITE program to provide support for caregivers.
- Addressed the issue of domestic violence through education and advocacy programs.
- Collaborated with Catholic Relief Services to establish the *Refugee Women Emergency Fund*.
- Created and funded *Mary's Garden* at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

