

COUNCIL RECOGNITION MONTH

“A Vision For The Future”

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
CATHOLIC  WOMEN

www.nccw.org

NCCW Leadership Commission 2020



Council Recognition Month

October has long been Council Recognition Month and is a perfect opportunity to hold a Membership Drive, to introduce all Catholic women to the Council of Catholic Women and invite them to learn more about us – who we are and what we do. The following are suggestions for ways to promote your Council during the month of October.

1. Contact the Diocesan President to request a letter from the Bishop declaring the Month of October as Council Recognition Month.
2. Prepare bulletin announcements to run each Sunday in October.
3. In coordination with your pastor, choose a Sunday in October to promote the Council of Catholic Women and your CCW's activities. This is Council Sunday for your CCW.

1. Council Sunday Activities:

- a. Arrange to have the bishop's proclamation displayed in your church or printed in the bulletin.
- b. In coordination with your pastor, choose one particular Mass for all members to attend. The members may process in together and/or sit together so they can be recognized by the celebrant. Encourage the cooperation of the coordinators for the various liturgical ministers to schedule women of your council as lectors, gift bearers, and Eucharistic ministers.
- c. Personalize the *NCCW Membership Flyer*, found on the NCCW website, to advertise your Council Sunday. Use it as a promotional flyer, bulletin insert or both along with your parish, deanery, or arch/diocesan brochures.
- d. Have members speak at all the Masses about Council and to invite the women of the parish to speak with members after the Masses and to visit the displays.
- e. Encourage members to use an identifying emblem, such as a blue ribbon in honor of "Our Lady of Good Counsel", name tag, etc. Display issues of *Catholic Woman*, NCCW brochures, Prayer Cards to Our Lady of Good Counsel, and your own special newsletters or photos of your council in action.
- f. See NCCW Guidance and Resource Manual for more suggestions.

(Adapted and used with permission from the Florida Council of Catholic Woman - Province of Miami).

PRAYER PETITION FOR COUNCIL SUNDAY

“Renewed Vitality”

Rounding the corner to the month of October which is traditionally Council Recognition Month, we can begin to set our hearts and minds to a renewed vitality for the National Council of Catholic Women. Let us pray to the Holy Spirit for fruitfulness as our Council sisters educate and promote National Council of Catholic Women to the ladies in the pews. Found in the NCCW Collection of Prayers, the following intercessions were written in 1990 by Donna Tiernan Mahoney, NCCW Church Communities Chair. The petitions are suggested for Mass in honor of Our Lady of Good Counsel and may be used alone or integrated into the parish petitions.

LEADER: The response to the prayer of the faithful is: Gracious God, hear us.

LEADER: Let us pray to our God who has created us to be a people of peace, justice and love. For the _____ Council of Catholic Women, that we may continue to be grounded in our tradition as we face the challenges of the future, we pray.

RESPONSE: Gracious God, hear us.

LEADER: For the church that we may recognize the power of women and men working together in equality, mutuality and justice, we pray.

RESPONSE: Gracious God, hear us.

LEADER: For all women that they may recognize the dignity and blessedness of their gift of life, we pray.

RESPONSE: Gracious God, hear us.

LEADER: For the oppressed and poor women, that they may find strength, affirmation and support in our council and in our Church, we pray.

RESPONSE: Gracious God, hear us.

LEADER: For all of us, that we may recognize that together we are the Body of Christ and that we may see each person as valued, loved and gifted in God’s eyes, we pray.

RESPONSE: Gracious God, hear us.

LEADER: For all the deceased and especially for those who have promoted the ministry of Jesus through the work of the _____ Council of Catholic Women, we pray.

RESPONSE: Gracious God, hear us.

LEADER: O God, who is the giver of all goodness, help us to recognize Your face in our midst as we strive, like our Mother Mary, to be faithful and loving servants of your Word. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your son. Amen.

(Source: The *NCCW Collection of Prayers*. Written by Donna Tiernan Mahoney, NCCW Church Communities Chair, 1990. Updated by Kathleen Penno, NCCW Spirituality Commission Chair, September 2020)



PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

God of heavenly wisdom,
You have given us Mary,
Mother of Jesus,
to be our guide and counselor:
Grant that we may always seek her
Motherly help in this life
And so, enjoy her blessed presence in the life to come.

O Mother of Good Counsel,
Patroness of the National Council of
Catholic Women, intercede for us,
That we may be wise, courageous, and
Loving leaders of the Church.
Help us, dear Mother, to know the mind
of Jesus, your son.

May the Holy Spirit
Fill us with reverence for God's creation
and compassion for all God's children.
May our labors of love on earth
Enhance the reign of God:
and may God's gifts of faith and living
hope prepare us for the fullness of the world to come.

Amen.





Prayer for the Membership of the National Council of Catholic Women

Lord, we thank You for the countless blessings You have bestowed on the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) since its founding in 1920.

We thank You for the many gifted women who have served, and those who continue to answer the call to serve You and Your children through NCCW.

As members of the National Council of Catholic Women, You have called us to be workers in Your vineyard.

We pray for the graces we need to be courageous and committed leaders in the Church.

We pray that NCCW will continue to grow and thrive through the generosity of our members and all who support our Mission.

We ask for Your guidance, Lord to support, empower and educate Catholic women throughout the country so that we may be an active and united voice in our church and in our society.

May we always use the gifts obtained to build up Your Kingdom as we reach out and connect with Catholic women of all ages and ethnic backgrounds to serve You through Gospel oriented programs and services.

Lord, we place our needs in Your hands. We ask all these things through the intercession of Our Mother and Good Counsel, Patroness of the National Council of Catholic Women. Amen



Centennial Anniversary Prayer

Heavenly Father, we give You thanks and praise
for the National Council of Catholic Women's
100 years of service to the Universal Church.

We are thankful for the Bishops who founded NCCW in 1920
and for the beautiful and inspiring legacy
provided by our leaders, Spiritual Advisors, and NCCW sisters
who have preceded us.

We give thanks to Our Lady of Good Counsel
for guiding us to be loving and courageous leaders
in building the Kingdom of God.

Lord, we pray that You stir the hearts of all Catholic women
to realize the value of serving Your Church and society
through membership in the NCCW.

Bless us with many more workers in the vineyard
as we embark on our next century of
Spirituality, Leadership, and Service.

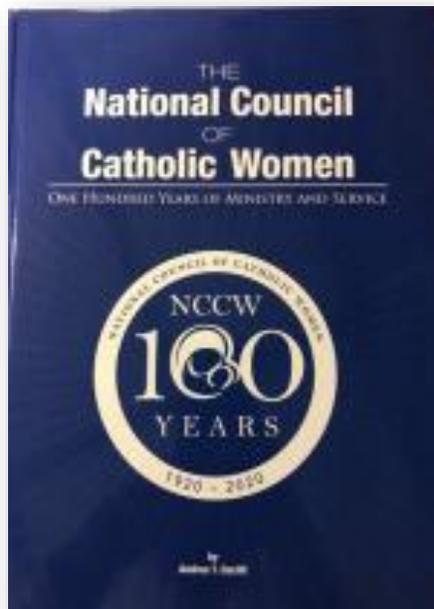
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

Knowing Your Organization's History is a Leadership Tool

A New Book About Our History

“The National Council of Catholic Women: One Hundred Years of Ministry and Service”



Order by visiting our On-Line Store at

WWW.NCCW.ORG