

Mental Health Illness and Challenges Awareness

Purpose: To increase awareness surrounding mental health illness and challenges, advocating for help and effective legislation, and the call to prayer for those who suffer from mental health illnesses.

Whereas, There is a significant mental health crisis across the United States and around the world, which has been especially amplified in recent years with the impact of the global pandemic; and

Whereas, The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, (Office of Disease Prevention & Health Protection, and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention), have cited sharp increases in mental health illness and disorders in all ages, especially in our youth – marked by depression, anxiety, loneliness, isolation, grief, substance use, and suicidal tendencies; and

Whereas, The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committees on Domestic Justice & Human Development and on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, have launched a three-stage **National Catholic Mental Health Campaign** <https://www.usccb.org/resources/statement-national-catholic-mental-health-campaign-november-15-2023>;

Resolved, That NCCW members and affiliates build awareness of mental health illness and challenges through education in order to familiarize their Councils with the warning signs, the network of resources available, and how to advocate for legislative action; and

Resolved, That NCCW members and affiliates offer topics on mental health illness awareness when planning events and programs, inviting professionals in healthcare and law enforcement to speak on these issues and shed light on the reality of the crisis in our communities; and

Resolved, That NCCW members and affiliates heed the USCCB's call to pray as outlined in their **National Catholic Mental Health Campaign**, for the individuals and families of those experiencing mental health illness and challenges; encourage our government leaders to enact effective legislation that will expand mental health resources; and support our public officials as they seek justice for the marginalized individuals and families facing mental health crises.

Submitted by the 2023-2025 NCCW Spirituality Commission

Supporting and Praying for Priests

Purpose: To support, encourage and pray for priests.

Whereas, As stated by Pope John Paul II, "No priest, no Eucharist... no Eucharist, no priest" (*Gift and Mystery. On the Fiftieth Anniversary of My Priestly Ordination*), and priests are essential for maintaining the Church and the world's access to the sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist; and

Whereas, Priests are called to heroic generosity, serving as "vicars of God's love" according to St. Ambrose (*The Complete Works of St. Ambrose*). Belonging to the world, not themselves, our prayers support them in this radical way of living and giving. As stated by Fulton Sheen (*The Priest is Not His Own*), "There is no 'on duty' for a priest...he is 'on love' everywhere..."; and

Whereas, The Church encourages us to pray for those in authority -- and priests and bishops hold places of authority in the Church, as "*alter Christus*" (another Christ). In obedience to God's Word, our prayers encourage them in walking and living according to this supreme dignity;

Resolved, That NCCW members be mindful of the challenges faced by priests and bishops and offer them understanding and compassion, encouragement, and prayers of support and strength; and

Resolved, That NCCW members regularly pray for priests and bishops, individually and as a community, offering support for their various needs and roles as outlined above, utilizing programs such as Seven Sisters Apostolate (sevensistersapostolate.org); and

Resolved, That NCCW members foster a culture of respect for the priesthood.

Submitted by:
Barb Vezino
Detroit Province CCW Director

Support of WUCWO Resolutions

Purpose: To work in alignment with the goals of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO).

Whereas, The World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO) adopts new resolutions at each WUCWO General Assembly intending their WUCWO member organizations to work on these resolutions as they are able; and

Whereas, The National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) has been a member organization of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations since 1921;

Resolved, That the National Council of Catholic Women through its member Councils will work on all current WUCWO resolutions that are pertinent to the Mission and work of the Council and for which they have the capability; and

Resolved, That all work performed relative to WUCWO resolutions will be reported to the National Council of Catholic Women Board at least twice a year and that the NCCW Board will ensure that these reports are forwarded to the USA representative to the WUCWO Board.

<https://wucwo.org/index.php/en/resolutions>

<https://nccw.org>

Submitted by:

Mary E. Stewart

Supporting Member, NCCW

Prayer for Peaceful Elections

Purpose: To promote unity in our country during elections and beyond by praying for the safety of all our citizens and for a peaceful election process.

Whereas, Elections at all levels are critical for the United States of America; and

Whereas, “As a nation, we share many blessings and strengths, including a tradition of religious freedom and political participation. However, as a people, we face serious challenges that are both political and moral. This has always been so and as Catholics we are called to participate in public life in a manner consistent with the mission of our Lord, a mission that he has called us to share” (USCCB’s Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship); and

Whereas, all citizens are responsible for their words and actions in order that the election process is orderly and peaceful; and

Whereas, all citizens are called upon to exercise their privilege to vote, truly participating in the process; and

Resolved, That the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) promotes frequent praying of the Rosary, St. Michael the Archangel Prayer, the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Glory Be for peaceful elections devoid of anger and violence; and

Resolved, That NCCW has available these intentions and prayers on its website, <http://www.nccw.org>.

Submitted by Alison Mimms, member of Resolutions Committee