

News from Leona Barten, Province Director, Province of St. Paul & Minneapolis

I have spent many days already this year traveling and representing you – the Council of Catholic Women. I attended the NCCW board meeting in January 2010 held in Washington DC. A summary of this board meeting was emailed to all A/Diocesan presidents. If you have not had the opportunity to read this or the FYI's, please contact either Jackie Park or myself. Here are a few highlights.

Campaign for Human Dignity:

All three (3) Commissions, Spirituality, Service and Leadership, met to discuss “Building a Campaign for Human Dignity”. Each commission will contribute information to be compiled into a resource packet. The resource packet will provide information about various ways affiliated organizations can participate in the Campaign. Articles in **Catholic Woman** and in the Bulletin Board will also address this important topic.

90th Anniversary:

NCCW is celebrating its 90th Anniversary this year. A 90th Anniversary logo has been created and will be featured in **Catholic Woman**, on the web site, on our letterhead and in various other media. There will be special features in **Catholic Woman** and on the website as we engage in this year-long celebration and a special gala celebration will take place at the 2010 Annual Convention. As NCCW's first gathering and actual incorporation were in Washington DC, it seems appropriate to hold the 2010 Annual Convention in Washington D.C. I feel like one of my best friends has turned ninety. We need to come up with ideas that we can use to celebrate this big event throughout the year. If your parish or deanery has an idea to share, please let me know.

Convention 2010:

The Convention will be held November 10-13, 2010, in the Washington D.C. area. The dates will be announced soon. Resolutions will be presented at the Convention and a Resolutions Committee has been appointed. Information on the submission of Resolutions will be sent out in **FYI** and posted on the website with all other convention information. The “Our Lady of Good Counsel” Award will also be presented during the convention. The Convention is a great opportunity to showcase the new face of NCCW as we celebrate our 90 years of history and ‘Move Forward with Faith and Joy’ into the next 90 years.

2010 Election Process:

An election will be held for the position of President-elect. Per the bylaws, an election can be conducted online and by mail. All voting will take place online prior to convention. There will be no live voting at the convention. The time line is as follows:

- Call for nominations – May/June **Catholic Woman** magazine
- Announcement of candidates – **July/Aug. Catholic Woman** magazine
- Election will be conducted for the entire month of September on line.

A password and access code will be issued to members via email for their use in voting. Affiliate organizations will need to complete a form indicating who should receive passwords and access codes for their two (2) votes. If an individual does not have access to internet, through the library, a friend, or a family member, etc., the member can request a mail ballot. All members with a valid membership as of August 1, 2010 will be eligible to vote. Voting access information will be sent out to members prior to the ballot going live on September 1, 2010.

The results of the election will be announced at the Annual Convention and published in November-December **Catholic Woman**. Candidates will be notified immediately after the election concludes on September 30, 2010.

During the January 2010 board meeting I was privileged to attend the Vigil Mass at the Basilica and be part of the rally in the mall. The numbers for those attending the March were around 400,000. What an experience! I also was able to tour the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center as it was right next to the retreat center we stayed at.

My next trip to Washington DC was during the record setting snow storms out east. The 2010 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering was held February 7-10, 2010. Flights were delayed or canceled for many making it impossible for them to attend this Gathering. God had plans that I would attend. My plane was able to get into the Dulles airport a day late and leave a day late. The CSMG was very spiritual and educational. The theme was "Charity in Truth: Seeking the Common Good". We were able to attend mass every day. We had excellent speakers. Some were not able to make the conference because of the weather but other took their place and did an excellent job. We discussed the health care issues, Haiti, immigration, Afghanistan, Economic recovery, and much more. Denise Haaland from the Archdiocese, three women from the Winona Diocese, and several other people from Minnesota attended this gathering. I sincerely hope that our DDCCW will have money in the budget to send at least one woman per year to this gathering. A wealth of knowledge can be brought back to our women.

The Province Conference will be held this year in Alexandria, June 24th and 25th, 2010, which is a Thursday and Friday. Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Edward Sri, assistant professor of religious studies at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas. He holds a license in sacred theology (S.T.L.) from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome. He also is a campus director for the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS). The cost will be kept at \$75 for both days including the banquet. The Duluth Diocesan Council of Catholic Women is responsible for registration and providing a community concerns speaker. Please mark this date on your calendar.

We have all taken on a big job no matter what level of council we are at. With God's help and working together we can do wonders.

For A Generous Spirit

Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous. Teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give, and not to count the cost; to fight, and not to heed the wounds; to labor, and not to seek to rest; to give of myself and not to ask for reward, except the reward of knowing that I am doing your will.

Your friend in Christ,

Leona Barten, Province Director

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