

Report from Our Province Director

December, 2020

Paula Freimuth, Milwaukee Province Director

My dear sisters in Christ,

As a women's organization, we are always helping: Helping reach the women in our church pews, helping victims of domestic violence through our Let's Lick Family Violence program, and helping children enjoy Christmas through the NCCW Boxes of Joy program.

Helping others fulfills some of our basic needs such as connecting with others and seeing how our actions make a positive difference. Those are the areas that help define a meaningful life. A meaningful life isn't found, but created through our actions.

Below are service ideas leading into the holidays that can be done by an individual, family, or as a group project and adapted for any time of the year. Please share your details with me of how you accomplished the task so that I may share them with other Catholic women's organizations.

1. Virtual Guests. Ask a retirement home or nursing home which residents never receive visitors and ask to set up window visits, video calls, or a regular old phone call. Call once a month to read, chat, and listen. Once a month contact one of your own members who has been couped up or one of your parishioners whom you haven't seen in the pews for a while.

2. Adopt a Missionary. Learn about the people and the culture where the missionary serves. Communicate regularly and ask for needs. Share the needs and gather the items for a care package.

3. Sleigh Bells. Plan a special delivery to people in your community who work on Christmas Eve, such as emergency personnel, convenience store clerks, and hospital personnel. They'll be encouraged by simple gifts like cookies or handwritten cards.

The need doesn't stop just with your area. Our NCCW organization has been a victim of the COVID-19. Consider making a tax-deductible donation to the NCCW as a Gift of Sustainability. Consider shopping through smile.amazon.com. Add NCCW as the charity of your choice, and NCCW will get 0.5% of your purchase price at no cost to you.

Are you looking for that special gift for a Catholic woman? The NCCW has created Santa's Special Surprise Bundles. These bundles are a variety of fun products to celebrate the season. For more information on any of these items, or to view the 2019-2020 updated NCCW strategic plan, please go to the NCCW website, www.nccw.org.

During this 2020 holiday season, let us be thankful for everyone and everything we have in our lives. Some of us may not be rich in money or jewels, but we can

be thankful for what we have. Be it the food on our table or the familiar faces around our table. Be it the warmth of our hearth or the warmth of our grandchild's hugs. Be it feeling safe in our bed at night or feeling secure knowing we have a wonderful friend. Whatever it is, let us be joyful and thankful.

Let's all pray that December is a month filled with healing, blessings, growth, new opportunities, love and recover from all that is going on in our world today.