



Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

MOST REVEREND JOHN C. NIENSTEDT

March 16, 2010

Dear Fathers,

For 78 years the ACCW has been an important gift to the Archdiocese. It is a gift that we should not take for granted. With encouragement and support, the ACCW can continue to be an even more effective organization that helps us fulfill the mission of this local Church.

For many years, the ACCW has been faithful to its Mission Statement, "to act through its affiliated organizations to support, empower and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. ACCW programs respond with gospel values to the needs of the church and society in the modern world". They have been extremely effective in proclaiming the message of the Church in their outreach to the family, the parish, the community and the world in which we live.

Here in our Archdiocese, ACCW programs include vocation programs, pro-life activities, community outreach, mission outreach, both foreign and domestic, as well as many varied programs chosen by parish affiliates to fit their needs. ACCW also offers leadership opportunities for women not only in the parish, but deaneries, the ACCW Board, the Province Board (that includes Minnesota and the Dakotas) and the National CCW Board of Directors. What a great way to broaden a woman's church experience. In other words, if councils function well in the parish, the opportunities for women to serve the Church in valuable and fulfilling ways are available. ACCW wants the best for women in the Church and I know you do too.

For the many parishes that are involved in Council, and have been for many years, I am most grateful for your support and I thank you. It is my hope that all parishes would be affiliated, and all women would be aware of ACCW and its benefits. Your generous cooperation is needed to help communicate the benefits of participation for the women in your parish.

I am asking you to encourage the women in your parish by promoting their woman's organization, designating a CCW Sunday, attending the meetings in the parish, and concelebrating Mass at ACCW meetings and deanery events to offer affirmation and visible support of what they do. Many of the women have expressed their appreciation of pastors who say a few words at a meeting or join them for all or part of a day at deanery or archdiocesan events to give their blessing. Your presence is greatly appreciated.

Please join us for the ACCW Convention May 6, 2010 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at St. Patrick in Inver Grove Heights. Please join me for the Eucharistic celebration and stay to hear the keynote speaker, Bishop Lee Piché. Call ACCW offices at 651-291-4545 for information and reservations.

With every good wish, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend John C. Nienstedt, S.T.D., D.D.
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis