



SUMMARY

Tuesday, April 24, 7 pm, Women & Women's Ministries Gathering with Father John

- Father John opened the meeting by talking about the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW), and how, when he first was ordained in the early 80's, the CCW was a large force not only at the National level, but also at the Diocesan and Parish level.
- Father stressed that the CCW is an important addition to the repertoire of ministries at San Juan del Rio, and is something that is desired by both he and Bishop Felipe.
- Father went on to explain that the CCW operates nationally, first at the Diocesan level, and then at the parish affiliate level. For example, if a directive is passed down from the Bishop, it will go to the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) who will then distribute it to the CCW Affiliates, of which San Juan is now a part. From there, the parish CCWs will disseminate the information among the parish's ministries.
- Speaking specifically of the San Juan del Rio CCW, Father said that he would like to see this affiliate act as an umbrella ministry under which all ministries will reside.
- **What does this mean?** It means partnership. It means working across ministry lines to support one another and thus enhance projects and programs. It means one main line of communication that will connect all the ministries to one another.
- **How does this affect a current & active ministry (e.g. Catholic Family FISH, Ladies Auxiliary, Women's Club, Women's CRHP, and more)? Are members of these ministries expected to join the CCW?** The short answer is NO. There is no expectation or requirement for members of current ministries to join the CCW. CCW membership is an individual decision. You can be a member of one or more current ministries AND become a member of the CCW as well, but that is not anything that is expected or required.
- **How will the presence of the CCW affect an existing ministry's dues?** Father recognized that different ministries take in dues from their membership to operate their programs and projects within the parish and the community. Father discouraged combining dues to incentivize becoming a member of the CCW. The CCW also collects an annual membership due of \$25 per member. This will only be collected if a woman decides to formally become a member of the San Juan CCW.
- **So how does this work then if ministries are not expected to join the CCW? Why bother with organizing the ministries under an umbrella?** The main goal of the

umbrella structure is to assist with communication across all the ministries: one channel through which all ministries can communicate with each other. Additional goals include: Opening ministries to a pool of volunteers to help with projects, helping ministries with marketing and promotion of upcoming events, and offering each ministry representative time on the agenda of regular monthly CCW General Meetings to speak on behalf of their ministry.

- **Why would I want to become a member of the CCW?** As a member of the SJDR CCW affiliate, you will become part of a bloodline that leads all the way to the National level. You will learn about issues affecting women in our nation, in our state and in our community – and you will discover how you can become a part of the change. In 2020, the National Council of Catholic Women will celebrate its 100-year anniversary. The NCCW has a tried and true history of mobilizing change in our country which has assisted in affecting change around the world.
- **Where do we go from here? We had this meeting, now what?** We are currently putting together a Structure Committee that will work closely with a newly forming Communications Committee to put the umbrella structure of CCW here at SJDR onto paper. Our parish CCW already has a working board of directors and commission chairs. The committees will focus on how the “Umbrella” structure will look in our parish, among our ministries.

Finally, in the words of Father to the women at the gathering, “When I look around the room, I see women who care, who want to make a difference and who are making a difference in the lives of our parish community and beyond. I see ministries that have done so much for our parish already. When we come together, we are a powerhouse, a true force to be reckoned with. Why wouldn’t we want to keep coming together?”

If you have questions or would like to join the Structure or Communications Committee, please contact Jennifer Clark, Jennifer.clark222@gmail.com.