

**COMMISSION ON WOMEN
IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY
DIOCESE OF BUFFALO**

We, the *Commission on Women in Church and Society*, serve as advisor to the Bishop on implementation of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' pastoral response to women's concerns for Church and society. We function as a liaison between women in the diocese and the bishop, raising and promoting awareness of the evolving role of women in the Church and society. We promote the gospel values of justice, equality, love, healing and empowerment of God's people, especially the women of the Buffalo Diocese.

Our Beginnings

The Commission on Women in Church and Society (CWCS) was established by Bishop Edward D. Head on April 5, 1990.

Our Mission

The Commission continues the process of listening and dialogue begun in the Diocesan Listening Sessions of 1985, and addresses issues brought to light there through consciousness-raising, education and advocacy programs. By listening and learning from one another, we allow the Spirit to transform both the Church and ourselves from within. The CWCS encourages diocesan-wide concern for issues reflecting sexism in Church and society.

Our Accomplishments

The CWCS has worked in collaboration with other diocesan committees and offices in developing programs on scripture, women's ministry, canon law, gender communications (for seminarians), and the diocesan Inclusive Language Guidelines. We initiated the diocesan Domestic Violence Awareness Task Force. The CWCS provided a bi-monthly column in the Western New York Catholic.

Camille Buckley
Chair

Theresa Stephan Hains
Vice-chair

Recent Programs

- Participation as advisor to the USCCB Committee on Women in Society and Church.
- Listening sessions with high school young women about their vision and involvement in Church
- Domestic Violence training sessions for parish workers, priests, and deacons.
- Women and Men Working Together in Ministry*, a workshop for seminarians and lay students in conjunction with the Christ the King Seminary formation teams.
- A two-part Focus Group on "Spirituality in the Workplace" sponsored by the USCCB Secretariat for Family, Laity, Women and Youth.
- An evening of listening with college women
- Annual St. Mary of Magdalene Prayer Celebrations

Studies

- Pastoral Leadership survey
- Pastoral Associate survey

Written Materials

- Justice in the World: Peace at Home:
 - A Pastoral Response to Domestic Violence against Women
 - A Pastoral Response to Child Abuse
 - Dealing with Conflict in the Family

"We have seen that the true face of the Church appears only when and if we recognize the equal dignity of men and women and consistently act on that recognition...We urge the Church at all levels to establish structures to hear and respond to the concerns of women."

-Strengthening the Bonds of Peace

We invite and value your input.

Commission on Women in Church and Society
The Catholic Center
795 Main Street
Buffalo, New York 14203-1250

OR

CWCS1990@yahoo.com

See our web page at: www.wnyreligion.net

Name:

Address:

Email:

Women's issues that I would like to see addressed by the Commission:

Possible speakers and/or topics:

Include me on your mailing list:

Yes _____ No _____

Would you like to be contacted by a member?:

Yes _____...No. _____

Return to:

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