

# Blessed Trinity's Council of Catholic Women

The Council of Catholic Women of Blessed Trinity, otherwise known as CCW, was an outgrowth of an early 1940's Blessed Trinity Catholic Ladies' Club. CCW was officially established at Blessed Trinity in 1947. Ms. Onie Ponder (1898 – 2010) was heavily involved in the early years and we owe her a huge debt of gratitude for all of her work.



Onie Ponder (1898—2010)

The Council is actually divided into several organizations: WUCWO (World), NCCW (National), Provincial (Miami), ODCCW (Diocesan – Orlando/Northern Deanery), and Local (Blessed Trinity CCW). Our CCW membership at Blessed Trinity is divided into two circles for convenience—the Purpose Seekers (meet in the evenings) and the Ave Marias (meet during the day). We work together jointly.

Most importantly, we have four distinct commissions. Why commissions? The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vatican Council decreed that “through Baptism and Confirmation, the laity are **commissioned** to be apostles of the Lord Himself.” Our four commissions are: Spirituality, Service, Legislative, and Leadership.



Through our Spiritual commission, CCW provides retreats, special rosaries, or novenas.



Through our Service commission, CCW sponsors the annual baby shower for the Alpha Center, the Diaper Drive for Brothers' Keeper, and currently assembles “Bags for the Homeless”, in addition to the many other involvements too numerous to list here.



Within our Legislative commission, CCW works toward supporting the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops and their position on various legislative issues here in Florida. We frequently send a representative to the capital in an effort to influence our legislature to vote the Catholic way on issues.

And working within our Leadership commission, we volunteer in various ministries throughout Blessed Trinity.

We present a report of our volunteer hours to our pastor and our bishop at our convention in the late spring. This year our convention takes place at the Ocala Hilton!

Internationally, we support the Madonna Plan (a program to empower women throughout the world), Water for Life (a program to provide clean water to third world countries), and sponsorship of a Ugandan student in our sister parish in Nalweyo.

Of course, we are just a small part of the national, state, and diocesan CCW. We do have deanery representatives who attend regular meetings and report back to us as to what our current goals, programs, and concerns are for the year. The culmination of our work is presented at our Orlando Diocesan Convention. There are state and local conventions as well.

As CCW members, we pray together, learn together, work together, and bond together. It's a wonderful organization of women, and we invite all of the ladies of the parish to join!

