

2025 DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN RESOLUTIONS

Adopted April 27, 2025

Resolution 1: The Catholic Choice of End-of-Life Care

Purpose: To educate Catholics on the choice of Palliative Care.

Whereas, Pope Francis speaking to an Interfaith Symposium on Palliative Care in Toronto in May 2024, said that “authentic palliative care is radically different from euthanasia, which is never a source of hope or genuine concern for the sick and dying but a “failure to love”. He also explained the ‘compassion’ means ‘suffering with’ and does not involve the intentional ending of a life but rather the willingness to share the burdens of those facing the end stages of our earthly pilgrimage”; and

Whereas, That since The Church has long supported Palliative Care, teaching that assisted suicide and euthanasia — which both involve the intentional taking of life — are never permissible. However, withholding “extraordinary means” of medical treatment and allowing death to occur naturally can be morally permissible under Catholic teaching;

Resolved, The women of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women support all Chaplains, Clergy, and Extraordinary Ministers in the knowledge and education that euthanasia and assisted suicide are against God’s plan of end-of-life and against Catholic teachings; and

Resolved, The women of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will help educate the women in their councils on the purpose of Palliative Care.

Resolution 2: Supporting the Carlo Acutis Apostolate

Purpose: To help our Youth experience the love of Christ through the Carlo Acutis Apostolate and the Eucharist,

Whereas, The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women promoted the initial work on awareness of the proposed Canonization of the Blessed Carlo Acutis at our 2023 Diocesan Convention, and

Bishop Oscar Solis initiated the Carlo Acutis Apostolate in 2023 which aims to help young people experience and love Christ through the Eucharist; and

Whereas, In his encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*, St John Paul II spoke of a new evangelization, through The Eucharist, “The Eucharist thus appears as both the source and the summit of all evangelization”;

Resolved, The Council of Catholic Women of the Diocese of Salt Lake City continue to support the Carlo Acutis Apostolate among (in) their parish youth groups in our Diocese; and

Resolved, The Council of Catholic Women of the Diocese of Salt Lake City invite our youth to say the Rosary and participate in regular Adoration to grow in faith and recognition of God’s love in receiving the Eucharist.

Resolution 3: Understanding grief from pregnancy loss.

Purpose: Supporting those who are grieving a pregnancy loss by miscarriage, stillbirth, and infant death.

Whereas, Every human life, from the moment of conception until death, is sacred because the human person has been willed for its own sake in the image and likeness of the living and holy God. CCC 2319; and

Whereas, The prophetic papal encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* (The Gospel of Life) promulgated by Pope St. John Paul II on March 25, 1995 to reaffirm the value and inviolability of every human life with emphasis on the sacredness of human life from conception and to appeal to all people to respect, protect, love, and serve every human life;

Resolved, That we, as Council of Catholic Women, will keep all those known, and unknown, grieving a pregnancy loss in our prayers and prayer intentions; and

Resolved, That we, as Council of Catholic Women, will strongly suggest that the Salt Lake Diocesan Office of Marriage & Family Life provide training by the Pregnancy and Infant Loss Program for our Pastors and Parish Office staff, who are usually the first to receive calls, addressing the issues of pregnancy loss, grief, hope and theology that includes funerals, blessings, and memorialization of those lost.

Resolution 4: Adopted at the National Council of Catholic Women Convention in August 2024

Mental Health Illness and Challenges Awareness

Purpose: To increase awareness surrounding mental health illness and challenges, advocating for help and effective legislation, and the call to prayer for those who suffer from mental health illnesses.

Whereas, There is a significant mental health crisis across the United States and around the world, which has been especially amplified in recent years with the impact of the global pandemic; and

Whereas, The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, (Office of Disease Prevention & Health Protection, and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention), have cited sharp increases in mental health illness and disorders in all ages, especially in our youth – marked by depression, anxiety, loneliness, isolation, grief, substance use, and suicidal tendencies; and

Whereas, The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committees on Domestic Justice & Human Development and on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, have launched a three-stage National Catholic Mental Health Campaign <https://www.usccb.org/resources/statement-national-catholic-mental-health-campaign-november-15-2023>;

Resolved, That NCCW members and affiliates build awareness of mental health illness and challenges through education in order to familiarize their Councils with the warning signs, the network of resources available, and how to advocate for legislative action; and

Resolved, That NCCW members and affiliates offer topics on mental health illness awareness when planning events and programs, inviting professionals in healthcare and law enforcement to speak on these issues and shed light on the reality of the crisis in our communities; and

Resolved, That NCCW members and affiliates heed the USCCB's call to pray as outlined in their National Catholic Mental Health Campaign, for the individuals and families of those experiencing mental health illness and challenges; encourage our government leaders to enact effective legislation that will expand mental health resources; and support our public officials as they seek justice for the marginalized individuals and families facing mental health crises.

Submitted by the 2023-2025 NCCW Spirituality Commission