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As this is going to press, the schools have started or are preparing to start another school year. As many are saying, "Where has summer gone?" It has flown by; the annual Convention of NCCW is over, and it's time for local Parish Councils of Catholic Women to resume meeting once again.

Many local service projects happen during these early fall months. Backpack programs are getting started and are always looking for help either with donations or packing the bags or distributing them to the schools. It's not too early to think about things such as coat or mitten drives. Our annual diaper drive is held during the month of October. It's an easy and wonderful way to support the pregnancy centers across our Diocese as well as the moms that could use a little help with the basic necessities of diapers and wipes.

We are continuing to encourage local PCCW/Altar Societies to please consider participating in the Box of Joy campaign. This is a national partnership NCCW has with Cross Catholic Outreach. The items will need to be collected by the first week in November as that is the pick up date from the Box of Joy. More information can be found at their website CrossCatholic.org. We will also be presenting more information at the September LDCCW meeting that will be held in Indianola.

It was emphasized at the National meeting that our parish councils should be continuing to support the religious orders in their areas. This can be done in a number of ways. The Funds for Nuns donations go directly to help those entering religious communities to be able to be free financially to do so. You can also support our religious orders by means of prayer, offering a spiritual bouquet for example. Another way of support is to encourage interaction with those sisters in various orders by visiting them, inviting them to your parish, or sending them things that they may need or be able to use at their order.

We live the spirit of Catholicism when we joyfully serve others by becoming the hands and feet of Christ here on earth sharing His love. Pope Francis has said, "Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is...Life is good when you are happy; but much better when others are happy because of you."