

Saturday's Communications Share Fair

By Stephanie Harris–Ash

Communication is getting the word out to the masses, letting the masses know about you and what you are about. This Saturday several dioceses shared how they inform the masses about what their ECW or Women's group is doing. Participating dioceses were:

- Diocese of Central Florida
- Diocese of Chicago
- Diocese of Long Island
- Diocese of Milwaukee
- Diocese of New Jersey
- Diocese of New York
- Diocese of Texas

All of the dioceses were proud and eager to showcase their endeavors of communication; they all had stories to relay which indicated the trials that they have faced and may still be facing.

Central Florida's '*Episcochat*' may be accessed via a link on their website: www.ecwcentralfl.org. In addition, on the website, they advertise a calendar of events for their readership, calendar link of their deanery meeting dates and invitations to their Province's Annual retreat and the Diocese's ECW annual meeting. The edition of the '*Episcochat*' which was displayed shares articles from its Chaplain Corner, UTO, CPC, ECW hosted events from parishes within its diocese, altar guild and an extensive listing of the Diocese's Board of Directors which include mention of both its webmaster and newsletter contact.

∞ ∞ ∞ ∞

Diocese of Chicago's '*Mirror*' is published six times each year beginning in January and is available in both print and electronic versions. Every other month an e-news is sent to its subscribers.

On their diocesan page, one may search and obtain information regarding the diocesan ECW but there is a posting that additional information may be found at the ECW's independent website: www.ecwchicago.org. On this webpage, one may secure information about their UTO, Altar Guild, Fall Retreat and Gathering and their Honored Women of the Diocese. Additionally Beth shared ideas of various workshops previously scheduled which have included stained glass and silversmithing.

∞ ∞ ∞ ∞

Diocese of Long Island' '*Voices of Women*' publishes its newsletter once every quarter for distribution in the months of April, July, October, and January. In this PDF which may be obtained through a search on their Diocese's webpage one is able to read items from the Chaplain Corner, Altar Guild, information regarding their Seaman's Church Institute affiliation, UTO and their Annual Lenten Quiet Day.

∞ ∞ ∞ ∞

"We have not missed a month for five years" proudly stated the Communications representative from Milwaukee. Their communication outlet '*Mary and Martha's Message*' is a publication that is sent out monthly.

∞ ∞ ∞ ∞

New Jersey's '*ECW News*' is electronically sent at least quarterly i.e.at least after every Board meeting. Its latest edition that was emailed included the student service awards recipients, calendar list of events through June 2019, information regarding the upcoming Fall Retreat and mission outreach.

∞ ∞ ∞ ∞

Diocese of New York's newsletter boldly mentions its goal of growing deeper into service and ministry in the banner. This diocese attempts to publish newsletters twice annually; once in the fall after its Annual Fall Conference at Stony Point, New York and the other in the Spring just in time for the annual meeting. Currently, this diocese has opted to only send these publications via email; this decision has been a struggle because they know that still some persons who have no access to email will miss out. So to facilitate this transition, it was additionally requested that copies be made and distributed to those persons who do not have access to emails of their own. This newsletter has tried to feature articles expressing and/or addressing current themes. For example, this newest newsletter featured an article questioning both the relevance of ECW and the decision of some women to refuse to consider themselves an Episcopal Church Women. In this issue, mention is also made of UTO and CPC. Access to the newsletter and other relevant forms may also be achieved by logging on to the diocesan website and accessing the Christian Life tab.

∞ ∞ ∞ ∞

The Diocese of Texas, the final communication showcase, is online at the moment and may be accessed at www.epicenter.org/ecw. A quick search on their diocese's website for episcopal church women will garner this information as well. On their website, one is able to review bio of current president, gain knowledge of the bylaws, annual report, yearly calendar, various grants and scholarship information, UTO, outreach project and spiritual growth. In, addition this diocese mails pocket calendars which include diocesan information to its members; photographs taken at various events are evidenced throughout this project. ECW of the Diocese of Texas also employs a google group in which reports are submitted for access by board members; all reports are generally uploaded before meetings for access by other board members. They also utilize a

standardization of email addresses - ex. g-mail accounts for all the board officers. In this way when someone has completed an office the same email address is maintained and continuity is ensured for subscribers.

All the organizations who showcased their communication outlets were indeed proud and protective of their efforts. Sometimes these efforts are missed, overlooked or even discarded but I can surely verify that these editors, webmasters or whatever title is assigned would not give up being able to provide information to the masses. They feel secure in performing and fulfilling this goal.