



South Carolina Council of Catholic Women

2020 RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #1 – Suicide Awareness

Purpose: To recognize that suicide is a public health issue

Whereas: Suicide occurs across all demographic groups, and according to the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), is the 2nd leading cause of death in teens and the 10th leading cause of death in the United States of America. Additional resources on suicide published by NIMH may be found at <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/suicide-prevention-listing.shtml>. Resources promoted by the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary may be found at <https://www.suicideandhope.com/suicide-prevention-and-grief-support-postvention-resources/>.

Whereas: Suicide has devastating and prolonged effects on the family, friends, and entire community left behind after a suicide, according to a 2016 study by the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Whereas: Suicide awareness seeks to educate individuals on the risk factors, warning signs, and resources available for assistance.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that South Carolina Council of Catholic Women (SCCCW) members publicize and promote the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-Talk (8255) and the Crisis Text Line (text HELLO to 741741) and other services and outlets that assist as intervention methods.

Resolved, that the SCCCW request the Diocese develop and promote resources for suicide awareness and prevention (e.g., an app that would reach teens via social media).

Resolved, that SCCCW members expand their knowledge of suicide risk factors, warning signs, treatments, and available resources.

Resolved, that the SCCCW members unite in prayer (including the NCCW Rosary for Peace and Healing) for those who have thoughts of suicide, for those who have died by suicide, and for those who have lost loved ones to suicide.

Suggested Actions:

- Have an “Awareness” meeting with mental health professionals, hotline trainers and/or volunteer speakers.
- Obtain a copy of “Frequently Asked Questions” published by the National Institute of Mental Health and become familiar with the risks of suicide, warning signs and pertinent information.
- Organize or participate in events, e.g., Ride to End Suicide or Walk for Suicide Awareness.
- Promote National Suicide Awareness Month in September by ordering brochures, ribbons and/or materials to share with your parish community.
- Be active on social media, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram by sharing events, posting and/or starting conversations.

Resolution #2 – Foster Care

Purpose: To support safe and stable temporary family environments for children who cannot be with their parents or legal guardians.

Whereas: As of November 2019, according to the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS), there were approximately 4,800 children in foster care with around 2,800 foster homes, indicating that about 1,800 children are in need of placement in a foster home in South Carolina.

Whereas: According to the U.S. Children’s Bureau 2016 statistics, 61% of children in foster care are placed due to neglect, resulting in the legal custody of the Department of Social Services (DSS), placing the children in a licensed, foster home or group care facility that can best meet their needs while their parents work with DSS.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the South Carolina Council of Catholic Women (SCCCW) support local Foster Parent Associations and advocate programs that host ongoing training, provide mentors, and work with their respective communities to aid children and foster parents with additional resources in cooperation with the South Carolina Foster Parent Association (<http://www.scfpa.com>).

Resolved, that SCCCW assist Catholic parents who agree to be or currently are foster parents by providing needed items such as food, clothing, etc., by offering services such as babysitting and tutoring, and by lifting them in prayer.

Suggested Actions:

- Sponsor a seminar at your local church inviting professionals to speak with a question and answer period.
- Organize a “pack a suitcase” drive to address the needs of foster children in the community.
- Create an awareness of National Foster Care Month in May by creating or downloading free foster care tools and placing them in church bulletins and/or posting signs.
- Organize a Foster Family Night Out by providing activities for children and giving foster parents a few hours away.