
TODAY'S CATHOLIC WOMEN

ST. PETERSBURG DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN, INC.

NOVEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

HOPE IN ABUNDANCE

One of the surest signs that it is Fall finds me visiting both of our seminaries, the college program, [St. John Vianney College Seminary](#) in Miami, and the Theological program, [St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary](#) in Boynton Beach.I almost always take AMTRAK to Miami and Monsignor Robert Gibbons who is on the board of the St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary usually accompanies me as far as West Palm Beach....We have sixteen men studying in six different years of the program. In recent weeks, Father Art Proulx has moved in as a house Spiritual Director and he is doing just great. So are our sixteen fine seminarians who come from three cultures with four native languages.



The men attending St. John Vianney College Seminary in Miami with Father Arthur Proulx, Monsignor Toups and Bishop Lynch. Please see the Bishop's Blog for his complete article.

EXECUTIVE BOARD
PATRICIA HANSON, DIOCESAN PRESIDENT

I would like to ask you a question? Who do you want to speak for us on the National level? Do we want women organizations that do not adhere to our Catholic teaching or would you rather have the NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN speak for us. I do hope that you will pick the latter.

We just came back from the NCCW National Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Rebecca Woodhull, our NCCW National President, has some great ideas for us. She will be writing a letter to all U.S. Congress members on subjects important to our Catholic faith and including a prayer card in each letter. This is something we can all do on our local level. Another program is called Caps of Love where you collect all types of plastic caps (no metal). The caps are sent to a central location and exchanged for monies used to buy wheelchairs for children.

Beside our regular workshops on Spirituality, Leadership and Service, we had workshops on different topics. I will only name a few Technology—Make it Work for You, Culture of Life—Our Catholic Mission and Mirror, Mirror on the Wall—Reflecting Council Image and Success for All. Next year the NCCW Convention will be held in Orlando, Fl. I hope some of you will be able to attend.

Closer to home, I congratulate each and every one of you on all the good works you accomplish in your Districts and Affiliations. You, at the affiliation level, are the back bone of council. Without you, we would not have a council. We are going to be putting in some new program that hopefully will increase membership, but we will need your help. We are eager to listen to your ideas and we would be willing to come to any affiliation to answer any questions.

Penny a Prayer for a Priest is one of our Diocesan programs. You find a penny and then you say a prayer for our priest. At the end of the year we present a check to the Bishop of all the monies we have collected though out the year. Human Trafficking is a very real problem in our state. Bridging Freedom, led by President Laura Hamilton, is an organization trying to secure a facility for housing young girls once rescued. The Diocese of St. Petersburg is planning a Candlelight Vigil for January 17, 2015, to be held along Tampa's Downtown River Walk. We hope to bring much needed awareness to this issue. Ladies we must be more than the ladies that bake cookies. We have to be the Voice of Catholic Women in our Diocese, Districts and affiliations. We must speak for the unborn who cannot speak for themselves and be ready to take on issues that are threatening our Religious freedom and believes that go against our Catholic values. Remember that GOD is in control and He will always be with us to help us through hard times.

May the Holy Spirit inspire us and May Our Lady of Good Counsel help us,

Fr Christopher Fitzgerald
Priest of the Institute of Charity
(Rosminians)
St Francis of Assisi, Seffner, FL



“Home With The Lord”

It is my honor and privilege to attend funerals for our Sisters and Brothers who have gone to rest with our Lord. The morning of October 5, 2014, I attended the Funeral of a simple Priest, Fr Fitz (known to his parish and those who knew him) and a man special to Bishop Robert Lynch.

During his homily Bishop Lynch briefly touched on his admiration for this Godly priest and fellow brother in Priestly orders. Moving most of those listening to the brink of tears expressing his love and the loss he felt with Fr Fitz’s passing, Bishop Lynch spoke of Fr Fitz’s devotion to the poor, the marginalized and those forgotten or ignored in our society. This simple man expressed so eloquently in the way he lived the spirit of Vatican II by evangelizing and following in Pope Francis’ evangelization efforts even before our current Pope began his ministry. Fr Fitz was the model of what we as Catholics are called to do and how to behave in our earthly life as we pass through to eternity with our Father. May he Rest in Peace.

Spirituality, Service and Leadership. – The New Evangelization

The new evangelization is not really new. If you are not familiar with the term NEW EVANGELIZATION listen to Pope Francis speak about the urgent need to share the Good News with all people in a spirit of love and charity and you will hear the lowdown.

Our Diocesan Commission Chairmen understand the meaning of Evangelization and as Catholics (members of the Universal Church) know our call is to reach out to all Catholic Women in our Diocese. We are to be inclusive in our Prayers and in our efforts in Tallahassee to legislate for those who do not have a voice. We stand in Leadership in our Diocese for the women and children (men). We serve in all works of Charity and in areas for Social Justice that need our voice mixed with theirs. The following page includes some of the works we accomplish.

The St Petersburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Support:

US Conference of Catholic Bishops
Spiritual and Legislative Issues
Catholic Days at the Capitol
Speak for Religious Liberty
Speak on behalf of those in need
Religious Vocations Awareness
Bishop's Vocation Fund
Penny A Prayer for Priests/Vocation /Awareness
Catholic Social and Moral Teachings
Life Long Faith Formation Programs
Ecumenical and Interreligious Programs
Marriage, Families, Pregnancy Support
Youth Ministries
Migrant Workers Rights
Literacy Programs
Works of Peace and Reconciliation
Heifer International
Apostleship of the Sea Ministry
Voter Registration

The St Petersburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Defend Against:

Domestic Violence
Homelessness
Human Trafficking
Under-Age Domestic Sex Trafficking
Social Injustice

The St Petersburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Support the NCCW Programs:

Water for Life
Madonna Plan
Help a Child
Refugee Program
Fair Trade

Our Diocesan women reported more than 1,570,000 Volunteer Service Hours (2012-2014)

I can only conclude with this thought: Thank you dear Jesus for the 12 Apostles: for sending them to our Ancestors. May we, like the first 12, and in the words of St Francis live our lives with these words in our heart. **“Lord, make me a channel of you peace.....”**

May our Lady of Good Counsel be our Mentor and Exemplar



Another example of goodness going unmatched:

Dr. Ralph Martin and his call to the
New Evangelization
A Call to Us to Deepen Our Faith in the
Gospel Message
As We Recently Learned at NCCW

Open your Heart to Jesus

What makes news in today's environment leads us to believe that only evil runs this world. "Trooper killed during an ambush in the Pocono Mountains", "UVA student disappeared one week ago and still missing", "NFL mishandles Domestic violence" are few of the headlines in the newspapers on TV or the internet. Make no mistake about it. These are real and painful issues. We need to be aware and bring the love of Christ to those suffering from it.

One would never know from these headlines not all is evil. There is still a lot of goodness and good people deserving of, at least, equal time in the media. These are simple people that raised themselves from contempt and opened their hearts to Jesus. Today, I bring your attention to one of my neighbors, a young married man with two sons. Two years ago, his life was changed from a normal happily married life to a devastating hell. His younger son was diagnosed with Mitochondrial Myopathy, an incurable disease. Because of his job and background, he knows what this diagnosis means for his son.

What was this young man's reaction? Naturally, at the beginning, his reaction was one of despair, but, not for very long. Very quickly, he turned his heart to Jesus (as he had done all his life). From that point on, he has been doing all he can to spread awareness about mitochondrial disease. As the Director of FOOT Foundation, he is committed to provide orthotics and prosthetics services to children and adults of impoverished countries. Guatemala is one of those countries. Using old discarded prosthetics he and his team improve lives; one person at a time.

This man is Dino Scanio. He is a husband, a father, and one that follows Christ's footsteps. When I met Dino, I promised him I would pray for him and his team. Now, I am asking you to join me and pray, too. If you want to know more about Dino and his work, please visit www.footfoundation.org.

PAT FARLEY PUBLICITY, MARKETING, AD CAMPAIGN

Tasked with creating and distributing the informational materials about our DCCW for the 1st Spirit FM's Catholic Women's Conference, my hardworking, talented committee members developed the folder contents to use and were presenters at the DCCW table at the September 20, 2014 Conference held at Nativity Parish in Brandon,

Vice-chairman Lynn Erickson, Cathy Pena, Marlene Frederick, Missy Garrett and I created, reviewed and critiqued the materials. We opted to place the newest DCCW Brochure and thirteen other pieces of information in 500 distinctive purple folders labeled: DCCW, The Voice of Catholic Women, with our website in small print. With Patricia Hanson giving a final review and approval, the folders were made. These folders were then included in the conference hospitality bags, thus reaching each attendee rather than just those visiting our table.

Out table display featured our 2013 Shutterfly History book, several past Convention Programs, our Penny A Prayer for Priest black cassock dressed bottle for pennies, and an array of Bishop's Vocation Fund cards. Mary Woltman donated three books on St. John Paul II to draw women to the table for our raffle. A Divine Mercy holy card was given with each free raffle ticket. A new DCCW sign elevated on an easel made our table easy to find. Committee members Lynn Erickson, Cathy Pena and Patricia Hanson presented Council to the many women who visited our table.

Spirit FM was supportive of the DCCW as continued Catholic involvement for attendees. Three DCCW table/purple folder promos were made by emcee Abby Brundage throughout the day to draw further attention to our presence. Cathy Pena, Chairman of Councils Come Home Committee, was given the few remaining folders for use in explaining Council in simple terms.

Thinking many women knew little about the Council of Catholic Women, we geared the materials to educate women at an entry level. Because these same materials would be very useful for those new to Council on the affiliate level, these DCCW materials are available from me at patfarle@verizon.net. It is our hope that you use the Purple Folder resources in your districts and affiliates. The information would also be very helpful in unlocking the mysteries of Council – at least the basics – for Spiritual Advisors

I thank my committee for their excellent teamwork. We can all be proud of our Purple Folders and a job well done for the St. Petersburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women for this Conference and in the future. The 2015 Spirit FM Catholic Women's Conference will be at St. Lawrence Higgins Hall where 1200 attendees could be accommodated. Vendor applications are already being accepted. I recommend sharing part of the Fair Trade Chocolate Table in addition to the DCCW table. Even though, showing laptop presentations was not practical for quick short discussion, the more positive we are at it, the more attractive the DCCW will be to those attending the 2015 Spirit FM Women's Conference.

JOSEPHINE MAESTAS
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Greetings my Brother and Sisters in Christ!

Please send me any and all prayer requests. I e-mail these requests to everyone, as received. When you receive those prayer request e-mails, please share the request with those in your district. Even if “we” may not know the particular person requesting prayer personally, it is enough that a prayer request was made. Prayer is something we all can do – there is no cost to being a prayer warrior!

Also, as a friendly reminder, when you receive a prayer request from me, I include a mailing address for that person – HOWEVER, this does not mean you “have to” send a card. This information is in case anyone would like to send a greeting. When in doubt, please check with your District President.

Blessings to you and yours

**LEADERSHIP COMMISSION CHAIR
JEANNETTE KOLLARL**

Our districts are busy planning activities for the coming year. Many are having membership drives and encouraging new members to join our group. Even as busy ladies we are never too busy to set aside time to be active members in the Council of Catholic Woman.

Many of us partake in Parish socials, collect canned goods for the food pantry, and serve as Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion, Greeters and Readers. We clean or press Altar Linens and clean the Church. We hold fund-raisers so we can support our Charities.

Plans are in place to distribute reference materials to the District Leadership Chairs so these ladies will, in turn, give this information to the Affiliates.

Members are asked to use the Bishop's Vocation Fund cards. Your donations help educate our seminarians. Also, Pennies for Priest should be used at every meeting. Every time you say a prayer for a priest you drop a penny into a jar. Thus funds are given to the Bishop at Convention to support our seminarians.

District Leaders are asked to send in pictures taken at meetings and affiliate activities to me, the DCCW Leadership Chair. These photos will be placed into our yearbook for all to see at the Convention. The yearbook is a History showing all Convention attendees what we do. Keep up the Good Work! May God Bless you all.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to watch over us and guide us in our work.

SPIRITUALITY CHAIR
PEGGY PREBBLE

Pat Hanson visits with the Pope



The DCCW Workshop "Our Journey to Jesus" is in the planning phase. Information about it will be sent when it is available.

**SERVICE COMMISSION CO-CHAIR
GLORIDA NELSON AND LOUIDR CULOTTA**

After our Convention Workshop on bullying, several affiliate parishes held bullying programs for their own church families feeling the subject was very important. This district and the affiliations carry on with many projects for our parish families and community, as a part of the world. These projects range from organizing church receptions and dinners, visiting nursing homes, helping in parish schools, food closets, and with seniors. Service is so important. Pope Francis has emphasized the importance of helping our neighbors. In Pinellas and Hillsborough counties, many of our ladies are involved in the interdenominational social justice groups of FAST and HOPE. Many of our parishes are involved in sister parishes in Central America. We still donate to Water for Life and similar projects.

We will be promoting international projects this year leading up to the Service Workshop at Convention. An affiliation chooses an international project to present to your whole parish showing how donations would benefit this project. The presentation would include good information and pictures. If your church already has an international food festival, this type of project could tie in very well. We will be sending out information on international projects that need donations. Of course, your Pastor may also have suggestions and any project needs his approval.

Please remind all CCW women to track and submit **Volunteer Hours for 2014**. The Total hours are to be given the Service Commission Chairmen by **January 31, 2015**. These hours are extremely important as we provide the number of our work hours for use by the Bishop and the Pastors of your parishes. The parishioners and Pastors additional become aware of the invaluable work done by our CCW's throughout the Diocese. Don't forget! – Get all those hours recorded and sent in!

If your parish is working on a project or event that you believe other parishes might be interested in, please consider sharing with us so that we can pass it along to other affiliations.

Thank you for all your support.
Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us.

BISHOP'S VOCATION FUND
BARBARA BYARS

VOCATIONS Thank you to all who have “adopted” seminarians or who are praying for vocations. There are 35 men studying for the priesthood in our Diocese. Your prayers are working. Read about our seminarians. Go to: <http://www.spvocation.org/Resources.php> ; click on the “Seminarian Information” link. If you want to read a copy of “Cast Your Nets” newsletter, a bimonthly publication of our Diocese’s Vocations Office, go to <http://www.spvocation.org/Cast.php> .

National Vocations Awareness Week will be held November 2-8. See http://www.spvocation.org/docs/nvaw_english2014a.pdf for resources.

FOCUS 11 Focus 11 is February 10-11, 2015, at Higgins Hall, St. Lawrence in Tampa. They love the DCCW cookies!

BVF CARDS Please use the Bishop’s Vocation Fund cards. The \$10 donation for each card helps educate our seminarians. The seminarians pray for the person named on the card, who is also remembered in the masses at St. John Vianney and St. Vincent DePaul Seminaries. We have memorial, get well, and celebration cards. Encourage your affiliation to use them; encourage your members to use them personally. Every affiliate should have cards so that they are easily available to its members.

PENNIES FOR PRIESTS Encourage your affiliations, your parish schools, your families to have their own “Pennies for Priests” jar. Tell them when they get a penny, to say a prayer for vocations or for a particular priest, deacon, or religious, and put the penny in the jar. Never put money in the jar without saying a prayer for each coin deposited. Putting the money in the jar is a reminder to pray for vocations; seeing the amount of money in the jar increase serves as a visual tool to show how many prayers have been offered for vocations. Affiliates send the money they’ve collected to the DCCW treasurer before convention to be given to the Bishop for seminarian support. Families or parish schools may wish to use their penny jar money to support vocations in a different way, although the DCCW will be happy to receive it.

PRAY for VOCATIONS.

“The harvest is plenty, but the laborers are few. “

Human Trafficking

Many of our members have become involved in the fight against sex trafficking, serving on task force committees and raising awareness. **The Community Campaign Against Human Trafficking-Tampa Bay is now known as FREE “Fostering Resources to Empower and Engage.”**

Kandace Lasher, former 2nd VP, Our Lady Star of the Sea District, recently organized a day to sort, inventory, and photograph items collected by Bridging Freedom for sale online and in its boutique. An affiliation from Our Lady of Grace District assisted. DCCW members were instrumental in having Bridging Freedom receive the proceeds of Fashionollia; Prince of Peace CCW hosted a fashion show that benefited Bridging Freedom; Christ the King CCW hosted a Fun Run to raise money for Bridging Freedom.

Bridging Freedom will host a Candlelight Vigil along Tampa’s Downtown River Walk on **January 17, 2015**. It will be a great evening with a program just before sunset. Our candles lighting up the River Walk will bring much awareness to this issue.

January 10-17, 2015, is Human Trafficking Awareness Week. Several events are being planned in the Tampa Bay area

Don’t forget to check www.bridgingfreedom.org for updates on Bridging Freedom and ways to help build a long range therapeutic home for safe home for children rescued in the area.

Please pray for the victims of domestic minor sex trafficking.

A webinar being held this Thursday in Rome that you may want to watch on Human Trafficking, We each can provide help as individuals and through groups, our churches and corporations.

<http://t.news.va/en/news/anglicans-and-catholics-meet-to-coordinate-anti-tr>

**OUR LADY OF GRACE DISTRICT
JOANNE PAJAK, PRESIDENT**

Our Lady of Grace District finished our year off with a bang – or should we say BOAS. The ladies from each affiliate worked long and hard to bring VEGAS TAMPA STYLE to the Convention Fun Night last May.

Even though the summer was without scheduled meetings, our women have been busy preparing for the Fall functions. A half day workshop was held at one affiliate to meet the needs of incoming officers and commission chairmen. Several one day and weekend retreats are on the agenda for many of our ladies.

On August 29th, a full day workshop was hosted by Incarnation CCW. We had 55 ladies attend. Please call me for more details about the subjects that were presented. Many thanks go to the DCCW women who presented a variety of topics.

A very special thank you goes to Rose Marie Varas and Ivy Willing, our 1st & 2nd VPs for coordinating this workshop. Also, we are grateful to Alma Shambling, ICCW President, and her affiliate members. They were most welcoming and provided the participants with a wonderful breakfast and lunch.

Our ladies continue to serve in every aspect of their respective parishes. We are women of faith and love as we move into another year under the spiritual guidance of Our Lady of Grace.

**Our prayer is for us to continue serving
Our parishes, community, diocese and fellow man
With the love that Christ bestowed on each of us.**

**OUR LADY OF LIFE DISTRICT
SONIA TUMMINGS, PRESIDENT**

In early 2014, I attended Catholic days at the Capitol for the first time. This was an eye opener for me and was glad I went.

We collected so many items for the Convention Welcome Bags. There were lots leftover.

We had a Bunko party March 15, 2014. We had a great time. This was a success.

We had a Lenten Morning of Reflection, held at Corpus Christi, on March 29, 2014. This was a joint effort between Our Lady of Life and Our Lady of the Skies Districts. It was a wonderful experience and well received, by the over 40 women in attendance. Both Father Kovanis and Deacon Ed did a wonderful job. We plan on repeating this coming Lent.

We had our Spring Conference at Epiphany on April 05, 2014.

I attended DCCW Convention. I also attended the DCCW post-convention board meeting. I have also attended the special committee meeting regarding the Junior Council.

Our District has held two (2) board meetings.

We had seven (7) ladies from our District attend the recent Spirit FM Women Conference at Nativity, on September 20, 2014. Some of us including myself went to see "Mary of Nazareth" this past week. It was a wonderful movie. If anyone wants a copy of this movie contact the Diocese. It is only \$10.

We are fortunate to report that our District did not lose anyone since October of 2013. Though we have had many illnesses and surgeries, God has been good to us.

OUR LADY OF THE MYSTICAL ROSE DISTRICT
PATRICIA MOORE, PRESIDENT

Our first year as Hernando Deanery transitioned to Our Lady of the Mystical Rose District went well thanks to the cooperation of the affiliated presidents and the district commission chairmen.

The DCCW 2014 Convention assignment, the Patriotic Rosary, was a huge success. We had a few snags in presenting the service due to the sound equipment but the DCCW Spirituality commission chairmen, Peggy Prebble, saved the day by playing the Patriotic Song CD on her laptop. I have heard since, that a few CCW affiliates have sponsored the Patriotic Rosary on a parish level.

This year the district's assignment is the Shrine and Prayer Room. As luck would have it for me, the ladies of the affiliates have offered to take care of the various details of the assignment. Thank you.

Our Fall Conference, hosted by St. Frances Cabrini CCW was October 31st. This is the second year in a row that our conference date is Halloween. I am not sure if my affiliate presidents are trying to tell me something. Again, I promised to leave my broom home.

The affiliates have a full fall schedule. St. Frances Cabrini parish will be having a 3 day Feast of **St. Frances Cabrini Festival November 13-16**, and of course our ladies will be involved giving their time to the various booths. **St. Joan of Arc parish annual Ethnic Festival was October 23-26 with our ladies hosting the Second Hand Rose booth. Our Lady Queen of Peace will have a Craft Fair on November 22nd.**

Our Lady of the Mystical Rose District affiliates sponsor children in Guatemala and Honduras, collect stamps and greeting cards, religious medals, rosaries, pull-tabs to the Ronald McDonald House as well as making lap robes and hats for the hospital nurseries. As you can see OLMR ladies are very busy serving the Lord.

Congratulations to **Yvonne Nelson, St. Joan of Arc Spirituality Commissioner, who received an Apostolic Blessing by Pope Francis for her service.**

September 24-28, I attended the NCCW convention in Grand Rapids Michigan with our Spiritual Advisor and five other ladies. It was an outstanding convention, with great speakers in the workshops and at the various dinners. There were many Bishops there also which makes the liturgical events so more meaningful.

May Our Lady of the Mystical Rose continue to guide us

OUR LADY OF THE SKIES DISTRICT
MARLENE FREDERICK, PRESIDENT

It's amazing just how time flies by ... here we are launched into the 2014-2015 season of CCW activities.

Our first "order of the day" is to introduce and welcome our newest Tampa Affiliation, Mary Help of Christians, which officially became a part of our District in May, 2014. This young group immediately became actively involved in the Salesian Youth Camp held on Mary Help of Christian's campus this past summer and plans to be of service to the retired Salesian priests presently residing there.

Our "established" units are already in high gear as they begin to develop and carry out their creative ventures.

Nativity CCW played an important role in the recent Spirit FM Women's Conference held at Nativity Church in Brandon. This ambitious group also hosted the Our Lady of the Skies District Fall Conference held on October 11, 2014. The keynote speaker for this gathering was Fr. Robert Schneider, pastor of St. Stephen's Parish in Brandon. He spoke on social justice by exploring and explaining the "HOPE" program (Hillsborough Organization for Progress and Equality).

St. Anne's in Ruskin looks back to a unique and very successful Fashion Show which featured wedding gowns by members and parishioners. The bridal attire displayed styles from the 1930's to the present day and was proudly worn by family or CCW members. It was an occasion, I am sure, brought back many memories to the attendees.

Ice-cream lovers had a great time at the 2nd annual Ice- Cream Social serving as the "kick-off" membership drive at Prince of Peace in Sun City Center. It wouldn't be October without these ladies hosting the Fall Festival of Crafts and donating the profits to the Bishop's APA campaign.

The variety of activities is outstanding. St. Francis of Assisi members in Seffner came up with two other "out-reach roads" to travel by preparing, cooking and serving the needy on a weekly basis, as well as, doing light sewing or mending for parishioners through the "Sewing Ministry".

Our District has been blessed with enthusiasm and energy; two vital ingredients needed to allow our CCW members to continue striving to be God's Presence to all that they meet.

In Jesus and Mary

OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS DISTRICT
CORALEE NICHOLS, PRESIDENT

As Our Lady of the Snows District prepares for our new year we are faced with many challenges. It is with sadness to report that Our Lady of the Snows lost affiliates, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Citrus Springs, and Our Lady of Grace in Beverly Hills and St. Benedict. These fine affiliates found it harder and harder to have members accept a board position as their demographics, like the rest of Citrus County, show members at an age that they can no longer participate.

Unfortunately, there are fewer and fewer young members to take their place.

St. Benedict started their year with a Patriotic Meeting on 9-11 followed by a picnic lunch. On their agenda for the year will be dinners, military card parties, bake sales and a special wine and cheese party honoring nine members who are in their 90's. Some of these ladies were still active and three attended the last meeting.

St. Scholastica is looking forward to a year dedicated to fun and fundraising. St. Scholastica has a new Spiritual Advisor, Fr. James Johnson, who took over as Pastor of St. Scholastic. In addition to St. Scholastica having a new Spiritual Advisor, so will Our Lady of the Snows with Fr. Jojo Tejada. Fr. Mike Smith, our past Spiritual Advisor was transferred to USF to be their Chaplin. As you can see CHANGE is the key word for Our Lady of the Snows.

St. Scholastica will enjoy many events that will help raise funds for St. John Paul the Second school in Citrus County. The school is eager to build up their student registrations through scholarships and CCW is a big part of helping them reach that goal. In addition, St. Scholastica will have a Baby Jesus Birthday Party, a Spring Fashion Show and many other events.

**All this is possible with prayers and the guidance of
Our Lady of Good Counsel.**

**OUR LADY OF THE WAY DISTRICT
DARET MATTHEWS, PRESIDENT**

It is with great pleasure that I share a photo from the **2014 Our Lady of the Way District Spring Conference** held at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church on Saturday, April 12, 2014. The theme was **“From Fatima with Love”**. Special thanks to Gerry Mingione, District 1st VP, and Lou Lerner, District 2nd VP along with all the CCW ladies of Espiritu Santo, St. Catherine of Siena and Light of Christ. Those contributions of much love and helping hands were needed. It was truly a team effort that made it successful!



This year, special recognition was given to **Espiritu Santo** CCW member, **Tracy Pals**, for her outstanding job as Chairman of the **Back-To- School Drive** for the past several years. Tracy presented a \$500.00 check to Mrs. Penn, Principal of Espiritu Santo Catholic School to assist with school supplies or “lunch scholarships”

Light of Christ CCW continues the tradition of Pancake Breakfasts for support of two Seminarians and to help fund the Homeless Project. Many CCW members are Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Sacristans, Altar Servers, and volunteer with St. Vincent de Paul. Presently, the ladies are anticipating the **Annual Holly Festival** which will be on **November 7th and 8th, 2014**. Everyone is invited, so please come!

St. Catherine of Siena CCW continues to support Catholic Relief Services through the **“Helping Hands Project”**. Meals are packaged and sent to Burkina Faso, Africa, one of the poorest countries in the world. At this time, the CCW ladies are in planning stages for this year’s Hospice Fashion Show and they are exploring other ways to support scholarships they provide.

Our Lady of the Way District provided the centerpieces, signage and place cards for the DCCW 2014 Convention Bishop’s Dinner. **All CCW Ladies of North Pinellas** did an amazing job! **Thanks.**



The Pennies for Priest Centerpiece Containers were filled red roses and Baby’s Breath with the vocations prayer attached.

Please contact me for information or about the Fall Conference

**Contact: Ourladywaydistrict201315@gmail.com or
(727)943-1060**

**OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA DISTRICT
LINDA SPEARE-GONITISKI, PRESIDENT**

Our Spiritual Advisors Message

Dear Ladies of Our Lady Star of the Sea, District, You have all been working very hard over the past year and have continued right into your new Council year. Not only have you been working to meet the needs of your Parishes and community, you have been praying for the protection of the unborn, as we enter the forty days of life. You have also been remembering those who were ill, in prayer, for a speedy recovery. I need to say that I am one of those needing your prayers. I wish to thank each and every one of the Council ladies for the cards, masses and prayers, as I am now beginning to recuperate. Without the help and dedication of our Council of Catholic Women, those of us in other parish ministries would find it difficult to continue the Gospel message. Ladies, you take the Gospel to heart, recognizing a hurting Church and do whatever is needed to heal the hurt and spread the love of God.

May God bless you in your continued endeavors -- May God fill you with grace and with the joy of service to your brothers and sisters.

Deacon Ted Fahrendorf

Excerpts from Messages from the District:

President's Message by Denise DeBord, 1st Vice President: I'm amazed at all the preparation work done by our District and Affiliate officers and board members over the summer. No such thing as time off for these ladies! Everyone has hit the deck running. Just glancing at the Affiliate calendars, this year promises to be another enriching year of communal prayer, fellowship, outreach, and service. Best of all, we've had inquiries from two Parishes in our District interested in forming a CCW or Columbiette Affiliation.

Preparations for our Fall Conference on Saturday, November 15th are well under way. With the theme The Advent of Jesus Christ, Then, Now and Yet to Come, all of us will benefit from well timed respite before the holidays and remain focused on Christ - "the reason for the season." Looking even further down the road, we have begun preparations for hosting a Rosary for persecuted Christians at our Annual DCCW Convention in May 2015.

Truly, our ladies are today's disciples. Through their leadership they bring Christ to others. They share their love of Christ by loving and serving others. Whether it's starting a Bible Study, sending supplies to Haiti, mentoring women in crisis pregnancies, serving meals to the homeless, or organizing prayer warriors for the forty days of life, our members give their time, talent and treasure freely in response to the needs of others. I am both humbled and proud to serve with all the wonderful women of Our Lady Star of the Sea.

Blessed Trinity CCW by Lynne Lester, Annette Bento, Co-Presidents. We provide meals for our Youth Ministry, set-up and clean up for coffee and donuts after the 8:00 am and 9:30 am Masses on Sundays, and serve at all social functions when needed. We are part of our Parish Welcoming Committee, assist with hospitality after funerals, and act as greeters. We have an altar circle for ladies to attend a monthly mass devoted to Our Lady of Fatima. Members set-up and serve our weekly Fish Fry during Lent, are active members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, collect items for the Diocesan Prison Ministry and are a part of our Altar Care Society. This year we hope to again help with the Parish auction benefitting the St. Vincent de Paul Society and assist with Parish Mardi Gras Auction.

Our CCW members are altar servers, lectors, ushers, Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion on the Altar, and to the Sick. We sing in the choir and are part of the Prayer Group, Bible Study Group, and Share the Word Small Group. We lead the Rosary after daily Mass, and serve as Catechists in our Faith Formation classes. By serving as the hands and feet of Christ, we fulfill the Parish needs and create a warm, welcoming atmosphere in our community.

Holy Family CCW by Linda Seufert, President. Our very successful first meeting, was an Annual Potluck Dinner. Over 50 ladies attended and 4 new ladies have joined the CCW. We also have already assisted another ministry in provided breakfast for one of their functions. All three CCW commissions have busy schedules

The Leadership Commission will concentrate on our annual fundraisers (bake sales, book sale and fashion show), hospitality (Food and fellowship always go good together!) and membership. CCW will be attending the annual Ministry Fair to promote the CCW organization. The 2014-2015 calendar and new member folders were made available for the first meeting. The historian has started taking pictures and recording our year. The Service Commission will be supporting the church's Annual International Food Festival, Thanksgiving Dinner, Hand in Haiti", Benedict Haven, the School Auction and the Knights of Columbus spaghetti dinners. This is accomplished by all the volunteer hours of CCW ladies. The Spirituality Commission is overseeing the masses for the deceased, legislative updates, and supporting DCCW programs such as "Focus 11" and "Pennies for Priests". They will assist with the receptions for First Communion and Confirmation and will coordinating the installation mass in May.

Our year will be exciting and fulfilling. Be sure to check our calendar on our website (www.holyfamilystpete.com) for all the dates and upcoming events. Our doors are always open for you to come and visit and together share our time, talents and treasures in bringing love, happiness and faith to our family, friends and community.

St Paul's Columbiette Auxiliary by Kandace Leshner, President. The goal of doubling our membership will continue to be one of our main focuses this year. In addition to our nametags, posters for all Parish events, and "Reasons I'm a Columbiette," a member from our board will attend all new parishioner meetings and welcome the new ladies to our Parish and introducing her to the benefits of membership in the Columbiettes. Fundraising plans are underway for our annual Yard Sale in November and the sale of poinsettias at Christmas. Our biggest fundraiser of the year – our annual Bowling Tournament – will be at the end of February.

We send weekly emails updating members on events. At Christmas, the Columbiettes donate to Brookwood, an alternative living environment and therapeutic program for troubled adolescent girls. Throughout the year, we provide donations to Alpha House, St Vincent de Paul's, and Partners With Haiti, supporters of our sister Parish. We provide holy cards to both the First Communion and Confirmation classes and offer rides, meals and assistance to parishioners in need. Our members coordinate and lead the Rosary before funerals, help with the Funeral Mass and provide food for a reception. Whether it's assisting with the Lenten Parish Fish Dinner, Festival Information Booth, Easter dinner baskets, sandwiches for Daystar, Easter plant sale or gifts to the parish homebound during the holidays, we are excited to use our time and talent giving back to our Parish and community.

St Raphael's CCW by Kathy Guckenberger, President. We welcomed several new members at their first meeting in September and we all quickly filled our calendars with activities and events. Spiritually, morning and evening Bible Studies facilitated by Council members have started up and prayer vigils for 40 Days for Life are underway. Members formed a core team over the summer to serve as a source of strength and support for many of our women involved in various spiritual ministries and to help us become intentional Disciples of Christ. Finally, in March, the Spirituality Commission will host our annual Mini Lenten Retreat that is open to DCCW members.

The Service and Leadership Commissions will again rally the troops this year to help with the October Fall Festival by providing cookies, cupcakes, sweets and "woman power" for the popular "Sweets Booth." Then, in November we will assist other Parish ministries and provide décor and food for the Parish picnic and provide breakfast for Our Lady Star of the Sea District Conference at St Paul's. We'll also add a bit of fun and excitement to our November monthly meeting with a member "purse exchange." December brings our Christmas Brunch and the collection of gifts for the residents of Shore Acres Nursing Home.

The rest of the Council year will continue to be equally busy and productive for all of us. Saturday, January 24th we will hold our biggest fund raising event – our annual Pack Rat Rummage Sale. Be sure to mark this on your calendar. Everyone is welcome to come and shop 'til you drop. April brings our very popular Fashion Show and Luncheon and nominations for our new slate of officers. At our final meeting in May we will install our new 2015 – 2017 CCW officers and honor our Handmaiden of the Lord recipient.



**Empowering ourselves as we look forward
In Faith to the upcoming Holidays**

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