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# TODAY'S CATHOLIC WOMEN

## ST. PETERSBURG DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN, INC.

MARCH 2015 NEWSLETTER

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Bishop Lynch, Rev. Kovanis  
With DCCW Members at Catholic Day at the Capitol

As the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops web site [www.flccb.org](http://www.flccb.org) describes, each year Catholics from around the State gather in Tallahassee to participate in Catholic Days at the Capitol. This two-day event provides the opportunity to put into action our faith's call to political responsibility and allows us to strengthen the presence of our Catholic values in the public square. By joining with Floridians who share our faith to advocate for laws that protect and defend human life and dignity, we can give a voice to some of the most vulnerable and marginalized populations in our state and help promote the common good for all of Florida's residents. Catholic Days activities include:

- A legislative briefing on policy issues affecting human life and dignity

- Pre-scheduled meetings with lawmakers

- A luncheon for Catholic Days participants, Florida's bishops and legislators

- Group photos of each diocesan delegation with their bishop

- Tours of the current and historic capitol buildings

- The 40th Annual Red Mass of the Holy Spirit celebrated by the bishops of Florida to pray for those working in the legislative, judicial and executive branches of government.

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**EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
**PATRICIA HANSON, DIOCESAN PRESIDENT**

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**WELCOME! WELCOME!** If you are reading this on the new and exciting web site of the St. Petersburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women [www.spdccw.org](http://www.spdccw.org), please browse the site after reading the newsletter. The newsletters and the web site are full of information about who we are and what we do.

“Lord Jesus, make us a generous evangelizer and sower of your word in all kinds of soil. Fill us with zeal and courage to go forth and spread your seeds all over the world!”

I thank everyone for the help given me over the past 2 years. I would also like to thank everyone for all the prayers and cards during my illness.

**Prayers do work!**

My fellow council women, we have a great organization in the St. Petersburg Diocese. I do not understand why all the affiliations in the Diocese would not like to help us grow. Together, we really could spread the Lord's seeds all over the world. Our future depends on what we do right now. At the FCCW Convention in October last year one of the speakers said we must find the Common Ground. We are doing this through our Council Come Home program by reaching out to non-affiliated councils for these councils to become members of the DCCW. We have started a program for a Junior CCW to let them know about this wonderful organization. Fr. Ted will send a letter to all the non-affiliated pastors asking if we can come and talk to his ladies group.

In order to grow, we must bring younger women into our council. I know most women work and if they have young children, it is very hard for them to go to meetings. They do help their parish with special events and this is the computer age. We could e-mail these young women about what took place at our meetings and tell them about some of the Diocesan programs we support. One is Bridging Freedom, an organization bringing awareness to the very real problem of Human Sex Trafficking in our State and in our Diocese. The average age of these girls is 12 years old when forced into prostitution. Another program is a Penny A Prayer for A Priest. Every time you said a prayer for a Priest you put a penny in a jar and at the end of the year we give the monies to the Bishop at our annual DCCW convention for the seminarians. We collect monies for Hugs for the Homeless, a State wide project. We help women in the third world countries through Water for Life, so that women do not have to walk 5 to 10 miles a day to get fresh water for their families. Another way we help women in third world countries is through the Madonna Plan by teaching women how to care for and provide food for their babies.

I am so proud of the Districts and affiliations. We have **439,877** service hours. **Well done everyone!** Let your pastor know about the hours helping your parish. Put it in your bulletin so younger women also see it and maybe would say “I want to join this great organization.”

So ladies, **Thank You** for all you do in your parishes and communities. You truly carry out our Convention Theme: “From Mary We Learn to Serve Others.” See all of you at our 47<sup>th</sup> annual DCCW Convention May 3-6, 2015.

Someone once asked Blessed Mother Teresa, what do I have to do to become a saint? And Blessed Mother Teresa simply said, “Say Yes to Jesus” that's all we have to do.

Councils all across the country are having birthday celebrations in honor of NCCW's 95th Birthday this month and all year long. NCCW is asking for photos of it. The following is one photo sent to NCCW for it. This photo was taken at Our Lady of Grace Spring Conference. Joanne Pajak, Pat Hanson and Lynn Erickson are shown presenting the NCCW Birthday cake.



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

The first section of my report will focus on the Spirituality Commission. The theme of the Florida Conference this past October was “Women of Faith Sharing His Love.” There were many interesting Speakers at FCCW. I will share some of the message given by Archbishop Wenski at the Bishop’s Convention Mass. He spoke about doing the will of Jesus because, when we will the good for all those we encounter, we are doing what Jesus did for us. Jesus made a commitment by offering himself up as a living sacrifice. He told us we should do the same. He said, when we arrive in heaven, Jesus will ask us what we have done. Archbishop Wenski advised us to be prepared, to be witnesses of Christ’s love, and to spread the joy of this love throughout the world.

It is my humble opinion, we, as active members of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, will be ready to answer Jesus when He asks “What did you do for the least of my brothers?”

Archbishop Wenski is shown Con-Celebrating Mass during FCCW Conference:



Part of the Service Commission’s mandate is to reach out in service to others. At the September Board meeting, I proposed a new idea for outreach to the Youth of our Diocese. I thank Committee members, Josephine Maestas, Sonia Tummings, and Missy Garrett for researching and compiling the information that is in the Flyer for “Calling All Youth to the Challenge”. This Challenge is a Program to expand three of our on-going Works of Charity by educating the youth in our Diocese and by asking them to become more involved. Please check out the entire flyer on our new website [www.spdccw.org](http://www.spdccw.org) under Board Committees, Youth Groups or News under News and Events or directly at: [www.spdccw.org/about-us/board/committees/youth-group/calling-all-youth-to-the-challenge](http://www.spdccw.org/about-us/board/committees/youth-group/calling-all-youth-to-the-challenge). We are calling all youth including Faith Formation

classes, Elementary School Students, High School Students, Scout troops, and Junior/Senior Youth Groups. Thanks for approving it in January and giving your permission to proceed with the project. Hopefully, more people will then get involved with our priority projects. It is the intention of this Committee to select the places to send our finalized flyer and begin the mailing of it by Fall, 2115.

Under the Leadership Commission and as a leader in Council, I felt it was time to look at other Hotels for Convention and to check whether or not we could get a better rate at another Hotel. I have already visited several Hotels and am looking at other Hotels. If you have a suggestion, please call or email me. Another point about being a leader in Council for those who have not heard the statistics at one of the Workshops and for those who have, it is worth repeating. Statistics show that the Leaders in the Catholic Church are around 7% of those who attend meetings, volunteer and donate the majority of their money to help the Catholic Church function. So, ladies, that makes you part of that 7%. So when you feel overworked and underpaid for all that you do, remember that the most important thing you can do as one of that 7% is to invite at least one more person to join us next year. We could then be the 8% who make a difference. As Archbishop Wenski reminded us, we will be accountable for what we do here. Keep up the great works; invite someone to join you. Remember, you are a blessing to all whose lives you touch.

I'll leave you with this challenge and my favorite quote by St Catherine of Sienna, "**Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.**"

**May Our Lady of Good Counsel be a Mentor and our Exemplar.**

Save the Date  
August 29, 2015

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*Saint Petersburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Workshop*  
*Place: Our Lady Queen of Peace, 5430 High Street, New Port Richey, FL 34652*  
*Date: August 29, 2015*  
*Time: 9:00 a.m. Registration & Breakfast: Price: \$ 6.00 includes Breakfast, Lunch and Printed Materials*  
*Come and find out the what, why, and how of Council!*  
*Join us – more information will be posted after the*  
*St Petersburg DCCW 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention*  
*May 3, 4, 5 and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015*

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At the time I joined the Council, I was looking for sisterhood. I knew very little about Deanery, Districts or Diocesan levels. I just joined the “women’s group of Incarnation” and that was it. Thanks to my “sisters” that ignorance did not last very long. Soon after joining, I was asked to serve my affiliate in the capacity of Second Vice President. I was not allowed to say “no”. Soon after, and under the guidance of wonderful ladies such as Owana Buttles, Kathleen Holocek, Pat Farley and Lynn Erickson to mention just few, I was propelled to the District (then called Deanery) and now to the Diocesan level.

Spirituality and Legislative issues are my passion. That is why I did not mind holding the Commission Chair position for these subjects even when, while holding these positions, I was fully employed and responsible for the work and accomplishments for several employees. Many times, I was only able to attend the morning session of meetings called by the District or the Diocese. The job trusted to me was still done.

We are not going to this year’s convention with an incomplete Slate of Officers. The DCCW Board election will be Wednesday, May 6, 2015.

Some of our Districts, however, may have an incomplete Slate of Officers. We have so many talented ladies more than capable of these jobs. If one of positions seems too big, it can be done by two ladies as co-chairs.

Come on, let’s do it, complete the necessary form, obtain the approval of your pastor or Spiritual advisor and prepare to lobby for your nomination. Let’s fill the open positions in our Councils.

**From Mary we learn how to serve one another, and, from Mary we should know how to answer this call.**

ROE BERARDO PUBLICITY AND MARKETING

**ATTENTION ALL WOMEN OF FAITH**

St. Petersburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women invites you to our 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention.

The convention opens Monday May 4, 2015, with a Healing Mass celebrated by Father Ted Costello. DCCW Spiritual Advisor and Assistant Pastor of St. Michaels the Archangel. He will also be the Keynote speaker.

Monday afternoon, Dr. Carmen Caltagirone, Principal of Corpus Christi, a lifelong Catholic educator, speaker and writer will be the guest speaker. Her talk is titled “Servant Leadership”.

Tuesday morning, May 5, 2015, Karen Jensen from Holy Family Parish will speak about “Faith in Action Women Making a Difference.”

Tuesday evening, the guest speaker for the Bishop Banquet will be Fr. Garry Welsh, currently parochial vicar of St. John Vianney Church.

**For prices and reservations please call Cathy Pena, Convention Chairperson, at 813-244-9654 or check our web site [www.spdccw.org](http://www.spdccw.org).**

JOSEPHINE MAESTAS  
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Greetings everyone!

Just a reminder:

As you have your District and Affiliate elections for the upcoming 2015-2017 year, be sure to send me your updated District and Affiliate rosters.

You can send them to me via e-mail at [jomaestas@yahoo.com](mailto:jomaestas@yahoo.com) or [jmaestas@galatiyachts.com](mailto:jmaestas@galatiyachts.com)

Blessings to you and yours

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Please look at our new web site: [www.spdccw.org](http://www.spdccw.org)

The Diocese has a reorganized web site: [www.dosp.org](http://www.dosp.org) and FCCW is now at: [www.flaccw.org](http://www.flaccw.org).

The NCCW web site is reorganized and has a new Evangelization Program - see [www.nccw.org](http://www.nccw.org)

**New Evangelization Prayer from Disciples Called to Witness**  
USCCB Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis

Gracious and merciful God, we pray that through the Holy Spirit all Catholics may hear the call of the New Evangelization and seek a deeper relationship with your Son, Jesus.

We pray that the New Evangelization will renew the Church, that we heed the works of Christ – “do not be afraid” – strengthened by the Holy Spirit’s gift of courage, give witness to the Gospel and share our faith with others.

We pray that we may become like the father of the prodigal son – filled with compassion for our missing brothers and sisters – and run to embrace them upon their return.

We pray that all people yearning to know Christ and the Church may encounter Him through the faithful who witness to His love in their lives.

Loving God, our Father, strengthen us to become witnesses to the saving grace of your Son, Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen



“I sense that the moment has come to commit all of the Church’s energies to a new evangelization and to the mission. No believer in Christ, no institution of the Church can avoid this supreme duty: to proclaim Christ to all peoples.”

---John Paul II, *Redemptoris Missio*

**National Council of Catholic Women Mission Statement**

The National Council of Catholic Women acts through its members to support, empower and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. NCCW programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world.



**Catholic Women: We Are Called To Witness**



**Apostolic Exhortation of the Holy Father, Francis**  
**EVANGELII GAUDIUM**

Evangelization takes place in obedience to the missionary mandate of Jesus: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Mt 28:19-20). In these verses we see how the risen Christ sent his followers to preach the Gospel in every time and place, so that faith in him might spread to every corner of the earth.

The National Council of Catholic Women  
“We Are Called to Witness” Program  
Written and compiled by the New Evangelization Sub-Committee  
Pat Cullen, Chair, Jane Carter, Jean Blair, Jean Kelly and Eileen O’Connor  
2013-2015 NCCW Leadership Commission, Jane Carter, Chair

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[www.nccw.org](http://www.nccw.org)

**national council of catholic women**  
To support, empower, and educate all Catholic women

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**LEADERSHIP COMMISSION CHAIR**  
**JEANNETTE KOLLAR**

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The Leadership Commission provides organizational development, leadership training, public relations resources and publications to ensure the success of the organization and the management of these programs.

All Districts have been busy working to increase their membership. They do this by holding Welcome Teas and Wine & Cheese events to make new members feel welcomed.

Districts are active in fund raising events. To name a few Bunco, Fashion Shows, Tricky Trays, Bake Sales and Rummage Sales. These provide the funds for our donations so we can support our charities.

Many of our members are active in their Parish as Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Rosary making, Greeters, Church cleaning and Bereavement Luncheon.

We were sad to hear that the Northern District Our Lady of the Snows voted to leave the Council of Catholic Women. Four of the affiliates voted to leave the District. The District had no option for continuing without any affiliate funding. We were saddened to see them leave.

Many thanks to all you great ladies for a job well done. It was a pleasure to know you and I enjoyed working with all of you. Keep up the good work.

**May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide us in all we do.**

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**SPIRITUALITY CHAIR**  
**PEGGY PREBBLE**

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Year of Consecrated Life

Excerpts from the Diocese of St. Petersburg website [www.dosp.org](http://www.dosp.org)

In calling for the Year of Consecrated Life, Pope Francis articulated three goals: to look to the past with gratitude, to live the present with passion, and finally, to embrace the future with hope. During the Year of Consecrated Life, the Pope invites religious to renew their vocation and to fill their lives with joy and passion, so that the increase in loving activity is a continuous process. “Love is never finished and complete; throughout life it changes and matures, and thus remains faithful to itself.”

In the Diocese of St. Petersburg, activities of the Year call religious to look back at the blessings of the past but not to stop there. As grateful as we are for the history of consecrated life, we must look to the future and listen to what God is saying to the Church today and implement ever more fully the essential aspects of our consecrated life. We must live our three vows of poverty, chastity and obedience with the Joy that is visible to those around us, and to ourselves.



Plan now to participate in the diocesan celebration taking place October 31, 2015, at the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle. Watch [www.dosp.org](http://www.dosp.org) for news of other activities throughout this blessed time, until the closing of the Year on Feb. 2, 2016.

As Pope Francis said, “Consecrated men and women live out their fidelity, giving a reason for the joy that lives in them. ... become splendid witnesses, effective proclaimers, companions and neighbors for the women and men with whom they share a common history and who want to find their Father’s house in the Church.”

**Prayer for the Year of Consecrated Life**

O God, throughout the ages you have called women and men to pursue lives of perfect charity through the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

During this Year of Consecrated Life, we give you thanks for these courageous witnesses of Faith and models of inspiration.

Their pursuit of holy lives teaches us to make a more perfect offering of ourselves to you. Continue to enrich your Church by calling forth sons and daughters who, having found the pearl of great price, treasure the Kingdom of Heaven above all things.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

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**SERVICE COMMISSION CO-CHAIR  
GLORIA NELSON AND LOUISE CULOTTA**

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Our Council of Catholic Women are like the energizer bunnies. They are doing many local projects in their parishes. They support Diocesan suggested projects, such as, Bridging Freedom. They have now jumped on board the National Council suggested project - Caps of Love. It is amazing, thinking of all the many projects our ladies do - helping with scouting programs, nursing homes, teddy bears for hospitalized children, pregnancy centers, English instruction and more. Many of our ladies have become involved with community justice groups, such as, Fast (Pinellas) and Hope ( Hillsborough) benefiting our communities We can be proud of ourselves for the dedication by our ladies and their participation in parish and community programs.

Currently, we are planning our Convention Workshop. Many of our churches are involved with twinning with churches in Haiti. Our speaker will be Karen Jensen. She is involved with the Holy Family Parish in St. Petersburg's twinning program having made many trips to Saint Gabriel's at Beau Sejour, Haiti. She will be able to "show and tell" about the things that have been done. Also, we will have each District Service Chair present some unique or new project done by their district with instructions or contacts needed to carry these out. We are always looking for new projects and hope we will all find these to be interesting and worthwhile.

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**BISHOP'S VOCATION FUND  
BARBARA BYARS**

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### **Bishop's Vocation Fund**

Please continue using the Bishop's Vocation Fund cards and remember Penny a Prayer for Priests. Encourage the affiliates and the members individually to send BVF cards for memorials, serious illnesses, and celebrations. The BVF cards and the pennies are the way the DCCW raises money to support the seminarians financially.

Thank you for providing the cookies for Focus 11. The Vocations Office is always appreciative of the cookies the DCCW donates. They add a sweet touch to lunch; the children enjoy them, and it shows the students the DCCW supports vocations.

Remember to pray for our priests, religious, deacons, and seminarians.

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

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Our Lady of Grace District continues to function at a fast pace. Not only are we in the midst of planning a fabulous ‘FUN NIGHT’ for our sisters (and brothers) for the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, our commitment to our parishes and community also continues.

Thrift sales, tea parties, manning the religious article stores, teaching CCD classes, attending Bible studies, serving as lectors, Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion, ushers, visitors to the homebound, parish dinners, music ministers....The list is endless.

As other District affiliates do, we support Focus 11, Hugs for the Homeless, Water for Life, Penny-a-Prayer-for Priests, Heifer Project, Pinellas Hope, Help brings Hope to Haiti, Adopt a Nun project, Foundations for Life Pregnancy Center and Bridging Freedom.

One highlight of our District is the 90<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of Catholic Women’s Club. This affiliate was formed in 1924, at the request of Father J.E. Farrell, S.J, Pastor at Sacred Heart Church. Mrs. R.S.Clark was the first President. She was appointed by St. Augustine Bishop T.P. Barry, as his official representative in organizing a Diocesan Council of Catholic Women in Florida. The Catholic Women’s Club has the distinction of being one of the first clubs in Florida to become a member of the National Council of Catholic Women. In 1926, Mrs. Clark and a group of Tampa club members attended to NCCW Convention in Washington D.C., as the official delegation from Florida.

Our District has a long history in the Council of Catholic Women.

**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.**

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

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Ladies

Our BUNCO party was 02/21/2015, at Epiphany. It was lots of fun

OLO Life & OLO Skies had our second annual, joint day of Lenten Reflection 02/28/2015. It was at St. Francis of Assisi in Seffner. Photos are on our new web site. Please look at it.

OLO Life Spring Conference was 03/17/2017 at OLO the Rosary in Land O Lakes.

We had a successful conference.

We are working on “Fun Night Theme for Convention ‘A Red Carpet Affair’” and hope everyone will be there and have fun that night, also

Our District will be donating a Wine basket for the raffle.

Hope to see you there.

**Our Lady of Good Counsel Pray for Us.**

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**OUR LADY OF THE MYSTICAL ROSE DISTRICT**  
**PATRICIA MOORE, PRESIDENT**

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The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women and all the districts are coming into the homestretch of their transition semester.

Our Lady of the Mystical Rose has had a Spiritual Advisor change this year with Father Morley's transfer to Holy Family parish in St. Petersburg. The Hernando Deanery/Our Lady of the Mystical Rose district thanks Father Morley for his guidance over the past five years and wish him well in his new parish. OLMR District welcomed Father Sebastian Earthedath, Pastor of Our Lady Queen of Peace as our new Spiritual Advisor and look forward to working with him in our endeavors.

Our convention assignment this year is the Shrine and Prayer Room. I am very fortunate to have St. Joan of Arc CCW oversee the Shrine and Linda LaGrande, from Our Lady Queen of Peace CCW, is taking care of the Prayer Room.

Due to Our Lady of the Snows inability to participate in this year's convention, some of the districts shuffled assignments. In the end, OLMR was asked to be in charge of the Fund Raiser in addition to the Shrine and Prayer Room. Our donation is a Coach Signature Stripe File Purse along with many great prizes.

For Sunday night dinner, each district will be singing two songs from different eras. We chose the Roaring Twenties.

With our Conference being held on February 26 at St. Joan of Arc, the nominating committee, chaired by Elaine Lee of St. Joan of Arc, was busy choosing a slate of officers for 2015-2017.

All in all, I think the transition from Hernando Deanery to Our Lady of the Mystical Rose District went well. Now that we all know each other better as to our expertise, the district should be smooth sailing for the 2015-2017 term.

I personally thank Toni Thomas, President of St. Frances Cabrini CCW, Elaine Lee, President of St. Joan of Arc and Carol LaGrande, President of Our Lady Queen of Peace for their great assistance and support. When everyone does just a little bit, a whole lot gets accomplished.

**May Our Lady of the Mystical Rose continue to guide us**

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**OUR LADY OF THE SKIES DISTRICT  
MARLENE FREDERICK, PRESIDENT**

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As we “wind up” the current District year, we find the District continuing to be active in God’s Kingdom.

Our special District-wide project associated with the Eckerd “Raising Hope” organization which deals with foster children, is developing well as our Affiliates have found several different avenues of contributions. These include a collection of toiletries, a parish shower of needed baby clothing articles, duffle bags, and the generous donation of profits from a major Fashion Show. These special efforts will be used to help the children in their stressful struggle.

*Fun* has also been a part of activities. We enjoyed a Christmas party in December and recently an afternoon of Bunco, one of our yearly Fundraisers.

Our Spiritual Life has also been on our “list “of valued efforts. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row two Districts; Our Lady of Life and Our Lady of the Skies, held a joint “Day of Reflection. It was at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Seffner from 8:45 am – 1:30 pm. Photos are on the web site.

Our up-coming schedule includes our *Spring Conference* on April 18, 2015 at Mary Help of Christians Church and the May 4-7<sup>th</sup> *DCCW Convention* where we will be found selling the “Share the Wealth” tickets. Look for us in our special “headgear”!!!! AND... come prepared to invest your money in a really worthy cause...

**Blessings to all!**

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Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 11:30 a.m., Bishop Robert N. Lynch will preside at the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St. Jude, 5815 Fifth Ave. N., St. Petersburg, 33710. There will be a video stream at [www.dosp.org](http://www.dosp.org), if you cannot be there in person

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

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Together, in this District, we strive to improve communication and become better acquainted. We share information among parish CCWs, the St. Petersburg DCCW Districts, FCCW and NCCW. Fostering Diocesan friendships and sharing the vision of Bishop Lynch, we bring fresh ideas and a unified effort to reach vulnerable children and adults.

In 2014, Our Lady of The Way District contributed 131,845 Volunteer Hours. Many members assist the parish with Liturgical programs and Catholic school projects, collect and distribute supplies for St. Vincent de Paul, Pinellas Hope, and Catholic Charities.

I extend a warm welcome to Toni Montevago, St. Michael the Archangel CCW President and the wonderful ladies there. I look forward to seeing you April 11, 2015 at Espiritu Santo for the District Spring Conference. Please contact me at [ourladywaydistrict201315@gmail.com](mailto:ourladywaydistrict201315@gmail.com) or see <http://www.spdccw.org> for information about it

Rev. Justin Paskert, our District Spiritual Advisor, is now Vicar at St. Ignatius of Antioch. We thank him for his valuable contribution as mentor these last two years. The District also thanks Rev. Ted Costello for his direction and assistance as the St. Petersburg DCCW Spiritual Advisor. We keep both Priests in our prayers.

Together, we invite all women to join Council. Some affiliate CCW accomplishments are: St. Catherine of Siena selecting St. Vincent De Paul Society as “Charity of the Year” giving \$250.00 to the Food Drive and collecting toys, as well; Light of Christ CCW sponsoring a “Pancake Breakfast” benefitting their two Seminarians sending each a check for \$300.00 and Espiritu Santo CCW (WES) “Happy Hearts Helping Hospice” St. Valentine’s Day Fashion Show with proceeds supporting Seminarians and Espiritu Santo Ministries. Ginny Sorota and Carol Lapreato at the Fashion Show are pictured below.

I especially thank Our Board for dedicated service in sharing time, prayers and talents:

1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President Gerry Mingione	Secretary: MaryAnn Holup	Treasurer: Kate Kilbride
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President Lou Lerner	Corr. Secy: Sherrie Pennington	Leadership Geri Good
Parliamentarian Rosemary Wilson	Service: MaryAnn Washkin	Spirituality: Joan Alix

**May God Bless You**



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

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What a year! I don't think it was possible to schedule more into 12 months than done by Our Lady Star of the Sea District. All Affiliates shared their time, talent and treasure, and, if needed, came to each other's aid. Sadly, we have said goodbye to several of our members welcomed with open arms by Our Lord. They will always be remembered in our prayers and in the fun and fellowship we continue to share as we move on in their footsteps.

Again this year, our Affiliates provide continuing spiritual support for members, their families and parishes. Our CCW ladies serve as EME, lectors, altar servers, catechists, choir members and facilitators. They visit the sick and elderly, praying with them and sharing the good news of the gospel. Additionally this past year, our members have been very active in fostering awareness regarding election candidates and legislation issues involving moral issues critical to Christian families. Blessed Trinity continues their women's Altar Circle and its' monthly devotion to Our Lady of Fatima. Holy Family members support Pennies for Priests; Focus 11; 40 Days for Life and other respect life ministries. The St Paul's Columbiette's maintain a prayer line; an evening scripture prayer group, a mother's prayer group and just completed their annual women's weekend retreat. St Raphael's members facilitate morning and evening scripture studies; remain active in respect life ministries and have started "Project Rachael" for those suffering from the effects of abortion.

Our Affiliate members continue to be involved - not just in their parishes and communities - but in national and international programs. Water for Life and 40 Days for Life are just two programs receiving our prayers, participation and funding. St Paul's Columbiette's contribute to *Partners with Haiti* supporting their sister parish. Holy Family continues their efforts with *Hands in Haiti*. On a more local level, our members volunteer to serve others in numerous and varied ways. Blessed Trinity helped distribute toys for St. Vincent de Paul. Holy Family continues support of Benedict Haven. St Paul's packs sandwiches for Day Star. St Raphael's began a ministry called The Mustard Seed providing hot home cooked meals for the homeless.

Our Council women are truly examples of the living gospel. They are not only leaders in the Diocese, the District and their Affiliates; they stepped out and organized ministries whenever needed. Our Affiliate members are Guardian ad Litem, foster parents, and guardians for the elderly. Our CCW women stand out as Catholic women. They serve on parish and school councils and as board members for Foundations of Life, St Vincent de Paul and many other charitable organizations. They organize socials, plan a parish picnic or Convention, cook meals, wipe a nose or change a diaper.

Looking back we all share the joy in knowing Our Lady Star of the Sea District makes immeasurable contributions.



Hopefully, Lent has been a great journey for all of you and that you have kept it simple: a time for joy; a time for prayer; a time of fasting and almsgiving; but most of all, a time of growing closer to God and your family. Lent is like a long retreat during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God speaking to us, so that we may grow closer to Him as we journey to the Paschal Mystery. Have a blessed and Happy Easter. I look forward to seeing you at the Convention.

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<b>Article</b>	<b>Page</b>
Bishop Lynch, Rev. Kovanis and DCCW members photo with FCCB text	1
DCCW President Patricia Hanson followed by NCCW Birthday Photo	2
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President Mary M. Woltman	4
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President Cathy Pena	6
Publicity/Marketing Chair Roe Berardo	7
Corresponding Secretary, Josephine Maestas followed by web site reference	8
Leadership Commission Jeannette Kollar	9
Spirituality Commission Peggy Prebble	10
Service Commission Co-Chairs Gloria Nelson and Louise Culotta	11
Vocations Fund Barbara Byars	11
Our Lady of Grace District, Joanne Pajak	12
Our Lady of Life District Sonia Tummings	13
Our Lady of the Mystical Rose Patricia Moore	14
Our Lady of the Skies Marlene Frederick	15
Our Lady of the Way District Daret Matthews	16
Our Lady Star of the Sea Linda Speare-Gonitski	17
DCCW Spiritual Advisor Rev. Ted Costello	18

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