
TODAY'S CATHOLIC WOMEN

ST. PETERSBURG DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN, INC.

OCTOBER, 2015 NEWSLETTER



Congratulations to Deacon Elix Castro of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Seffner, Deacon Frank DeSanto of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Land O'Lakes, Deacon Steven Girardi of Espiritu Santo Parish in Safety Harbor, Deacon Mark Manko of St. James the Apostle Parish in Port Richey, Deacon Ted Martin of Most Holy Redeemer Parish in Tampa, Deacon Greg Nash of Espiritu Santo Parish in Safety Harbor, Deacon Tony Quattrocki of Light of Christ Parish in Clearwater, Deacon Glenn Smith of St. Timothy Parish in Lutz, Deacon Jorge Suarez of St. Joseph Parish in Tampa, and Deacon Joe Zucchero of St. Brendan Parish in Clearwater. They remain in our prayers as they embark into this new ministry.

EXECUTIVE BOARD
MARY WOLTMAN, DIOCESAN PRESIDENT



www.spdccw.org

Reflections on the NCCW Convention: During his homily, Bishop Johnston, Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Missouri, reminded us: “When we were baptized, we became part of the Church family.” Mary Beth Hicks educated us to realize we must be ready with a Catholic response for the young women we encounter. She advised us that modern culture has enticed our young women to be victims of its’ alluring secular call. Carolyn Woo, CRS President, informed us “anyone who passes our path is in need.” Bishop Noonan, Diocese of Orlando, left us with the questions: “Do we respect the gift we are to one another? Do we need to convert our own lives to do that?” The Convention had a wealth of informative speakers. We offer congratulations to our Orlando DCCW sister members for making the journey enjoyable.



Our new CONNEC+ Team, formally Councils Come Home, is off to a great start. We are reaching out to Affiliations who left. We found that one of the major complaint was members were too old and did not want to travel. We are also contacting groups who have not joined. One of our Affiliations started a 20 something group with 30 members. We are using this success to target the 20 – 40 year olds age group. Included in the Team program would be Youth Groups, High School clubs and Girl Scouts. We have had some interest from Catholic Elementary School Teachers and one Principle.



We are well under way with our “Hugs for the Homeless” project. We were able to have a table to display a few of our projects at the Spirit FM 2nd Annual Women’s Conference. The women stopping at it were very interested. These women agreed the “Hugs for Homeless” program was very worthwhile. We also met a Council sister from Miami who said she would share a few of our outreach ideas with her Affiliation when she returned home.



The 2nd Annual Bridging Freedom ‘Candlelight Walk’ will be in January. Bridging Freedom is a non-profit organization. Laura Hamilton, founder, is raising money to build a sanctuary for rescued under age sex-trafficked victims. Our members will support the project in January by manning the water stations and supporting the project with our prayers. Last January, we had two water stations distributing over 300 bottles. As the 2nd Annual event draws close it is clear that this project greatly needs our support.



Our 48th Annual Convention will be May 1st through 4th, 2016. The Convention Theme this year is “Women of Mercy”. Our biggest event will be our closing Mass and Bishop’s Banquet, as we offer our fond farewell to our Beloved Bishop Robert Lynch retiring this May. At our Farewell Gala, we will honor Bishop Lynch for his 20 years of service in this Diocese and present him with a Spiritual Bouquet from our women. Our very special Key Note Speaker will be the Most Reverend John Noonan, Bishop of Orlando.

May our Lady of Good Counsel be our Mentor and Exemplar

What Pope Francis message means to me

This has to be one of the most devastating seasons affecting humanity ever. The headlines on the local newspaper confirm this statement.

“Moon and tides are recipes for up to 10 more inches of rain”. “Erika’s toll left the Dominica Republic with 20 dead and 50 missing”, “Record high temperatures impacted New York City for the second day”, “Glaciers in Alaska are shrinking”, just to mention few local headlines (Tampa Tribune, August 2015). All this seems to confirm theories that man’s ways are destroying Sister Earth. Sister Earth, like Saint Francis of Assisi used to call the earth, our common home. “Laudato Si, mi signore” he used to sing.

The same theme is voiced by Pope Francis in his Encyclical “Laudato si ” in which he stresses the necessity to save the planet from human destruction. The same message is behind declaring September 1st the Annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. The weather devastation is viewed by the Pope and many others as a statement of disgust made by nature for the irresponsible use it suffers at the hands of humans.

I am not a science major and, therefore, neither prepared to fully understand nor explain all the talk about Global Warming. I am a follower of Christ and, as such, my conscience tells me to follow Pope Francis and to look at current human behavior as actions against Creation and against God. It is for this reason I feel obligated to do all I can to reverse the trend and invite you to do the same.

Pope Francis challenges every person living on this planet to think of how are we shaping the future of our planet and get us to a new path. His views include a change in our style of living: stop the use of plastic, manage the use of water, cook only what you need (avoid waste), support the use of public transportation, as only a few examples. Our contribution, no matter how small, can make the beginning of life that respects our neighbor’s needs. We may not have control of public transportation or plastic; we can control the usage of water and food and certainly prayers. This can mark the beginning of change.

BETH AUBIN, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Throughout the summer, it has been a pleasure working with Madam President Mary Woltman, Fr. Ted Costello, the DCCW Officers and DCCW members.

Our first project with the District Presidents was the August workshop. Our goal was to provide the District Presidents with “Tools of Knowledge” and for them to take those tools to affiliations. Twenty four members attended it. A power point presentation was given on Duties of the President, Vice President, District responsibilities, How to write a report, Protocol at a business meeting, How to arrange a Head Table, Pick the brains of the Past Presidents, Gather resources, and letting each President know the BYLAWS would be a best friend. An agenda outline, helpful notes at a meeting and a booklet on “How to loosen up the Group” were also given.

We recently attended the NCCW Convention in Orlando. What an experience that was seeing all the ladies from across America and then sharing stories with them. Hopefully, next year, we will see more of our ladies at the next NCCW convention to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana.

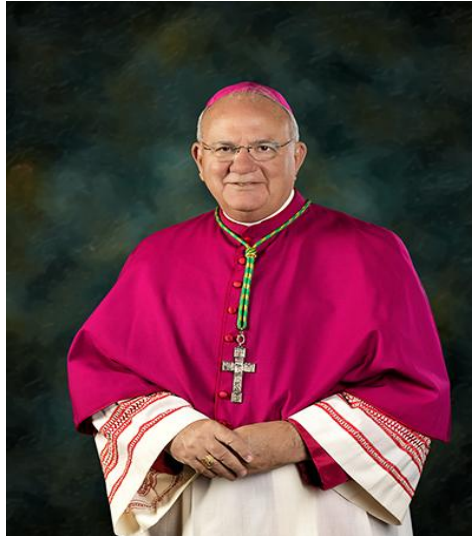
Our first Saturday morning speaker was Richard Doerflinger – Associate Director of the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. His topic: Fighting Assisted Suicide: The Lives We Save May be Our Own. After Years of being confined to the Pacific Northwest, Oregon being one State, a campaign to legalize physician-assisted suicide expanded endangering patients and families, especially seniors, in over a dozen States. These are disturbing facts on what is actually happening. Campaigns against conscience rights and religious freedom pressure Catholics and health care providers to assist in taking human life. As advocates for the helpless and vulnerable, including our own families, we need to: learn all key arguments against assisted suicide; form broad-based coalitions with religious and secular allies and find compassionate solutions for the seriously ill. We need the POWER of PRAYER.

Brandon Vogt, Author, blogger, Content Director for Bishop-Robert Barron’s Word on Fire Catholic Ministries was the next speaker. His Topic: A REASON FOR OUR HOPE: 5 keys to SHARING the Faith Today. St. Peter encourages us to always be ready to explain the reason for our hope. (1Peter 3:15) Yet, when many of us try to share our faith, we get nervous, tongue-tied, or tense. We become better bearers of hope by sharing our faith with confidence, calmness and joy by being prepared.

1. Equipment: Learn the Catechism of the Catholic Church – read a small part every day;
2. Clear up Misconceptions: Know what we believe, if there doubt expressed about it;
3. Share Catholic Resources - Fr Barron on Bob Dylan “YouTube” is one -- ask me;
4. Affirm the Positive Values of our belief and not as Rules to be kept to be good Catholics;
5. Regain the trust of the people. Be Joyful.

The world needs the hope of Christ. It’s time we bring it. Thank you.

Most Reverend Robert N. Lynch



Bishop Robert Lynch was born in Charleston, West Virginia in 1941. He received his bachelor of arts degree from the Pontifical College Josephinum in Worthington, Ohio in May 1963 and his master of divinity degree from Pope John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Massachusetts in May, 1978. That same month, he was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Miami.

Bishop Lynch is known for his time spent as the General Secretary of the United States Catholic Conference (USCC) and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB). His most recent assignment before coming to St. Petersburg was in Fort Lauderdale as the pastor of St. Mark Catholic Church. Previous assignments include associate pastor of St. James in North Miami, and rector and president of St. John Vianney College Seminary in Miami. He was ordained a bishop and installed as the fourth Bishop of the Diocese of St. Petersburg on January 26, 1996.

Information copied from www.dosp.org.

Please see the Diocese web site for more accomplishments of Bishop Lynch.

JOSEPHINE MAESTAS CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Happy “New Year”!

We have a lot of “newly” elected people for the new council year 2015-2017. Therefore, I wanted to refresh everyone with a reminder. If you have people or situations needing prayers, please submit the information to me to be added to our DCCW prayer list. An e-mail will also be sent to our prayer warriors.

The cost of praying for others is only our time and it’s the least we can do to comfort those in need. Power of Prayer!

Send the prayer request(s) information to me via e-mail at jomaestas@yahoo.com or jmaestas@galatiyachts.com. If you don’t have e-mail, pick up the phone and call me at (813-748-3043).

Please include a mailing address (if possible) for those wishing to will send a card, well wishes, thoughts..... Also, updates on a prayer request are helpful for those praying for the request.

Blessings to you and yours

**Please Save the Date
For our Next DCCW Convention: May 1-4, 2016**

Please begin assembling the Spiritual Bouquet for Bishop Lynch

Please note the 2016 Convention Program Book Ad Placement Contract and Spec Sheet Information, the Convention Perk Benefit Reminder and the Sponsorship Information for Bishop Lynch’s Gala Dinner is posted on our www.spdccw.org web site under the Convention tab and then look for the 2016 Convention section. Additional Convention information will be posted there as it becomes available.

The NCCW has information and resources from on the recent NCCW Orlando Convention at its web site. NCCW is also offering chances to win full registration, banquet and hotel (4 nights) for the 2016 Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana plus \$400 to cover travel expenses. See the details at www.nccw.org.

**LEADERSHIP COMMISSION CHAIR
BERNADETTE GAUDION**

A special thank you to our Leadership Commission Chairs throughout our great Diocese of St. Petersburg. It is with many hands we are able to fulfill our mission of “Servant Leadership” within our 25 affiliations and parishes. We have been especially blessed with Rosemary Early, Paulette Elliott, Pat Moore and Maria Wilson as District Leadership Commission Chairs. They have already “rolled up their sleeves” and are hard at work to serve you. We had the pleasure of meeting Faith Beckett, Barb Caleca, Deb Hirtz, and Donna M. Inguanta at our August workshop and we look forward to meeting each of our Leadership Commission Chairs in our Diocese. All of YOU are an important part of our commitment to “Service” Leadership—without *you* our initiatives are merely words.

What activities are you doing at your affiliation or district level to promote membership, charity fundraising, Gospel values? Consider posting photos on our SPDCCW Facebook page and be sure to *like* us and invite your friends. What better way to share ideas and initiatives than with pictures of smiling faces and charitable deeds. Your positions as Leadership Commission Chairs are an essential catalyst to carry out our many worthwhile SPDCCW activities.

Not completely sure what your job entails as Leadership Commission Chair, take a few moments and view “Leadership” PowerPoint @ spdccw.org (Under “About Us”>Commissions>Leadership). You will have a complete understanding of your role as LCC and the many ways to serve your President and affiliation.

Below a personal message from Jane Carter, a member of NCCW Leadership Team

Dear Wonderful Women of St. Petersburg DCCW,

As Catholic women we strive to live lives that reflect Christ. We model the Blessed Mother and trust in the Holy Spirit. We want others to recognize us, not by our pins and scarves, but by our faith and action---and our love. We ask Mary, under her title of Our Mother of Good Counsel, to intercede for us, that we may be wise, courageous and loving leaders of the Church.

I encourage you to become the very best leaders you can be---by being a leader like Jesus, a Servant Leader---by listening, healing, building relationships and learning to work towards consensus---in your own life and in your Councils.

**(((hugs))) Jane Carter,
NCCW Leadership Team**

In closing, I ask our Lord to watch over us and to give us strength to carry out the mission of SPDCCW. May He give us grace to live Gospel values, to support one another in our endeavors, as we work as *Servant Leaders* in His Name. Amen.

Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like Your Heart.

SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION CHAIR
ELAINE LEE

God calls each of us to a special purpose. He has a plan for you. It is up to you to listen and fulfill that purpose daily. **Pray for God to show you His plan for your life.**

Each of us is on a spiritual journey and at different place on that journey. First, we must find time daily to open our hearts and mind to listen to the voice of God. We live in a world that is so busy and full of distractions. Some of you may already have a deep meaningful relationship with God; some of you may be yearning for more. The first step is to begin. God is waiting to have a personal relationship with you. To have this means you communicate (prayer-talking to God). Give Him your joys and sorrows. **He is waiting for you.**

I encourage you to start today. Here are some ideas.

- When you open your eyes in the morning, before you get out of bed, give God that first 5 minutes. Say a prayer, read scripture, be quiet and listen. Try opening your bible leaving the reading choice to the Holy Spirit or read the daily Mass readings on that day.
- Pray throughout the day. Set your alarm to remind you to stop and pray. 3pm is the Divine Mercy Hour. Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy
- Participate in a Bible Study or Prayer Group
- Attend Adoration at your parish.
- Pray the monthly Prayer theme
- Pray for all Priest & Seminarians

Here are some smart phone aps:

*****LAUDATE** which includes: prayers, daily mass readings, Catechism, New American Bible and more. This is the #1 Catholic ap.

FIRST 5 includes morning alarm w/5 minute meditations to start your day and at 3 pm.

DIVINE MERCY includes Chaplet, Novena & other devotions

THE POPE AP to see what's going on with the Pope

40 Day Spiritual Workout (for Teens)

Websites:

Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops <http://flaccb.org>

US Conference of Catholic Bishops <http://www.usccb.org>

Global Catholic Climate Movement <http://catholicclimatemovement.global/pray4cop21>

33 Days to Morning Glory, Consecration to Jesus thru Mary. Follow the link and Download a phone AP to follow each day as you read the book. The AP is a daily commentary that goes hand and hand with the book. <http://33daystomorningglory.blodspot.com>

A NEW YEAR AND NEW HOPE

WHO ARE THEY? WHAT DO THEY DO? HOW CAN WE HELP?

We are Christian women assisting in the welfare of families by encouraging Christian family living in unity plus preserving Christian Principles. You can help by assisting with the concerns of education, abused women, children, elderly, as well as, religion, anti pornographic and Government. At an International level, some concerns are: peace; education, and awakening a conviction of responsibility ultimately creating a Brotherhood of all people.

We started our year with hope and hopeful we will end with accomplishment. Our First Pre-Board Meeting for Leadership, Spirituality, and Service Commission Chairs was called by President Mary Woltman and held June 1 at the Hilton. This was a wonderful beginning for us. We had the opportunity to become more familiar with our positions and with our co-workers. We were asked to give a preview of our Presentations. The 2016 Convention was also discussed and many ideas and viewpoint were shared.

The Board meeting at Corpus Christi was June 6th. The Breakout sessions gave us an opportunity to become acquainted with our committee. The Service committee went well. We had three District Service Chairmen present. Discussions included plans for Convention and we also decided on the Service Commission presentation for the DCCW August 29th Workshop. We gathered again at Epiphany of Our Lord Church, July 11, to review our presentations for the Workshop, continue preliminary plans for our 2016 Convention and information on our website.

August 29th came soon! As reported, all presentations went super! The Service Presentation was awesome. We were well pleased with many positive statements about it. At it, we discussed Hugs for the Homeless encouraging affiliates to get involved with money being collected between December and February. This money feeds the hungry, clothes the naked, and shelters the homeless. Children Home presently needs suitcases/duffel bags for foster children. We collected 32 suitcases/duffel bags at the Workshop and will continue collecting for the entire year. To donate suitcases/duffel bags please contact me at rmvaras@verizon.net. The Human Sex Trafficking presentation proved to be very interesting to our attendees. Many of our minor children/young adults are victims of this horrendous crime and need our assistance. By the grace of God we received Land and a one million dollar Government Grant. Now, we need YOUR help to build, staff, and serve a new facility to assist these victims. Contact me, also, if you have any questions or would like to help!

For the 1st time, I was privileged to attend the NCCW Convention (Sowers of Hope) in Orlando. It was such an experience that I encourage all to attend. There were many wonderful workshops and tremendous Key Note speakers on living and sharing this wonderful life and sadly self-suicide where physicians give patients medication to terminate their own lives. There was a presentation on Domestic Violence and pornography that had great visual exhibitions. We need your prayers and corporation from politicians to vote for laws to keep our youth to elderly safe from these heartless people. Laws made will affect us all, sooner or later!

MAY OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNCIL GUIDE AND BLESS US



The opening liturgy was celebrated at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe by NCCW Episcopal Liaison the Most Reverend James V. Johnston, Jr., Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, and concelebrated by the Most Rev. Gregory L. Parkes, Bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee. Friday's liturgy honoring deceased members of NCCW was celebrated by Most Rev. John Noonan, Bishop of Orlando. The closing liturgy, celebrated by the Most Rev. Thomas Wenski, Archbishop of Miami, included the installation of the 2015-2017 officers of NCCW—President Sheila Hopkins, Tallahassee, FL; President Elect Maribeth Stewart, West Haven, CT and Secretary Jean Kelly, Elm Grove, WI. Mary Matheus, from Longwood, Florida, was elected to a second term as Treasurer last year. An additional 48 priests, spiritual directors and friends of NCCW attended the liturgies including the Most Reverend David R. Choby, Bishop of Nashville, who concelebrated the Saturday liturgy. See NCCW.org for additional information and materials or resources from the Convention.

BISHOP'S VOCATION FUND
BARBARA BYARS

VOCATIONS Thank you to all who have “adopted” seminarians or who are praying for vocations. We have 4 new seminarians this year. To read about our seminarians, go to <http://dosp.org/vocations/meet-our-seminarians>

This is the Year of Consecrated Life. There will be a mass at the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle on October 31, 2015. Principal celebrant will be Bishop Robert N. Lynch. The Faithful are invited to attend the liturgy in the cathedral at 11:00 AM, and to help celebrate the religious women and men who are ministering here in the Diocese of St. Petersburg.

If you wish to read any of the seminary newsletters, go to <http://dosp.org/vocations/newsletters>.

National Vocations Awareness Week will be held November 1-7.

Encourage your Pastor to use the priest and seminarian prayer calendars in the prayers of the faithful. They can be found at <http://dosp.org/vocations/prayer-calendar>.

FOCUS 11 Focus 11 is February 24-25, 2016, 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.

PENNY A PRAYER 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

BARBARA BYARS

Our members have become involved in the fight against sex trafficking, serving on task force committees and raising awareness. The DCCW especially supports Bridging Freedom. Great things have happened this summer. Bridging Freedom received a donation of land for its campus, a safe therapeutic home for home for rescued girls! DeBartolo Development is providing land management and development costs pro bono. The State of Florida is providing one million dollars in funding this year! The Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth donated \$50,000 as part of their effort to make Systemic Changes that address the health and welfare of the victims of Human Trafficking.

DCCW board member Barbara Byars was invited by Gov. Scott's office to attend the singing of the bill awarding the \$1,000,000 to Bridging Freedom.

Circle 20 of Christ the King CCW is hosting their Second Annual Family Fun Run with all proceeds going to Bridging Freedom. This year's event is Sunday, Nov.8, 2:30 PM, at Christ the King.

Bridging Freedom will host a Candlelight Vigil along Tampa's Downtown River Walk in January, 2016. 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.

Don't forget to check www.bridgingfreedom.org for updates on Bridging Freedom and to sign up for their newsletters.

Please pray for the victims of domestic minor sex trafficking.

There is also a Bridging Freedom \$500 buys a brick paver program being promoted by Our Lady, Star of the Sea Service Commission. More information about it will be provided as it becomes available.

**OUR LADY OF GRACE DISTRICT
IVY WILLING, PRESIDENT**

Our Lady of Grace District started the 2015-2017 year with new board members. We thank Joanne Pajak and her OLG board for their service and continued support. Our new board members are; Ivy Willing, President, Alma Shamblin - 1st Vice President, Sarah Walker - 2nd Vice President, Lynn Erickson - Parliamentarian, Debbie Long - Treasurer, Janet Pacheco-Hodges - Recording Secretary, Marilyn Alessi - Corresponding Secretary, Marian Wilson - Leadership Commissioner, Eddy Bavaro - Service Commissioner, Joanne Pajak - Spirituality Commissioner and China Pacheco - Publicity Chair.

Our goals are many and we will work together to attain them. We will educate all Catholic Women in spirituality, service and leadership thru the many programs available in our District. We will share each other's accomplishments to be able increase our base. We will organize our individual groups and attract more young women to our District.

Our Fall Conference was a success. Sixty-Five (65) ladies participated in our event. We learned of the many different events that each and every one of our Affiliates are doing. We are blessed with many talents and all volunteer efforts that our members provide to our Parishes and our Communities.

We continue our efforts to make a difference in our District.

**May our Lady of Good Counsel pray for us and guide us to continue success.
Blessings,**

OUR LADY OF LIFE DISTRICT
MISSY GARRETT, PRESIDENT



Our Lady of Life District is ready for an exciting year. Our Fall Conference at Epiphany of Our Lord Catholic Church on Hanna Ave. is Saturday November 14, 8:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. – “Caring for God’s Creation”. Our speaker is Rev. Justin Paskert. We welcome all catholic ladies over the age of 18 to attend. Contact Epiphany of Our Lord Catholic Church for additional information.

Our Affiliations have experienced changes in our parishes. The paramount change being the re-assignment of our District Spiritual Advisor, Deacon Ed Dodenhoff to Valrico, leaving our District in search of a new Spiritual Advisor – we are still looking, confident that God will make the right choice. Following is an update from our Affiliations.

Corpus Christi is very excited to welcome Fr. Mike Smith as the new Pastor and Fr. Justin Paskert as the new Parochial Vicar and Campus Minister for the Catholic Center at USF as they join Fr. Jose “Joy” Colina, Parochial Vicar, and Fr. Peter Ruggere, Retired Priest in Residence. Corpus Christi Council of Catholic Women is honored to be the home Council for Mary Woltman, our newly installed Diocesan Council of Catholic Women President. The Council installed President Ramona Bell, a young, vibrant mother of five, and is looking forward to the next two years under her leadership. This Affiliation continues to do God’s work in many areas of Spirituality, Leadership and Service by: participating in Emmaus retreats; serving as Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors; attending the National Council of Catholic Women’s Annual Convention in Orlando; attending the Orlando Diocesan Council of Catholic Women’s Annual Leadership Workshop; supporting the Bishop’s Annual Pastoral Appeal, Water for Life, Penny for Prayer and Smile Train along with our beautiful Prayer Blankets for the sick – the ladies paint or decorate fabric squares that are then stitched together.

Epiphany of Our Lord is now the new home for the Traditional Latin Mass in Tampa and continues to be the home to St. Joseph Vietnamese Mission. The parish is pleased to welcome new Pastor, Fr. Edwin Palka. The ladies embrace God’s call to serve and host coffee and donuts on Sundays and potlucks, an International Fair and much more. As mentioned above, they are getting ready for our District Fall Conference and will be greeting ladies from our Diocese and our guests attending.

Our Lady of the Rosary is blessed keeping Pastor Fr. Ron Aubin and Parochial Vicars, Fr. Jonathan Emery and Fr. Diego Ossa. The Council ladies continue making “Boo-Boo Teddy Bears” for donation to the local children’s hospital, health department, pharmacy and others. The bears are a great comfort to sick children and were featured on Fox 13’s Extraordinary Ordinaries hosted by Walter Allen. Over 30,000 bears have been made and donated in twenty years of sewing. A speaker and presentation on staying safe will be at their regular meeting, Tuesday November 10th at 10:30am. They would love for you to join them.

OUR LADY OF THE MYSTICAL ROSE DISTRICT
CAROL LA GRANDE, PRESIDENT

First, I would like to thank everyone who participated in our workshop August 29, 2015, at Our Lady Queen of Peace. It was successful because of you.

As President of Our Lady of the Mystical Rose District, I am very proud that our District will be in charge of the Bishop's Banquet May, 2016. This is a great honor and we have already started on the decorations to make Bishop Robert Lynch last Bishop's Banquet memorable.

Our Fall Conference, hosted by Our Lady Queen of Peace CCW, was October 28. It wasn't on Halloween this year, but, close.

Even before our year got started, we were very busy at Our Lady Queen of Peace CCW. We hosted a reception for the Sisters of St. Clare, August 11, 2015. Then, on August 23, 2015, we held a reception for Sr. Regina Ozuzu as she celebrated 40 years in religious order.

Things in the making, now, are monthly card parties, a golf tournament/dinner, a fallen leaves dinner /dance, and a carnival. We also hold Friday night dinners and Sunday Breakfasts twice a month.

The parishioners at St. Joan of Arc prepared for their annual Ethnic Festival. The CCW ladies ran the Second Hand Rose Booth. They were busy collecting goods, preparing the booth, pricing and manning sales. These ladies also make rosaries to send to Africa.

St. Frances Cabrini CCW ladies have their annual fall Festival where their time is at various booths. They have a Breakfast for Jesus attended by children making their first Holy Communion. They also make bibs for the hospitals to be given to the cancer patients.

All three affiliates are Eucharistic ministers, Ushers, attend funerals, and are Lectors, take care of the Homebound and make sure the Altar linens are washed and ironed.

May Our Lady of the Mystical Rose continue to Guide us

**OUR LADY OF THE SKIES DISTRICT
SUSAN O'BRIEN, PRESIDENT**

Our Fall Conference originally scheduled at St Anne in Ruskin for Saturday, November 7, 2015, was rescheduled to November 14, 2015. It will be combined with Our Lady of Life Fall Conference and will be held at Epiphany of Our Lord Catholic Church. A combined call letter has been sent with the registration deadline extended until November 9. Additionally, Our Lady of the Skies District will have a board meeting following the adjournment of this Fall Conference.

Our Spring Conference will be in March 2016 at Prince of Peace in Sun City Center. The date is still in the process of being scheduled. Our original date of March 1, 2016 needs to be changed due to a parish mission being scheduled that week at Prince of Peace. This District President will contact the Prince of Peace Affiliate President to get a firm date for our Spring Conference.

Our District is assigned to Fun Night at the DCCW convention in May 2016. We are putting together a committee to decide on a theme that will be enjoyed by all who attend this event at convention.

As a District project we plan to continue collecting items for Raising Hope, a program that gives needed items to children entering the foster care system in our community.

Our Lady of the Skies District has four affiliates: Prince of Peace in Sun City Center, St. Anne in Ruskin, Nativity of Our Lord in Brandon and Mary Help of Christians in Tampa. All affiliates have started their meetings and are working on their calendars for the coming year.

At this time we neither have a District Legislation Commission Chair nor a District Service Commission Chair. This President will continue to invite members of our District affiliates to fill these positions.

Blessings to all!



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

Our Lady of The Way District was pleased to combine the 2015 Fall Conference with Our Lady, Star of the Sea District. Several ladies from Espiritu Santo and St. Michael the Archangel attended this program held at St. Raphael Catholic Church, Snell Island, St. Petersburg, FL., October 17, 2015

Rev. Fr. Timothy Sherwood, Pastor, concelebrated Holy Mass with Fr. Ted and Deacon Ted and all three welcomed everyone to this beautiful Parish during the day. The featured presentations were “The Love of Mass” and “The Spirituality of a Helpmate” by Thomas Humphries, Ph.D., from St. Leo University. We thank Denise DeBord, OLSOS District President, OLSOS Board Members, and St. Raphael CCW Members for gracious hospitality.

This year, Our Lady of The Way District has a need for more ladies to serve on our District Board. Think of this as an opportunity to make new friends and to learn more about the parishes in North Pinellas, as we support the missions and projects of the St. Petersburg Diocese. Maybe you would like to participate in the 2016 St. Petersburg DCCW Convention next May. Can you make a “Germany” themed basket or help sell tickets during the Convention? Do you want to see Bishop Lynch before he retires?

The St. Petersburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women wants to get the word out to all Catholic parishes in North Pinellas about starting a Council of Catholic Women (CCW), if there is not have an affiliation at the present time. Also, the St. Petersburg DCCW offers “Individual Memberships” for \$10.00 per year! Are you willing to help inform other ladies? Do you have “Sales” or “Marketing” experience?

Please prayerfully consider serving as a District Officer or Commission Chairman of Spirituality, Service or Leadership for Our Lady of the Way District. Ideally, we are looking for ladies with a ready smile and an open heart! Contact: Daret Matthews, District President by Email: ourladywaydistrict201315@gmail.com or Telephone :(727)943-1060 for more information.

Feeling Neighborly? “SAVE the DATES”

October 30-31, 2015	“Craft Bazaar” at St. Michael the Archangel
November 6-7, 2015	“Annual Holly Festival” at Light of Christ
December 11-13, 2015	“Multi-Parish Outdoor Christmas Festival” at St. Michael’s
February 13, 2016	“Hospice Fashion Show (WES)” at Espiritu Santo CCW

Our Lady of the Way District Prayer
Sweet Mary, our heavenly Mother,
Guide our steps on the oft
Wild and rugged way of life,
And, when life arrives at its end,
Be for us at the door of heaven, and
Show us the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Amen



OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA DISTRICT
DENISE DeBORD, PRESIDENT

Our year starts on a sad note with the resignation of Blessed Trinity – one of our long time Affiliates. We'll miss all the fellowship of our many sisters in south St. Petersburg. We'll continue to keep them in our thoughts and prayers hoping some will continue to participate as individual members in Our Lady, Star of the Sea District. On a happier note we moved forward with our outreach to other non-Affiliated parishes and met with Most Holy Name of Jesus. They have been missed these past two years and their new Pastor, Father George had previously worked with the Council of Catholic Women at Christ the King. Most Holy Name of Jesus Council returned.

With our new District and Affiliate Council Officers and Board members, everyone is filled with new ideas and enthusiasm for the coming year. All our calendars are filled with events. Over the summer, our Affiliates were in contact and worked to blend calendars so that our Councils could support each other in as many activities as possible. St. Raphael's started Fall by hosting Our Lady, Star of the Sea's District Conference held October 17th. This Conference was a new experiment, as we invited Our Lady of the Way to join us for a combined Conference. With both a presentation in the Church and one during lunch, Dr. Thomas Humphries, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Theology, and Religion presented a program helped us think more deeply about the relationship between the Eucharist and our parish ministry in light of a feminine charism. Everyone was welcome, especially, Fr. George, and the returning Most Holy Name of Jesus Council. The next District Event was Holy Family's International Food Festival held Sunday, October 25th.

November really get busy for all our Affiliates. St Paul's Columbiettes will hold their Annual Yard Sale Saturday the 7th and begin an Annual Poinsettia Sale later in the month. Be sure to order some flowers for the holidays. St Raphael's holds an Annual Fall Festival from Friday the 6th through Sunday the 8th. These Council ladies will be selling all sorts of sweets and treats. Stop by with the family and enjoy the rides and some delicious food. November is not going to be all fun and play. Holy Family reminds us of the importance of our need to stay focused on the coming of Christ and will hold a Spiritual Retreat on Saturday the 14th.

The Christmas Spirit dominates December. St Raphael's Christmas Brunch on the 5th collects presents for the Shore Acres Nursing Home. On the same day, Holy Family has a Christmas Luncheon. Do we need to organize some carpools between the two? On Friday the 11th, the Columbiettes will celebrate their 10th anniversary with a special dinner. Congratulations Columbiettes for 10 years of faith filled service.

The activities continue into January with some big fundraisers for us all. Holy Family will hold its Annual Used Book Sale during the weekend of the 15th – 17th. St Raphael's will have its Annual Pack Rat Rummage Sale Saturday the 23rd. On the 31st, our neighborly love may have to

take a back seat when Holy Family and St Raphael bowling teams compete with St Paul's in the Columbiettes Bowling Party.

The activities of our Catholic Council Women continue at the same pace during the rest of the year. St Raphael's will host a Lenten Retreat on February 13th with Johnnette Benkovic as the speaker. Watch for future announcements on the details. Fashion Shows, Festivals, Bake Sales and our District Spring Conference with the Handmaid of the Lord Awards will fill our Spring schedules. Stay tuned for our Spring Newsletter.

All of us in Our Lady, Star of the Sea District are blessed with spirit filled women willing to reach out and serve in so many ways in their parishes, schools, communities and charitable organizations. Through our Spiritual Commission Chairwomen, we assist our members in their spiritual growth and needs keeping our members educated and informed on issues affecting women and their families. Our Service Commission Chairwomen promote outreach activities, such as, Water for Life and Bridging Freedom – more information on the Buy a Brick Program will soon be available. There is a Totes for Teens and a Hugs for the Homeless Program. Finally, through our Leadership Commission Chairwomen, we collectively unite as one voice by our affiliation with the Florida and National Council of Catholic Women.

U + GOD =



WUCWO Prayer for Dialogue

We are all members of His holy body, the hands, the feet, the voice and face of Jesus. As we dialogue with our sisters and brothers in Christ, let us be open to them, sharing their joys and sorrows. Guide us as we learn from the wisdom of each other. Help us to accept others and their differences. Pope Francis tells us that dialogue is necessary for peace in the world. As women of hope and sowers of peace, in Jesus' name, we pray for that dialogue.

Amen

CONGRATULATIONS BISHOP LYNCH
FOR RECEIVING THE FR. LUIS de CANCER AWARD



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