



With the blessings of the Most Reverend Robert N. Lynch, we invite your participation in our Heavenly Benefactors annual fundraiser of the St. Petersburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

This campaign funds a significant portion of our annual budget, assisting members to develop and share leadership skills by attending National Council of Catholic Women Conventions and Florida Council of Catholic Women Conferences. Legislative skills are developed by lobbying for the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops in Tallahassee during Catholic Days at the Capitol, and attending the Red Mass concelebrated by the Bishops of Florida while joining the Florida Cabinet, Legislators and Judges. Our Ministry outreaches includes Parish, Community, National and International arenas. We are local women's groups making a global impact and we are asking for your support.

We welcome and greatly appreciate your support in one of the seven categories of donations. Your small donation ranging

2016 Photo Catholic Days at the Capitol in Tallahassee from \$10.00 for Memorials, Mentors and Cherubs to \$100.00 plus for Special Angels will have a great impact for our organization and the work we accomplish. Please visit our website for more information on the Council and our events and outreach.

The submission form, on the following page, has a category of support just right for you. Please postmark your submissions so that we can include your honorees in the Diocesan Convention Program Book. **Due Date: March 15, 2017** postmark deadline. Late submissions will be posted on our website along with those received before the deadline until our next Convention. Honorees names and intentions will also be included in our prayer petitions at the three Masses Celebrated at Convention.

*Please feel free to duplicate and widely distribute the following form to friends and family members.*

We thank you for your generous support and may God bless you abundantly.

*– Sonia Tummings, Heavenly Benefactors Chairman*

**ST. PETERSBURG DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN**

Heavenly Benefactors Fundraiser Campaign 2017

48th Annual Convention, Theme "Being Mary and Martha"

Please Print clearly as the Convention Program Book will be printed as this is received.

**Deadline: March 15, 2017**

**Categories**

**Print Names of Honorees**

Special Angels (Over \$100.00 Donation)

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Archangels (\$100.00 Donation)

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Guardian Angels (\$50.00 Donation)

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Angels (\$25.00 Donation)

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Cherubs (\$10.00 Donation)

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Mentors (\$10.00 Donation)

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Memorials (\$10.00)

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Sponsored by: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your generous support of the St. Petersburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, Mary Woltman, President.

Please make checks payable to: **SPDCCW (with Heavenly Benefactors Campaign in the memo line)**

Mail checks to:

Sonia Tummings, Heavenly Benefactors Chairman (HBC), 8626 Cattail Drive, Tampa, FL 33637

# MARY WOLTMAN

## DIOCESAN PRESIDENT



With great joy I announce “Our Lady, Untier of Knots” Scholarship Fund. This fund will support, empower and educate women members in our Diocese with financial assistance, either partial or full enabling them to attend our Annual Conventions. Some women in our Diocese struggle financially. We recognize that all women should be given an opportunity to attend the St. Petersburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Annual Convention where we can deepen our spirituality and share what we do in our service ministries. We are offering this program to encourage our Women Leaders to step forward and to have an opportunity to learn firsthand how to respond with Gospel values in society today.

We are also inviting all our Sisters in Religious Orders to attend the Convention by waiving the Registration fee.

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



## 49<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION THEME

# “BEING MARY AND MARTHA”

“Holiness doesn’t mean doing extraordinary things, but doing things with love and faith.” – *Pope Francis*

Pope Francis, in simple language, tells us how we can be both St Mary and St Martha in the world today. Jesus tells Martha that ‘she is anxious and upset about many things’. Who of us today can stay anxious and upset knowing that we are in Jesus’ presence. Join us for our 49th Annual Convention as we explore our gifts and share our Ministries with all present.

## 10-4

Law Enforcement officers have come under attack recently. We are not here to be judge and jury regarding certain news reports, we are just ‘Women of Faith’. Reverend Ted Costello is the current Chaplin for the Clearwater Police Department. The St. Petersburg Diocesan Council is promoting a day of prayer for the safety of our Law Enforcement Officials on October 4. 10-4 is the code used by our Law Enforcement Officers that everything is OK, please keep them in your prayers. May our Lady of Good Counsel, guide and protect them. Amen

Leaders become great, not because of their power,  
but because of their ability to empower others.

– John Maxwell



Cathy Pena, Mary Woltman, Jan DeBonville, Pat Connelly Moore, and Beth Aubin

As a member of SPDCCW, each year we look forward to participating and attending the National Council of Catholic Women Convention.

The theme, Catholic Women: Instrument of Mercy, is proof that the spiritual and corporate works of mercy are an integral part of the CCW life. Being merciful often depends on our will to be open to those around us, not to judge them but to love them like God loves us.

It was a welcoming environment with many motivating speakers, lots of spirituality and lots of fellowship. Out of all the speakers however, two touched my heart in a very special way: Katariina Rosenblatt, Ph. D. and Judy Hehr. The physical abuse they described was real and reflected a period of their own life.

Katariina Rosenblatt, Ph. D., at a very early age (13 to 17 years old), was the subject of human trafficking followed by an abusive relationship the lasted over twenty years. Today Katariina is an advocate for sex trafficking victims and works with law enforcement agencies to spot unusual behavior, involving young girls and older men.

Judy Hehr using her sense of humor and examples from her personal life struggles, shared her gift of making the connection between theology and reality in our daily lives. Reminding us of the love and passion God has for all of us, regardless of our past.

As I said before, it was an enlightening and motivating reunion of 610 Catholic women and priests, from all over the country, eager to learn, share and love one another.

*“Enjoy another day in God’s presence”*

–Fr. Joe Krupp.

**CATHY PENA** DIOCESAN FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

# BETH AUBIN

 DIOCESAN SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

It has been an interesting first year as a Second Vice President of the SPDCCW Board. Many challenges and accomplishments have been made. We went on an amazing trip to Indiana for the 46th Annual NCCW National Convention and met many interesting members of council from around the country. The speakers were very informative and the information was brought back to share with our councils. Planning a trip to Jacksonville for the FCCW Convention.



## 46<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION

Our District Presidents did a fabulous job at our 46th Annual Convention with their assignments. Also a special thanks to the Convention Committee. They worked as a team and made the convention a success. We are collecting many “Acts of Mercy” for this is the “Year of Mercy”, from the districts and affiliations for Pope Francis, the NCCW will present this to him in November.

## OUR LADY OF THE WAY

We are pleased that Our Lady of the Way has regrouped and looking forward to working with Kate Marsh who has taken on the job as District President. We all know she will do an outstanding job. We will be attending District conferences throughout October and November.

*May Our Lady of Good Council guide and protect our Policemen, First Responders, Military, and our families.*



**BERNADETTE GAUDION**  
DIOCESAN LEADERSHIP COMMISSION CHAIR

Leadership Commission Chairs are excited as we continue to provide leadership and organizational development opportunities for our members through the following proposals:

1. Purchase the following resources from **NCCW.org**: *Protocol Points* \$3.00, *Ask the Parliamentarian* \$3.00, *Guidance and Resource Manual* \$30.00.
2. Peruse free resources on membership, training, leadership at [NCCW.org](http://NCCW.org).
3. View leadership *PowerPoint* at [SPDCCW.org](http://SPDCCW.org).
4. Most importantly, continue to demonstrate and model Gospel values

## BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND (FR. TED'S REQUEST), LEADERSHIP CONVENTION 2017 SLIDE SHOW



How appropriate our upcoming theme for 2017 Convention is “Being Mary and Martha.” An opportunity for us to focus on the fact there is a little of Martha and Mary in all of us. We are both Martha as ministry workers and Mary as Handmaidens of the Lord—believing in our sisterhood and supporting one another as we minister and meditate.

Reassuringly, officers among your affiliations and districts met at a recent Leadership session and came up with the same assertion. *We are Sisters; let us lift up one another.*

*A positive starting point as we begin anew...*

**PHASE 1:** If you would like your photo and ministries included in slide show, please send a list of current ministries (outside CCW) with which you are currently involved at your parish and a high-quality photo of yourself by November 1, 2016 to Bernadette Gaudion @ [amicigaudion@aol.com](mailto:amicigaudion@aol.com). [\*Note: Your listing is not necessarily long, but rather one or two areas where you devout your talents outside of CCW. e.g., EM, Lector].

**PHASE 2:** As the year progresses, please gather “high-quality” photos of your members living as Mary and Martha. Collect, save, hold and I will notify you of an upcoming due date at the beginning of 2017.

**I thank you and our District Leadership Commission Chairs: Rosemary Early, Paulette Elliott, Pat Moore, China Pacheco and Maria Wilson thank you for your sisterhood, dedication and hard work. But, most of all for being “Mary and Martha” to those you serve and lift up.** – Bernadette

# LADIES OF ST. PETERSBURG DIOCESE

Increasing Spirituality is so important both personally & in your parish, but starts with you personally. This summer I facilitated a Day of Reflection. The focus of the day of reflection was to draw each participant closer to God by uniting personal experiences to the scripture. We used the Scriptural Rosary mediations to do this and also shared our experiences in small group discussion. In this way each participant put themselves in the scripture story to see the link between life experiences and God's plan.

I invite you to think about what is your calling today. At this point in your life, what is God calling you to do? As women, we are many things to many people. You may be single, married, a widow, a mother, grandmother, empty nester. At this point in your life what is God calling you to do? Who is He calling you to minister to? How are you going to answer God's call?

You may be asking yourself, how do I know what God is calling me to do? Who am I, that God would use me? Let me say: you are exactly where you are meant to be, you are you, the person God created for a specific purpose. The first thing to do is, be quiet and listen to God. Find a quiet place you can be alone with God. It can be on the couch in your living room. It can be in your bed when you wake up in the morning before you get out of bed. Start with spending 5 minutes with God, talk to Him, praise and worship Him, listen to Him. You may find 5 minutes isn't enough time, you want more. Good, because I am sure God wants more of you too.

We all have busy schedules, we seem to find time to do what is important. Isn't spending time with God important too? Think about how you spend your time now. How much time do you spend reading scripture, going to mass, adoration, or praying the rosary, verse watching TV, playing games, Facebook, listening to music, reading the newspaper or books? To have a relationship requires spending time with that person. God wants a relationship with you.

## Ways to draw closer to God:

- » Read the scripture. Join a Bible Study
- » Adoration is available at many churches, if you don't have it at your parish find a parish nearby. Go and see what happens when you sit in His presence
- » Watch EWTN if you have cable. There are many programs you can watch daily if you can't get out
- » Smart phone / Compute APPS. There are many apps you can access via smartphone or computer, or have sent directly to your email box daily
  - Laudate: #1 Catholic app includes: Daily Readings & Saint of the Day, Prayers, daily mediations, Podcast, Rosary & Chaplet, Stations of the Cross, Catechism, Daily Bible verses, and more
  - Catholic Bible: easy access to scripture
  - iMissal: missal at your fingertips
  - The Pope App: follow the Pope
  - Holy Rosary, Scriptural Rosary, Divine Mercy, Mary (Marian Devotion)
  - The Catholic Company: Your Morning Offering includes: mediation of the day, daily readings & Gospel, Saint of the Day, Liturgy of the Hours, sent directly to your email daily Go to website [www.catholiccompany.com](http://www.catholiccompany.com). Search: morning offering & input your email address

## Ways to enrich your parish. Bring these programs to your parish:

- » Omemus: 8 week program, Draw closer to God by learning new ways to pray
- » 33 Days to Morning Glory: 6 week program, Marian Consecration to Jesus, Draw closer to Jesus through Mary
- » Consoling the Heart of Jesus: 10 week program, the Divine Mercy to draw closer to Jesus
- » Day of Reflection or weekend retreat. Check with your parish. Think about having a Day of Reflection at your parish. This is a way to unite your CCW. It gives you a connection not only drawing you closer to God but to each other. If you need assistance, just contact me.
- » Daily Prayer for Priest & Seminarians, calendar on [DOSP](http://DOSP) website
- » Penny a Pray for Priest to increase vocation awareness
- » Plan to attend Catholic Days at the Capitol

# SERVICE COMMISSION

## STRIVING TO ASSIST IN EDUCATION AND KEEPING CHRISTIANITY

As the Service Commission Chairmen we strive to assist in education and keeping Christianity in families from infancy to the elderly, from formation of marriage to religion in the very families created by these marriages! Service Commission Chairmen along with many volunteer members are working to accomplish these goals. This creates a brotherhood among us all! We serve all peoples, from Local Levels to International Levels. God bless all our volunteers, who are always ready and willing to help us, not possible without them!

## 2016 CONVENTION

The 2016 Convention was a wonderful and enjoyable success once again! This brought us to another Fabulous Convention closing for the 2015-2016 year. All events, from workshops, to vendors to the gorgeous baskets taken home by lucky winners were very happy! One of the service commission workshops that was presented by Kathy Bonner, left many in awe, as she brought it to life by her visual and audience participation. We learned how to recognize the subtle changes of “Women and Children of abuse”.

## June's 2016 Board Meeting

On June 25, 2016 we had our board meeting, where we planned our 2016 – 2017 year, most attended. Our meeting started with a PowerPoint presentation by President Mary Woltman. We then had Breakout Sessions, they were very well attended and we discussed many projects. Our main project for this year's convention 2017 is Red Tent. Our speaker is going to be great as she is extremely qualified and of great prestige. We also introduced Ready for Life (being a Vendor), Law Enforcement (involving 5 counties), we are having many speakers for many of our projects Bridging Freedom, Hugs for the homeless. Etc.

## DAY OF REFLECTION “VERY SUCCESSFUL”

Our speaker gave a personal experience of her own life, showing us how God is always in our life. Beginning with our Mass we were able to enjoy our day and the company of each other as we had a wonderful breakfast and lunch. Lunch was served by Service Commission & volunteers.

## 2016 NCCW'S 2016 CONVENTION

The NCCW (National Council of Catholic Women) had its Convention in Indianapolis on September 9-11th 2016. This year's convention was wonderful as usual with many speakers that brought much information about how we could use our Mercy to carry us into justice. This information will certainly assist us in our upcoming year. All who attended brought back stories of the many subjects presented. This included stories about our Human Sex trafficking and the many women and children that have been abused. All who attended shared the information at our board meeting. Our greatest appreciation goes out to them.

## Thank you for attending Workshops and Conferences

Throughout the year affiliates and districts presented workshops and conferences, they were very helpful. Attending these events has resulted in better outcomes of our projects.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to all our affiliates, district and dioceses, these women, have really given from their hearts. Ladies you are the epitome of Service when called upon.

*“Remember what you do for the least of my brothers you do unto me!”*

May the grace of Our Lady of Good Council be with us in the coming year as we serve our Lord, Jesus Christ, with open Hands and Hearts!

God Bless,

**ROSE MARIE VARAS**

DIOCESAN SERVICE  
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN



# VOCATIONS

From left to right the new seminarians are: Harry Quinones, Christopher Marte, Ryan Callahan, Christian Galvan, Mark DeSio and Khalil Selim.

Thank you to all who have “adopted” seminarians or who are praying for vocations. In August six men entered St. John Vianney College Seminary to study for the priesthood in our Diocese. Your prayers are bearing fruit.

## Does your Parish pray for a particular priest or seminarian at daily mass?

If they don't, ask your Pastor to include them in the Prayers of the Faithful. The Vocations Office publishes a monthly prayer calendar that names a priest or seminarian for prayers each day. Find the calendars at <http://dosp.org/vocations/prayer-calendar>.

## FOCUS 11

Focus 11 is February 15-16, 2017, 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.”*

**BARBARA BYARS**  
DIOCESAN BISHOP'S VOCATION FUND



# IVY A. WILLING

## OUR LADY OF GRACE DISTRICT, PRESIDENT

It has been an amazing year at Our Lady of Grace District. As president of this amazing group, I have grown to admire all the fantastic works of mercy that all our Affiliates have done in the past year and it gets better. Our friendships are flourishing, we look towards each other to support and give ideas that will work for each one of us. I commend our affiliates in their works. Well done, Sisters!

The first board meeting of 2015 was as expected. We had many new members that had not been introduced. Our affiliates had many new board members, they asked question of what was expected from them, so we had a session were all members were briefed on how our OLG group works. We touched on the when, what, who, where, why's of reports and different meetings that we attend. Talked about the differences of the affiliations, district and Diocesan levels in our organization. We also shared on the different services that we provide to our parishes. It was a great way to start our terms and we continue to add to our lists.

Our 2015 Fall Conference, we had reports from our Leadership, Service and Spirituality Commissioners. Mary Woltman, President of the St. Petersburg Council of Catholic Women (DCCW), spoke about the DCCW Connect Team, Hugs for the Homeless and Bridging Freedom. The Second Vice President of the DCCW spoke about the 2016 DCCW Convention, programs ads and registration. Our guest speaker was Rose Llauguet, the Program Manager for Pregnancy and Adoption Services, overseeing Catholic Charities programs. She spoke about the Pregnancy

Centers for four counties in our Diocese. Overall this fall conference was a success. We continue to serve and love one another thru our works.

Our 2016 Spring board meeting was a more relax atmosphere. Most members had several events under their belts and where very prepared when it came to planning our OLG Spring Conference. Our women had their assignments and they made sure that they knew what they were doing. It was an exciting time because this is the time when we honor one person from each affiliate, they receive the Handmaiden of the Lord award. This year we honored the following women: Lilian Panganiban from Catholic Women's Club, Leslie Jennings from Christ the King, Regina Stabile from Incarnation, Yvonne Hassell from Sacred Heart and Willie Mae Foxworth from St. Peter Claver.

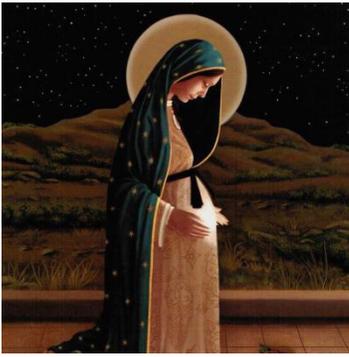
The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Convention was another of Our Lady of Grace District (OLG) event. A great event and we learned many new things. Our assignment as hostesses was very successful. We were very organized. I am proud to say that the women of our group are very detail oriented and made sure things were done right.

I am so grateful to be able to lead Our Lady of Grace District. All our affiliates are loving and caring individuals and will do anything to help each other. We welcome all members with open arms. We shall see what the Lord puts in front of us and we will say Yes. We are here to help our Parishes. We want to continue to make our group be noticed and will encourage other members of our Parishes to come and join us, we will welcome them, with open arms.

*May Our Lady of Good Council protect us.*



2015 Fall Conference



**MISSY GARRETT**  
OUR LADY OF LIFE DISTRICT,  
PRESIDENT

## FALL CONFERENCE

The Our Lady of Life District is ready to start an exciting year. We will have our Fall Conference at **Our Lady the Rosary Catholic Church on Tuesday, October 18, 8:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.** – “A Bushel Full of Blessings”. **Our speaker will be Fr. Justin Paskert. The cost is \$15 which includes a great catered lunch.** We welcome all catholic ladies over the age of 18 to attend. We would love for you to join us. Contact Corpus Christi Catholic Church for additional information.

## MOVING LIVING ROSARY

Our District hosted a very moving Living Rosary at the St. Petersburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women’s 48th Annual Convention in May. We prayed the Respect Life Rosary (you can find a copy on the [USCCB](http://USCCB) website). The Rosary intentions focus on the preservation of the “sanctity of life from conception to death”. It was beautiful to see each prayer led by a different lady of the Council. At the conclusion of the Rosary, the President of the St. Petersburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women placed a crown of tiny ribbon roses on the head the statue of the Blessed Mother.

## WE HAVE ORDERED PECANS

They will be fresh off the Georgia trees and will ship within five days of being harvested in November. We have ordered One pound bags of extra-large shelled pecans, caramel pecan clusters, crunchy cinnamon glazed pecans, buttery chocolate covered pecans and golden walnuts. The specialty pecans come packaged in beautiful wrapping ready for gift

giving and the regular pecans are perfect for all your holiday cooking and baking. **Contact Corpus Christi Catholic Church for additional information.**

## UPDATES FROM OUR AFFILIATIONS:

» Corpus Christi Catholic Church and their ladies are very busy. The Council of Catholic Women continue to do God’s work in the many areas of Spirituality, Leadership and Service by participating in Emmaus retreats, by serving as Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors, attending the Florida Council of Catholic Women’s Conference in Jacksonville, attending the Orlando Diocesan Council of Catholic Women’s Annual Leadership Workshop, supporting the Bishop’s Annual Pastoral Appeal, Water for Life, Pennies for Prayers and Smile Train and with our beautiful Prayer Blankets for the sick – the ladies paint or decorate fabric squares that are then stitched together. They are getting ready for the start of 40 Days for Life and will pray with the Nation to save the lives of unborn babies.

» Epiphany of Our Lord Catholic Church is the new home for the Traditional Latin Mass in Tampa and continues to be the home to St. Joseph Vietnamese Mission. The ladies embrace God’s call to serve and have helped by hosting coffee and donuts on Sundays, potluck, International Fair and much more. They too continue to do God’s work in the many areas of Spirituality, Leadership and Service.

» Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church will be the host parish for the District Fall Conference. The ladies of the Council of Catholic Women continue to make “Boo-Boo Teddy Bears” that they donate to the local children’s’ hospital, heath department, pharmacy and others. The bears are a great comfort to a sick child. They were featured on Fox 13’s Extraordinary Ordinaries hosted by Walter Allen. They have made and donated over 30,000 bears in their twenty years of sewing. They would love for you to join them. They are getting ready to host our District half-day conference and look forward to greeting ladies from our Diocese as our guests.

# DENISE DeBORD

OUR LADY OF THE SEA  
DISTRICT, PRESIDENT

This begins the second year for most of our District and Affiliate Council Officers and Board members everyone is finally feeling pretty comfortable with their roles. Sadly, St. Raphael's lost Gail Brazzell and Mary Wilson as Co-Leadership Chairs but picked up and interim 1st Vice President. Rebecca O'Dell has stepped up to help out as St. Raphael's VP this year. Thank you, Rebecca! St. Paul's Carolyn Johnson moved over to Financial Secretary and Karen Eidys has stepped in as Sentinel for the Columbiettes. Holy Family has had smooth sailing so far with no changes over the summer. Welcome to all the new Board members and thanks to those of you who gave of their time to help your Affiliate and our District last year.

We have been working over the summer like a fine tuned machine scheduling and planning for the events, fun and fundraisers we'll be undertaking this year. It's amazing how many new ideas and how much enthusiasm there is for the coming year. All our calendars are filled with events and, again this year, we worked to coordinate our calendars to eliminate as many of the conflicts as possible. We are all so busy that it's amazing that there are just a few overlapping dates. Keep our Sister Affiliates in mind during the year and help support as many of their wonderful events as possible. This is how we share the message that as Catholic women, we are united.

We are still working with Fr. George to help get the Council at Most Holy Name of Jesus back up and running. Sandy Belcher and Joanne Murphy have stepped forward as interim officers to work with Fr. George but his administrative duties, travels, and summer vacation have slowed our progress a bit. In the meantime Maureen Baeten, Ministry Volunteer Coordinator, no longer has a title as she has been wearing a host of different hats while holding down the fort in Fr. George's absence. Fr. George returned September 19th from his travels so we hope to get with him and set a date for the District's Spring Conference at Most Holy Name of Jesus. We'd like to see the women of Most Holy Name sponsor an event in their Parish to raise awareness and interest in the Council. If any of you would like to share ideas or lend a hand, please get in touch with any of the District Board members.

Last year the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women supported *Totes for Teens* and our District collected suitcases and duffel bags for the Foster Children at the Children's Home in Tampa. In addition, the Diocesan Council selected *Bridging*

*Freedom* – a shelter home for victims of sex trafficking - as our work of mercy. Our District Affiliates collectively donated \$1,500 and will have 3 engraved pavers with our messages of love and support placed in the sidewalks connecting the site's facilities. Our hope is that these young girls, boys, women and men will be reminded of how truly loved they are by all of us.

This year the Diocese and our District have selected *The Red Tent* and *Ready for Life* as our acts of mercy. The Red Tent seeks to improve the lives of incarcerated women by helping to supply their personal needs and create opportunities for group support, and community activities. *Ready for Life* supports youth aging out of the Foster Care system. These youth face a very high risk of becoming homeless and isolated without help to make a successful transition to adulthood. In November each Affiliate is asked to sponsor a collection of gift cards for food, clothing, household items, gas, and entertainment as well as requested toiletries. These items are all needed by December 2nd so that 150 stockings can be stuffed before Christmas. So spread the word and ask your friends and family to get in the Christmas spirit early and donate.

40 Days for Life began Sept. 28th and will continue to run through November 6th. All Affiliates should have received dates for their respective prayer vigils. Our community will unite with many others from coast to coast – and internationally – for a major simultaneous pro-life mobilization – the 40 Days for Life campaign. We are all asked to gather in prayer on the sidewalk in front of All Women's Health Center, 4131 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg. Our presence as witnesses to Christ and His love and mercy is a powerful message. Please, let's flood the sidewalk with prayer warriors. Faithful believers are praying that these efforts will mark the beginning of the end of abortion.

We have a wonderful, loving and fun group of women in Our Lady, Star of the Sea District and our Spiritual Advisors are the best. We've had weddings, new babies, fun trips, special anniversaries, and grandkids' accomplishments. We've also had illnesses, deaths, and serious mishaps over the summer and lots of prayers have gone out. But, being women of faith, we've weathered the happy times and the tough times together as sisters in Christ. This is what our Council is about and I am so proud to be associated with such great women. When I see and hear about the many things you are accomplishing, I am very proud yet humbled. As a footnote to this, our dear sister at Blessed Trinity - Lynne Lester – is still undergoing treatment for breast cancer but is doing a little better. She sends her regards to all of us



and continues to keep us in her prayers. Keep Lynne and the ladies from Blessed Trinity in your prayers. We'd like to have them back in Our Lady, Star of the Sea.

Where do I begin to report on all of the activities coming up? As I've said before, we are still only three Affiliates – Holy Family's Council, St. Paul's Columbiettes, and St. Raphael's Council – but we are over 350 members strong. Sure we cook and bake, have rummage and yard sales. We sell used books; poinsettias, soup and cookie jar kits, baked goods, and bingo cards. But our role is really much larger as our members serve in just about every ministry in our Diocese and their Parishes. We are also out there meeting the needs in our communities and supporting efforts to assist third world countries with obtaining clean water, educating children, and creating opportunities for women to assist in supporting their families. The 115,125 hours of service reported by our ladies and the 1240 Works of Mercy reported so far to our National Council of Catholic Women's Million Works of Mercy drive represents only a portion of the time, talent and treasure our ladies pour out willingly each year. In doing so, they bear witness to a living gospel of love, mercy and joy.

So now, hang on to your hats because here's what's happened or is in store for most of the coming year.

All our District Affiliates were well underway in September. St. Raphael's planned their first Council meeting for September 3rd and had arranged for Mr. Larry Williams, owner of DOC's to bring the first mobile unit offering 3D mammography to St. Raphael's and address the Council about the next generation of Breast Cancer Detection. As things would have it, even the best-laid plans are subject to change. Hurricane Herminie had other plans and most

of us found we were overcome by power outages, street flooding and torrential rain. Unfortunately we weren't able to reschedule with Mr. Williams but we were able to address the topic the following weekend. Breast Cancer Awareness month is in October but since we'll be at our District Fall Conference, we wanted to be sure to this important message was shared. St. Paul's held its membership drive in August and participated in the St. Vincent de Paul Walk-a-Thon on September 24th. Holy Family held their welcome Potluck Dinner on the 13th and got a jump-start on packing their very popular soup and cookie jars to sell over the holidays. On the 24th, many of us attended the Spirit FM 3rd Women's Conference and enjoyed the speakers, camaraderie and shopping. Finally, the Diocesan Council kicked off their new year with the Annual Fall Board meeting on the 17th at Bethany Center and it was a beautiful, productive day. Our Lady Star of the Sea was well represented with Lori Palso, Gloria Nelson, Louise Culotta, Linda Seufert, Judy Cunniff and myself in attendance. A number of projects were discussed as well as plans for our annual Diocesan Convention in May with its theme *Being Mary and Martha*. You'll hear more about the 49th Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's Convention later in the year.

October starts with St. Paul's hosting Our Lady, Star of the Sea District Conference on October 1st. Fr. Len Plazewski, Pastor of Christ the King Parish is presenting a program about the early Florida Church including the mission settlements and Florida martyrs. Fr. Len is one of the Vice Postulators for the Canonization Cause of the Florida Martyrs. This Conference is sure to be of interest as so many of us moved here from other parts of the country and missed "Florida History" in school. St. Paul's will also be hosting their Annual Spelling Bee on the 11th and

packing Treats for Troops later in the month. St. Raphael's Council will stock and man the Sweet Tooth Booth for the Parish Fall Festival from the 27th through the 30th. Anyone for trick or treats? This is the place to shop. Finally, Holy Family's Council has been asked to take over hosting the International Food Festival on the 30th. The gauntlet has been thrown to them, as this will be the first time they've been asked to host this event. Good luck ladies. I know you'll do a great job.

Pope Francis will be closing the Holy Door of Mercy in the Basilica of St. Peter in late November. The St. Jerome's Chorale of Largo has been invited to sing at the ceremony and three of St. Raphael's very own Council members will be traveling to perform with the Chorale. Our own Spiritual Chairperson, Joanne Leahey and Council members Marie Gregg and Donna Liszewski will be leaving for Rome in November. St. Raphael's will hold their Annual Parish Picnic on the 13th with the Council coordinating the food – of course. St. Raphael's Council will also host a new event this year – “Celebrate 90” to honor all our Parishioners 90 and over. St. Paul's Columbiettes will provide lunch for Day Star and begin their Annual Poinsettia Sale on the 11th. Be sure to order some flowers for the holidays. Their Poinsettias are a bargain. Most Holy Name of Jesus will hold their Fall Festival from the 10th through the 13th of November so stop by with the family and enjoy the rides and some delicious food. Holy Family will hold its Annual Fall Bake Sale on the 12th and 13th after Masses so stock up and “freeze” before the holidays. November, however, is not going to be all fun and play. With All Souls Day, All Saints Day and Veterans Day, all our Affiliates will hold memorial services remembering our deceased.

The Christmas spirit dominates in December. On the 3rd St. Raphael's will hold their Member Appreciation Christmas Brunch and collect presents for the Shore Acres Nursing Home. This is always well attended and the tables are overflowing with gifts for the nursing home. On the same day, but a little later, Holy Family will hold their Christmas Luncheon. Do we need to organize some carpools between the two? While St. Raphael's and Holy Family are partying, the Columbiettes will be busy early in the December providing poinsettias to fill the advance orders.

The calendar of activities continues into January with some of our biggest fundraisers. Holy Family will hold its Annual Used Book Sale on the weekend of the 14th – 15th of January. They are also featuring “Re-gift Bingo” at their monthly meeting on the 7th. How appropriate after Christmas. St. Raphael's will have its Annual Pack Rat Rummage Sale on Saturday the 21st. Be sure to stop by because there is

always a special treasure to find. The Columbiettes will provide lunch for Day Star again and, on the 29th, they will host their Annual Bowling Tournament at Sunshine Lanes. Last year St. Raphael's Council participated and, although our bowling wasn't noteworthy, lots of fun was had and the team managed to win three lovely baskets in their raffle. This year I'm challenging Holy Family to get into the competition.

The activities for our Catholic Council Women will continue at the same fast pace the rest of the year. In February we'll all be baking cookies to provide for Focus 11 Vocations Days. Holy Family will hold its Spring Bake Sale on the 11th and 12th after their Masses. The Columbiettes will hold their Women's Retreat on the 10th and 11th of February. They'll also help in the Parish celebration of St. Paul's on the 25th and provide lunch for Day Star. Lastly, on the 11th, St. Raphael's will hold its Annual Fashion Show so come and enjoy the afternoon of fashion, fun, food and prizes.

On March 4th St. Raphael's and Holy Family will co-host a Lenten Retreat for the first time at St. Raphael's Parish Center. Be sure to watch for future announcements on the details of the retreat. Skipping to April, Holy Family will hold its Annual Fashion Show on April 29th. Again, stay tuned for more information about these events.

Finally, all of our Affiliates will be busy in April and May with nominations and elections of new officers for the Council's 2017 - 2019 term. The Affiliates in Our Lady, Star of the Sea District are blessed with spirit filled women who willingly reach out and serve in so many ways. Together we accomplish so much in our Parishes, schools, communities and charitable organizations. Each day God calls us to serve him. Each day we need to ask how we can best serve. God gave each of us special gifts and talents. Ask yourself how you can multiply your time and talents to serve others. Say yes to serving God through this wonderful organization. God will provide. He will never be outdone in His generosity when you say YES to Him. God will never leave you on your own and neither will your Council Sisters.

*May God bless and reward each  
and every one you.*

Peace,

*Denise DeBord*  
President, Our Lady Star of the Sea



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

### Conferences:

**Fall:** September, 4, 2016  
St. Joan of Arc  
Spring Hill

**Spring:** Wednesday, March, 8, 2017 or Wednesday, March, 15, 2017



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

### Conferences:

**Fall:** Saturday, November 12, 2016  
Prince of Peace  
Sun City Center

**Spring:** Saturday, March 25, 2016  
Mary Help of Christians  
Tampa



## KATY MARSH OUR LADY OF THE WAY DISTRICT, PRESIDENT

### Conferences:

**Fall:** Wednesday, November 16, 2016  
St. Michael the Arch Angel  
Clearwater

**Spring:** TBD

# THE NEW NCCW LOGO



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*God changes the world  
by transforming our  
hearts. When God finds  
an open and trusting  
heart, he can work  
wonders there.*

– Pope Francis

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