

February, 2017 NEWSLETTER

MOST REVEREND GREGORY L. PARKES

Bishop Gregory L. Parkes was born on April 2, 1964, in Mineola, NY to Ronald and Joan Parkes. He attended St. Rose of Lima School in Massapequa, NY, Massapequa High School, and Daytona Beach Community College before earning a bachelor's degree in finance from Florida State University. Prior to entering the seminary, he worked in the banking industry in Tampa, Florida, and was a parishioner at Christ the King Parish. He attended St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach, Florida, from 1993-1996 and the Pontifical North American College in the Vatican City State from 1996-2000. He holds a Sacred Bachelor of Theology (S.T.B.) degree from the Pontifical Gregorian University (1998) and a Canon Law (J.C.L.) degree from the Pontifical Gregorian University (2000). He was ordained a priest of the Orlando diocese by Bishop Norbert Dorsey on June 26, 1999.

His assignments after ordination to priesthood included: parochial vicar at Holy Family Catholic Church in Orlando from 2000-2004 and the pastor of Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Celebration from 2005-2012. Bishop Parkes served the Orlando diocese as Vicar General and Chancellor for Canonical Affairs while serving as pastor of Corpus Christi Parish.

Bishop Parkes was ordained and installed as the fifth Bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee on June 5, 2012, having been to the position by His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, on March 20, 2012. Bishop Parkes succeeded Most Reverend John H. Ricard, SSJ, as Bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee.

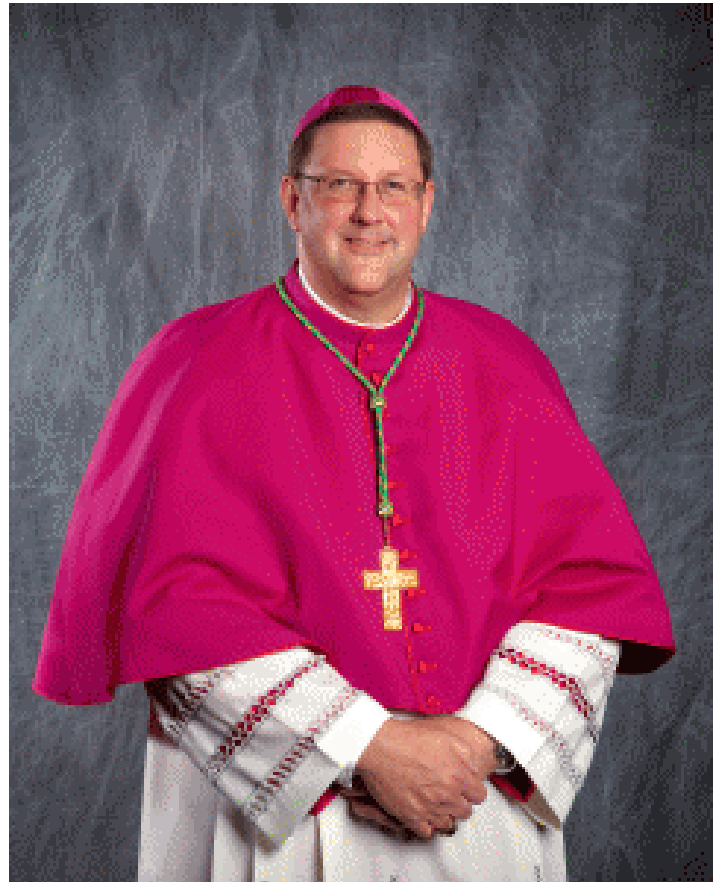


Photo courtesy of Diocese of St. Petersburg

In January 2016, Bishop Parkes began an appointment as Episcopal Liaison to the National Council of Catholic Women for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

On November 28, 2016, Bishop Parkes was appointed the fifth Bishop of St. Petersburg by His Holiness, Pope Francis. Bishop Parkes was installed as the fifth Bishop of St. Petersburg on January 4, 2017. He succeeded Most Reverend Robert N. Lynch, who served the Diocese since 1996.

Bishop Parkes has two brothers, Christopher Parkes, and Father Stephen Parkes, a priest of the Diocese of Orlando. The Parkes' parents are deceased.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

MARY WOLTMAN

DIOCESAN PRESIDENT



Blue Book and will have a short presentation on the outline of our Resource information at our Convention in May.

Manuals will be distributed to incoming Board Members and Affiliation Presidents at no charge. Extra copies will cost \$10.00 each.



The New Year began with a wonderful, joyful event for our Diocese. Members of the St. Petersburg Diocesan Council were invited to attend the Installation Ceremony and Mass for the 5th Bishop of the Diocese of St. Petersburg, Bishop Gregory Lawrence Parkes.



Over 122 Priests, and more than 74 Deacons, along with many Bishops, including Archbishop Wenski and Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Papal Nuncio of the United States, and Cardinal Donald Wuerl of Washington, D.C attended the Installation Ceremony and Mass.

As the Diocesan President, it was my pleasure to welcome Bishop Parkes on behalf of the members of the St. Petersburg Diocesan Council.

2017 Catholic Days at the Capitol

Catholic Days at the Capitol is later this year. April 4th through April 6th. Please plan on joining us and come and meet our new Bishop and make a difference in someone's life that you may never know.

"Whatsoever you do for the least of my brethren, you do unto Me."

49TH Annual Convention

The St. Petersburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's 49th Annual Convention is May 7 – 10th at the Hilton Tampa Airport Hotel. Speakers include 'Nikki', a convert to Catholicism, Mary Mathews, Key Note Speaker; update from Bridging Freedom, rescuing one child at a time; Susan Harding, Orlando LTD Team member, speaking on Leadership and recruiting new members.

Join us as we welcome Bishop Gregory Parkes to our Diocese at the Welcome Gala, hear from Sheila Hopkins, National Council of Catholic Women President and Bishop Gregory Parkes, our Dinner Key Note Speaker.



CATHY PENA DIOCESAN FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

“YOU DO IT FOR ME”, this was the theme of the Florida Council of Catholic Women, Province of Miami, the biannual Conference which gathered in Jacksonville, FL on October of 2016. The theme could not be more appropriate. The Conference was dedicated to St. Theresa of Calcutta and Pope Francis, two vivid examples of caring for the needy.

The opening Mass was celebrated by then Bishop of Pensacola/Tallahassee, Most Reverend Gregory Parkes who as you know, is now the Fifth Bishop of the Diocese of St. Petersburg.

Bishop Parkes was also the Keynote speaker, he emphasized the necessity for Catholics to reach out, materially and spiritually, to the many forgotten and homeless people.

Two pressing subjects affecting humanity were at the center of the Conference: Immigration and Human Trafficking, both subjects are very prevalent in Florida. Experts on Immigration such as Michael Sheedy, Iris Gomez, Myrna Wong, just to mention few, emphasized the need for Immigration reform

creating a world where immigrants, refugee's, migrants, are treated with dignity, respect and a sense of belonging.

The Bishop's Mass was celebrated Saturday afternoon at St. Patrick Church. Most Rev. Thomas Wenski, Archbishop of Miami was the main celebrant and Homilist.

Another interesting subject referenced during the Conference relates to the beatification of the Florida Martyrs, introduced by Dr. Mary Soha, FCCW Spirituality Chair. She serves on the canonization committee for the Canonization of Brothers Jacinta and Francesco. On October 12, 2005 Dr. Soha was sworn in as one of the four postulators for the Cause of the Servants of God of La Florida.

The Conference offered each of the attendees not only the opportunity to meet sisters from all over Florida but the support and encouragement of so many bishops and Spiritual Advisors. Let's recognize their support and pray for them.

Amen.

BETH AUBIN DIOCESAN SECOND VICE PRESIDENT



Our Six District Presidents and officers have accomplished many tasks this fall season. We are excited that we have our new Bishop Gregory Parkes and look forward to working with him.

District Fall Conferences

The District Fall Conferences were very informative. Some of the programs presented at the conferences were as follows: “Human Trafficking,” Tampa area being the third largest. A speaker from Karachi, Pakistan, gave a presentation called “Canonization of Florida Martyrs.” The Door of Mercy Closes, this year we collected, “Acts of Mercy” for NCCW to present to Pope Francis. “Guide me, Lord along the everlasting Way.” A Bushell of Blessings.

By-laws

The By-Laws Committee reviewed the by-law changes submitted by members, and will be voted on at the 49th Annual Convention.

Blue Handbook

The “Blue Handbook” for the SPDCCW will be available at the annual workshop in August, 2017. Many hours have been spent finalizing this book and the information will help our members.

THANK YOU for all of you who participated in the Necklace Fundraiser for NCCW, unfortunately we did not have a winner in our Diocese.

Looking forward to the Convention, “THEME: BEING MARTHA and MARY”, please make an effort to attend. There are many inspiring speakers, a time of spirituality, fellowship and fun.

*May Our Lady of Good Council
Guide us in all we do!*



BERNADETTE GAUDION

DIOCESAN LEADERSHIP
COMMISSION CHAIR

“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor. If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.”

(Ecc 4:9-10)

Leadership NEWS

Valuable resources are at your fingertips--we continue to urge affiliations to order Protocol Points, Ask the Parliamentarian and NCCW Guidance and Resource Manual, as well as check out other important resources at nccw.org. Want to know what is happening with your sisters, visit Leadership's SPDCCW *Facebook* page and spdccw.org site.



Pictured: Paulette Elliott, Pat Moore, Rosemary Early and Bernadette Gaudion

As we anticipate with joy our gathering at 2017 SPDCCW Convention, we also sense the sadness of dissolution of current terms of office. It is with humbleness and gratitude I acknowledge our Leadership Team comprised of Rosemary Early, Paulette Elliott, Pat Moore, China Pacheco and Maria Wilson.

Without whom our leadership mission could not have been accomplished.

Thank you.

CONVENTION UPDATE

It is with great pleasure we announce “Being Home with Mary and Martha” presented by Susie Harting of FCCW. An interactive session is planned with the theme of convention as our focal point of the presentation. We are all Mary *and* Martha!

In addition, our support of “Fair Trade” will be emphasized, with an opportunity for attendees to shop for Fair Trade items on site at the Hilton. Support Fair Trade; keep it real!



Susie Harting of FCCW

In closing, our Leadership Team gently reminds us of our most precious goal this biennial —“Give us the grace to live Gospel values and support one another in our endeavors, as we work in your Name, through Christ Our Lord, Amen.”

--from spdccw.org

See you at convention!

ELAINE LEE DIOCESAN SPIRITUALITY COMMISSIONER

As we begin this New Year let us open our heart to God and listen to His call. What is God calling you to do? How can you serve your family, your parish, your Council, your District and your Diocese? Say yes to God's call.

CATHOLIC DAYS at the Capitol-Tallahassee, FL April 4-6

Catholics from all over Florida will gather in Tallahassee for two days. Participants will have a legislative briefing on policy issues affecting human life and dignity. They will also have a pre-scheduled meeting with lawmakers and a luncheon with Florida's bishops and legislators. You can give a voice to some of the most vulnerable and marginalized populations in Florida. Concluded with Red Mass of the Holy Spirit celebrated by the bishops of Florida to pray for those working in the legislature.

DCCW Convention Spirituality Events on Tuesday, May 9

11:15 AM Spirituality Talk by Nikki

FOR BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED....

There was a Truth that was behind the wall that separated Nikki from God. She knew it, but why could she never get past it and know the truth? This was the thirst that led her down a path she never dreamed she would walk.

"Who do you say that I am?" Jesus asked her.

She had to decide if He was a prophet or the Messiah? While being drowned in the ocean of love and being crucified at the same time, she discovered the Truth.

Nikki will share with you this journey to the Truth, and the "Martha and Mary" question she personally had to reconsider from a Muslim to a Christian perspective.

4:30 PM Bishop's Mass at Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Come celebrate Mass with our new Bishop Gregory Parkes and other priest throughout our Diocese.

6:00 PM Bishop's Banquet

What's going on in our Diocese?

Our Lady of Life Spring Conference: Corpus Christi, February 25

Our Lady of Grace Spring Conference: Sacred Heart North Campus, March 4

FM Women's Conference: St. Lawrence Catholic Church, September 23

Our Lady of Mystical Rose Spring Conference: Our Lady Queen of Peace, March 8



Pray for the Florida Martyrs for their Beautifications

Lead martyr Antonio was an Apalachee Indian and chief. Husband and father, teacher of the Catechism, singer, guitar and flute player, and carpenter devoted to St. Joseph, Antonio Cuipa was respected and loved by native and Spanish alike. He evangelized natives with flute music while he shared the news of the Incarnation. His joy and zeal brought many natives to the Faith. Antonio's life ended tied to a cross, consoled, he said, to die like Jesus.

SERVICE COMMISSION

As DCCW Service Commission Chairman, I can truly say we are still going strong, and loving every minute! We can see the difference our Service Commissioners and members are making!

We have been working very hard to make sure that each and every project is completed, with the greatest love and compassion, as we want to achieve our goals to full capacity!

2017 CONVENTION

This year we are looking with great anticipation at our Convention 2017. We will continue to bring you much knowledge with Speakers such as -- Founder of Red Tent, **Barbara Rhode**, of Pinellas, which gives training classes to help women in prison re-enter society and possibility getting their children back. Founder of Bridging Freedom, **Laura Hamilton**, of Tampa, which assist victims of sex trafficking. And, our law enforcement speaker from Clearwater Police Force, Lieutenant **Laura Spelman**, speaking on how they are protecting us from criminals as they risk their own lives, and how we can help. In five counties we have given prayer cards to many of our Officers, to let them know how appreciated they are in protecting our society! Please keep them in your prayers! You don't want to miss these fabulous, qualified women who are such an asset to our society. They will also be sharing ways we can help in these projects by volunteering our time, talent and treasure!

We also have Vendors available in our Lobby! One of these Vendors will be from "Ready For Life" brought to you by the Service Commission Group! **Michelle Walag** works at setting up men, women and their children in a place to live, as they must transition into society. Let's keep them in our prayers, as they move forward in life! Please visit our vendor "Ready for Life"!! They will be there on Monday, May 8th, 2017!

Amidst all of this you will have a Prayer Room, Rosary prayer time, and entertainment functions, one being our "District Kentucky Derby," come place your bets at the races, presented by Cathy Pena. We also have "On The Road Again" presented by Our Lady of the Mystical Rose. These events promise to bring much fun and joy. We will also be celebrating Mass and having a wonderful spiritual experience as we attend our Mass with Bishop Gregory L. Parkes and our Sisters in Christ!

Many of us attended our **New Bishop Gregory L. Parkes'** wonderful and unforgettable Installation at St. Jude's Cathedral in Clearwater, Florida, on January 3, 2017. Come meet **Bishop Gregory Parkes** at our Convention 2017 Banquet! I have had the pleasure of meeting Bishop Parkes prior to his appointment, I believe him to be a compassionate human being, with great love for his fellowman, and therefore we can expect he will be a **FABULOUS BISHOP!** Let's give him a warm and loving welcome!

Oh! Yes, **VOTING** for new officers is taking place this year! Let's know our candidates and vote for people who have knowledge and compassion to be our leaders!

THE FCCW STILL COLLECTS FOR THE "HUGS FOR THE HOMELESS," PLEASE SEND DONATIONS TO PAT HANSON OUR DCCW TREASURE BY FEBRUARY 20, 2017.

THANKS to our "Angels of Mercy" who serve the DCCW, they are the: Mary's & Martha's, who assist us as we serve the LORD!

"Holiness doesn't mean doing extraordinary things, but doing ordinary things with love and Faith" — Pope Francis

A personal "THANK YOU" to all who gave me the opportunity to serve as "DCCW SERVICE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN!"

"WHAT YOU DO FOR THE LEAST OF MY BRETHERN YOU DO UNTO ME"

May "Our Lady of Good Council Guide and Keep us in Her Prayers".

SPECIAL THANKS TO: Judy Cunniff, (Coleen Ward) replacing Pat Hanson, Sue O'Brien, Mardi Flynn, Edith Bavaro, Mary Woltman-Pres., Cathy Pena-1st VP, Beth Aubin-2nd VP, and the Board of Directors who have assisted me throughout these two years! May God give you special Blessings, as you're very special to me! You are greatly appreciated!

ROSE MARIE VARAS
DIOCESAN SERVICE
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN



The Vocations office has a newsletter, “Cast Your Nets.” If you wish to read it, find it at <http://www.dosp.org/vocations/newsletters/casting-your-nets-newsletter/>. E-mail Heidi Varley at [hvv@dosp.org](mailto:hv@dosp.org) in the Office of Vocations if you would like to be added to the e-mail list for the newsletter.

To read about our seminarians, go to <http://www.dosp.org/vocations/meet-our-seminarians>. Both St. John Vianney College Seminary and St. Vincent DePaul Seminary have newsletters. To subscribe or to read about the seminaries, go to <http://www.sjvcs.edu> and <http://www.svdp.edu>.

Like them on **FACEBOOK**.

FOCUS 11

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.

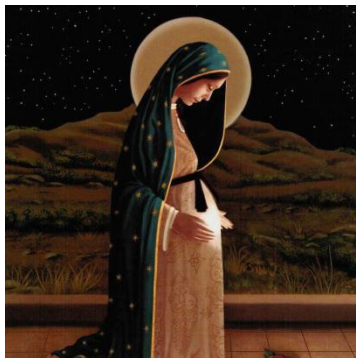
BISHOP'S VOCATION FUND (BVF)

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

PRAY for VOCATIONS.

“The harvest is plenty, but the laborers are few.” Lord, please send out laborers for your harvest.

BARBARA BYARS
DIOCESAN BISHOP'S VOCATION FUND



MISSY GARRETT

OUR LADY OF LIFE DISTRICT, PRESIDENT

It is with a happy heart we serve our church and community. Our District only has three affiliated parishes – Corpus Christi Council of Catholic Women, Epiphany of our Lord Council of Catholic Women and Our Lady of the Rosary Council of Catholic Women. We also have one individual member from St. Timothy's Catholic Church. We would love for the other women's groups of the parishes in the North-Central/East-Central Deanery to be a part of the St. Petersburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women and invite women of the other unaffiliated parishes to consider an individual membership. Together we are stronger and we have much to share and learn from each other. Our women are very dynamic and serve our Diocese in many ways. All three parishes are diligent bakers for bake sales, fish fry's and parish dinners. They give to their St. Vincent de Paul food pantries and missions of the Catholic Relief Services. Our hours of service surpass 62,000 hours.

Spring Conference

We will be hosting our Spring Conference at Corpus Christi Catholic Church on Saturday, March 11. Registration and breakfast will begin at 8:45; followed by a special reflection for healing, a business meeting, including an invitation to the annual Convention of the St. Petersburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women and election of the new officers for the Our Lady of Life District; break to Pray the Rosary, celebrate Mass and installation of the newly elected officers; lunch; and we will conclude with a great demonstration, including a "make and take", on how make greeting cards using colorful papers, stamps and embellishments. For information about attending our conference, please contact District President Missy Garrett by contacting the office at Corpus Christi Catholic Church (813) 988-1593.

Affiliates at Work

Corpus Christi Council of Catholic Women are very busy serving the church as Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Lectors, Catechists, choir members and more. They support their parish and pastor as he requests. Their primary focus is to serve their church. One of the many ways they do that is to make prayer blankets for the sick. Each blanket is made up of 12 hand-painted squares quilted together. The squares are prayed over as they are painted and sewn; they are prayed over by the prayer group of the church; and blessed by a priest. Prayer is powerful – Prayer works.

The blankets are healing and comforting. These blankets are often with a patient as they go to surgery (the staff tucks them under the mattress or pillow) or other treatments.

The ladies support the Pro-Life movement and prayed for the lives of the unborn at both the Planned Parenthood office and at the abortion clinic. Lives were saved by the prayerful women that encouraged women to get a free ultrasound at the Knights Women's Clinic.

Corpus Christi has a sister parish in Haiti. The women donated time to the garage sale to raise money for projects to improve the parish in Haiti and items for the hygiene kits that the Haiti Mission Team distributes on their annual visit. Each year the Council makes a donation to the Haiti mission for supplies or other needs.

Epiphany of Our Lord Council of Catholic Women is growing and getting stronger. Their parish is now the home of the High Masses in Latin and with that came a dynamic group of young women. They homeschool their children and have a love for the parish. In just a couple of short years they have raised the funds to donate a new ice machine and Commercial Coffee System to their parish center. Their next goal is to update the furnishing of the parish room.

The women will be hosting a "Junk in the Trunk" sale on March 11. This is the first time they will be hosting this event. Vendors purchase a parking space to set up their items for sale and customers should be pleased with the great selection of items. It's never too early to get a jump on gift shopping.

The women participate in the monthly First Friday Mass and Adoration. They pray the Rosary and have a potluck for the homeschool group. They will also be starting a "Spiritual Mothers" group to pray for the priests and will have a day of reflection dedicated to the priests.

They also give gift bags and religious items to new mothers and at Baptisms and at Christmas they had a party for the children to celebrate St. Nicholas and they dressed as saints.

Our Lady of the Rosary Council of Catholic Women is celebrating their 20th year of making "Boo-Boo Teddy Bears" by teaming up with a non-Catholic church in New Port Richey. The ladies meet weekly to cutout, sew and stuff small bears that have been given to children when they go to the hospital or to the health department for immunizations. Now, with the help of their new partners, the bears will be going in backpacks that are given to children when they are removed from their homes. It is such a difficult time for young children and a place to hold their "stuff" and a new friend to cuddle may help ease some anxiety.

The Council strives to meet the needs of their parish and their pastor. They are currently saving to help furnish the new building that will be at the parish for meeting and for the youth group

Please join us.

CAROL LA GRANDE OUR LADY OF THE MYSTICAL ROSE, PRESIDENT

A very special thanks to my entire board for their dedication and hard work through out these past two years. When I was laid up after knee surgery last year and then this year with a sick husband, my board was great.

We are now at the end of our two year commitment. I wish our next officers good luck and I will be around to help them in any way possible.

Our Three Affiliates:

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, St Joan of Arc, and Our Lady Queen of Peace are very busy now rehearsing for fun night at the convention. Come out and support our affiliate with On the Road Again.

Our Spring Conference will be at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in New Port Richey on March 8, 2017.

May Our Lady O Good Counsel Pray For Us.

DENISE DeBORD OUR LADY OF THE SEA DISTRICT, PRESIDENT

Spring Conference

April 1st at St Raphael's

This is a rough time for our District so I need everyone to circle the wagons and bombard heaven with our prayers for all our members facing difficulties. Please help us to fulfill our District and Affiliate obligations. We owe it to our officers to handle things in their absence.



IVY A. WILLING OUR LADY OF GRACE DISTRICT, PRESIDENT

Spring Conference

March 4th at Sacred Heart North Campus

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

Spring Conference

March 25th at Mary Help of Christians

KATY MARSH OUR LADY OF THE WAY DISTRICT, PRESIDENT

TBD

REV. TED COSTELLO

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

O Almighty God, Whose great power and eternal Wisdom embraces the universe, Watch over all policemen and Law enforcement officers everywhere.

Protect them from harm In the performance of their duty To stop crime, robbery, Riots and violence.

We pray, help them keep our streets And homes safe, day and night.

We commend them to your loving care Because their duty is dangerous.

Grant them strength and courage In their daily assignments. Dear God, protect these brave men and women.

Grant them your almighty protection, Unite them safely with their families after Duty has ended.

Please God, grant us this wish.

CONTENTS

MARY WOLTMAN, DIOCESAN PRESIDENT	2
CATHY PENA, DIOCESAN FIRST VICE PRESIDENT	3
BETH AUBIN, DIOCESAN SECOND VICE PRESIDENT	3
BERNADETTE GAUDION, DIOCESAN LEADERSHIP COMMISSION CHAIR	4
ELAINE LEE, DIOCESAN SPIRITUALITY COMMISSIONER	5
ROSE MARIE VARAS, DIOCESAN SERVICE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN	6
BARBARA BYARS, DIOCESAN BISHOP'S VOCATION FUND	7
MISSY GARRETT, OUR LADY OF LIFE DISTRICT, PRESIDENT	8
CAROL LA GRANDE, OUR LADY OF THE MYSTICAL ROSE, PRESIDENT	9
DENISE DEBORD, OUR LADY OF THE SEA DISTRICT, PRESIDENT	9
SUSAN O'BRIEN, OUR LADY OF THE SKIES DISTRICT, PRESIDENT	9
KATY MARSH, OUR LADY OF THE WAY DISTRICT, PRESIDENT	9
IVY A. WILLING, OUR LADY OF GRACE DISTRICT, PRESIDENT	9
REV. TED COSTELLO, SPIRITUAL ADVISOR	10

I encourage all of you to see in Mary, Health of the Infirm, the sure sign of God's love for every human being.

– Pope Francis

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