



## EXECUTIVE BOARD

**MELISSA  
GARRETT**

DIOCESAN PRESIDENT

Our Diocese had our 53rd Annual Convention in August. We had great speakers. One of them was Patricia Lorenz, author. She reminded us that laughter truly is the best medicine. Endorphins are your body's natural pain killer. We have three great endorphin builders, exercise, laughter, and sex. The one of these that we can do anytime anywhere is laugh. The body knows when you are laughing. Laughter is healing; it helps with asthma, lowers blood pressure, aids digestion, helps you sleep, decreases your cortisol levels, alleviates fear and more. Patricia said: "you don't get old because you're laughing, you get old because you stop laughing."

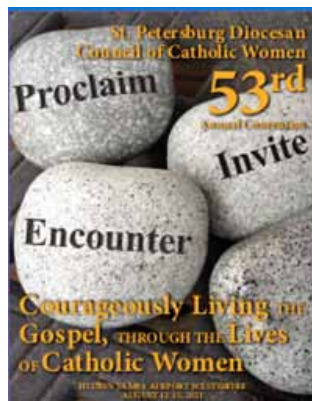


Photo Credit: DOPSP Gulf Coast Catholic

Another speaker was Lou Ricardo, Director of Marketing and Donor Relations for Catholic Charities Diocese of St. Petersburg, Inc. reported on Catholic Charities and the housing they have now in all five counties of our Diocese. I am hopeful his talk will help boost our support of the HUGS for the Homeless Campaign next spring.

The newest Shelter of Hope opened in Pasco County in late August. To learn more, go to [www.ccdosp.org](http://www.ccdosp.org).

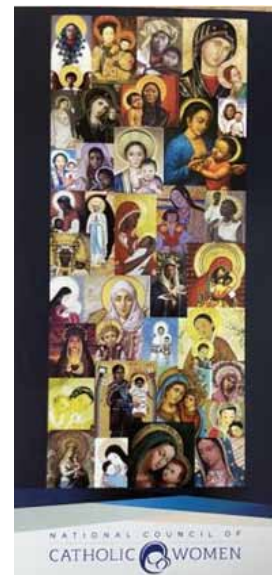


Our service project at this convention was Cross Catholic Outreach - Box of Joy ministry. Our goal is to fill 50 boxes. We collected many items. We will pack the boxes on October 23 at Corpus Christi Catholic Church Parish Center from 2-4pm.

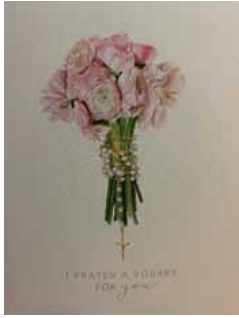


Our Diocese had seven representatives attend the National Council of Catholic Women's 100th Anniversary Convention. We were all a bit anxious getting on an airplane and, as has been the norm for the last few NCCW conventions, we sat and watched Hurricane Ida as it originally tracked over a portion of our area. We were thankful we had a safe trip, and that our area was spared from the hurricane. Our hearts and prayers are with those that were affected by Hurricane Ida.

Let me quote a bit from the NCCW Press Release: "Following the call of the 2018 pastoral letter of the United States Catholic Bishops, Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love - A Pastoral Letter Against Racism, NCCW members approved a resolution to heal our country and communities from the negative effects of racism, prejudices, and all types of discrimination." Part of this resolution calls for our Province to "be able to name at least one action their councils have taken to begin reducing racism in their personal lives, in their councils and/or in their communities". Our Diocese, with the guidance of our Bishop, Gregory Parkes, had a Day of Prayer to End Racism and Violence on September 9, 2020.



NCCW also made a new “Prayer to Love: Healing Racism” prayer card with the “ Many Faces of Mary”. They are \$10 for a pack of 20 (affiliations and members get a 10% discount). Check out their website for more information at [www.nccw.org](http://www.nccw.org).



Our Diocese has Bishop Vocation Cards for Sympathy, Get Well, Celebration, and our new Thank You (coming soon). We ask a minimum donation of \$10 that goes to our Seminarians and your prayer intentions are offered up at the Masses at the two seminaries and in the prayers of the seminarians. At the

NCCW Convention we found Spiritual Bouquet Rosary cards. These beautiful pink cards can be given to anyone for any reason letting them know you prayed a Rosary for them. We are asking a donation of \$10 for each card that will go to the NCCW Purse Club for the formation of our religious sisters.

The last week in October is White Ribbon Week for the Awareness of Pornography. Wear a white ribbon in support of this worthwhile cause. Our young children and grandchildren are our most vulnerable victims. Exposure to Pornography causes a multitude of problems in marriages.

The theme for our 54th Annual Convention will be “Courageously Living the Gospel with a Thankful Heart” (May 12-15). We will focus on our blessings and the many things we are thankful for. We will be at a new hotel this year – the DoubleTree by Hilton, Tampa Airport-Westshore; we look forward to working with this new, eager staff. The convention team is planning great speakers and activities to enrich, engage and educate in Spirituality, Leadership and Service. Bishop Parkes will celebrate Mass on Friday May 13 at 4:00PM, all are welcome, and he will share a meal with us at the Bishop’s Banquet that evening at 7:00PM. You can book your hotel room now and convention registration will be available after January 8, 2022.

## JOSEPHINE MAESTAS WE DID IT!!!

We persevered and made it through a difficult year to say the least. Immediate past President Beth Aubin did a fantastic job in keeping us all connected through e-mails, phone calls, zoom and even in person when the chance arose. Now we begin a new year with a set of new yet experienced officers who are eager to serve you. As your “new” SPDCCW 1st Vice President, I have been attending the weekly zoom reciting of the rosary with a small group of dedicated women from our various districts. I, along with Missy Garrett, Coleen Ward and Fr. Ted Costello recently met with Bishop Gregory Parkes to share our vision for the upcoming year as well as seeking his guidance and his thoughts on anything he wanted us to work on. I also had the honor of attending the Holy Family CCW potluck membership drive/dinner. What a great event that was well attended by the women of their parish.

We have started off with a bang this fall – TWO back-to-back conventions!!! Our own SPDCCW convention that was held at the beginning of August was a great event with lots of fun, fellowship, learning and friendships. With only barely a week to spare, a group of us were off to Washington DC at the end of August to attend the National Council of Catholic Women’s annual convention. It too was a lot of fun, fellowship, learning and friendships with other women from around the country.

## DIOCESAN FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

I want to share with you a little about Gloria Purvis who spoke to us on Thursday, August 26th. Gloria is host of the Gloria Purvis Podcast from America Media. Through her media presence, she has been a strong Catholic voice for life issues, religious liberty and racial injustice. Gloria spoke to us about “Women Persevere in Faith”. She was amazing to say the least. Although she wasn’t a cradle catholic, she attended a Catholic school and became Catholic at age 12. Her Sister also became catholic and although her parents never did, they supported their children in their Catholic faith. In her adult life, she made a pilgrimage to Lourdes with her husband and parents. While reciting the rosary, her Mother asked to lead a decade. Gloria asked her Mother how she knew the prayers to do this, and her Mother responded “As a Mother it was her job to know what her children were doing and involved with at all times and that included what they were learning in their Catholic faith”. Gloria shared many examples in her life of the Power of Prayer. This truly touched my heart as I am a firm believer in the power of prayer and prayer is the one thing that we can do for many and although it cost nothing to pray for someone, it is worth more than anything money could buy. You never know what happens when you practice the art of prayer. Gloria shared that Jesus never takes His eyes off of us and His loves endures forever. We should be grateful for our clergy as it has been through their perseverance that we receive the sacraments. The United States Bishops have chosen US

to work with Catholic Women not only in our own corner of the world, but the entire country as well as worldwide. If we have learned one thing since Covid19 and all that came with it – it is how to PERSEVERE in spite of all that has and is still being thrown at us. Well done my Sisters!!

*May our Blessed Mother continue to intercede for each of us and our loved ones,*

## **COLEEN WARD** DIOCESAN SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

In the fall board meeting the President's decided to continue with the baskets as a fund raiser at next year's convention. The baskets will have a value of at least \$125 - \$150 dollars. The themes for the basket are countries, with Our Lady of Grace choosing Ireland, Our Lady Star of the Sea choosing Italy and Our Lady of Life choosing France.

It was decided not to sell Jewelry or purses the next convention, but will try a silent auction. Each district can also provide 0 to 3 additional items for auctioning. These items should have a value of over \$50. We are trying this new idea, since the number of baskets, with the reorganization is down to three. We are asking the districts to provide a description of the baskets and auction items prior to sending out the call to convention letter.

Bag assignments were given out, Our Lady Star of the Sea will provide the candies for the bags, Our Lady of Life will provide tissues, pen & paper. Our Lady of Grace will provide additional item(s) for the bags.

## COMMISSION CHAIR

### **ELLEN JIMENEZ**

DIOCESAN LEADERSHIP  
COMMISSIONER

My dear Sisters in Christ,

I hope this finds you well and fully involved in planning for this new CCW year.

I think most of us are concerned about membership – getting new members and keeping the ones we have.

We have been blessed this fall with a number of new members in our affiliate. I believe this has happened because many of us have been persistent in reaching out to ladies in our parish, particularly those who are already

involved in a church activity. Our parish helps at People Helping People once a month to fill bags of food for needy seniors and then deliver them to the apartment complexes where they live. As I bagged groceries next to Josie, I asked her to consider joining the CCW. She promised to consider it, saying she was kept busy with a sick husband and other family concerns. Did I stop there? No. The next time I saw Josie, I greeted her by name, and asked about her husband. I again told her that we would love to have her in our affiliate and that we understand the concerns of family. I was not alone in nudging Josie to join us. Several members who make rosaries with her each week were suggesting the same thing. Josie came to our September meeting, as did two other rosary makers. Persistence pays off!

One of the ladies in my affiliate suggested to our president a way to welcome new members. As soon as a woman joins CCW, send her a card – handmade, in this case – thanking her for joining CCW and telling her how happy we are to have her as a member. What woman would not be excited to receive that card and feel truly wanted and welcome in our organization? In addition, when these new members are introduced at our meetings, make a note of their name. Use their name when you have opportunities to speak with them, perhaps after mass or at other events in the parish. And, most importantly, when these women offer to help, let them! Make sure that they have a reason to return.

We all do wonderful work in our parishes. But, oftentimes, no one knows what we are so busily doing. Get the word out there! First and foremost, make sure your pastor knows what the Council is doing for the church as well as for the community. Get the word out in your church bulletin. Start a Facebook page. Share your ideas with your district and our SPDCCW. We all learn from each other and grow. Pray for each other, using an email request to all members whenever there is a need. Prayer is powerful!

Have you ladies been using those beautiful new rosary cards? I purchased three at our SPDCCW board meeting, and within a couple of weeks I sent them all out to CCW members who I felt needed to hear that a rosary had been said in their name. I purchased two more at our CCW meeting and already know who I am sending them to. I feel so good everytime I send one out, knowing that I am praying especially for that person, and at the same time helping support the PURSE Fund.

I pray this year will be a blessed and joyful one for each of you. May Our Lady of Good Council pray for u

*“Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person.”*

# SONIA TUMMINGS

DIOCESAN SERVICE COMMISSIONER

## Service Commission needs donations of clothes.

The Orient Street jail needs clothing, especially men clothing. Please contact Sonia Tummings for pickup.

We will also continue to collect “flip tops (tabs).

*Thanks  
God bless*

The women of the SPDCCW donated just under 50 pounds of flip tops at our August convention. This equates to approximately 75,000 tops. Great job Ladies! These tops are melted down to purchase wheel chairs for needy children. Thanks to all who contributed.

Doreen Ward - past SPDCCW Service Chair

# BARBARA BYARS

DIOCESAN BISHOP'S VOCATION FUND

## VOCATIONS

Thank you to all who are praying for vocations. Your prayers are Follow St. John Vianney and St. Vincent DePaul Seminary on Facebook.

## 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. Coming soon:

Thank You cards.

## 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.”*



# LISA LEGARRETA

## OUR LADY OF GRACE DISTRICT, PRESIDENT

Our district is off to a roaring start. We first started off by hosting Fun Night at the SPDCCW Annual Convention in August. We had a great

time planning and rehearsing leading up to the event. We recently held our OLG board transition meeting at Wright's Deli in South Tampa. It was so nice to be able to meeting in person. We have our Fall Board meeting coming up on Saturday, September 25th at St. Patrick's. We had our Fall Conference on Saturday, October 23rd being held at Church



of Incarnation. We have a prenominal speaker lined up for the conference. Her name is Barbara Spoto McGowan. She is the founder and director of the Hearts for Healing Prayer Team here in the Bay area.

Christ the King has a very active calendar. So far they have their Welcome Event on Sept. 19th where they are hosting the Sunday Café after the morning masses. They are using the built in event to showcase the CCW. Hosting the Annual Spaghetti Dinner to raise funds for their Annual Project Shoes Drive on Sept. 26th. Rosary Procession on Oct. 11th, October Fest Oct. 23rd, Harvest Festival Nov. 14th, Advent Social Nov. 28th, Annual Toy Drive Dec. 10-12, Sunday Café Jan. 9th Shred-A-Thon Feb. 12th, Fat Tuesday Party Mar. 1st Lenten Dinners, Mar. 4, Mar. 18, Apr.1, St. Joseph Fest Mar. 19th, Spring Tea Apr. 3rd, Project Shoes Distribution Apr. 4th These events are held in conjunction with their different Circles.

St. Peter Claver is back to meeting in person. Lined up they have Pink Sunday on October 10th, Memorial Mass on Nov. 2, in December, Red Tent Christmas Collection, Crazy Hat Tea on May 15, annual Father's Day Dinner on June 18. They also recently celebrated Saint Peter Claver Day Celebration and Installation of Fr. Agustinus Seran, SVD as their new pastor with Bishop Parkes.

Catholic Women's Club is having their 1st meeting in October. Their last meeting was held 19 months ago. They have some great monthly meetings coming up with speakers and spiritual activities. They are going strong.

St. Patrick's recently held their first general meeting in 19 months. They presented anniversary crosses to 3 ladies for their 50th wedding anniversary. This event was originally planned for last year, so now they each have been married 51 years. They also presented their 2019 Handmaiden of the Lord to Sue Ann DePestel. This past Sunday they resumed serving coffee and doughnuts after the morning masses. One of their two circles, Circle 7, made the decision to disband and those remaining members are now part of their general CCW group. They are tentatively planning to resume some of their regular activities, and being very cautious.

Incarnation recently hosted a farewell reception for their parish priest along with a welcome reception for their incoming parish priest. Held multiple very successful CCW membership drives along with several successful Outdoor Gift Shop Sales. They were able to have their 1st ICCW general meeting. They also have many upcoming fundraisers including an empanada sale and a Christmas Children's Bazaar and Holy-Day Market. They are also hosting the upcoming OLG Fall Conference in October.

Sacred Heart is off and running with their first general Meeting - Sept 23, general meeting & Memorial Service - Nov 6, annual Pecan Sales and Distribution - 11/13-14 and 11/20-21, Christmas Luncheon - Dec 12, General Meeting & Prayer Service - Jan 8, Betty's Babies, Spring Tea - March 19, SHCCW Installation Luncheon - May 8



# CORINE PAJOTTE

OUR LADY OF LIFE DISTRICT, PRESIDENT

## Welcome to Our Lady of Life.

Spiritually and personally, I Corine Pajotte, is truly bless and overly excited to welcome Our Lady of Mystical Rose and Our Lady of the Skies to Our Lady of Life District family. I look forward for what is to come and believe that together we will aspire to use our words and actions to build up our district, our Church, community, and others.

As your new District President, I have faith that the women of OLOL, will continue to show grace, encouragement, gratitude, joyfulness, understanding and helpful counsel not only to over selves but to all.

If the year 2020, thought us anything is to live in faith and trust in God. As Catholic women, we often call ourselves believers, and yet all too often we are not believing believers. Nevertheless, to believe is to TRUST IN GOD and BELIEVE in OUR FAITH, to work in the lives of those to whom we minister and those we love.

*Again, as I shout to the Heavens,  
Welcome! Bienvenido! Bienvenue! Benvenuto!  
Best Wishes and God's Blessings*

**OLOL Fall Conference:**  
Saturday 6th November 2021

**OLOL Spring Conference**  
Saturday 12th February 2021

Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church  
2348 Collier Parkway,  
Land O' Lakes, Florida 34639

Time: 9am -3pm

# CORPUS CHRISTI COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN (CCCCW)

Corine Pajotte, President

Greeting Sisters in Christ, we the ladies of CCCCW plan on making this year better than the prior two. Due to the ongoing pandemic the ladies meet every other month and see each other at church on Sundays. It's been a rough past 2 years with the loss of some of our members, but we plan on working together and 'Living the Gospel Courageously'. One of main goals this year is to increase our membership and to create different ideas/fundraisers.

## Some of the group we continue to support:

- St Vincent de Paul Charities by donating food items, toys for the kids around Christmas and monetary donations.
- Our Seminarians,
- Our Church – assistance on Bingo Nights (kitchen and games), Mother's Day Flowers for Our Mothers, making of prayer blankets, rosaries, holy communion and baptism bibs and when Father Mike call, we are willing and ready
- |Our Sister Parish in Haiti – St Michaels
- March of Dimes with our annual baby shower and baby supplies donation
- Our CCCC Youth Ministry – Pizza night, assistance with field trips, faith formation etc. among others



Meet some of our CCCCW who attended 2021 Convention

CCCCW at Corpus Christi Parish Festival (working together to get new members and presenting to the community what the Council of Catholic Women is all about)



## Service projects

St. Joan of Arc has been very busy these few months. We have been filling backpack with food for the less fortunate child at West Hernado Middle School for the weekend. We have also packed food for our senior citizens once a month. We are having a drive by dinner next Saturday.

We also take soup and Sandwiches on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month to our local home bound in Hernado County.

Our Lady of the Rosary is planning on have a Christmas Back Sale over 2 weekends. The proceeds will go to SVDP food pantry and Bridging Freedom.

They will supply over 100 gifts bags for home bound elderly who are in the meals on wheels program in Land O Lakes.

*Sincerely yours,  
God Bless,  
Christie Fiorentino*

## KATHY HUEY Our Lady of Life Spirituality Commissioner

Our Lady of The Rosary is hosting a religious item sale on November 6th and 7th. Sacramentals, Christmas and a variety of items will be on sale. All profits will go to the Bishop's vocational fund for our seminarians and the NCCW Purse fund to help young women wishing to enter into the religious life.

On November 12th they are hosting a wine and cheese evening with Deacon Bill Ditewig. This is an "Ask the Deacon any question you might have" event.

On January 15th they are sponsoring a women's retreat whose topic will be the role of women in the church, past, present and future. Deacon Bill Ditewig has written a book on this topic and has been the episcopal liaison for deacons in the United States and is a fantastic speaker.

St. Joan of Arc is making rosaries that hospital Chaplains in Spring Hill are giving to both Catholic and non-Catholic patients. All are very grateful for this spiritual gift. Rosaries are also being sent overseas. One new area is for an orphanage that is being built in South Africa. The group asked for rosaries to help them introduce our Catholic faith to the children.

St. Joan of Arc also has a new Deacon who will be ordained on October 16, 2021. Deacon Jim Riveiro. Our Council has been very supportive of this soon to be Deacon and will present him with a gift at his Ordination.

St. Joan also has available a prayer jar at every meeting. During the meeting we pray for all whose names have been placed in the jar, and during our last meeting in May 2022, we will burn all these prayers sending these requests up to Heaven.

Our Mary & Martha gift shop, established and run by the St. Joan of Arc Council of Catholic Women, has now reopened. Profits from the sale of items in the gift shop are used to support our Parish.

# OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA COMMITTEE

## MARGO CONNELL

CO-PRESIDENT/HOLY FAMILY COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

Over the summer we hosted two receptions. One was for Father Jonathan Stephanz who was reassigned to Our Lady of Lourdes. The second was a welcome reception for Father Robert “Bob” Romaine, our new Parochial Vicar.

We had a membership drive the weekend of August 28th and 29th. Our Leadership Chair, Jennifer Connell-Wandstrat, spoke to the congregation at all Masses that weekend. It was very well received by the ladies in the Parish.

Our Potluck dinner was held on Monday, October 13th. We had 74 ladies in attendance. As of today we have acquired nine new members.

We are in the middle of a fundraiser right now. It’s called our “dove project”. We sell doves for \$5 each and place them on Trees of Remembrance in the Narthex of the Church where they remain for the whole month of November. This was a very successful fundraiser last year and was very well received by the Parishioners. In the first two weekends of the sale we have already netted nearly \$1,000.00.

We held our monthly meeting on October 9th. Our main speaker was our new Parochial Vicar, Father Robert “Bob” Romaine. He gave a very interesting presentation on St. Joseph. Our second speakers were members of the FAST organization in our Parish. We had 47 ladies in attendance.

We are in the process of planning the Parish International Food Festival on the weekend of October 24th. This became a CCW project about four years ago.

Our Service Commission is overseeing our A Child’s Hope project. They are also collecting empty medicine bottles to donate to Daystar here in St. Petersburg. They also collect eyeglasses which are donated to the Senior Center here in St. Petersburg.

The Leadership Commission has put together new member packets and is also working on involving new members in CCW projects.

### SPDCCW SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

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