



## DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG WILL BE CONSECRATED TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY ON MAY 6

In an effort to lead all people closer to the Heart of Jesus, Bishop Gregory Parkes has announced that he will consecrate the parishes, schools, charities, ministries and all people who live in the five counties of the Diocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. To consecrate means to dedicate or set aside for a sacred purpose. Mary's life was set aside for the sole purpose of serving Jesus. By following her example, Catholics, too, can completely give themselves to Christ in a powerful way and give their lives to Him in service and love.

"An act of consecration to Mary is essentially an act of consecration to Jesus through Mary. As Saint John Paul II explained, 'Consecrating ourselves to Mary means accepting her help to offer ourselves and the whole of mankind to him who is holy, infinitely holy; it means accepting her help—by

having recourse to her motherly heart,'" said Bishop Parkes, recalling the words of the former pope who had a great influence on his own vocation to priesthood.

The consecration will take place in the month of May because our culture celebrates the gift of mothers during May and Catholics also thank God for the gift of the Blessed Mother. The Catholic Church dedicates May to Mary in honor of her role as the mother of Jesus and of those in Heaven and on Earth. She mothers everyone like a true mother, and she is the model for those who want to be faithful followers of Christ.

All are invited to the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle on May 6 at 3 p.m. for a Holy Hour led by Bishop Parkes to take part in this special celebration that takes place during the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of St. Petersburg. Parishes are also invited to host a "viewing" of the Consecration via livestream to join virtually in this act of prayer, devotion and humility.

A website has been developed to provide resources for parishes, schools, families, small groups and individuals who would like to prepare for the consecration through study and reflection.

Visit [www.dosp.org/heartofmary/](http://www.dosp.org/heartofmary/)

## EXECUTIVE BOARD



**CATHY PENA**

DIOCESAN PRESIDENT

## CELEBRATING 50<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF SERVICE



Photo credit: Adrianne Antonio Ramirez

This is a very exciting time in the life of the St Petersburg Council of Catholic Women. As in previous years, we are now planning and working on our next convention scheduled for Thursday, May 17 to Sunday, May 20, 2018. This year however, there is a greater excitement that in past years; we will be celebrating our 50th year anniversary, 50-years of love and service to God and our church. And to make this even more exciting is the fact that the Florida Council of Catholic Women (FCCW) of which we are a member, is also celebrating their 50th anniversary.

We are looking forward to celebrating this monumental achievement, but to attain this goal, we need your help, to be there, present, following and supporting every step of the convention.

As you can see, we have moved the opening day. We will gather from Thursday to Sunday making attendance

possible for those working members that will only need to take one vacation day. Only pre Convention Activities will be held on Thursday.

I know that this is a change and I understand that change is not accepted the same way by all. But we need to understand that nothing stays the same and if we want our organization to move forward, we need to be open to change. Change in most cases means growth. I am hoping that in the near future, we may face together other changes regarding our Board meetings, District Conference and more and that these changes stop the loss of members.

*May our Lady of Good Council be our guide*

*God Bless*



As we begin a New Year let us set new goals, spiritually, socially, and let us be a leader to our members in all we do, only then we can accomplish many things.

**BETH AUBIN**  
DIOCESAN FIRST VICE  
PRESIDENT



## HUGS FOR THE HOMELESS

A special thanks to our Commission Chairmen Team: Pat, Joanne, Cathie, and all of those in our districts and affiliations who volunteered to help. We have many jobs ahead of us one of them "Hugs for the Homeless".

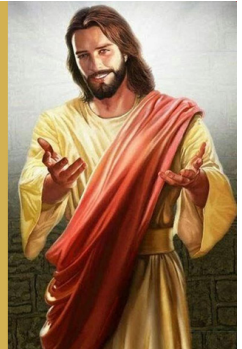
This Florida Council of Catholic Women (FCCW) project in which all the dioceses of Florida partake in. All monies collected were sent to the FCCW where the total amounts received are divided into seven portions. Each year St. Petersburg DCCW's portion, with the blessings of the Bishop, is given to worthy charities within the diocese. In the month of February set aside a weekend at all Masses, with collection baskets, at each door as the parishioners are leaving, give them a Bear with a Hersey Kiss and A Prayer for the Homeless, so they can pray for the homeless daily. Districts Presidents please pass this information on to your affiliations and individual members.

## 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION

St. Petersburg Diocesan  
Council of Catholic Women

50<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention  
"You Do It for Me"

May 17, 2018 - May 20, 2018  
Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore



We are very excited about our Convention this year; we are celebrating our 50th Year of the SPDCCW. Our Past Presidents are preparing a great evening of Celebration! We hope to see all the ladies at the convention this year, we have great speakers for Leadership, Service and are working with our Spiritual Commission chairman, on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

## YOU ARE NOT ALONE

The officers and I met with the Connect Team, we are all working together to make this organization an outstanding one. If you have any questions or concerns we will try along with the Connect Team to solve them. You are not in this alone we are there for you.

*May Our Lady of Good Council Pray for us and keep us safe this New Year!*

# COMMISSION CHAIR

## **PATRICIA HANSON** DIOCESAN SERVICE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

I hope everyone all had a Blessed and Happy Christmas and looking forward to a prosperous New Year. Our women have been very busy in their parish. Several affiliations had giving tree at Christmas with one parish giving what was collected to the migrant children and the other to St. Vincent De Paul.

I am going to mention only some of the projects that the women in our Dioceses have accomplished. Raised 500.00 dollars in buy supplies for the prison in their district, contributes to St. Vincent De Paul, make bears for children, collected sweat shirts and long sleeves shirts for the migrant workers,

one affiliation had a luncheon on Veterans day for their veterans, another council had a craft fair and the process went to (APA), collected supplies to help the medical mission trip to their sister church in Haiti, a night out for the Women with a baby shower the gifts were given to Foundation of Life.



## THE RESPITE PROGRAM

The Service Commission workshop at this years DCCW convention will be on the The Respite Program. This program was designed to spiritually and temporally renew the family caregiver. Our presenter will be the immediate Past President /Province Director Florida Council of Catholic Women and the current NCCW Service Commission Chairman. She will help us understand how important this program is to someone who is taken care of their love ones 24 hours a day.

I hope to see all of you at our DCCW Convention!

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

# 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

## MARIE KLAUSCH OUR LADY OF THE MYSTICAL ROSE, PRESIDENT

We are all getting ready for our Convention in May. Our District is in charge of the goody bags plus being Hostesses. At the hotel look for the ladies in black and gold as they will be around to tell you where to go. You can not miss them.

Evelyn Cody will be doing the basket for the DCCW fund raiser, Toni Thomas will be getting stuff for the goody bags and Carol LaGrande will be making the sashes for the all of our hostesses.

Affiliations keep busy with parties, retreats, dinners and fashion shows. Helped with the veterans day dinner where

we helped served and cleaned up plus a donation of \$500 worth of toiletries to women in prison as we have over 400 women in prison in our area.

We will be doing focus 11 in February, hugs for the homeless, donate to solve, and send a donation to feed the homeless for a year.

*May our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide us.*

## HELEN F. SNOHA OUR LADY OF THE MYSTICAL ROSE, SPIRITUALITY

We are ladies of many talents; besides our Spiritual Works of Mercy we also do Corporal Works of Mercy.

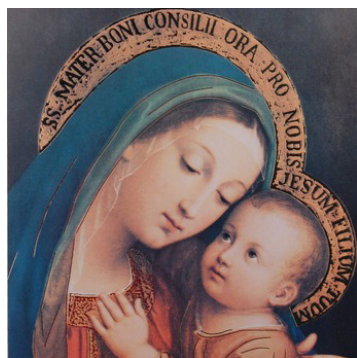
We have affiliates that feed the hungry, by giving money to help the children have something to eat on the weekends. We also have ladies that work in the soup kitchen and others that make sandwiches for the poor.

We have affiliates that buy underwear and socks, as well as backpacks that are full of school supplies. Our affiliation also sponsors two children from Honduras.

We do these acts of mercy in Thanksgiving to God for all the blessings that He has given to each and every one of us, and all of our affiliates.

*Our Lady of the Mystical Rose, Pray for us*





## ALMA SHAMBLIN

### OUR LADY OF GRACE DISTRICT, PRESIDENT

it was a successful meeting with many good ideas brought forth.

**OUR FALL BOARD MEETING** was held on October 14, with St. Peter Claver Church hosting this event. It was well attended. We discussed the 2016-17 Audit Report which was found to be in good order as well as our Budget. It was moved that we increase the cost of lunches and was approved by the Board...going from \$12.00 currently to \$15.00 per lunch in the future due to the increase in food costs. Josephine Maestas gave an update on the Directory for 2017-18. Affiliate assignments for Fall Conference was discussed. Additionally, DCCW Convention assignments were revisited. Our Lady of Grace has the responsibility of Shrine and Prayer Room, Maria Victor and Judy Taiclet will Co-Chair this assignment. "Date Night" is our theme basket for fundraising. Ads for Convention Booklet are being worked on and need to be turned by February 15. Each affiliate President gave a report on what their affiliates are currently doing what has been scheduled through out the coming year.

On August 5, Our Lady of Grace District Officers, Past OLG & WHD Presidents, and District Commission Chairmen met for a Planning Session to "kick off" the new year at St. Peter Claver Church. Guidelines for the year were presented and discussed as well dates for other District Conferences noted. At this point, we did not have a Spiritual Advisor assigned to Our Lady of Grace. All in all

# 2017 FALL CONFERENCE

On November 4, we held our Fall Conference at St. Patrick Church and had a wonderful attendance. Sixty three ladies answered the call to our Conference. A delicious lunch was hosted by the Catholic Women's Club.

Reaching out to other women is a "Welcome Purse" Pilot Program, discovered and chaired by Bernadette Gaudion, was a true success. A table full of gently used purses were donated to this cause. These purses will be given to refugee women from Africa with basic items enclosed that one would have inside their purse. This is an exciting program where we can bring our friendship and Christian fellowship to other women who are not as fortunate as we who live in this wonderful country...God Bless America!

Barbara Byars spoke to the membership on Catholic Days at the Capitol and asked that members attend this event, if possible. The dates are January 30 to February 1, 2018.

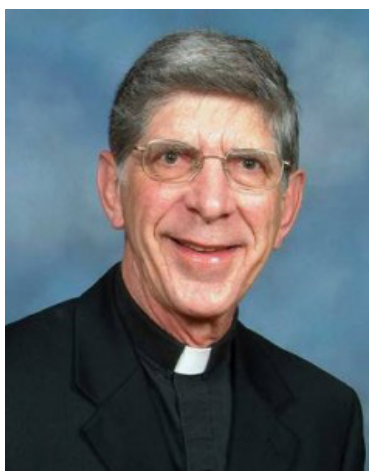
And lastly, we had a wonderful and informative guest speaker, Rose Llauguet, Director of Pregnancy and Adoption with Catholic Charities. She gave a moving and emotional presentation on dealing with abortion and adoptions.

As we closed the Conference, Sacred Heart who had been assigned Fund Raising and did a beautiful job. There were many, many thoughtful and well chosen prizes for the drawings and the 50/50 winning ticket was for \$97.50... not bad. It was a great success and the membership seemed to thoroughly enjoy this closing event.

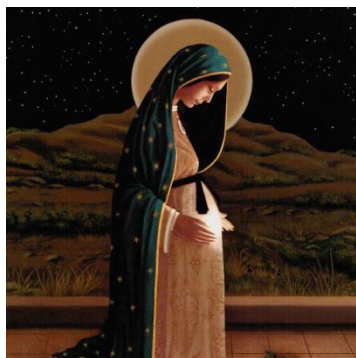
## 2018 SPRING BOARD MEETING

Coming up are the Spring Board Meeting – February 10, 2018 – Christ the King, Mary Martha Building and Spring Conference – March 17, Incarnation Church

*Blessings to all my wonderful sisters in Christ,*



However, before our Fall Conference on November 4, God answered our Prayers. He sent Fr. Jim Angert, Pastor, St. Patrick Church to us. Fr. Jim agreed to become our Spiritual advisor and was appointed by the Bishop for this position. He is truly a blessing to our Our Lady of Grace District.



## GAIL MERRILL

OUR LADY OF LIFE DISTRICT, PRESIDENT

### Conferences:

**Spring:** Saturday, March 10, 2018

**Host Affiliation:** Corpus Christi Catholic Church  
9715 N 56th Street  
Tampa, FL 33617

**Program:** 9:00 am Mass  
9:45 am Registration  
10:00 am Guest Speaker - Fr. Peter Ruggere  
11:00 am Brunch  
12:00 pm Business Meeting  
1:15 pm Easter Project  
2:30 pm Share the Wealth and Door Prizes  
3:00 pm Concluding Prayer

Luncheon Cost: \$12.00 per person.

Reservations deadline: **March 07, 2018**

Checks payable to “**Our Lady of Life**” (one check per Affiliation, please)

**Mail to:** Elizabeth Lamb (Our Lady of the Rosary)  
3327 Coconut Grove Road  
Land O Lakes, FL 34639

## OLGA HRISCKO

OUR LADY OF THE SKIES  
DISTRICT, PRESIDENT

### Conferences:

**Spring:** TBD

## KATY MARSH

OUR LADY OF THE WAY  
DISTRICT, PRESIDENT

### Conferences:

**Spring:** March 24, 2018

## DENISE DEBORD, LINDA SEUFERT

Our LADY STAR OF THE SEA DISTRICT, CO-PRESIDENTS

You're invited to participate in the...

## GAME SHOW CHALLENGE!

**WHEN:** May 19, 2018

**WHERE:** 50th Annual DCCW Convention, Tampa Hilton Westshore

**TIME:** 7 PM

**WHAT TO EXPECT:** Fun, interactive, slightly competitive participation on Game Show such as *Name That Tune*, *The Price is Right*, *Let's Make a Deal*, *Jeopardy*, and *Wheel of Fortune*.



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*“The one who listens attentively to the Word of God and truly prays, always asks the Lord: what is your will for me?”*

– Pope Francis

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