

EXECUTIVE BOARD



JOSEPHINE MAESTAS

DIOCESAN PRESIDENT

Where has the time gone?

Can you believe it is almost May which means...it's time for our SPDCCW 56th Annual

Convention, May 2nd to May 5th. By now, everyone should have received the call to convention packet. It is my hope that we have a packed house at this year's convention. We will begin Thursday evening with the Welcome Dinner hosted by the SPDCCW 1st Vice President. Come and help "Cruise the night away". Friday, we will have the Leadership and Spirituality Commission Sessions and will end the evening with the Bishop's Mass and Banquet. Saturday, we are very fortunate to have Alicia Goodwin from the House of Prayer as our Keynote speaker. We will also have the Service Commission Session as well as the Living Rosary and end the night with the Fun Night hosted by Our Lady of Grace District. Sunday, we will have our healing and remembrance Mass. I am also very excited to share that our very own Catholic Women Affiliation will be celebrating 100 years and we are going to have a celebration on Saturday afternoon during convention.

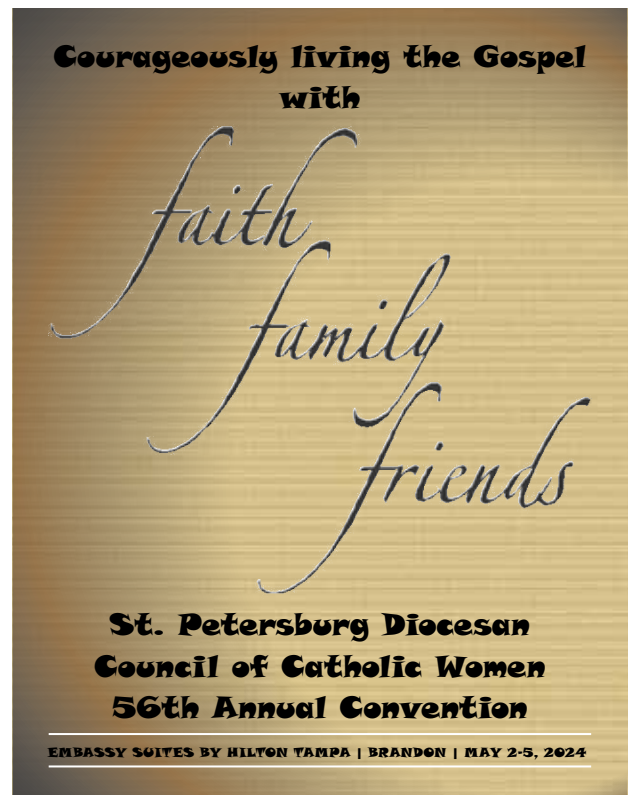
Please help me make this another great convention. Encourage your members to join us. You might even ask a friend that has been thinking of joining council to join you for a day and/or enjoy a weekend away from home.

Convention is a wonderful time for learning, sharing and making memories as well as a chance to recharge spiritually. We share ideas with each other and even lean on each other when we need extra prayers. These are the best women in the Diocese. They are like-minded Catholic Women. Come and make a new friend and be enriched by the wonderful

speakers. No matter what role you play at convention, how you show up in that role is critical to the success of our convention. Please help make this 56th convention a success.

Hope to see you there on May 2nd through May 5th!

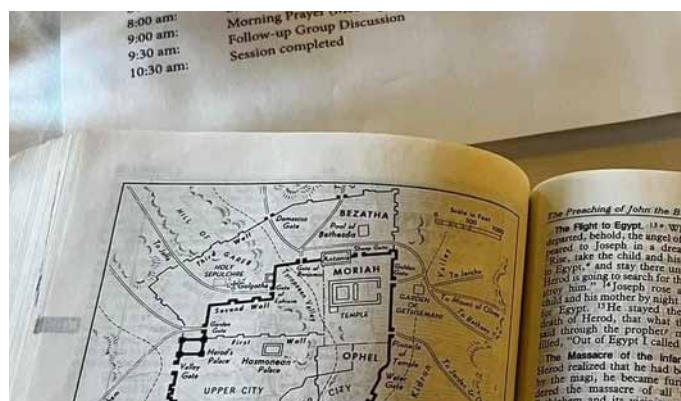
May our Blessed Mother continue to intercede for each of us and our loved ones.



COMMISSION CHAIR



KATHRYN HUEY
DIOCESAN SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN



This is a very exciting time for our members as we are Courageously Living the Gospel with Faith, Family and Friends as our 56th Annual Convention Theme suggests. In living out that theme, we have participated in the St. Petersburg Diocesan Eucharistic Encounter. It was a wonderful faith filled day, and we shared what we experienced with our fellow members. As friends and Council members

It is such a pleasure and a privilege to learn about all the service projects being done by the Council of Catholic Women in St. Petersburg Diocese. Every project directly affects those in need in our communities and beyond. Dear ladies, each of you is making a difference!

I would like to share a story that I related at our Diocesan Board meeting. My affiliate, St Joan of Arc, gives to an organization that helps the homeless in Hernando County. Every week or two, we deliver a trunk full of supplies donated by our members to Ellen Paul of Hernando Hope. Just before Christmas I brought over clothes, blankets, backpacks and purses filled with toiletries. I also had a tent. When Ellen Paul heard I had brought a tent, she was almost in tears. She had just gotten off the phone with a 61 year old homeless woman who had asked for a tent. Unfortunately, Ellen had to tell her that she had no tents. Now she had one! Imagine how I felt, knowing that tent was urgently needed and would be delivered that same day. We made a difference in the life of one homeless woman, asking only for a tent.

we gather every Monday evening to pray the Rosary via Zoom. All our members are invited to join this group as we pray for our Bishop, Priests, Deacons, family, and friends and for peace in the world. Since November we have prayed 206 Rosaries. This is in addition to all the prayer intentions that are being offered by our affiliates during their monthly meetings. To assist our members to grow in their spirituality, Sacred Heart Council of Catholic Women sponsored a three-day Spiritual Retreat in St. Augustine, Florida on the topic “The Optimism of Catholicism”, and St. Joan of Arc Council of Catholic Women sponsored a one-day Spiritual Retreat, titled “I Thirst”, focusing on the Eucharist and Eucharistic Adoration. These retreats were open to all members.

We are also very excited about our upcoming 56th Annual Convention. The Spirituality Commission’s session this year will be “Surrendering to God”, with Deacon James Riveiro, from St. Anthony of Padua as presenter. In this year of Eucharist Revival, we want to offer our Convention attendees ways to strengthen their relationship with our Lord through surrender and adoration.

As always, our St. Petersburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women continue to serve their parishes as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Sacristans, Lectors, Catechists and Choir members.

ELLEN JIMENEZ
DIOCESAN SERVICE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN



We make a difference when we give to St Vincent DePaul, to Foundation of Life Pregnancy Center, to nursing homes, to centers for abused women, to Bridging Freedom, to Catholic Relief Services, to Boxes of Joy, Hugs for the Homeless and so many other projects. Whether our project is big or small does not matter. What is important is that we do everything we can with a loving heart.

I look forward to seeing you at our Convention!

Our Lady of Good Council, pray for us.



DOREEN WARD

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CCW, PRESIDENT

Our Lady of the Rosary has been trying to expand its availability to more women by starting a nightly meeting in addition to our normal day meeting. Attendance has been slow, but hopefully this will improve over time. Last month we held a pot luck with the Columbiettes for an evening of fellowship.

We held our annual religious article sale, and with all proceeds going to BVF and the NCCW Purse we were able to donate \$500 to BVF and \$300 to the NCCW purse.

We sponsor a girl in the Philippines each year, by providing money for one year of housing and education via Mary Queen of Heaven.

We hosted another evening wine and cheese with our Deacon Bill for anyone wishing to attend. These talks are always so informative and parishioners always look forward to them.

Our group continued its tradition of giving gifts to aging service clients of Land O Lakes and Pasco County involved with the meals on wheels program. We donated 110 gifts for these homebound individuals.

For the first time we did boxes of joy. We were able to fill 43 boxes, but since our parish does an angel tree for needy children in various situations, we don't think that we will try this again.

Our annual Christmas Bake Sale enabled us to donate money to our SVDP society.

We are still having our Bunco four times a year. This is great family fun.

We hosted the Ted's Jazz Club Murder Mystery here at our parish.



CHINA PACHECO

OUR LADY OF GRACE DISTRICT, PRESIDENT

As we wrapped up this term for Our Lady of Grace, at our Spring Conference, that was held at Christ the King, some affiliates awarded their Handmaiden of the Lord awards. The recipients for

that day were Incarnation CCW's, Alma Shamblin, and St Patrick CCW's, Helen Millard. We are so honored to have these ladies in our CCW district. We also had a wonderful speaker Emily Fisher, founder of St. Thomas Aquinas Academy. A new classical Catholic school located at St. Patrick's Catholic Church on S. Manhattan Ave. If you would like more information please check them out at <https://aquinastampa.org/>.

Our ladies were very busy with many projects going on at all 6 affiliates.

The CCW at Christ the King collectively focused membership and more than 40 women have joined their Council. They led several Rosary services during the 40 Hours of Adoration, and held the annual Rosary Procession with the support of the local Boy Scout Troop.

At the Advent Social more than 150 women and girls attended. The presenters were three Salesian Sisters who spoke of their vocation journeys. Proceeds from the event

totalled approximately \$1,900.00, and the proceeds went to the Bishop's Vocation Fund.

Circle 12 hosted their annual Shred-A-Thon. They also provided Blessing Bags, that contained a Bible and Christmas treats, to all third and fourth graders at St. Peter Claver School.

Circle 14 held the annual Pickles and Pepper Jelly Sales. Proceeds went to local charities selected by Circle 14.

Circle 22 assisted in the annual "Twinkle on the Terrace" Christmas Party in partnership with West Coast Foster Care. They are in collaboration with a group planning to open an Isaiah 117 House in Tampa. This will provide transition services to children as they are moved from their families to Foster Care.

Circle 16 had a Toy Drive in December that collected over 1200 toys along with \$4,100.00 in gift cards and cash. They held a party for the CTK St. Vincent DePaul client families. The children were entertained while parents' shopped. Other recipients of the toy drive were the Salesian Youth Center and West Coast Foster Care.

In addition to the above the Circles raised \$7,000.00 for area charities.

Unfortunately Christ the King CCW's, Circle 10 voted to disband. They were known for their epic yard sales and out

of this world cooking skills. The Circle had a rich history of charitable act, fund-raising and fellowship.

Catholic Women's Club is thrilled to announce their 100 years of dedicated service and community engagement. To commemorate this momentous occasion, they are planning a special celebration at the SPDCCW Annual Convention this year. They held monthly meetings and sent out newsletters.

Incarnation CCW focused on raising funds to contribute to the renovation of the parish. This included new pew kneelers, air conditioning, painting, and LED lighting.



The hand carved statue of our Blessed Mother arrived. The ICCW partially funded the statue which was commissioned by a local artist known by Father Mike Cormier.

The biggest fund-raiser event of the year is the The Children's Christmas Bazaar. The children shopped at affordable price point from fifty cents to five dollars. All the items were donated by members of the CCW and parishioners.



For the first time in three years, the ICCW hosted the Senior's Luncheon. Over 70 seniors attended.

For Lent they are participating in the Spirt FM competition for the best fish dinner. Once again the ladies are hosting the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday. They also gave a scholarship of \$1,00.00 to the Incarnation Catholic School.

St Patrick's CCW has been busy. They held their annual Sean Connelly Memorial Blanket Drive. This year they collected more blankets than ever before.

The ladies are collecting one-pond bags of beans and rice to take to the migrant ministry for Lent. In addition for Lent they provide all dessert for the parish Fish Fries, and the parish's St. Patrick's Day celebration.

The biggest event of the year is the Victorian Tea, that will be held April 14. Tickets are limited and are almost sold out.

St. Peter Claver CCW is made up of hard working women that impact the parish community in many ways. The ladies hold many leadership positions such as chair of the Finance Council, Stewardship Committee, head of Food Pantry distribution for St, Vincent de Paul and more.

The ladies hosted a Father's Day Dinner for the parish.

They celebrated Pink Sunday. It is always the second Sunday

in October. The ladies want to remind women to do the breast exams and get their mammograms each year. The ladies have a sew-in to make pillows for the ladies going through breast cancer treatment.

On the third Wednesday of November, they honor the senior members of their parish with a luncheon.

Their number of members have increased this year. They have started a new Senior Ministry and one of the CCW members has been responsible for having meetings every other month to cover topics for seniors.

Sacred Heart CCW, visited the Home for the Elderly in Ybor City. They gave out Christmas stockings filled with gifts for the 100 residents and sang Christmas Carols.

They also had their Spiritual Retreat in St. Augustine. Fr. Steve from Sacred Heart Church in Tampa was the facilitator, the theme was Optimism of Catholicism, and he gave a wonderful talk on Baptism and Going Through the Mass. These talks were interactive with lots of conversations. They stayed in the historic district in St. Augustine across from The National Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche at Mission Nombre De Dios. Did the Seven Sorrows of Mary while visiting the shrine. Morning prayer was held at the Mission by The Great Cross.

As you can see our district is very busy. I am looking forward to the 56th SPDCCW Convention and FCCW Conference.

May we be blessed with all the special women in our council.



SPDCCW SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

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DIOCESAN SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

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