

## EXECUTIVE BOARD



### JOSEPHINE MAESTAS

DIOCESAN PRESIDENT

## What is Coming Soon

The St. Petersburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's 57th annual Convention will be held on May 1st through May 4th, 2025 at the Embassy Suites in Brandon. The theme this year will be "Here I am Lord". Please be sure to get in your affiliate credentials as we will be voting and installing the 2025-2027 SPDCCW board. We are currently looking for a Diocesan Spirituality Commission Chairman. If you or someone you know would be interested, please contact either Pat Moore, Nominating Committee Chairman and/or myself.

We are very lucky to have the 2025 National Council of Catholic Women Convention in our very own backyard, Orlando, Florida. Although, the ODCCW is officially hosting the convention, the Florida Province Director as well as the ODCCW President has asked the other 6 Dioceses in the State of Florida to volunteer to help with various tasks. If you are interested in volunteering, please let me know so that I can put you in touch with Kim Kendall, ODCCW President.

Tickets are still available for the 2025 500 Club Fundraiser and are only \$10.00 a ticket and the prizes each month are \$50, \$25 & \$10 (double in January and December). Winning tickets are drawn the 5th of each month by me (and no I don't know whose ticket I have drawn, I can't even remember what my own number is) and then I send those numbers to the SPDCCW Treasurer Corine Pajotte who in turn sends the money out to the winners and their names get posted on our SPDCCW website as well as I send an e-mail to the SPDCCW board including all affiliate Presidents.

A few reminders – Please post your events, pictures, etc on our SPDCCW Facebook page and/or send them to Pat Moore, our Facebook Chairman who will gladly post them for you. We have a faithful bunch of amazing ladies who join together every Monday evening at 7:00pm to recite the rosary via zoom. We are so grateful to our SPDCCW Past President Beth Aubin who had the insight during covid to come up with such a great way to stay connected. I believe we are going on 4 years now that we have been praying the rosary every Monday night (even if that Monday is a holiday). You can come on a few minutes early and/or stay a few minutes afterwards to socialize if you choose or just come on for the rosary. We would love for you to join us if you are not already. If you are unable to join us, we would be honored to pray for your intentions. If you have intentions that you would like us to pray for, please do not hesitate to call/text/e-mail those to me and/or Kathy Huey, SPDCCW Spirituality Commission Chairman. If you do not know how to zoom, please let me know and I will make sure myself and/or someone will help you through it.

I can't thank you enough for all that you do for the sake of others. We are all very busy most days, but your selflessness and the sacrifices you make do not go unnoticed. It has truly been my honor and a blessing to serve and lead you as your Diocesan President. As always, I am here for you for whatever you need. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you need help, guidance or just need to talk.

*May our Lady of Good Counsel pray for us.*

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.

## COLEEN WARD DIOCESAN FIRST VICE PRESIDENT



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.*

## COMMISSION CHAIR



## KATHRYN HUEY DIOCESAN SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

This has been and continues to be a very exciting year for our members as they continue to live their Gospel values every day. Our members have held Advent and Lenten Retreats for their members this year. During a “Day of Reflection” held at St. Joan of Arc Parish, members attended Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and then watched the movie “The Passion” with a reflection and discussion following the movie. It was a very emotional event for all who attended. Our Lady of the Rosary held their annual religious article sale, which benefits the Bishop’s Vocation Fund and the National Council of Catholic Women’s Purse project and were able to raise \$500 for each group. We continue to pray the Rosary via Zoom and invite all members and friends to join us on Monday nights as we pray for our Bishop, Priests,

Deacons, Vocations, family and friends and for peace in the world. Some of our members attended the Roar of the Rosary hosted by the Diocese. It was a wonderful event where the Rosary was prayed by two thousand Catholics from the Diocese of St. Petersburg, including the first ever Eucharistic Procession along the Hillsborough River. We look forward to attending more events during this Jubilee Year of Hope, including participating in the Acts of Mercy Challenge and visiting local Churches that have been designated as Places of Pilgrimage.

We are also very excited about our upcoming 57th Annual Convention of the St. Petersburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, “Here I am Lord”. The Spirituality Commission’s session this year will again be titled “Surrendering to God” however it will be quite different as our speaker Arleen Spenceley Babino will use storytelling and scripture to equip us to do what Jesus had the courage to do in His agony in the garden—freely allow God to decide what happens next in our life.

As always our Council sisters continue to serve their parishes as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Sacristans, Lectors, Catechists and Choir members.



## DOREEN WARD

### OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CCW, PRESIDENT

Our Lady of the Rosary has been very active these past months.

Starting in November we held our annual Religious Article Sale with 100 % of the profits going to both the BVF & NCCW Purse. Each received \$500. Our thanksgiving and Christmas bake sale was a huge success. We donated \$2,500 to our SVDP from the sale's proceeds. We continue to host evenings of fun playing Bunco. We held our second annual "Murder Mystery" in February. We had almost 120 people attending. Hopefully they all enjoyed the evening of fun, food, fellowship and murder. We raised \$1,000 for Bridging

Freedom with this event. We are planning on doing another murder next year.

In addition to our regular bake sales at some of our Friday fish dinners during lent and our Spring Bake Sale. We are hosting a calendar tea this April 26th, another Bunco evening on May 23 and a women's half day retreat on June 28th. The theme of the women's retreat, is "To serve with a heart like Jesus". All these functions are open to all. I hope that many of you will attend. We are also planning another Juke Box Bingo BBQ some time this summer. No date as of yet.

Besides letting people know more about the various charities that we are supporting with our functions we have been blessed by having some new ladies joining our council. Many of the ladies joining our group have indicated that they have been looking to join a group that does many types of activities. This has been a great blessing to our council.



## 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 St Peter Claver Church, some affiliates awarded their Handmaiden of the Lord awards. The recipients for that

day were Incarnation CCW's, Grace Lafferty, and St Patrick CCW's, Ellen Nafe. We are so honored to have these ladies in our CCW district.

Our ladies were very busy with many projects going on at all 5 affiliates.

The CCW at Christ the King is please to report the have 237 paying member and six circles. The ladies held a Rosary procession and conducted rosary during the forty hours of adoration in October. At the Advent Social \$1,600 fund were raised for the Bishop's Vocation Fund. The quest speaker was seminarian Tyler Gates.

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

Circle 22 hosted their annual "Twinkle on the Terrace" Christmas Party in partnership with West Coast Foster Care. The families received gifts from their wish list and enough gifts were let over to stock for their future needs.

Circle 16 had a Toy Drive in December that collected over 1800 toys along with \$5,000.00 in gift cards and cash. The recipients were CTK St. Vincent DePaul, St. Peter Claver, the Salesian Youth Center and West Florida Foster Care Services..

Circle 18 held their annual ornament sale for the support of their Project Shoes initiative. they sold out of 700 ornaments.

Christ the King hosted a celebration for Fr. Jacob's 80th birthday and 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. The CCW contributed funds to help offset event expenses and helped with volunteers at the event.

Approximately 70 ladies attended their annual Fat Tuesday dinner event. New this year: food was catered by Catering by the Family and we charged \$5 admission, which is helping fund a new scholarship for CCW members' children and grandchildren who are graduating high school.

During Lent they have hosted one Friday Lenten Dinner on Friday, March 7. The menu was tortellini or spaghetti with salad and breadstick. They alternate Fridays during Lent with the Knights of Columbus Fish Fry and CCW Lenten Suppers.

Catholic Women's Club been meeting via Zoom only.

Incarnation CCW goal this year was to focus on our mission statement goals:

- Meet spiritual needs with the help of our Lady
- Encourage fellowship and commitment among the council members
- foster personal religious growth
- minister to the parish through service
- minister to the member's needs by visiting the sick, prayer line etc.

The members staff the shop, keep track of inventory and track the funds. The shop is a major fundraiser for our group as well as providing spiritual gifts and sacramentals to meet the needs of the parish..

The adopted 3 families for Thanksgiving by presenting them with gift cards to Aldi's.

They held an Advent retreat for our members which started with Mass in the church, then moved to our meeting room to enjoy a continental breakfast, and our pastor was the guest speaker and culminated with a pot luck lunch.

ICCW hosted a Senior Luncheon for all parishioners of our parish. Over 50 people attended plus about 15 volunteers which included teens from the parish who helped serve at the Mass and waited tables for the luncheon. The day started with a healing Mass continuing with a luncheon where food was prepared by members of ICCW, there were many raffle drawings and a 50/50 that was divided between 2 winners; no money was kept by the affiliate.

A Lenten retreat was held that started with Mass in the church, a continental breakfast and then a guest speaker, and ended with a pot luck lunch.

They held a Mass for those members of our affiliate who were ill and attended as a unit.

They will support their parish by providing a reception for those in the OCIA program after the Easter Vigil, a reception for the first communicants, and the newly confirmed.

They support the catholic youth of the future with a \$1,000 scholarship for a deserving student from our Incarnation Catholic School.

ICCW also helps other ministries such as the beautification program, luggage for foster children, and eyeglasses for the Lion's club.

ICCW helps support SPDCCW by collecting tabs and pennies for priests.

St Patrick's CCW has been busy. They held their annual Sean Connelly Memorial Blanket Drive.

The biggest event of the year is the Victorian Tea, that will be held in April.

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.

As you can see our district is very busy. I am looking forward to the 57th SPDCCW Convention and NCCW Convention.

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

#### SPDCCW PRESIDENT

Josephine Maestas

#### SPDCCW SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Rev. Ted Costello

#### DIOCESAN FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Coleen Ward

#### DIOCESAN SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Susan O'Brien

#### DIOCESAN SERVICE COMMISSIONER

Ellen Jimenez

#### DIOCESAN SPIRITUALITY COMMISSIONER

Kathy Huey

#### DIOCESAN LEADERSHIP COMMISSIONER

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