



PBDCCW MESSENGER

Empowering Women in Spirituality, Leadership, and Service

Editor's Note: Traditionally, our PBDCCW Board Members and Deanery Presidents provide updates regarding what's happening within our CCW community. Due to the unforeseen pandemic, all activities were cancelled, and our church doors were closed. As we begin to 'see the light', our President requested we create a PBDCCW Messenger Special Edition to provide you with spiritual, emotional, and fellowship support during these unprecedented trying times. We hope you enjoy this issue!

A message from our President

My Dear Council Sisters-

First, I would like to say that I miss everyone tremendously. During these trying times in the last few months, I took a desperately needed time to reflect on my life and where God is leading me. Just like many Saints, we were appointed by God to be his soldiers; He intervenes in our lives to stop us and see where we're heading. I'm not ashamed to say that I was really down, but after these many days of reflection, I realized I was being selfish and I apologize for being off the radar. God is walking (and sitting) (and laying) beside us all the time. Mother Mary is interceding for us, what more could we ask for in this time?

I am now 'back in the saddle', organizing for next year. I am so grateful to all those who have been beside me through this journey and I am proud to say that I am representing you all in this great Diocese of Palm Beach.

I pray for each one of you daily, for your peace, strength, love and hope for a better environment when we are able to be together once again. I can't wait to hug you my sisters. I miss you more than you could ever imagine!



Our Lady of Good Counsel,

Pray for Us!

-Laurie Ulseth,

PBDCCW President

A message from our Vice President



*The Love of Christ
Compels Us.*

-Doreen Recco

PBDCCW Vice Pres.

I miss all of you and look for the day that we can all be together again sharing our thoughts, words and actions. Hopefully, in the next few months we can be together with our “new normal”. I pray for the end to this pandemic, for the lives lost, for those who are sick and for my family and friends in the rest of our Country, who have had a more difficult time of it than we have had here in Florida.

I have been busy, as I am sure have many of you, decluttering my life, both in my home and at work. Figuring out what is necessary to keep and what can be discarded. It is amazing how much “stuff” we accumulate, items we think are important to keep at the time, but in retrospect just tend to bog us down.

I am excited to gather together in the near future to celebrate all we have done and what we will do. I have always said that the Council of Catholic Women are a force that cannot be stopped - like a hurricane barreling for landfall - we will continue to change our world for the better. Our good works have been temporarily put on hold - but will come back stronger, more determined and ready to make up for lost time.

Until I see you all again may our Blessed Mother keep you safe and healthy.

Spirituality

In these trying times it can be very confusing. The politicians and the scientists seem to be at odds. Who do you trust? We trust in God! We must pray that our leaders have the knowledge to do what is right and the strength to do it. Always remember that **GOD IS IN CONTROL.**



*With men this is
impossible, but with God all
things are possible.*

-Debbie L. Whitlock,
PBDCCW Spirituality
Chairwoman

God our Father,
we come to You in our need
to ask Your protection against the 2019 N-coronavirus
that has claimed lives
and has affected many.

We pray for Your grace
for the people tasked with studying the nature
and cause of this virus and its disease
and of stemming the tide of its transmission.
Guide the hands and minds of medical experts
that they may minister to the sick
with competence and compassion
and of those governments and private agencies
that must find a cure and solution to this epidemic.

We pray for those afflicted.
May they be restored to health soon.

Grant us the grace
to work for the good of all
and to help those in need.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son
who lives and reigns with You,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God forever and ever.

Amen

Leadership

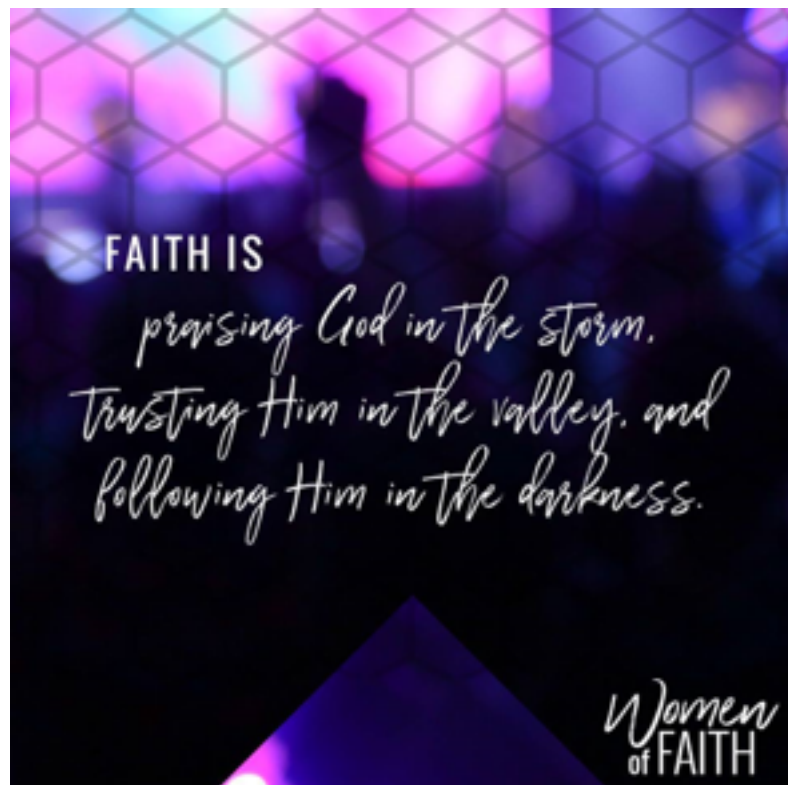


*Genuine leadership is of
only one type:
SUPPORTIVE.*

**-Diane Ramos, PBDCCW
Leadership Chairwoman**

We have all been affected in some way during this challenging time that has changes our lives forever; however, we need to stay focused knowing the Lord is our protector from all evil.

I would like to just share a few words of wisdom from Women of Faith that continues to let me know God is always with us even when we feel alone in isolation during this global pandemic.



And remember no matter the suffering, we are here as your Sisters-in-Christ support group to console one another.

If you need anything, we are available for you!!

**Send us an e-mail to PBDCW@gmail.com - Attn:
PBDCW Leadership Team**

Deanery Presidents



*Let us use our God given
gifts to serve others.*

**-Reggie Murray, Northern
Deanery President**

Hello Council Sisters!

We began a new Northern Deanery term with these words from scripture: **“Let us use our God given gifts to serve others.”**

We started with a great Executive Board, and a great group of Affiliate Presidents willing to lead their members with so much enthusiasm, and then along came the Coronavirus Pandemic! Our world as we knew it, was turned upside down! All the ideas we had, the plans we made, and the meetings and events we scheduled came to a halt with so much uncertainty as to what we would do, as individual members, affiliations, deaneries, PBD and upward.

We all have our own stories and will probably be sharing them for some time to come, but I would like to share a glimpse of my story. John and I, pre-COVID, temporarily became a household of 6 which included our daughter, Jackie & Raffaele, our son-in-law, and our grandchildren Dianna and Francesco, ages 11 and 9, until my Mom came down from NY for her annual 3-4-month visit. (At age 92, why would she submit herself to the northern winter weather!) Needless to say, she was not able to return home when she planned. May 15th marked 6 months since she arrived and we are still uncertain when she can safely return home with the situation as is in NY.

So, what did we collectively decide to do? There was so much to pray for and so many people we personally knew who had succumbed to the virus and all those sick and quarantined at home and in the hospitals on ventilators. We already said the Divine Mercy and the Flame of Love Rosary together daily. Jackie home schools the children, so at any given time during the day, there would be 3 or more of us praying together. We added the Seven Sorrows Rosary to our daily routine as well. Then, Jackie asked if we would all like to do the 30-day Consecration to Saint Joseph, following the book written by Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC.

All 7 of us gathered in the living room each evening. It was an amazing and learning experience for us, and we



now start our day with a prayer, the Daily Act of Consecration to St. Joseph. We became prayer warriors! Raffaele is the only working member of this household so, the 6 of us had remained “safer at home” with my making only a few trips to the supermarket when Raffaele didn’t on his way home from work. (I was not so apprehensive about being out in public for myself, but I did not want to put John, with his health issues or my 92-year-old Mom, at risk.)

Last week was my first MD appointment that was not cancelled as a result of COVID and last weekend, was the first Sunday mass at St. Lucie Church. What an absolute thrill it was to be back in church, participate in the Mass and receive The Holy Eucharist; serving as a lector was the icing on the cake!

Of course, I wouldn’t know if **your stories** are similar to mine, and I am truly interested in hearing how your lives changed, if you were personally affected or had family members who were, if you had multigenerational members at home or if you were alone. I wonder what adjustments you had to make during this period.

Now, as some things seem to be relaxing and reopening, I do not know the what, when and where the direction of CCW will lead us, in the meantime, as much as I look forward to some “normalcy,” I so do not want to sacrifice my prayer life as it is now. If there is anything good that has come out of this situation, I know that I have become more aware of what is really important; I’m sure many of us have, if not all. I know that our faith and spirituality is of the highest importance, then our marital relationships, our parental relationships, and our extended family relationships. Our involvement in the Council of Catholic Women is important not only because of all we do, but the relationships we have with our Council Sisters. Moving forward, I do think we need to have a positive attitude and concentrate on lifting each other spiritually. Until we have the opportunity to physically get together, please know that I miss all of you, and rest assured that you and your families, as well as the future of CCW remains in my prayers!



*You are never alone when
left with God.*

*-Elsie Creegan, Southern
Deanery President*

Hello My Beloved Sisters:

Being quarantined for so long I am sharing some thoughts with you:

- 1) Alone time is good for introspection
- 2) Down time is good for getting little jobs done around the house
- 3) Waiting time is good for thinking of you all and for looking forward to the time we can be together to thank the Lord for our good health and everything He has given us.

The Holy Spirit has been with me showing me plans for the coming season. I know all of you will be full of wonderful ideas for new projects.

Please stay safe and healthy because we have a lot of work to do in the future.

God Bless!





*God gives us all gifts,
and each and every one
of us is unique.*

**-Lena Ghaffari, Central
Deanery President**

It was a honor and privilege to serve Central Deanery in the office of president. Together we accomplished many wonderful things.

This president was truly Blessed to have worked with such great and talented ladies. The fabric is truly beautiful!

At this time I would like to say it was a pleasure working with PBDCCW Board, and all my council sisters across the Diocese.

A special thanks to Laurie Ulseth PBDCCW President for her support. Thanks to Fr. Clem Hammerschmitt, may God always Bless you. There will be a detailed report on our PBDCCW web site under Deanery/Central Deanery.

To the Central Deanery Board, Thank you for all your love, and support. This president thanks God for each and every one of you.

A special thanks to our Spiritual Advisor Fr. Mark Mlay, it was a pleasure. Thanks to all our affiliation and non- affiliation priests for your continued support. Our Deanery is truly Blessed and as I have said before “God gives us all gifts, and each and every one of us is unique”.

May our Council continue to grow.

Please embrace our incoming Board with the support you have given to this Board. May God always give you the wisdom and courage to serve.

Wishing you and your families God’s Great Blessings!

PBDCCW Committee Updates

Greetings CCW Sisters. In regards to today's social unrest and recent events in the news, here are some thoughts:



Pope Francis said it best earlier this week: "We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life."

Let us pray together for peace...

"Lord God of Peace, hear our prayer! Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words 'division', 'hatred' and 'war' be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be 'brother', and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam!

--Amen

(an expert from Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace)

Legislation

-Elena Garcia, Legislation
Chairman

Want to see a video of the Pope's message? Check out *Vatican News* our website at pbdccw.org



**OLCG Raffle
Tickets**

-Doreen Recco

Our Lady of Good Council tickets are now on sale for the 2020-2021 season. The PBDCCW website is updated with the new ticket/chance sheet to submit your name and payment. BOGO tickets are available for all individual members (BOGO does not apply at the affiliate or deanery ticket levels).

Please consider mailing in your payment to our Treasurer Dorothy Grauso at your earliest convenience.

Congratulations to our 2019-2020 OLGC grand prize winner...Jean Waddington!

As always, thank you for all you do to make our Council of Catholic Women such a successful one.



**PBDCCW Scholarship
Award Program**

**-Christine Rodic,
Chairman**

In case you haven't heard, we have extended our deadline for the PBDCCW Scholarship Award applications to **June 15th**. Please pass this info on to your affiliates. Contact Christine Rodic with any questions at rodicc@aol.com.

Thank you.

Important News from NCCW

Dear Palm Beach DCCW,



After much prayer and discernment, the National Council of Catholic Women, has made an informed decision to postpone our Centennial Convention 2020 until August 25 - 28, 2021, when we are able to celebrate together safely. Our concern for your health and wellbeing as well as that of our partners was the primary reason for this decision.

If you have already registered for the 2020 Convention, an NCCW staff member will be calling you in the next few weeks to discuss your refund. We are ever so grateful for your continued support and we look forward to celebrating together in 2021!!!

May you continue to find good health and many blessings.

In gratitude,
Jean Kelly
President



And through it all...our Council sisters keep smiling because we know...

'He is our Master and we are His Masterpieces!'





Until we meet again...
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Pray for Us!

