



The Trumpeter

December 2022



HOLY FAMILY COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

An Affiliate of the NCCW

The National Council of Catholic Women acts through its affiliated organizations to support, empower, and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership, and service. NCCW programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Many people have difficulty in understanding how the Prince of Peace will come to them at Christmas. Through the consecration of the bread and wine by the priest at Mass, He is reborn many times in our souls by grace. The word "Bethlehem" means "house of bread", so Christ's presence in the bread of Communion captures the significance of each year's Christmas celebration.

Man's greatest desire is peace. In view of the fact that the war in Ukraine is going on, as well as the rising crime rate, it is a cause to become intense. If we are to bring peace to the world, we have to be the peacemakers.

"Blest too the peacemakers for they shall be called the sons of God." (Mt. 5:9). To make this statement a reality, we must first be at peace with ourselves. Someone who hates her neighbor, or friend, or is unjust to the neighbor or friend, is not at peace with herself or the neighbor or friend. In order to bring peace to the world, we must bring it into our own hearts. We must become close to Christ and to totally commit ourselves to the mission He has assigned to us in this life -to bring Him and his tidings to the world.

For some this may be difficult. Some may make it a New Year's resolution but may fall back into

old habits. We must be strong enough to find peace which is lost through the sacrament of Penance. We should have a good prayer life, frequent the sacraments, and realize we need Christ in our lives. As for myself, when I attend daily Mass and receive Jesus often, His love and He gives me strength to keep going. It is a personal relationship with my Lord. He is the Bridegroom of my soul.

May the peace of Christ be in your Hearts and Homes this Christmas and always.

Pat Carol, President

**This message was given to me by a friend, Reverend Michael J. Devaney, O.M.I.*

Evangelism in Action: Faith & Hope & Charity = Peace



SPIRITUALITY



Dear Council Sisters, time stands still for no one, and December is already upon us. It's so true...the older one gets the faster time flies, and we can't hide from it. Problems too, always seem to find us during the

busiest time of the year. It seems like just when we can finally relax, thinking that it's smooth sailing ahead, something unexpected hits the timeline. So how do we deal with problems?

Well, either they defeat us or develop us – depending on how we respond to them. For me, at first, I usually panic and fail to see how God wants me to deal with them. I checked out the internet for help and came across some ideas that helped me realize how God lovingly gets involved. He uses problems to direct us. Sometimes He must light a fire under us to get us moving. Problems often point us in a new direction and motivate us to change. Is God trying to get your attention? Check out Proverbs 20:30.

How about his one? People are like tea bags, “If you want to know what’s inside them, just drop them in hot water!” Has God ever tested your faith with a problem? What does that reveal about you? “When you have many kinds of problems, you should be full of joy, because you know that these troubles test your faith, and this will give you patience.” James 1:2-3 (See what James has to say.)

Here's one that hit home for me! God uses problems to perfect us. Yes, they can be character builders. God is far more interested in our character than our comfort. Our relationship with God and our character are the only two things we are going to take with us to eternity. We can rejoice when we run into problems-they help us to be patient. God is at work in our lives even when we don't understand it. Romans 5:3-4. I wonder how many of you will take the time to see what St. Paul has to say. I did it just out of curiosity and found it very helpful. Well, I am suggesting that we all “try” to view a problem from God's perspective. Let's slow down and take the time that seems to fly by so quickly and use our problems to grow spiritually. Delve into God's word during the Christmas season and beyond. He has much to teach us.

WISHING YOU ALL THE BLESSED GIFTS OF
CHRISTMAS...A JOYFUL SPIRIT, A HOPEFUL
HEART, AND THE LOVING PEACE OF JESUS.
HAPPY NEW YEAR. TOO!

Eve Brooks, Spirituality Chairperson

LEGISLATION

Current legislative discussions center around gay rights related to same sex marriage and gay adoption. The church has no choice but to become involved in politics since the issues being raised are moral issues, i.e., life, family, and social concerns, that directly affect church teachings.

Bonnie Lay, Legislative Advocate



The annual baby shower to support the Fort Pierce Carenet Pregnancy Center will be held at our General Meeting on January 4th. There is a need for diapers, baby personal care items as well as blankets and clothing. There will also be a pro-life speaker at this meeting.

Linda Borges, Service Chairperson

The November **Holiday Bazaar** was the place to be for early Christmas shopping with 40 sellers filling the Parish Hall and the breezeway.

Proceeds were as follows:

Vendor tables	\$1540.00
Raffle	1166.00
White Elephant Room	1065.98
Bake Sale Table	719.25
Purse Room	273.50
Chinese Auction	257.00
Kitchen (Sat. lunch)	245.50
Breakfast (Sat.)	<u>59.00</u>
Total Income	\$5326.23
Total Expenses	- 681.08
Net Profit	\$4645.15

Congratulations and many thanks to Chairperson, JoAnne Vandenberg, Committee Leads Barbara Pray, Elizabeth Walters, Pat Wahl, Pat and Bill Geier, Carol Gayes and all the CCW members who generously volunteered their weekend to work up front, and behind the scenes, to make this event a financial success!



The Palm Beach Diocese Fashion Show is being held at the Embassy Suites hotel in Palm Beach Gardens on Saturday, February 4th, 2023. Tickets are \$55.00 due by January 25th, 2023. There will be a Holy Family CCW lottery opportunity for this event. For ticket purchases and signup for carpooling, contact Elizabeth Walters at 772-879-2639.

The Christmas Party will be on December 16th, 2022, in the Parish Hall. This will be an evening catered event sponsored and hosted by Holy Family CCW. Uncle Giuseppe's in Stuart will be providing us with a tasty Italian feast. There will also be a \$10-\$15 gift exchange. An accurate headcount will be needed for the food service so, if you plan on attending, please contact Pat Wahl at 772-225-7475. The winner of the lottery for the Christmas Lunch at Harbor Place was Diane Angell!



The next Bingo will be held on Friday, January 20th, 2023. Lunch and ten games cost \$7.00 when purchased in advance at the Parish office and \$10.00 at the door. Tickets must be paid for in advance if requesting Bingo table reservations. Donations of new items and gift cards for the prize table are greatly appreciated. Contact Diane Angell for further information or reservations at 401-573-4206.

DID YOU KNOW...?



Legend states the only time the rooster crowed at midnight was the night that Jesus was born. In Spanish and Latin American countries, "Misa del Gallo", the Mass of the Rooster is celebrated on Christmas Eve. The crowing of the rooster at the dawn of each morning symbolizes the daily triumph of light over darkness and the victory of good over evil.

Chopping down of the Christmas tree represents the death of Christ and putting it back up represents the resurrection of Christ.

Wreaths that we hang are never ending circles that represent eternity.

Candy canes were made to look like shepherd hooks and the colors, red represents Jesus' blood and white for his purity.

Holly started out as a thorny vine and was originally used as the cruel crown of thorns for our Lord. The berries being originally white, when they became stained with His blood, they turned forever red, and the plant withdrew its vicious thorns for the spiny leaves. The plant was probably originally called "HOLY" not Holly. Whether true or legend only, the early French and English hung a piece over the door of a house where Christ was celebrated. Holly, with its curly leaves and red berries, came into holiday use because it reminded people of the crown of thorns worn by Jesus on the way to his crucifixion, the berries symbolizing droplets of blood.

Gifts we give represent the three gifts the wise men brought for baby Jesus.

So, when you are running around trying to find the "perfect gift", stop yourself, take a deep breath and remember, we have been given the perfect gift, Jesus Christ who was given to us to remove all our sins. AMEN!

The Christmas Truce by David G. Stratman

It was December 25, 1914, only five months into World War I. German, British and French soldiers, already sick and tired of the senseless killing, disobeyed their superiors and fraternized with “the enemy” along two-thirds of the Western Front (a crime punishable by death in times of war). German troops held Christmas trees up out of the trenches with signs “Merry Christmas”.

“You no shoot, we no shoot.” Thousands of troops streamed across a no-man’s land strewn with rotting corpses. They sang Christmas carols, exchanged photographs of loved ones back home, shared rations, played football, even roasted some pigs. Soldiers embraced men they had been trying to kill a few short hours before. They agreed to warn each other if the top brass forced them to fire their weapons, and to aim high.

A shudder ran through the high command on either side. Here was disaster in the making, soldiers declaring their brotherhood with each other and refusing to fight. Generals on both sides declared this spontaneous peacemaking to be treasonous and subject to court martial. By March 1915, the fraternization movement had been eradicated and the killing machine was put back in full operation. By the time of the armistice in 1918, 15 million would be killed.

The Christmas Truce story goes against most of what we have been taught about people. It is a glimpse of the world as we wish it could be and says, “This really happened once.” It reminds us of those thoughts we keep hidden away, out of the range of the TV and newspaper stories that tell us how trivial and mean human life is. It is like hearing that our deepest wishes really are true: *the world really could be different.*

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



<i>Rita Sabagh</i>	<i>12/9</i>
<i>Eveanne Brooks</i>	<i>12/14</i>
<i>Barbara Hatfield</i>	<i>12/15</i>
<i>Carolyn Hover</i>	<i>12/23</i>
<i>Jo Fischer</i>	<i>12/27</i>
<i>Janet DeLucia</i>	<i>12/30</i>
<i>Mary Kanamine</i>	<i>12/31</i>
<i>Maureen Pfund</i>	<i>12/31</i>

“For to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord.

-Luke 2:11

A silent night, a star above, a blessed gift of hope and love.

Merry Christmas, Council Sisters, to you and yours!



Prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel

God of heavenly Wisdom, You have given us Mary, Mother of Jesus, to be our Guide and Counselor. Grant that we may always seek her motherly help in this life and so enjoy her blessed presence in the life to come.

Mother of Good Counsel, Patroness of the National Council of Catholic Women, intercede for us that we may be wise, courageous, and loving leaders of the Church.

Help us dear Mother that we may know the mind of Jesus your Son. May the Holy Spirit fill us with reverence for God’s creation and compassion for all God’s children. May our labors of love on earth enhance the Reign of God, May God’s gifts of Faith and Living Hope prepare us for the fullness of the world to come. Amen.