

"THE GOOD NEWS"

FLORIDA COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

WINTER 2023 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE FCCW PRESIDENT/PROVINCE DIRECTOR TAMMY FARR

What an amazing rollercoaster ride we have been on to pull off the Florida Conference on October 20-22. The women of the Venice Diocese were working so hard to make this an amazing conference. And despite a cat 5 hurricane named Ian hitting only 3 weeks before the opening of conference, they still did it. You know we always say that the Holy Spirit works in mysterious ways, well that never held so true as this conference did. You see 3 hotels were visited back in early 2022. The Embassy Suites was chosen for our conference. Following the hurricane, the Embassy Suites was the only hotel still standing out of the 3 toured. There was much devastation around the area only 30 minutes away, and many of our dear council sisters needed our help. So, we came together to share our strength with them, our support for them and our love to them. Our theme "Love One Another" put into action.

I asked that we bring items in need. You came together and filled an office at the Catholic Charities office in Sarasota that was taken by truck on Saturday to the hardest hit areas. Many of our sisters in Venice had only a few outfits they could salvage. I asked for gift cards to go directly to our sisters in need and again you all put your Faith in action and brought over \$4000 worth of gift cards for your sisters in Christ. These gifts cards when directly into the hands of our sisters whos need where great. Then I said let's take up a collection to donate to Catholic Charities that we can present to Bishop Dewane at the banquet. You all showed just how strong and compassionate we are here in Florida. The donation of over \$9000.00 was given to the bishop. I cannot begin to tell you all how proud I am to say that I am a member of the council of catholic women. You did it!

When I presented the check to Bishop Dewane at banquet, as I was speaking, I got very emotional because I was looking out at all these incredible women that are my sisters in Christ, that had done so many wonderful things for those in need. So, when Bishop Dewane hugged me, I said I'm so sorry very getting chocked up. And he said to me its okay Tammy, we have all felt like this since the hurricane hit here. It's been hard but we will make it together.

Florida Strong we are indeed. But these women of Venice are an inspiration and a blessing. One gal who run the hostesses lost her home. Roof gone, only 2 rooms in the house left with windows. 5 feet of water in the home. She had packed a suitcase for a trip that was canceled because of the hurricane. She sat with me and said, it's all okay Tammy, I had a suitcase with some outfits and 2 dresses, and I wouldn't have missed this chance to be with my CCW sisters, and it will be okay because we still have 2 rooms left in our home. What faith, strength, and perseverance. CCW women are simply the most amazing women on earth.

**MESSAGE FROM THE FCCW PRESIDENT/PROVINCE DIRECTOR
TAMMY FARR (continued)**

"To Love and be Loved: A Personal Portrait of Mother Teresa", I bought 60 for conference and after his talk they sold out in 30 minutes.

Then we had Valerie Panciera-Rieth, who took us on a journey of Love.

And Beth Mahoney, NCCW President Elect who spoke about how love and a special bond create a family togetherness. Then of course we heard from all our commission chairs too.

All 3 of our keynote speakers spoke of Love! Jim Towey who was an assistant to St. Mother Teresa spoke of her motherly love. I highly recommend you order his book on amazon."

Our closing mass at St. Martha's Parish was simply incredible. The mass was celebrated by Archbishop Wenski, concelebrated by Bishop Dewane along with 8 priest and 2 deacons. Florida is truly blessed with the most faithful men that lead us in our faith journey. We completely rocked St. Martha's Parish, because it is a little parish, over 100 years old. The parishioners there are most definitely set in their ways. And here we come with 130 ladies 2 bishops and many priest. It was quite funny, all the looks and the questions. I gentleman said to me, we have 2 Bishops. Oh My!

Honestly the whole thing was an amazing experience that I'm so happy I had the honor to be a part of. "It's the Friends we meet along the way that make us appreciate the journey"

We are blessed by so many wonderful CCW ladies to take this journey with.

Please always be proud to say "I am a member of the Council of Catholic Women from Florida, and we are Florida Strong!" Thank You all for all you do! See you in February.



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

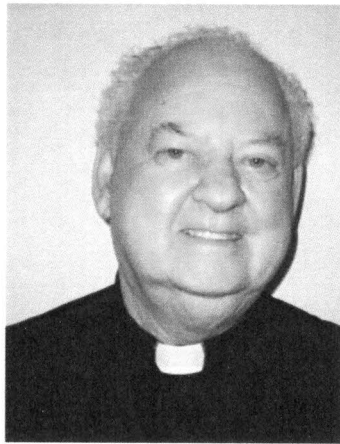
Grant that we may always seek her Motherly help
In this life and so enjoy Her blessed presence in the life to come.

O 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, to know the mind of Jesus, your Son.

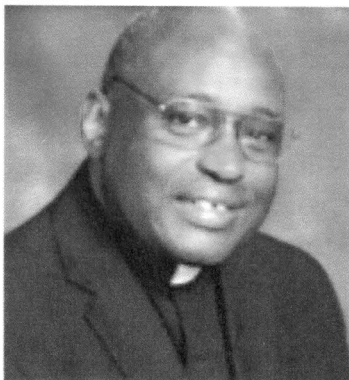
May the Holy Spirit fill us with reverence for
God's creation and compassion for all God's children.

May our labors of love on earth enhance the
Reign of God and may God's gifts of faith and
Living hope prepare us for the fullness
Of the world to come.

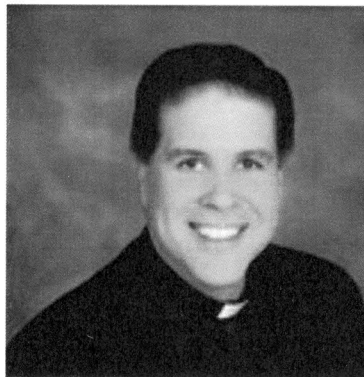
Spiritual Advisors



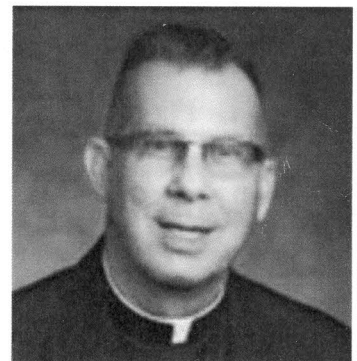
Rev. Clem Hammerschmitt
FCCW Spiritual Advisor/
Palm Beach Spiritual Advisor



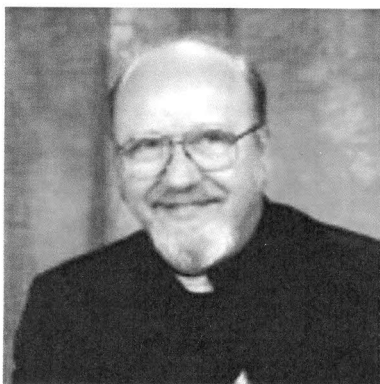
Rev. James Bodie
St. Augustine
Spiritual Advisor



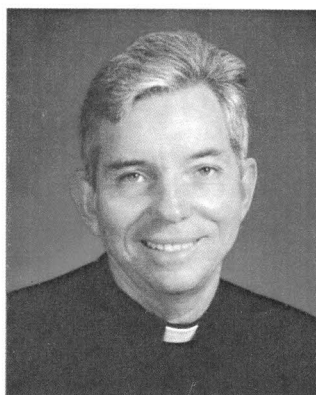
Rev. Miguel Gonzalez
NCCW Moderators
Spiritual Advisor/
Orlando Spiritual Advisor



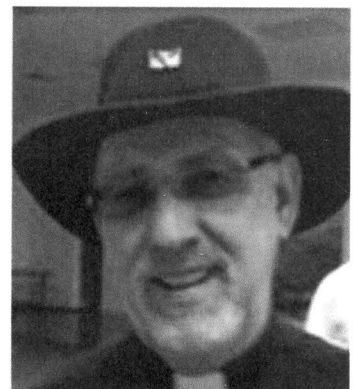
Rev. Ted Costello
Tampa/St. Petersburg
Spiritual Advisor



Rev. Richard Dawson
Pensacola/Tallahassee.
Spiritual Advisor



Rev. Michael J. Greer
Archdiocese of Miami
Spiritual Advisor



Rev. Janusz (Jay) Jancarz
Venice
Spiritual Advisor

A MESSAGE FROM FR. GREER
MIAMI ARCHDIOCESAN CCW SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Dear Sisters in Council:

Welcome into a new year with new opportunities and occasions to share of our talents and commitment.

As at Christmas we received and rendered gifts, now may we reflect on what we may bring to others, especially our sisters in the CCW. Maybe it's collaborating in efforts with few participants; or supporting a struggling member of our affiliation; or encouraging other parishioners to join in our activities and outreach to increase membership.

Let us always remember we are empowered by God's sacraments and calling to spread His Kingdom. You can do great works, as Jesus reminds us.

A Blessed and Active 2023,

Very Rev. Michael J. Greer, V.F

A MESSAGE FROM FR. TED
PENNSACOLA/TALLAHASSEE SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Here we go dear Women of the Council,

Hopefully everyone had a blessed and wonderful holiday and Christmas. As we put away our decorations and all the trimmings and all the lights and as we embark this new year 2023, hopefully we keep the message of Christmas alive and bring in the joy of the newborn Christ in this year. Somethings to reflect and bring into practice as we just started our new year 2023 mercy, peace, hope, love, compassion, kindness, listening, and forgiveness and have a blessed new year.

Father Ted

NCCW VOCATION PURSE CLUB UPDATE

Sheila S. Hopkins, Chair

NCCW PAST PRESIDENT/FCCW PAST PRESIDENT

Since it's inception with the signing of a covenantal agreement with the National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations (NFCRV) in August 2016, NCCW has collected and sent \$129,202 to NFCRV. Restricted to women, the funding is available to religious orders who have women wanting to enter but cannot due to personal debt.

Forty-one (41) grants to forty (40) women have been awarded. Twenty-eight (28) remain in vowed life while twelve (12) have discerned out.

An order sends a potential candidate to NFCRV who sets up a loan for her debt. If a woman decides religious life is not for her, she assumes the remaining debt but does not have to pay back what has been paid for her.

See the list of women and their orders plus pictures of the three who have taken final vows in the March issue of Catholic Woman.

Continued donations for this project are appreciated and should be sent directly to NCCW by going to the donate button on the **NCCW website (nccw.org)** or mail a check to **NCCW at:**

10335-A Democracy Lane, Unit 201, Fairfax, VA 22030
and write Purse Club on the memo line.

Thank you for your support of this important project to assist women discerning a vocation.

Sheila S. Hopkins
Chair



NCCW Mission Statement

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



CORRESPONDENCE

FCCW Board of Director roster was completed and revised. Please review and let me know of any changes at nikeglad@aol.com.

Several birthday greetings were sent in the month of June and through the end of October.

Anniversary greetings were extended to all Bishops and Spiritual Advisors via mail.

President Farr sent out several communications to members in preparation for the upcoming conference .

President Farr Sent letters to Bishops and speakers in preparation for upcoming FCCW 25th Biennial Conference in Sarasota.

Received "Thank You" cards from Bishops Dewane and Father Jay for the anniversary cards sent to them; and Michael Sheedy for the sympathy card sent to him after his sister Katie passed away.

HISTORIAN

Need FCCW related pictures!! Please e-mail to nikeglad@aol.com or send via WhatsApp or Message @ 305-510-3163. Thank you!!

Keep Smiling!

Blessings

Josephine Gilbert

FCCW Corresponding Secretary

FCCW Historian

Friends of NCCW for WUCWO.

Josephine Gilbert, President

Greetings from Friends of NCCW for WUCWO. Happy New Year!! Sincere thanks to all that helped us celebrate our 20-year anniversary through your membership and donations.

The WUCWO General Assembly is scheduled for May 14 through May 20, 2023, in Assisi, Italy. On

May 13, Pope Francis will grant an audience to the General Assembly attendees, which means if you are attending, you must arrive in Rome by May 12, 2023. Please check out more information via www.wucwona.org, click on Reports and upcoming events. If you are planning to attend, send a message to Maribeth Stewart at jastewart01@aol.com.

The objectives of this organization are to educate all interested Catholic people regarding WUCWO and to provide opportunities to support the programs and projects of WUCWO, the WUCWO North America Region and the NCCW Representative to WUCWO.

Friends of NCCW aims to fulfill these objectives through its membership. If you would like to stand in solidarity with Catholic Women around the world by joining Friends, please contact me at 305-510-3163 or Diane Tugander at 954-916--0624. The Annual Membership dues are \$25.00.

Congratulations to our very own Jean Bazley, the Early Bird Winner for 2022.

Thank you all for your supporting Friends of NCCW for WUCWO..

Blessings,

Josephine Gilbert, President

Friends of NCCW for WUCWO



Florida Council of Catholic Women Province of Miami

World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations Winkie Le Fils, Chairman

The WUCWO General Assembly will be held in Assisi Italy this May. Registration has surpassed expectations and is now closed. The day prior to the Assembly, an audience with the Holy Father will be held in the morning in Rome. In the afternoon, following the audience a Mass of Thanksgiving for WUCWO will be celebrated in St. Peter Basilica. Those registered for the assembly will be transported to Assisi.

The North American Region is responsible for the Mass on Ascension Thursday during the General Assembly. There will be a report on the General Assembly and information on your newly appointed NCCW representative to WUCWO on the WUCWO website.

The General Assembly was a joyful time for me while serving on the WUCWO Board and as Vice President General. Beautiful women of WUCWO.

May the year 2023 bring good health and peace to all. God loves you & so do I.

Madam President this concludes my report.

*Happy 70th Anniversary
To
Donald & Winkie LeFils
The Spiritual Advisors and
Members of the Florida Council of Catholic Women
send their love & prayers to this very special couple
as they celebrate 70th Wedding Anniversary.
May the Lord & His Blessed Mother
continue to bless you both always & in all ways!*

HUGS FOR THE HOMELESS
ROSI SCHUHMACHER, CHAIRMAN

Lord, when did I see you hungry and homeless?

GOD: Every diocese in this state I am in the person of the homeless looking for help and shelter. You passed me on your way to this meeting and last week at your Church's food pantry.

Now if you really want to see me happy, do something this year to support the "Hugs for the Homeless" project sponsored by your FCCW.

Collections started in November, but there's still a little time left for you and your Affiliation to do something. Whatever you can do to help is always appreciated. Just be sure to have your money submitted by February 16th so your Diocesan Treasurer has the money by March 1st.

This year could be the biggest collection ever, it just needs your support.

Rosi Schuhmacher, Chairman

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL AWARD
JEAN BAZELY, CHAIRMAN

At the FCCW Conference, we announced the recipients of the Our Lady of Good Counsel Award. They are:

Active: Susie Harting

Posthumous: Peg Middleton

Congratulations!!

Thank you to those who sent in nominees for these awards. We appreciate you taking time to complete the information and recognizing outstanding women in your Councils. We know there are many women out there to be nominated.

Start now. Think about who those women are. There is some time to do the paperwork as we will choose again for the Conference in 2024.

Please go on the FCCW website and read the rules for nominating. We look forward to hearing from you.

Jean Bazley

Martha Klinikowski

Fr. Janusz (Jay) Jancarz

MIAMI ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

KAREN LORENZEN, PRESIDENT



The members of the Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women have been busy as usual.

Our affiliations are still keeping busy by collecting items for the **Hugs for the Homeless** campaign.

The **Annual MACCW Scholarship Luncheon** will be held on Saturday, February 25 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Ft. Lauderdale, February 25th. This year our Honoree will be Ana Rodriguez Soto, from the Florida Catholic. We will have both a Silent Auction and a Raffle. We hope you will join us!!

Getting our ladies together for the trip to Tallahassee and participating in **"Catholic Days at the Capitol"** in March.

The **MACCW Annual meeting** will be held on **April 29th** in **Fort Lauderdale**. Members will enjoy a full day with speakers, prayers, and training.



It is with deep gratitude that we recognize the growing power inherent in our World Day of Prayer. A very decided expansion of this prayer fellowship has come during the past year. The circle of prayer has expanded literally around the world. We have learned the great lesson of praying with, rather than for, our sisters of other races and nations, thus enriching our experience and releasing the power which must be ours if we are to accomplish tasks entrusted to us.



Orlando Diocesan Council of Catholic Women National Council of Catholic Women

February 2023 FCCW Board Meeting

Madame President, Council Sisters and our Clergy

In June I had no idea where I was going but in my heart I knew what I wanted to achieve. You see after the pandemic we as country and nation became so withdrawn and cold. We lost touch with each other and with our closeness to God! I could here women saying, "well that was back then and things need to change" It pained me, because I thought we didn't get here without what we did "BACK THEN".

I made a vow to travel to other parishes for meetings and events. I tasked the board with the same charge. YOU as members of the board should reach out to those that you are partnered with. The different commissions and committees need community. The Executive Officer and I held Zoom meetings in august before the year began. We did this ti talk to the different commissions and committee members to see what there goals were and how we could serve them to achieve the goal. Our Board has taken on the theme of SERVICE and DIVERSITY. Our Past Presidents moved into other commissions as advisors that they had never served on and stepped back allowing the Chair and members of each committee and commission to take the lead.

As the first ½ of the first year has passed by I had the opportunity to attend both the FCCW Conference and the NCCW convention. My Takeaway was the growth of Diversity in the FCCW conference with dual language welcome and the spiritual breaks throughout! What a way to remind us of our love of God and his love of his people. At NCCW it was also a cultural and spiritual, takeaway. Seeing the Madonna on every table at every session, the CARLO ACUTIS DISPLAY and presentation. The speakers truly reminded of us all of OPEN WIDE YOUR HEARTS!

All of this prompted me to want our 55th annual convention at the ODCCW to have a diverse and spiritual design. We have labeled our theme GODS KALIEDOSCOPE MAKES US ONE and our Summer Leadership Symposium will be THE KALIEDOSCOPE of CCW!

You may wonder why we chose kaleidoscope in both titles and it was to remind us all that the CCW as well as people are made of many things, cultural, race, age and even our OWN Catholicism has the cradle to the converted catholic! We are working hard to bring our CCW members back, to gain more members and bridge that OLDER culture of CCW to newer and ,ore innovative ways of thinking. We as the CCW want to grow but we must mot forget that we came from a culture that got us here. Somehow there is a disconnect on bridging. We don't necessarily have to do away with the old but we can refresh it or renew it to update rather than lose pieces of our history!

I look forward to the next year and half on my journey to bridge gaps and bring our sister back to churches, back to CCW and on to building so much more for our Future.

PALM BEACH DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

DOREEN RECCO, PRESIDENT



Happy New Year! I hope all had a wonderful Christmas Season! A lot has happened in the Palm Beach DCCW since my last Good News article..... where to begin!

First and foremost, this President had the honor to attend the FCCW Conference in Sarasota. Despite all the turmoil from the hurricane, the ladies of Venice showed their resiliency and determination to make the conference so welcoming and enjoyable for all. I got to see old friends from conferences past and meet new ones.

In November we held our Remembrance Tree Ceremony at St. Vincent dePaul Regional Seminary. Our old scroll with our deceased loved ones' names was removed by Fr. Clem Hammerschmitt and burned and the new one was buried with the help of Bishop Barbarito and me. The mass with the seminarians and all the priests was so uplifting, and this year we were welcomed back to lunch with the "boys".

December saw our well anticipated Take a Sister to Brunch at St. Matthew Catholic Church. At this yearly tradition we honor those religious sisters who have done so much around our Diocese. The delight on their faces is a joy to see. This year, they were treated with an extra gift, a prayer shawl knitted by the St. Matthew Knitting and Crocheting Club. This year we also celebrated milestone anniversaries with the sisters with a special gift for each of them.

Just this past weekend, we held our very first Golden Rose Awards program at St. Lucie Catholic Church. Fifty-three letters were sent out asking for nominations and thirteen responded. That is a 25% response for the first time! The young ladies receiving their "Roses" were so happy to be there and the parents could not thank us enough for recognizing their daughters for their leadership, spirituality and service to their individual parishes. The girls also received an honorary one-year membership to NCCW!

In March we will have our Catholic Women of Faith, Women of Action Conference with our guest speaker being Mrs. Janet Morana, Executive Director of Priests for Life. Mrs. Morana is an author and co-host of the EWTN's *The Catholic View for Women*. This conference will be held at the Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola in Palm Beach Gardens, and will feature a chance for confessions, adoration and Mass with Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito.

And last, but not least, I will be passing the gavel at our Convention to be held on May 12 & 13, 2023. I cannot believe that my term is almost done. I have enjoyed serving my council sisters in Palm Beach. It is an experience I will never forget, and I have learned so much from my experience.

(And by the way, I am running on the Nominating Committee for NCCW & would appreciate your support and vote.)

God bless,
Doreen Recco, President
Palm Beach DCCW



Seated in the front row
are Recipients of the
Palm Beach DCCW
Golden Rose Award
with members of the
Palm Beach DCCW

Diocese of Venice

Josephine Weiss. President

Since my last report in September 2022, I mentioned that we are supposed to hold our second of two Priest Appreciation dinner event in October 2022 at Our Lady of Light Parish in Fort Myers. Unfortunately, we had to cancel that event because of Hurricane Ian.

Some CCW affiliations cancelled their events in October. By November, a lot of them got together again. Despite the damages left by the hurricane in our respective areas, the ladies of our CCW affiliations are strong in spirit. With their deep Catholic faith and love of the Lord, they continued with their service and spiritual works in their respective councils.

In November 2022, St. Therese CCW held their annual Veterans Mass and reception for veterans. For their fundraising, they held a bake sale on the weekend before Thanksgiving, sold raffle tickets for their Basket of Cheers. In December 2022, they put together a Christmas gift bags for the homebound of their Parish. In January 2023, they collected, with the participation of the parishioners, blankets and warm clothing and donated them to several charitable organizations in their community which included Catholic Charities; they also held a membership recruitment Sunday in January.

Members of Saint Ann CCW in Naples collaborated with Catholic Charities and Saint Ann School to provide ready-to-prepare meals for 30 local families for Thanksgiving. The council has also welcomed school parents to pray the rosary every Friday after school drop-off and before Mass.

Our Lady of Lourdes CCW helped their community as OLOL had been designated as a FEMA site immediately following Hurricane Ian and the Diocese of Venice needed volunteers with food distribution. Their membership helped when they are able, prayed without ceasing. Their OLOL Respect Life Ministry showed up in force at the Planned Parenthood in Sarasota as part of the 40 Days for life. Each Christmas, they reach out to residents of local assisted living and nursing facilities, i.e., the elderly, infirmed and veterans by giving them a wrapped shoebox or gift bag filled with various personal items. Their fundraiser in November raised closed to \$4,000 (to be donated to charity) with 170 attendees.

St. Andrews CCW donated personal care items to be mailed to our troops overseas last November. St. Maximilian Kolbe CCW held their Parish Potluck of Thanksgiving, where the Parish could come together at a social, and talk with each other to heal (after Hurricane Ian). They held their Past Presidents Luncheon at a local restaurant and a Bake and Craft sale on the weekend before Thanksgiving. In January 2023, they will hold a Wine and Cheese Party.

St. Michael CCW in Wauchula held a Guadalupe Festival in the Park, with food tents, bake sale to benefit the Seminarian Fund.

Epiphany Cathedral CCW filled gift bags for 80 residents in neighboring center; contributed \$2,000 worth of bicycles and Food Gift cards to provide a little happiness to migrant workers and families in Arcadia.

Above are some of the highlights of what our CCW affiliations had accomplished.

In the diocesan level, the Venice Diocesan CCW continues to pray the rosary every week via phone conference. The affiliations filled approximately 1, 150 Boxes of Joy in November 2022. St. Katharine Drexel CCW filled the most with 805 boxes. We held our Fall Board and General Membership meeting last December and Leadership Training on January 7, 2023. We will hold our Winter Board and General Membership Meeting on February 18, 2023, and we will hold our annual Lenten Retreat on March 18, 2023

Sincerely,
Josephine Weiss
President



Our Diocese is planning our 55th Annual Convention for May 4-7, 2023. The theme for our 54th Annual Convention will be "We are Women of the Eucharist" (Artwork by Lisa Lewis). We will focus on our closeness to God through Jesus in the Eucharist. The convention team has confirmed great speakers and activities to enrich, engage and educate in Spirituality, Leadership and Service. Bishop Parkes will celebrate Mass on Friday May 5 at 4:30PM, all are welcome. Bishop Parkes will share a meal with us and will be speaking to us at the Bishop's Banquet that evening at 7:00PM. He will share with us an update on our Diocese and his vision for our future. **Leadership**, Ellen Bachman, NCCW Past-President, will share with us a talk on "Group Dynamics". She is a very excited to be sharing this topic with us. **Service**, Kathy Bonner, Co-Creator of the "Women Healing Wounds" an NCCW resource, will share with us how Domestic Violence effects homelessness. Kathy will share a very important, albeit not so fun topic. **Spirituality**, Lynn Kilbride, author of "Tails of the Secret Peacock" will enrich us as she entertains us with her Characters based on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Our featured speaker will be Fr. Kyle Bell. He will share with us the closeness we have with Jesus

through the Eucharist. And our **Keynote Speaker, Rev. Msgr. Steven Bosso** will present on our beloved Pope John Paul II's last Encyclical, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* where he discussed Mary as a "Woman of the Eucharist" throughout her life (cf. n. 53). Msgr. Bosso has a BA and Master of Divinity and has taught at Notre Dame. This will be very educational and will sharpen our spiritual closeness to Jesus as "Women of the Eucharist".

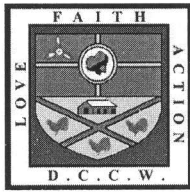
We had a very busy year.

- Eight women attended the Orlando DCCW Leadership Symposium. It is a great training and we always learn so something new.
- Over eighty women attended our summer day of reflection. We hosted the fabulous "Bad Girls of the Bible" by Toya Martin of the Orlando Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. It was an amazing spiritual day; well attended and very educational. I was surprised to hear many of the ladies saying they had never heard of some of the Bad Girls or didn't know some of the parts of the their stories – St. Margaret said "well, they didn't teach those things in Catholic School".
- Our Diocesan Council had a table in the vendor area at the SpiritFM Women's Conference. We shared CCW with the women that stopped by our table.
- 19 women and Fr. Ted attended the FCCW Conference. We had an amazing time with the women from around the state. Venice Diocese did a wonderful job hosting despite the devastating major hurricane. Many of their women were affected by the hurricane and they still managed to smile and be gracious hosts. It was our pleasure to present our "Call to the 2024 Conference in Tampa Bay. We designed matching t-shirts that we wore during the day, and we each represented something exciting to experience in our area.
- 7 of us attended the NCCW Convention in Minneapolis. As usual, they had great speakers. The speaker on Saturday morning, Yen Fasano, said "Bread if not broken cannot be shared. Our brokenness allows us to go deeper in our relationship. Jesus was broken on the Cross." I will use some of this in our prayer service at our upcoming convention.
- Two of our three Districts had Fall Conferences. Our Lady of Life District had guest speakers from Catholic Charities, Foundations of Life Pregnancy Center. They shared great information. One item they shared was that State Law states that an ultrasound must be performed before an abortion, but it does not say the mother must see that ultrasound or hear the baby's heartbeat. Another interesting piece of information was that breastfeeding can reduce the risk of SIDS. The brain is the only organ not fully formed at birth. The act of breastfeeding and something in breast milk that cannot be replicated helps develop the cerebellum and reduce the risk of SIDS.

St. Mother Theresa said: "God does not want us to be perfect; but he wants us to be faithful."

I pray Our Lady of Good Counsel, patroness of the NCCW, will ask her Divine Son to bless you, your families and our NCCW with Joy and Peace.

Missy Garrett



Pensacola-Tallahassee Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Dear Reverend Fathers and all my Sisters in Christ:

Why are we always so busy?! That is my question – as I try to find time to write this report, facing a DCCW Convention deadline, an approaching Deanery Day of Reflection, events and fundraisers in my parish, family crises, a full-time job, a book club, spiritual reading and prayer time, and meetings, meetings, meetings ...

Then I read these words of wisdom from St Gregory the Great, Pope from 590-604 and a Doctor of the Church:

The proof of love is in the works. Where love exists it works great things. But when it ceases to act, it ceases to exist.

That's heartening; I can imagine, maybe even believe, that all this is a proof of my love for God and for his people. That's what I tell myself; that is my intent, and I'm sure it is the same for all you hard-working church ladies as well.

This year the 48th Annual Convention P-T DCCW will be held on Saturday, April 29 in Panama City, hosted by East Central Deanery. Our theme **This Is My BODY** is two-fold: we are directing our attention to the Eucharistic Revival that the US Bishops have instituted; and our speaker is an expert on Theology of the Body. Monica Ashour is a national speaker and founder of TOBET, Theology of the Body Evangelization Team. She will teach us about *Veiled and Unveiled Moments*, *The Feminine Genius*, *the Culture's Attack on the Feminine and our Response*, and *The Most Important Words in the Universe – This Is My BODY*. The first thing I learned is that Theology of the Body is very Eucharistic (think about it). You are all invited to attend. All information is on our website: ptdccw.org

We had a great response to Box of Joy this year and are looking into the possibility of holding a diocesan-wide Food Packing Event (another project of Cross Catholic Outreach). We would also like to introduce the Golden Rose Award this year – because I need more things to keep me busy.

It's a good thing I know so many other women who are filled with love, who work together and help to accomplish great things!

Joan Walker
Pensacola-Tallahassee DCCW president



St Augustine Diocesan Council of Catholic Women
Report February 2023
Beverly Yagins – President

S	Is for Service as we continue to serve our parishes and communities
T	Is for Thanksgiving as we provided baskets to those in need
A	Is for Advent and the missions and retreats that were held to prepare us for the birth of Jesus
U	Is for our Unfailing faith in God
G	Is for being Generous of our time, talent and treasure
U	Is for a United group of women attending our DCCW Leadership workshop
S	Is for Spirituality as we prayed rosaries for those celebrating at the Diocesan Anniversary Mass
T	Is for the Trinitarian Sisters who spoke about how they as sisters walk with the Faith
I	Is for Inviting all Catholic Women to join or start a Council of Catholic Women
N	Is for the NCCW LTD team who taught us about commissions, team building and marketing
E	Is for Encouraging all to join our Gladys White Memorial Burse Club to support our seminarians
D	Is for Days of Reflection that were held or are currently being planned
C	Is for the Cards we send our Priests on their Birthdays and Ordination Anniversaries
C	Is for Courageous Women of Faith – our theme for this year
W	Is for Welcoming 2 new affiliates so far this year

LEADERSHIP COMMISSION
SUSIE HARTING, COMMISSION CHAIR

Looking at 2023, the many challenges continue change and empower the Council of Catholic Women. Focusing on the needs of the church and community are some of the ways we must evaluate. What are these needs and how to accomplish them?

Through our leadership commission, the needs of empowering and educating the members of ways to step up to the plate as a member. It is responsibility of each member to help the Council. Not just the officers, it takes teamwork.

The holiday season comes to a close but the companionship of family and friends is still very important. This is need of companionship should continue to grow by personal invitation to future events and meetings. Each member plays a part of this basic need of CCW members. Some examples:

1. Have a guest speaker at your next meeting that will encourage members to become more of a part of the day to day needs of Catholic Women.
 - a. Prayers of healing for all members
 - b. Notes sent to members that have not been active. Find out why.
 - c. Make your events and meetings different and interesting. Not the same ole thing.
 - d. Education of a topic of interest for all Catholic Women. Example; Eucharistic Revival, Daily Prayer – podcast available to us, Bible Study, Leadership Training, etc
2. Meaning of being a good Leader and council member:
 - e. Importance of being positive
 - f. Importance of being open minded to different cultures
 - g. Importance of having a prayerful life – which will make us more of prayerful members.
 - h. Importance of being open minded to the needs of the community
3. Staying updated on the resources of the available to us. As a council, we much keep our resources updated. Our website should be up to date for many members use these resources. Resources change and are updated daily that as a member we should look at often. . Some of the resources available to us are:
 - i. USCCB.org (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)
 - j. FLCCB.org (Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops)
 - k. NCCW.org (National Council of Catholic Women)
 - l. FLACCW.org (Florida Council of Catholic Women – Province of Miami)

Copy of the by-laws and standing rules are important for each member to have for review. There should be no questions about the beliefs/mission of the organization. So make this information available.

Susie Harting,
FCCW Leadership Commission Chair

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Susie Harting,
FCCW Leadership Commission Chair



Florida Council of Catholic Women
Board Meeting
February 10, 2023

The Leadership, Training and Development (LTD) team is in search for more trainers to join the team. Please if you are interested our know of someone that would be an asset to the NCCW LTD team please let Laurie Ulseth or myself know. The application is on the NCCW website.

If your Diocese is interested in having a training in your area, please consider planning a training soon by Zoom or in person. St. Augustine Diocese had a training in January 2023. Please keep this opportunity in mind when planning your upcoming events this year. Fresh new topics to consider are Self-esteem, Change, Lead as Jesus Would, Join CCW, etc.

Thank you for all your support as we grow and spread our wings as Catholic Women.

Susie Harting, LTD Coordinator

SERVICE COMMISSION
MARY WOLTMAN. CO-CHAIR



At the Fall Conference I reported on 'Love One Another Through Service'

In my presentation I spoke about reading the story of Thérèse's spiritual development, which was compiled into a collection of her essays, titled "A Story of a Soul". Within her writings I found direction and meaning for my life.

St. Thérèse defined her doctrine of the Little Way as *"the way of spiritual childhood, the way of trust and absolute surrender."* *"Thérèse lived each day with an unshakable confidence in God's love. What matters," Thérèse wrote, is that spirituality is doing the ordinary, with extraordinary love. "Remember, she wrote, "nothing is small in the eyes of God, do all that you do in love", it is not great deeds, but great love."*

Women from around out State, do Great Things with Great Love

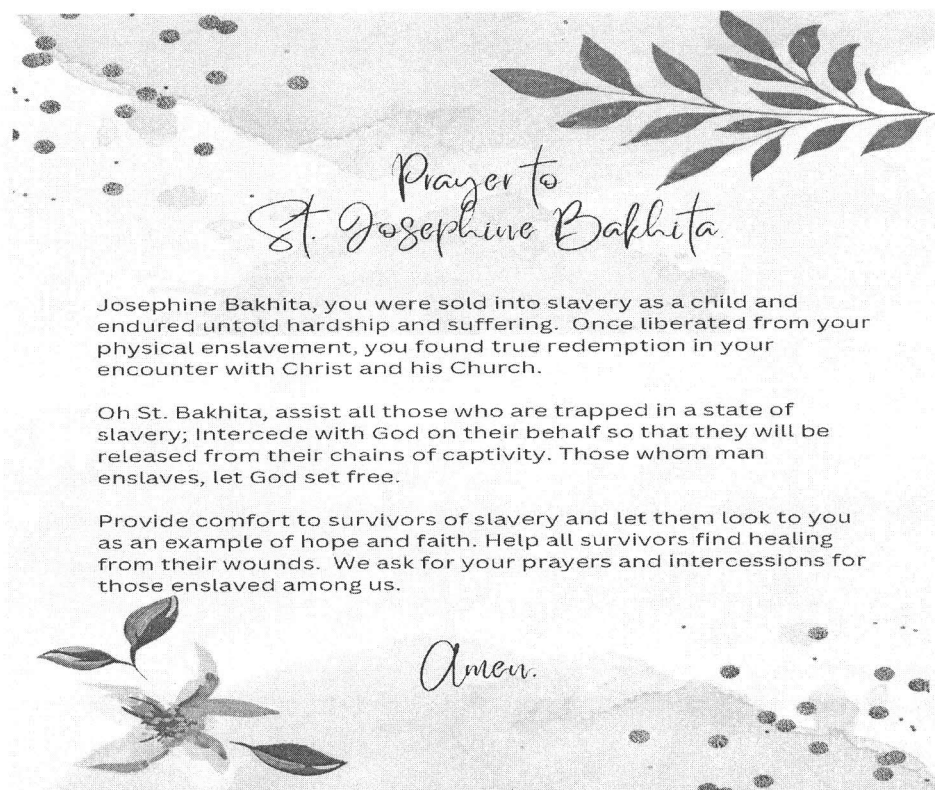


Service Committee Report – Mary Woltman 2/9-10/23

This week February 8, 2023 is the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita's - the Patron Saint of Human Trafficking. The 8th is also the International Day for Prayer and Reflection on Human Trafficking. The Prayer for the intercession of St. Bakhita, included below and 2 excellent resources from the Service Commission can be found on the front page of the [NCCW website](#) under Explore → Commissions → Service

In the past several months undocumented immigrants have been crossing our border in record numbers. Close to 9,000 people enter our country daily. These women, children and men are seeking better lives but within these numbers are countless people who will become sex-slaves, farm workers, domestic workers who will be forced to suffer human indecencies. This force includes physical restraint, physical harm, sexual assault, and beatings. Human trafficking has become one of the largest issues facing our border

security, with men, women, and children being exploited and forced into labor against their will. Let us take time to remember them especially in our prayers throughout the month of February and let us hold them in our hearts and minds until slavery is eradicated for all time.



**Just A Reminder that your Affiliate Happening's
should be posted on our NCCW website:**

Submission for the *Affiliate Happenings* page can include a maximum of one photograph (not required) and a paragraph not to exceed 100 words. Please email to the NCCW office at nccw01@nccw.org. All submissions are subject to approval.

**SERVICE COMMISSION
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
DIANE TUGANDER, Co-Chairman**

We received a blast from NCCW regarding the following; how many of us encouraged our members to participate?

The White House has proclaimed January as National Human Trafficking Prevention Month. It is a time to bring awareness to the crime while emphasizing the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to protect and empower live experience experts, prosecute traffickers, and bring an end to human trafficking in the United States and across the globe.

Blue Campaign invites you to play a role in combating human trafficking by participating in **#WearBlueDay** on Wednesday, January 11, 2023. Getting involved is simple:

- *Wear your favorite blue outfit or article of clothing (e.g. T-shirt or hat)
- *Take a selfie, group photo, or video
- *Share your photo or video on your preferred social media platform using the hashtag **#WearBlueDay**
- *Encourage friends and followers to post as well

Why Blue?? Blue is the international color of human trafficking awareness. Anyone can make a difference on **#WearBlueDay**, and by participating, you can increase online awareness of human trafficking and play a role in saving lives.

If you did not see the blast in time, why not create your own affiliation, or Diocesan **#WearBlueDay** in honor of St. Josephine Bakhita, her feast day is February 8, which has been designated as the International Day of Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking, explain why we need to bring an end to this horrible crime.

The National Council has an excellent program book in its "Members Only" section: Human Trafficking Information-National Council of Catholic Women-Service Commission, There are also several items which can be produced to host an informative program in your own affiliation, Human Trafficking,-Trifold,-Flyer,-4 ways to take Action paper and 2 tips sheets.

If you feel you cannot do any of the above, please encourage our members to pray the following prayer to end Human Trafficking:

O God, our words cannot express what our minds can barely comprehend and our hearts feel when we hear of human beings deceived and transported to unknown places for purposes of sexual exploitation and abuse because of human greed and profit at this time in our world. Our hearts are saddened and our spirits angry that their dignity and rights are being transgressed through threats, deception and force. We pray out against the degrading practice of trafficking and pray for it to end. Strengthen the fragile-spirited and broken-hearted. Make real your promises to fill these, our sisters and brothers, with a love that is tender and good and send the exploiters away empty-handed. Give us the wisdom and courage to stand in solidarity with them that together we will find ways to the freedom that is your gift to all of us. Amen

(Anonymous)

Legislative Advocacy
Maria Knoll Co-Chair

Reverend Fathers and Council Sisters:



1. Catholic Days at the Capitol will be held this year on May 7-8, 2023. Registration is required. To register, go to: <https://cflcc.org/news-events/catholic-days-at-the-capitol/>

Please, encourage your members to participate.

The deadline for Registration is February 17, 2023.

2. Public Policy Priorities: The 2023 Regular Session of the Florida Legislature is Scheduled to begin Tuesday, March 7. Lawmakers will convene in Tallahassee for 60 days to debate and vote on proposed legislation and to pass a state budget for fiscal year 23-24. The annual session is scheduled to conclude on May 5. In anticipation of the legislative session, the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops (FCCB) has identified its public policy priorities, they can be found at <https://flaccb.org/public-policy-priorities> The FCCW Public Policy Priorities are broken down into 4 categories: life, education, health care, and family and social concerns.

Take action: The Florida Catholic Advocacy Network (FLCAN) is a grassroots network Established by the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops that, in a very efficient and simple manner, allows Catholics to stay informed and take action on public policy issues affecting human life and dignity. To join the FLCAN, go to: <https://flaccb.org/flcan-take-action>

Respectfully submitted by:

Maria Knoll

FCCW Legislative Advocacy Committee Co-Chair



FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

The nonpartisan public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Florida

201 West Park Avenue, Tallahassee, Florida 32301-7715 * (850) 222-3803 * www.flaccb.org

Statement on Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children January 22, 2023

Today marks 50 years since *Roe v. Wade*, the U.S. Supreme Court decision that imposed by judicial “fiat” the most extreme abortion policy in the Western world. It deprived more than 63 million unborn children of their right to life and severely limited the ability of states to mitigate the harms of abortion through legislation.

On June 24, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court’s landmark ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* overturned *Roe*, allowing elected representatives at the state level to once again protect women and their children from abortion. This is a fruit of prayer, born of a commitment to justice.

Millions of women and men, children, and families have experienced the heartbreak of abortion over the last five decades. We maintain a profound sense of sorrow and grief for both the tragic loss of unborn children since 1973 and that abortion continues in Florida today. Our ultimate goal is to foster a culture of life in which hearts and minds are changed so that abortion is unthinkable. We remain hopeful as *Dobbs* opens a new chapter in our efforts to engage all people of good will to protect women and children from abortion and empower women and vulnerable families in their times of need.

We applaud the restrictions enacted in the 2022 Florida legislative session to limit abortion to the first 15 weeks of pregnancy. The law mirrors the underlying Mississippi law at issue in *Dobbs*. It was a prudent and beneficial step for Florida as the U.S. Supreme Court considered the case. Our advocacy for the legal protection of life in the womb must continue to make the most of the opportunities presented by *Dobbs*. The legislature must enact further limits on abortion.

The current legal challenge to the 15-week limit provides expectant hope. Like *Roe*, the Florida Supreme Court case wrongfully interpreting a broad right to abortion in the Florida Constitution may soon be overturned.

Additionally, Florida can do more to promote alternatives to abortion, particularly through the network of pro-life pregnancy help centers that assist women and families with young children. United with our fellow bishops across the United States in our support for the *Walking with Moms in Need* initiative, we continue to call on Catholics and people of good will to support and engage in the good work undertaken in these agencies.

We pray that Christ will guide us as we work collectively towards the full legal protection of every human life. May every child conceived be protected in law and welcomed in life.

Most Rev. Thomas G. Wenski
Archdiocese of Miami

Most Rev. Gerald M. Barbarito
Diocese of Palm Beach

Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane
Diocese of Venice

Most Rev. John G. Noonan
Diocese of Orlando

Most Rev. Gregory L. Parkes
Diocese of St. Petersburg

Most Rev. William A. Wack, C.S.C.
Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee

Most Rev. Erik T. Pohlmeier
Diocese of St. Augustine

Most Rev. Enrique E. Delgado
Archdiocese of Miami