



Spring 2023

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Friends of NCCW for WUCWO, Inc.

From Friends of NCCW for WUCWO President
Josephine Gilbert



Dear Friends of NCCW for WUCWO,

I pray you and your families are well and your Lenten season is going well as we prepare for Easter.

The next General Assembly will be held in Assisi, Italy from May 14 to 20, 2023 preceded on May 13th by an audience with Pope Francis in Rome, to which all WUCWO women are invited. We are very grateful to our Holy Father!

We do have about 25 member that are registered. There are tours being coordinated by Lucy Johnson, especially for those arriving in Rome at an earlier date. Please let Lucy know if you are interested in any of these tours as soon as possible at lucyhjohnson@msn.com Please visit wucwona.org for more information on the General Assembly, Papal visit, hotel information and much more. Click on Reports and Events.

Our membership is strong and my sincere gratitude to members that have renewed their membership and sent in donations. For those yet to renew and not sure if you are up to date, please contact Diane Tugander at 954 804-3508 or busyd19@cs.com Membership dues are \$25 per year and any additional donations are appreciated. (membership form is on page 3)

NCCW 2023 Convention will be held on August 24-26 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Please start to make plans as registration opens on April 1, 2023. We will not be able to hold any raffle event at the convention, so please put your creative cap on as to what we can do in place of our usual money tree raffle. If you would like to work with our fundraising committee, please contact me at 305-510-3163 or nikeglad@aol.com.

May the glory and the promise of this joyous time of year bring peace and happiness to you and those you hold most dear. And may Christ, Our Risen Savior, always be there by your side to bless you most abundantly and be your loving guide.

Happy Easter!

Blessings,
Josephine.





An Empty Tomb

"After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightening and his clothing was white as snow. The guards were shaken with fear of him and became like dead men. Then the angel said to the women in reply, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and he is going

before you to Galilee; there you will see him.' Behold, I have told you."

-Matthew 28: 1-7

That morning must have been an interesting experience for Mary Magdalene and the other Mary. Imagine coming to a tomb and seeing an angel sitting on a stone. That is not the usual thing you see in an area where tombs are found. What must have been going through their minds as the angel speaks to them. Also, seeing guards who are so frightened that they are like dead men must be eerie. So often we come to places with some type of pre-conceived notion of what to expect. What happened on this morning in this place was not what was expected by the women, I am sure. God is full of surprises and does not appear to be too shy about catching us off guard. And the questions start coming for all of us: Are we always ready to be caught off guard by God? How do we respond to God's surprises? Or instead of responding, do we react to God's surprises?

Easter, the most important day in our calendar, is all about going to this tomb and finding it empty; going to a tomb and not finding what we would expect a tomb would contain. What do we do with all the emptiness that we find in this tomb? Jesus' body was placed in that tomb the previous Friday, after being crucified and having suffered death on a cross. Then on this morning, that body is not there. Why is the tomb empty? What does the emptiness mean? What do we see in the emptiness of the tomb? Why is there an angel sitting on the stone?

With these questions, Easter Sunday begins to unfold and then the Easter Season – 50 days of basking in the joy of an empty tomb, and the words, "He is risen." We will celebrate this Easter Sunday with Mass, family get-togethers, food, camaraderie, etc. For many of us it will be a joy-filled day! Yet, as the day unfolds, we must remember that the tomb is empty. What does that tell me and how does that help my faith to mature and deepen? What do I see and experience in that emptiness?

A blessed and Happy Easter to one and all! May this day mark great joy for you and yours! May the Easter Season truly be a joy-filled time for all of us! May the faith that God has given us continue to grow and expand within us as we rejoice in the emptiness of this tomb!
God is good!



Friends of NCCW for WUCWO
Spiritual Advisor



Membership dues and donations allow **Friends Of NCCW For WUCWO, Inc.** to support the programs and projects of the **World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO)** the **WUCWO North American Region** and the **NCCW Representative to WUCWO**, as we stand in solidarity with Catholic Women around the world! Annual membership dues for **Friends Of NCCW For WUCWO, Inc.** are **\$25.00** per year. Paid members receive periodic newsletters and informative updates (via email) as well as an invitation to and voting privileges at our annual meeting held during the annual NCCW Convention.



**Become a member of
Friends of NCCW for WUCWO Today!**

If you have questions regarding **Friends Of NCCW For WUCWO** please contact: **Josephine Gilbert, President** Email: nikeglad@aol.com Phone: 305.510.3163 or **Diane Tugander, Treasurer** Email: busyd19@cs.com Phone: 954.916.0624



Please include the form below with your payment
Make checks payable to: **Friends Of NCCW For WUCWO, Inc.**

Mail this form and your check to:
Friends Of NCCW For WUCWO, Inc.
Diane Tugander
8223 NW 15 Street
Plantation, FL 33322

PLEASE PRINT **2023 Membership Form: Friends Of NCCW For WUCWO, Inc.**

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Please PRINT your email address very carefully

Enclosed please find my check payable to: **Friends Of NCCW For WUCWO, Inc.**

2023 Annual Membership in **Friends Of NCCW For WUCWO, Inc.** **\$25.00**

+ Additional donation/gift in any amount \$ _____

Your check number _____ Total check amount \$ _____

**Your generous support of Friends Of NCCW For WUCWO, Inc
is needed and greatly appreciated. Thank you!**

Parliamentarian Lucy Johnson, PRP



Committees: Standing or Special

Recently, I was asked to review a Parish CCW's bylaws. I noticed that under the Article on Committees, they had listed Special Committees but no Standing Committees.

Special committees are just that; committees formed in response to a special need such as planning a Christmas party or spring luncheon. Most often these committees are established by a motion made at a meeting: *"I move that a committee of five be appointed by the president to plan XYZ event"*. When the event is over and the chair has given a final report, the committee no longer exists. Because of the nature of these committees, they aren't listed in the bylaws.

Standing Committees, on the other hand, are those which have a continuing existence. Committees such as a Budget, Audit, Nominating or Membership committee should be listed in the bylaws. Sometimes the members of a certain committee are also listed. For example, the treasurer may or may not chair the Budget committee but should be a member of that committee. The treasurer would not be a member of an audit committee but would be available for questions. Nominating Committee members are elected, and the process could be more detailed in the bylaws.

It is also important to state in the bylaws how committee members are appointed; wording such as *Members of all committees (except the Nominating Committee) shall be appointed by the President*. As you review your own parish bylaws, you may want to review the Article on Committees.

Maribeth Stewart Blogoslawski : Our Representative from WUCWO



WUCWO UPDATE: UPDATE FROM MARIBETH FOR THE FRIENDS

It is a joy to greet all of you in this, our Friends Easter Newsletter! Just a few items to share with you this time because most of my time has been spent in preparation for the WUCWO General Assembly and in work for the United Nations.



Our General Assembly in Assisi, preceded by a meeting for the women of WUCWO with the Holy Father in Rome, is fast approaching. Registrations are now complete and there will be nearly 900 women from around the world gathered together in May. North America has a delegation of 51 with 12 from Canada and 39 from the United States so we shall have a wonderful group. Information on when to arrive, hotels, what to wear to see the Pope, etc. can all be found at www.wucwona.org under Reports and Events. Those who are able to attend should be preparing spiritually for this pilgrimage event and for those Friends who cannot join us this time, please know we carry you with us in our thoughts and in our prayers and ask for your prayers for safe travel and a fruitful Assembly.

At this General Assembly, North America is responsible for the Mass on the Feast of the Ascension. Our readings and Prayers of the Faithful have been translated and hymns have been selected and sent for the Liturgy Book. Those attending, please sing out because we are not allowed to have recorded music or unregistered instruments in the church. Marusia, our Board member from Canada, has a beautiful voice so we'll need to follow her lead!

The election for candidates to the new WUCWO Board at the General Assembly will have Esohe Maria Asemota of the Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary as the candidate from the United States. Those of you who were at the WUCWO General Assembly in Dakar may recall that Esohe was with us there. Esohe will be a wonderful representative from our country to the Board and we are delighted to have her as our candidate.

Since I last wrote to you, I've met with the Apostolic Nuncio to the United Nations in New York several times, most recently at the Commission on the Status of Women sessions. He is so easy to work with and I look forward to many more sessions with him as we plan a Forum for Catholic NGO's at the UN in New York. This is something I was asked to do when I was last in Rome in January. While there, I attended the International Forum for Catholic NGO's and agreed to start the Forum in New York which is desired by His Holiness and the Holy See's Secretariat of State. Accordingly, on 31 May, we shall begin this venture with a Mass celebrated by the Nuncio and then attendees can enjoy mingling at a reception followed by a brief business meeting. I ask for your prayers for this first event; it feels like such a lot for which to be responsible but I know that Our Lady will guide me through.

I continue my work with proofreading and editing the English and French editions of *Women's Voice*, taking care of the banking in the US, being a member of the Vatican's Laudato Si' Action Platform for the Organisations and Groups sector, consulting for some of the Pontifical Councils, attending the WUCWO Board and Executive Committee Zoom meetings, communicating virtually and through e-mail with the President General and the Secretariat several times a week, serving on the WUCWO Finance Council and the WUCWO Endowment Fund, preparing several reports for the General Assembly, and with attending sessions at the United Nations.

My nearly 13 years as the US Representative on the WUCWO Board and at the UN for WUCWO, nearly 9 years as the Vice President for North America Region, and as the Vice President General, and all the other opportunities with which I've been blessed from Jerusalem to Assisi because of WUCWO, have been life-changing and I shall be forever grateful. Thank you so much for all your prayers and friendships throughout these years.

May Mary, Queen of Peace, Patroness of WUCWO, ask her Divine Son to bestow blessings of Easter joy, profound peace, and all things bright and beautiful on you and your loved ones this Easter Season and throughout your lives,
Maribeth

"Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song." -

Pope John Paul II



Friends of NCCW for WUCWO Inc.

Is a non-profit organization and is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.



**August 24th-26th
Hyatt Regency Salt Lake City
170 South West Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84101**

**Go to: www.nccw.org
for complete information**



**If you have any questions or if you would like more information about
Friends of NCCW for WUCWO, Inc. please contact:**

Josephine Gilbert, President
Email: nikeglad@aol.com Phone: 305.510.3163

The web address used when we send the newsletters to our Friends Members is:
friendsofnccwforwucwo@gmail.com

Please let us know if you have any changes in your personal contact information.