

MIAMI ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

NEWS



NOTES

FLORIDA COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN — NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

Newsnotes is the official publication of the Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, an affiliated organization of the National Council of Catholic Women.

Organization Objectives

To unite all Catholic Women's Organizations of this Archdiocese in purpose, direction and action in religious, educational, social and economic fields.

To stimulate these organizations to greater efficiency and usefulness in meeting the needs of the times.

To give full support to the statements and programs of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and to render them assistance in these efforts

NCCW Mission Statement

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.

<http://www.maccw.org>

And the Winners are



Diane Tugander
2011 Our Lady of Good Counsel



Olga Montgomery
2011 Outstanding Member

July 2011

MACCW
BOARD of OFFICERS
2011-2012

President

Barbara Asfendis
954-437-6805
galagirlb@aol.com

Vice-President

Josephine Gilbert
305-510-3163
nikeglad@aol.com

Recording Secretary

Ginny Bowes
305-451-3631
ginnybea@bellsouth.net

Corresponding Secretary

Bette Clark
954-721-0326
auntiebet@aol.com

Treasurer

Suzanne (Kitten) Auer
305-451-3021
keyskitten@aol.com

Parliamentarian

Nancy Nesselt
954-587-2722
nancyn@
foodforthe poor.com

Immediate Past President

Theresa Spirito
954-917-0557
tmsmaccw1941@aol.com

Spiritual Moderator

Very Rev. Michael Greer
954-941-7647
frgreer@yahoo.com

NEWSNOTES Editor

Deanna Cook
390 NE 105th St.
Miami Shores, FL 33138
786-317-1501
deanna@
summerhousedetox.com



A message from
The President



It's a quiet Sunday afternoon, and my beloved Boston Red Sox are winning 12-3 as I write this letter. They're having a good season so far, but it certainly didn't start that way. They began the season by losing almost every game they played! These couldn't be MY Red Sox, not that bad? But something happened, they regrouped and are now in second place of the AL League East! Sure as Yogi Berra would say, "It's not over until it's over", but look how far they've come!

Much like the members of the MACCW – you've come a long way, ladies! It's been an amazing year for your affiliations, and though we no longer give affiliation awards, I can say with clear conscience, "You are all winners". You might think that your "team" is at the bottom of the ratings because you are struggling to get members, to get new program ideas, or increase the balance in your treasury. Yet look at what you have accomplished this year. It is evident by reading your reports. You get up to bat, keep your eyes on the ball, and hit a grand slam home run!

These reports are a valuable tool to the District President, MACCW Presidents, and are passed on to the FCCW & NCCW Officers. That's why we publish them in Newsnotes – this publication reaches over 200 individuals, not just our MACCW Board, or affiliation presidents! It's a way to share your program ideas, a way to let the people outside of MACCW know about our participation in the Catholic Days at Capitol (17 members went this year), the MACCW Scholarship Fund (4 girls each received \$6000 towards her freshman year tuition), Hugs for the Homeless, our Seminarian Burse Fund donation of \$4500, and all of your wonderful affiliation and individual accomplishments! Finding one special project to put on the Affiliation Recognition Certificates was not an easy fete, trust me! It would be difficult to pick teams for the MACCW All Star Game.

Congratulations to our 2011 Outstanding Member, Olga Montgomery, and the 2011 Our Lady of Good Counsel Diane Tugander. These women were recognized by their affiliation and district for their dedication and hard work. They are our 2011 "Most Valuable Players". We thank Archbishop Wenski for joining us at the Opening Mass, it was indeed a joy to have you with us! Fr. Greer, we certainly hope that your first convention as MACCW Moderator left you with the wonderful memories it did for us. To all of our guest speakers this year, your talks were inspiring, informative, and made us think even more about what we can do to make the world a better place. We thank all of you who contributed towards the success of the 53rd Annual MACCW Convention - Mary Weber, MACCW Convention Coordinator, nobody knows better than I what the job entails. To Sandra Hill and the ladies of North Dade District, yet again, you showed that incredible magic you have to band together and pull this off and to the MACCW Officers and Commission Chairs for your help and support!

You're all "World Champions" to me! Looking forward to another wonderful year together. May God bless you always and in all ways.

Barbara

From the Desk of Fr. Michael Greer MACCW Moderator

Greetings, Sisters in the Lord

First, it was a delight to see many of you at our 53rd Annual MACCW Convention. Hats off to all who collaborated and participated in this grand event, from our Executive Board, to those who were only there for a short time. Special thanks to our Convention Coordinator, Mary Weber and the hostesses from North Dade.

Second, with summer upon us, it's great to have time for some R&R. But it's also an opportunity to do what we may not have addressed previously such as:

- ◆ Planning for future activities with our respective groups/councils
- ◆ Reaching out to sisters who may be ill or have not attended our events/meetings for a while
- ◆ Considering our priorities, projects and giving more time to prayer.

Blessings to all!



Fr. Michael Greer, V.F.



Archbishop Thomas Wenski joined us for the Opening Mass



Fr. Greer with 2011 MACCW Scholarship recipient, Alexandra Soto



Fr. Greer with Danuka Wallach, our special guest from the Polish Mission



Fr. Greer gives the homily at the Mass on Saturday Morning



Two special gentlemen named "Greer" - MACCW Moderator, Fr. Greer, & Guest Speaker, Dr. Greer

Church

Chairperson: Fabiola De Armas

This year we need to honor our women. They have grown in faith by keeping their spirituality alive and connecting to the church. Their dedication to God, family, and community has been outstanding. They serve and evangelize with the love of Christ while entrusting this mission to Mary our Blessed Mother. We can cite so many wonderful examples of outstanding jobs, such as awarding four \$500 college scholarships to four deserving seniors. Another example is the 2487 hours spent producing about 2500 rosaries each year. This event is as original as the one in October when members decided to make “a larger than life rosary” where each decade had its own colored “ball-pit” plastic bead and the other prayer beads were also color coordinated; they were strung together with rope. This allowed each member to hold a bead and say a prayer in turn while sitting in a large circle. Another parish collected \$1,640 in gift cards that were donated to the Covenant House. As we can see, the cleverness of our ladies goes from supervising the scheduling of the Vocational Chalice for weekend masses to visiting homebound, nursing homes, and driving the elderly to appointments. Shopping, volunteering, and hosting were also involved. CCW meetings, palm braiding, keeping churches beautiful with flowers and decorations, make us realize that “women are the backbone of the church”.



Participating in the Living Rosary left to right: Nancy Nesselt, Fabiola De Armas, and Sr. Joanne Bonczek

Community

Chairperson: Anna De Priest

Blessings to ALL the members of the CCW Affiliations for your dedication and service to support and aide in your Community. This past year has been difficult for many families. Many families have to decide to buy food or pay the utility bill. Many women are taking on two jobs because there husbands have lost there jobs and they still can't make ends meet. I am proud to announce that many of our affiliations are all helping by raising money with Bingo, Bunco, Flea Markets, Gift Shops, white elephant sales, bake sales and dinners for food for St. Vincent DePaul, local panties, scholarships to allow children to have a catholic education. Affiliations made Thanksgiving possible for hundreds of family in their community by collecting food after Mass and at General Meeting and by involving the Catholic School in their Parish to donate food and make baskets. Phone cards were collected and set over to our Military service personnel to keep in touch with families back home. A clever Parish, made Easter Baskets to give to an out reach center. Slightly used boots and long sleeve shirts were also sent to Catholic Relieve Service to distribute to farm workers. Collecting cloths for children during the holidays is a popular event, and many, many more programs.

*“Love thy Neighbor as you
love thyself,
this is the first law”*



Keynote Speaker Sue De Ferrari, MorningStar Renewal Center with Sharon Utterback, MACCW Legislation Chair



Hotel Sofitel



Guest Speaker, Diane Tugander shared her recipes for Successful Membership

Family

Chairperson: Yvonne Caskey

When looking back on a year it seems many of us have the same thought: "Where did the time go?" Well, if you look at all the things that the ladies of the MACCW have done; you will change that thought to "How in the world did they find the time!" They reach out to families in all aspects of life and do it with a smile.

Many of the affiliations are very active in Respect Life. There were 10 baby showers, members attending the Respect Life Convention, still more ladies taking part in Catholic Days at the Capitol Days in Tallahassee, the Life Chain, Chastity Days and on the front lines volunteering in the local pregnancy centers. The Haitian Mass/Baby shower was a huge success in helping four girls and their little babies. Lives are saved and changed by acts of love the CCW women show everyday.

Several groups are involved in setting up receptions for the First Communion classes, organizing parish picnics, some are teaching CFF programs, and Baptism Preparation classes. Many give monetary donation to keep the CFF programs going. We have youth directors, volunteers who help in their schools with Red Ribbon week or a teacher appreciation lunch. As you know with our wonderful scholarship committee four \$6000 scholarships were given out to girls going on to Catholic High School. Some affiliations also provide scholarships to girls at their own schools. All of this effort lets the schools and the CFF programs know that CCW is here to help.

Stepping out from our parish grounds we find many families in need. We have several affiliations working with St. Vincent de Paul or their own parish food pantry. They work together to provide Thanksgiving Day dinners and referrals to shelters for the homeless.

In addition, groups are cooking and taking meals to families in need, volunteering at soup kitchens, and caring for the elderly and the homebound. Many of our sister council members are involved in supporting girls shelters or safe homes for women. They create hygiene bags for them, Christmas gifts, Valentine treats, Mothers Day gifts and even Easter baskets. I was amazed and touch to read about one council group

that hosts several homeless families for a WEEK in their parish hall. They provide food, clothing, shelter and activities for a whole week. This gives the families time to be a family. Things that I for one take for granted at times. I am sure being a part of such an event is very rewarding. They do this TWICE a year.

As you know we have taken on a new program called Hugs for the Homeless. The program came up kind of quick this year however was successful. I am sure next year will be bigger and better

I am continually awed by the amount of caring and concern shown by the women of the CCW everyday. It amazes me at what needs to be done sometimes just outside our front door. We have an opportunity everyday to make a difference in a family's life and you do it! I am honored to be part of such an awesome group of women and look forward to seeing what amazing act of charity you make the coming year. Now you can understand my thought "How in the world did they have the time. Together you contributed - 43,695.5 hours

Anna's Angels

One familiar and welcome sight at the MACCW Conventions is Anna Rybicki's beautiful hand made Angel jewelry. Regretfully, Anna informed us at the recent MACCW Board meeting that the 2011 Convention would be her last selling "Anna's Angels".

We might be losing the Angel lady, but Anna will still travel from her home in Lehigh Acres on the west coast of Florida to be with us. She has been a dedicated MACCW Member for many years serving on all levels of council from the state to affiliation.

Thank you for your years of dedication to the angel jewelry, and the donations you made to MACCW!



Legislation

Chairperson: Sharon Utterback

Many thanks to my Vice Chairpersons who served during this council year; Jean Harum, Lynda Henry-Alexander and Corinne Steinbauer.

Summing up all the efforts of the MACCW affiliations has revealed that we as a group have put our faith into action. From the affiliation reports, a total of 4,747 hours were reported under legislation commission.

As we thank God for giving us the opportunity to make a difference, not only in our local community, state and nation, we have received the message from Archbishop Wenski to recall and proclaim that Jesus is the way. Archbishop Wenski's homily at the MACCW 53rd Annual Convention, told us that if we live our Catholic faith in a coherent and unapologetic way we will be men and women of the way.

In the upcoming council year, I believe that we will be called upon to be the voice for the promotion of human dignity, which includes:

- Matters of life from natural conception to natural death
- Campaign for the advancement of immigration reform through education of ourselves and others
- Prayer to strengthen marriages and families
- Opposition to same sex marriage

2012 will be an election year. Let us plan now that we will collectively respond to the statement from Archbishop Wenski to put a voice behind our faith and to be in the way of those that think religious faith has no place in the pulpit or the public arena.

FCC Advocacy Network

When it is important for elected officials to hear from their constituents the FCC Advocacy Network provides an excellent opportunity for Catholics in Florida to carry out their responsibility to participate in political life. In response to six state and three federal alerts since the start of 2011, nearly 12,000 electronic messages were sent through their online system.

I urge all members to join the Florida Catholic Conference (FCC) Advocacy Network by visiting www.flacathconf.org

International

Chairperson: Louise Scott

We had an amazing year for International Concerns. You, the Ladies of MACCW, collected eyeglasses, empty pill bottles, wheelchairs, walkers, and stamps that were sent to missions in need around the world.

Rosaries were also made and sent to African Missions. Some were sent to the Gulf Task Force for fishermen, workers and families that were affected by the Gulf Oil spill. Food for the Poor was supported with monetary donations for food and supplies plus enough money to build a double house and cistern in Haiti.

Two houses were built in Nicaragua and one orphan child is being supported in Nicaragua. Cash donations were also made to Haiti and Chilean Earthquake Relief funds. Food, clothing and bedding were also sent to Haiti.

Donations were sent to a Mission in India to help build a school. Donations were also sent to Help a Child, Madonna Plan, Water for Life and the Human Trafficking Fund.

A food and toy drive was held to help Migrant Workers. Sales of Fair Trade items, including coffee and chocolate were encouraged through the Work of Human Hands.

Thank you to those who supported the booth at Convention. A special fundraiser at Convention raised \$200.00 for Sr. Alonzo of St Vincent de Paul and the Daughters of Charity's Mission in Haiti through the sale of tissue box covers.

A very special thank you to everyone who made all these good works happen. Total volunteer hours donated were approximately 4500.



Guest Speaker,
Teresita Gonzalez
"Amor En Accion"

Organization

Chairperson: Lidia Sabri

This commission acts as the "service Bureau" for the officers and all chairmen. It assists the Council by providing leadership training, obtaining membership, distributing publications, publicity, hospitality, and maintaining a website.

I had the pleasure this year to review the end of the year, affiliation organization reports. I have to admit this was my first time. If I say I was amazed and happy at the number of hours and the amount of work each affiliation reported is an understatement. Many of you have assumed a very active role in your parishes and your community. I would like to extend a very warm thank you and to congratulate each of you for achieving so much, by sacrificing your time all for the Love of God. May the Lord reward you abundantly and keep you safe.

In reviewing the end of the year reports from all the affiliations that submitted to MACCW, I've noticed the inconsistencies in the way every affiliation document their events. Some are reporting number of hours. Others are reporting how many members participated. Some are reporting both. Some affiliations under reported hours and events where council members participated in. Please log in your hours and the events your council is involved in on an ongoing basis.

However, the one thing everyone reported and agreed upon was to be able to recruit younger women to the council and to also increase spirituality in their meetings. All affiliations reported participation in most of their parish activities; parish ministries and had different types of fundraising events from bake sales, fashion shows, flower sale, Christmas bazaar, etc.

The organization commission is usually one of the busiest commissions. Looks like everyone's calendar this year was full. I am pleased to announce that over 30,000 hours were contributed to organization services throughout the archdiocese despite of all the challenges we faced. Thank you and God bless you for remembering our military personnel overseas. Keep up the good work!

MACCW Scholarship

Chairperson: Lucy Petrillo

Thanks to all of you for helping to make our 12th Annual Scholarship Gala on February 26, 2011 at the Rusty Pelican Restaurant, a huge success. We had 240 reservations and after expenses made a profit of \$17,709.92. Our committee worked hard and, as usual, our Silent and Chinese auctions were great. Our centerpieces showed us that there are many angels watching over us. Scholarship has a new angel to watch over us, our past Treasurer and reservation chairman, June Acker. June made sure everything was right that day, and I know that we made her proud.

The committee met on April 17 at my home to read over all of the 44 applications that we received. With the help of the Holy Spirit we all agreed to four girls. They are as follows:

Gianella Perez
St. Andrew Catholic School

Laura Diaz
St. John the Apostle Catholic School

Alexandra Soto
Blessed Trinity Catholic School

Adora Nacier
St. James Catholic School

It is because of your generosity that we were able to give \$6000 to each girl. They received their awards at the Closing Banquet of the MACCW Convention in May.

Have a great summer.

SAVE THE DATE

**13th ANNUAL MACCW SCHOLARSHIP
GALA AUCTION & LUNCHEON**

FEBRUARY 25, 2012

**RUSTY PELICAN RESTAURANT
KEY BISCAYNE**



June 7, 2011

Gianella Perez
4188 NW 92 Terrace
Coral Springs FL 33065

Pictured Left to Right: Lucy Petrillo, Scholarship Committee Chairman, Adora Nacier, St. James Catholic School, Alexandra Soto, Blessed Trinity Catholic School, Gianella Perez, St. Andrew Catholic School, Barbara Asfendis, MACCW President
Photo Courtesy of Donna Murphy

Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women
7900 SW 143rd St.
Miami, FL 33158

Dear Miss. Lucy Petrillo,

I have dreamed of attending Cardinal Gibbons High School ever since I was young and now that I have been named as one of the recipients in the Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women Scholarship Fund, my dream is becoming a reality. I am glad to have the opportunity to thank you personally for your generosity. Without scholarship patrons like you, there would be many students such as myself unable to attend a Catholic High School.

I look forward to my freshman year at Cardinal Gibbons and I will do my best to succeed and one day become a Psychiatrist. I will keep in touch and tell you how everything is going.

Once again, I offer my sincerest thanks for you and the committee for your continued generosity to the Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women Scholarship.

Sincerely,

Gianella Perez

Gianella Perez

OUR 53RD ANNUAL MACCW CONVENTION

MAY 20-22, 2011

“CATHOLIC WOMEN: MANY CULTURES, MANY TALENTS, ONE FAITH”

The Sofitel Hotel in Miami was the site for our 53rd MACCW Annual Convention. The hospitality of the hotel staff was outstanding. Some of us even managed to pick up a few French words while at convention. Many joined MACCW at this celebration. There were 172 people at the Luncheon on Saturday and 135 people at the Banquet Dinner. The support and interest was outstanding! There were 100 Full Packages, 19 One Day package and 7 Two Day packages. We were blessed to have 19 First Time Attendees. We were also joined by 17 Council Sisters from Nassau.

The Council Members in the North Dade District should be proud of all the time and talent that went into executing such a wonderful event for us to enjoy. They were led well by the affiliation presidents and North Dade District president, Sandra Hill. Registration went smoothly, the centerpieces and favors were beautiful and the Goody Bags were overflowing with “good stuff”. The Mass booklets included the readings and the liturgies were very meaningful. All enjoyed a fun time at the “Evening of Colors” Welcome Reception hosted by North Dade CCW. The band “GOD SQUAD” exceeded our expectations. North Dade CCW is comprised of a small group of hard working women who banded together to get the convention jobs accomplished.

THANK YOU to MACCW President, Barbara Asfendis for a wonderful convention. She put in many hours of dedication, to provide us with an inspiring convention. Only those who have taken on this position have an idea of what it takes to put on a convention. The planning and hard work really paid off. Barbara’s choice of speakers and topics was very interesting and informative. She arranged for Archbishop Thomas Wenski to join us for the opening Mass on Friday. He shared his thoughts with us in his homily. Barbara invited Marianne Torgler, Florida Council of Catholic Women President/Province Director to be with us. Throughout the convention, Barbara saw to it that, as Catholic Women, we were reminded to join our many cultures together and to use our talents to serve the Archdiocese of Miami.

MACCW Moderator, Fr. Michael Greer, was so supportive and actively involved in the planning of the liturgies. We thank Fr. Greer for his help and support at convention and throughout the planning stages for this convention. We thank God for having given him to us.

Much thought was put into making this convention meaningful for the members of council. It takes many hands working together to have our MACCW Conventions. Thanks to all who had a “hand” in the planning and executing of the 2011 Convention. This was a time of fellowship, learning, relaxation, renewal and prayer for all that attended. Plan on joining us next year and bring a fellow council sister with you! Enjoy the pictures!

Mary Weber

Convention Coordinator



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF DONNA MURPHY, LAURETTA BRENNAN, AND SANDY SANCHEZ

Memories from our 53rd Annual MACCW Convention!



Dr. Pedro Greer, Guest Speaker



Waiting to process into Sunday Evening Mass:
Rev. Chanel Jeanty, Rev. Eric Zegeer, Barbara Asfendis,
Rev. Michael Greer and Msgr. Kenneth Schwanger



Guest Speaker, Chief Fred Mass, with
Cathy Donn, Yvonne Caskey, & Mary Weber



Members of the Bahamas CWA



MACCW members
filled the foyer of the
Hotel Sofitel with joy!

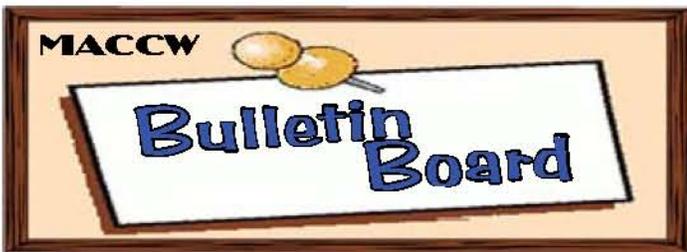


Rev. William Elbert with Yvonne Caskey,
Theresa Spirito, Sandra Hill,
Ruth Dunnigan, and Georgia Ulseth

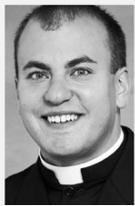


MACCW Presidents
Future, Present
and Past

Join us in 2012 for our 54th Annual MACCW Convention!!!



Good luck & God Bless you Fr. John & Fr. Eric!



The members of the MACCW want to thank Fr. Eric Zegeer and Fr. John Peloso for their service, leadership and most of all for sharing their spirituality with us during their time as District Moderators.

Fr. Eric, served as the Moderator for Broward DCCW, and has been assigned to St. Augustine Church in Coral Gables. Fr. John, served as Moderator for Monroe District CCW, has been assigned to St. Edward Church in Pembroke Pines.



Congratulations to the new District Presidents!



MACCW members had the opportunity to welcome two new District Presidents at the Closing Business Session of the Convention in May

North Dade District President Sandra Hill, passed the gavel over to in-coming President, Ann Cubillas.

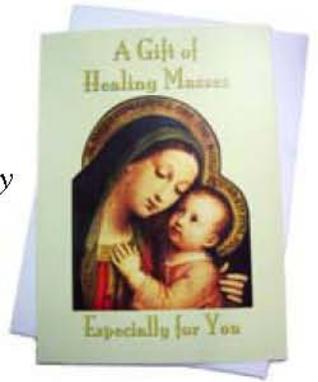
South Dade District President, Marjorie Stenett, passed the gavel over to the in-coming President Josephine Gilbert.



Our thanks to both, Sandra and Marjorie for your leadership these past years, and our congratulations to Josephine and Ann as they begin their terms!

**Healing Mass
Mass Cards**

Designed & made especially for the MACCW.



What better way to let others know that they are in our prayers when they are sick, then by sending a MACCW Mass card?

The offering for the cards is now 2 for \$5.00, and the masses will be said at St. John Vianney Seminary. Proceeds from the sale of the cards go towards the MACCW Seminarian Burse Fund. Please contact Ruth Dunnigan, 954-782-3782 for your supply to have on hand. To keep postage fees to a minimum, we suggest that you purchase several cards at one time.

Save these dates - Mark your calendars now!

2011

- August 27 MACCW Workshop open to all members & guests
- November 5 2nd Annual MACCW Fund Raising Event
- November 10-13 NCCW Convention Chicago

2012

- February 7-8 Catholic Days at the Capitol & Red Mass in Tallahassee
- February 25 13th Annual Scholarship Gala



MACCW Publications & Membership opportunities

- ◆ MACCW Newsnotes—\$6.00 per year for 4 issues.
- ◆ MACCW Individual Membership available to those who don't belong to an affiliation and are interested in learning more about us: \$15.00 per year

E-mail: galagirlb@aol.com for brochure

Send to: Suzanne (Kitten) Auer
385 Caribbean Drive, Key Largo, FL 33037

A 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 women
and girls 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 cry 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 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.



**MIAMI ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL
OF CATHOLIC WOMEN
NEWSNOTES**

Deanna Cook, Editor

**C/o Sharon Utterback, Permit Holder
9934 SW 156th Court
Miami, FL 33196**

**Return Postage Guaranteed
Address Correction Requested**

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

MIAMI, FL.
PERMIT NO. 00710



Newsnotes
Summer 2011