

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 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 Bishops Conference 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>



"The Horizon of Hope"

December 2013

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2012-2014

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A message from The President



Dear Council Sisters,

As we conclude our Fall General Membership Meetings and move into Advent season, it is very essential for us to live out and remember our Fall theme “Trust in the Lord; for He is Faithful” Our Catholic faith demands we completely empty ourselves, never to rely on our own understanding and allow God to work in our lives in his time. As Diocesan Catholic Women our faith gets us through the works we do by asking for his grace. God is Faithful! We give thanks to God for he gave us the wisdom and strengthened our dedication and love to successfully complete our annual fundraising event. The MACCW Victorian Tea on November 10th went very well with over 200 in attendance. It was joyful to mingle and enjoyed that afternoon with so many council sisters. It was joyful to God to see the young new members from St Mary’s Cathedral CCW. I extend my sincere thanks to Fr. Francis Akwue and members of St. Henry parish for their hospitality and also to all our members who contributed to the success of this event. May your love and dedication to Council never be dimmed.

Advent is the time we all prepare ourselves to receive Christ at Christmas. Several parishes have advent missions, and many of us will participate and be present in at least one mission at a parish. Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church has a theme “Each One, Reach One”. Don’t forget to invite your friends to come along with you. “Go out to the world, go out and tell the Good News”. Msgr. Schwanger encouraged us, this Advent season to make our faith a faith of inclusion. Each one us knows one person we can bring back to the church, invite them to come and share the Good News of God’s promise.

“Pope Francis in his homily on the first day of Advent, said to rediscover “The Horizon of Hope” which is our journey. The Advent season restores the Horizon of Hope; a Hope which does not disappoint for it was founded on God’s word, a Hope that never disappoints because God never disappoints, He is Faithful”. Pope Francis urges us to allow ourselves to be guided by Mary, Mother of God as we await the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior. Archbishop Wenski echoed the same truth in his homily; “Advent calls us to a renewed Hope in God who keeps his promises; God keeps his word by giving it to the world. His word is a word of peace; his word is a word of justice, a word of mercy, a word of healing. His word is Jesus”.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel, Patroness of the National Council of Catholic Women guide us and give us courage to rediscover the Horizon of Hope in this Advent season. Pray that God will give us the grace to share His word that is Jesus, to be always joyful to reach one.

I wish you a Hopeful Season of Advent; a renewed Hope in Jesus and a Joyful Christmas.

Josephine

From the desk of Fr. Greer

MACCW Spiritual Advisor

“Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Savior has been born in the world... true peace has come down to us from heaven” (*Entrance Antiphon/Christmas Mass during the Night*)

Greetings and best wishes to you and those you love with our observance of the birth of Jesus! We will rejoice with songs, share gifts, celebrate the season — and most especially receive new life from the Lord. May it bring realization of your wishes, but more so, Christ’s peace. Please continue to enrich your council and the Church with the special talents God gives you.

A blessed Christmas and New Year!

In Christ,



Very Reverend Michael J. Greer, V. F.
Spiritual Advisor



Catholic Days at the Capitol, March 25-26, 2014 *Red Mass of the Holy Spirit, March 26, 2014*

Catholics from around the state gather in Tallahassee to participate in Catholic Days at the Capitol. Participants attend a legislative briefing on human life and dignity issues prior to meetings with elected officials. Included in the activities is a luncheon for participants, the bishops of Florida and state legislators.

Participants are also invited to the annual Red Mass of the Holy Spirit con-celebrated by the bishops of Florida. Attended by state officials, lawmakers, judges, members of the legal profession and the community, the Red Mass is celebrated to pray for those working in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government.

Call Legislation Chairman - Monica Kramer at 305-439-3789 e-mail – monicakramer@bellsouth.net
Lobby Trip Coordinator – Jean Harum at 305-274-0458 e-mail – jmharum@harumandharum.com

Church

Claudia H. Charles, Commission Chair

Among the images that the Second Vatican Council chose to help us understand the nature of the Church better, there is that of "mother". The Church is our mother in faith, in supernatural life. It is one of the images most used by the Fathers of the Church in the first centuries and I think it could be useful for us too. For me it is one of the most beautiful images of the Church, Mother Church! In what sense and in what way is the Church mother? We start with the human reality of motherhood. What makes a mother?

A mother generates life. She carries her child in her womb for nine months and then delivers him to life, giving birth to him. The Church is like this. She bears us in the faith, through the work of the Holy Spirit who makes her fertile, as in the life of the Virgin Mary. The Church and the Virgin Mary are mothers, both of them. What is said of the Church can be said also of Our Lady and what is said of Our Lady can also be said of the Church!

The Church gives us the life of faith in Baptism. That is the moment in which she gives birth to us as children of God, the moment she gives us the life of God, and she engenders us as a mother would. If you go to the Baptistery of St John Lateran, beside the Pope's Cathedral, inside of it there is an inscription in Latin which reads more or less, "Here is born a people of divine lineage, generated by the Holy Spirit who makes these waters life-giving. Mother Church gives birth to her children within these waves". This helps us to understand something important. Our taking part in the Church is not an exterior or formal fact, it is not filling out a form that is given to us. It is an interior and vital act. One does not belong to the Church as one belongs to a society, to a party, or to any other organization. The bond is vital, like the bond you have with your mother, because, as St Augustine says, "The Church is truly the mother of Christians" (De moribus Ecclesiae, I, 30, 62-63: PL 32, 1336). The date of your Baptism is the day of

our birth in the Church, the date on which our mother Church gave us life!

A mother does not stop at just giving life. With great care she helps her children grow, gives them milk, feeds them, teaches them the way of life, accompanies them always with her care, with her affection, with her love, even when they are grown up. And in this she also knows to correct them, to forgive them and understand them. She knows how to be close to them in sickness and in suffering. In a word, a good mother helps her children to come of themselves, and not to remain comfortably under her motherly wings. The Church like a good mother does the same thing. She accompanies our development by transmitting to us the Word of God, which is a light that directs the path of Christian life. She administers the Sacraments. She nourishes us with the Eucharist, she brings us the forgiveness of God through the Sacrament of Penance, she helps us in moments of sickness with the Anointing of the Sick. The Church accompanies us throughout our entire life of faith, throughout the whole of our Christian life.

Finally, in the first centuries of the Church, one thing was very clear, the Church, while being the mother of Christians and while "making" Christians, was also "made" by them. The Church is not distinct from us, but should be seen as the totality of believers. St Jerome wrote "The Church of Christ is nothing other than the souls of those who believe in Christ" (Tract. Ps 86: PL 26,1084). Thus the motherhood of the Church is lived by all of us, pastors and the faithful. From the baby just baptized to the Bishop, the Pope, we are all the Church and we are all equal in the eyes of God! We are all called to collaborate for the birth of new Christians in the faith. We are all called to be educators in the faith, to proclaim the Gospel. Each of us should ask ourselves: "What do I do so that others might share in the Christian life? Am I generous in my faith or am I closed?"

As members of Council we must all take part in the motherhood of the church, capable of coming out, of moving, even taking risks to bring Christ to all people, so that the light of Christ may reach the far confines of the earth. Long live Holy Mother Church!

**(Excerpt from Pope Francis, General Audience, Saint Peter's Square, Wednesday, September 11, 2013.)*

International

Louise Scott, Commission Chair

Women Helping Women

CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

What:

Through Cross Catholic Outreach's Women Helping Women program you have a chance to put your faith into action and help restore dignity to destitute women and children around the world. As you read about the following ways to help, we hope you'll prayerfully consider joining us in spreading the love of Christ to those who need it most.

Where:

FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING — Project #0500

Each year hundreds of thousands of women and young girls are sold into slavery for labor and sexual exploitation. These innocent victims fall prey to human traffickers because they are trapped in extreme poverty and lack education. Without options, impoverished, young women are easily lured by traffickers who offer false promises of opportunity and a better life. The National Council of Catholic Women is fighting the scourge of human trafficking and giving young women in Asia the hope of a brighter future through education and vocational training. In partnership with Cross Catholic Outreach, NCCW members can free young women from the chains of poverty and help them avoid the devastating effects of human trafficking.

UPHOLDING THE SANCTITY OF LIFE — Project #0928

Worldwide, approximately 42 million unborn children lose their lives to abortion each year. In a time when many no longer regard human life as sacred, Cross Catholic Outreach is standing by God's Word, which says that every child — no matter at what stage of life — is special and formed in the image of God. The National Council of Catholic Women is upholding the sanctity of human life by supporting programs that give desperately poor mothers-to-be hope for a future. Together we're providing shelter, health care and support to help these mothers and their infants have full and healthy lives.

PROTECTING AND SHELTERING WOMEN — Project #0544

In Sub-Saharan Africa, women and their children are often abused and abandoned by husbands or other male relatives. With skyrocketing unemployment, no laws for protection and gender discrimination, single mothers have little hope of finding food and a safe place of refuge for their children. The Daughters of Charity work to change the lives of female-headed households in the Tigray region of Ethiopia by building houses so poor families can finally have a safe place to call home. In partnership with Cross Catholic Outreach, the National Council of Catholic Women is bringing hope to this region by supporting programs that protect, uplift and shelter vulnerable women and their families.

PREVENTING MOTHER AND CHILD MORTALITY —

Project #0704. In the Matisi Village of Kenya, women live in unsanitary slums with waste in the streets, substandard housing and an unsafe water supply. In the past, pregnant women were unable to access critical prenatal care and deliver their babies safely. Many mothers and infants died due to unsanitary conditions, premature labor and the complications of unsupervised birthing. The National Council of Catholic Women is preventing needless deaths among mothers and infants by providing care to some of the poorest women in Kenya. Together the NCCW and Cross Catholic Outreach can help Catholic missionaries dedicated to protecting vulnerable women and their children.

For more information please contact Maria Aleman at 1-800-914-2420 ext. 126 or via email at maleman@crosscatholic.org.



Have you ever wondered "Gee, I want to do something to help out and make someone's life better" but don't know where to start? Is your affiliation looking for a non-profit to contribute to but don't know where to begin? Well, Cross Catholic Outreach could be just what you are looking for.

Cross Catholic Outreach is sponsored by the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) so you can be sure your contributions will be used exactly as they are intended.



Organization

Deanna Cook, Commission Chair

MENTORING

Mentoring is a personal or professional relationship in which a more experienced or more knowledgeable person assists another in developing special skills and knowledge that will enhance the less experienced person's professional and personal growth.

A mentor

- teaches a specific Issue
- coaches a particular skill
- facilitates growth by sharing resources and networks
- challenges to move beyond the comfort zones
- creates a safe learning environment for taking risks
- focuses on the total development

Mentoring is an important aspect of acquiring knowledge in our organization. One objective of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women is to stimulate our affiliations to greater efficiency and usefulness in meeting the needs of the times in which we live. Over the years we have encouraged our officers to attend the yearly training or officer's workshop. It was always well received and served the purpose, however we realized that we are only reaching some members. Some of our affiliations are finding it difficult to get members to step up as officers which can ultimately lead the organization to disband.

This council year, we are exploring other options like taking officers training to the affiliations; we have the resources so why not give it a try?

Miami ACCW has tapped into the knowledge and experience of our MACCW past presidents now penned by the title of President Emeritus.

These teams will be visiting affiliations during their monthly meetings, this way they are sharing their knowledge with the entire membership. The mentoring teams will be sharing organizational structure particular to our MACCW and its programs, offices and some of the duties of each. This training format gives each member an opportunity to ask questions and get answers. We want to eliminate the fear of every member about serving in each office so they may say yes when asked. The goal of MACCW is to have a presence in each affiliation and the President Emeritus to reach 80% of our affiliations by the end of February 2014.

We have also assigned a President Emeritus as advisor to each District President. This program encourages the use of all six aspects of mentoring; teaching, coaching, facilitating, challenging, creating and focusing on the total development of our members. As we continue the mentoring and training program, we continue to gather more resource materials to help facilitate the growth of our membership. I urge the Affiliation Presidents who may not have scheduled their training date to contact the MACCW President and also remind all members the resource material we have currently now is only a thumb-drive away.

We thank God for our experienced members.

The mentoring teams will be sharing organizational structure particular to our MACCW and its programs, offices and some of the duties of each.

Legislation

Monica Kramer, Commission Chair

BE AN ADVOCATE!

Advocacy is the act or process of supporting a cause or proposal; the act or process of advocating something.

The Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women objective is to give full support to the statements and programs of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and to render them assistance in all their efforts.

We respond to the advocacy calls from FLACCB and USCCB on various advocacy areas such as Life and Death, Social Concerns, Healthcare and Education. *Through the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops, the (Arch) bishops of Florida carry out policy and advocacy activities related to state and federal legislation and agencies of government. The Florida Catholic Conference coordinates educational and pastoral activities within the Province of Miami on behalf of the bishops.*

The National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) is the voice for all Catholic women in the nation. Apart from the Florida and U.S Bishops, we also respond to the call from the NCCW on position papers and issue briefs that include global poverty, reducing poverty in America, reauthorization of the violence against women act and human life & dignity issues.

As Catholic women we are given the grace of our leadership roles, with tools and resources provided to us to advocate to those around us. St .Francis tells us to use the gospel and our actions to communicate these messages, and if necessary use words.

In addition to making phone calls and writing letters to our legislators, the Florida Council of Catholic

Women join our Bishops every year in Tallahassee during Catholic Days at the Capitol to visit the legislators to encourage them to defend all human life and to promote the dignity of the most vulnerable in the society. As Catholic women and voters it is important we exercise this right; the right to make our voice heard. We join the Florida Bishops at the Annual Red Mass of the Holy Spirit held at St. Thomas More Co-Cathedral to pray for divine inspiration and guidance for all our Legislators.

Be an advocate by visiting the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops website (<http://www.flaccb.org>), click on **Join Now! Let's make a difference.**

ADVOCACY AREAS

- Life and Death

Abortion; Death Penalty

- Social Concerns

Criminal Justice; Environment;
Farmworkers; Human Trafficking;
Immigration; Marriage and Family

- Health Care

Access to Care; End of Life Health Care;
Religious Liberty; Stem Cell and Research
Ethics; Ministries

- Education

Catholic Schools; School Choice

Family

Ana Portela, Commission Chair

Don't Make Such an Issue!

As we begin the “New Evangelization” that our Holy Father Pope Francis is calling us to, we are somewhat confused about what exactly is the difference? What was the matter with the “old” evangelization? How are we called to change our own lives and that of our families in order to obey this new calling for evangelization?

There's really nothing wrong with the way we were evangelized, or even the way that we are currently evangelizing, however our Holy Father is asking us to think beyond, to push our thoughts further than just the issues. Sometimes the issues that we advocate can be so encompassing that they fail to... well, encompass. For example, Respect Life is not just about abortion; it is not just about the elderly. It is about LIFE. All Life! The Church is a mother; it embraces everyone, just like a mother. The Church is for all people, not just a few chosen ones. Jesus Christ taught us that message.

Our theology about Life has to be consistent for all Life. We cannot be against abortion and then be pro-capital punishment. We cannot care about the elderly end-of-life issues and not care about the immigrants, disabled and the poor. The respect for life is about all life, not just one or two issues.

We are being called to be consistent with what we preach. Sometimes we can get so caught up in the trees (the “issues”), that we can't see the woods. How are we thinking about all of God's holy people? Are we sincerely concerned about all people?

Our attitude about the respect for life is reflected in what we say to each other, and especially in what we say in casual conversation. We must be careful to deliver a consistent message to our families, especially the youth. Faith has always been passed down from generation to generation. Therefore, the role of the Family in this new evangelization is bigger than ever. They say a family that prays together, stays together, but when was the last time you got down on your knees to pray with your family? That's not the only way to pray together. Share your faith. Share the importance of respecting ALL life. Share those thoughts in your actions and in your words. Be consistent in teaching the entirety of Christ's message about respect, not just the issues. This will make you a “new evangelist”!

An evangelizing community gets involved by word and deed in people's daily lives; it bridges distances, it is willing to abase itself if necessary, and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others. Evangelizers thus take on the “smell of the sheep” and the sheep are willing to hear their voice.

From the Apostolic Exhortation **Evangelii Gaudium** of The Holy Father Francis

Community

Marcia Perez, Commission Chair

Florida Council of Catholic Women — Province of Miami



A candy maker in Indiana Loved Jesus so much that he wanted to use his talents to make a special candy that would be a witness to Him. He incorporated several symbols for the birth, ministry and death of Jesus Christ in the candy cane. He began with a stick of pure white, hard candy. White symbolizes the Virgin Birth and the sinless nature of Jesus; and hard to symbolize the Solid Rock, the foundation of the Church, and firmness of the promises.

If the candy cane is held up right, it is the shape of a shepherd's staff which the shepherd uses as he watches over his sheep. Jesus is our shepherd who reaches down into the ditches of the world to lift out the fallen lambs that, like all sheep, have gone astray. If the candy cane is turned upside-down it becomes the letter "J" to represent the precious name of Jesus who came to earth as our Savior.

The scriptures tell us that Jesus was beaten and stripes were put upon His back when he was crucified in payment for our sins and that by these stripes we are healed. The candy maker stained the candy with these stripes. He used three small stripes to show the stripes of the scourging Jesus received and these represent the Trinity; one God who reveals himself to us three ways: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The large red stripe was for the blood shed by Jesus on the cross and represents our belief in one God who is father of us all.

Unfortunately, the candy cane has become a meaningless decoration available at Christmas time, but the meaning is still there for those who "have eyes to see and ears to hear."



JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

This Christmas adopt a family, feed, clothe and pray for them





You are cordially invited to the

**Miami Archdiocesan
Council of Catholic Women**

**15th Annual Scholarship
Luncheon and Auction**

Proceeds to benefit the MACCW Scholarship Fund



Saturday, February 22, 2014

InterContinental Hotel at Doral

2505 NW 87 Avenue

Miami, FL 33172

“Crystal Gala”

Silent and Chinese Auctions

Cash Bar & Reception at 11:30 am

Luncheon at 12:30 pm

Ticket Reservations and money are *Due by February 10th* - **Donation \$38.00**

After February 10th - **Donation \$43.00**

Reservation Chair: Mrs. Suzanne Auer 305-4513021 keyskitten@aol.com
385 Caribbean Dr., Key Largo, FL 33037

For additional information, please contact Mary Weber 305-757-1587

To make a donation to either Auction, contact:

Diane Tugander (Chinese Auction) 954-804-3508 Barbara Asfendis (Silent Auction) 954-437-6805

Marie Mohammed 305-238-4381 Virginia Beneduce 954-920-5034 Bette Clark 954-721-0326

Corporate Table Sponsors Welcome!

Contact Bette Clark 954-721-0326, or Auntiebet@aol.com

For a \$100.00 donation you can have a sign included in the Centerpiece.



***Board members are asked to bring donations
to the MACCW January Board Meeting***



SAVE THE DATES!!!!

**Miami Archdiocesan
Council of Catholic Woman**

**56th Annual Convention
April 25 — 27, 2014**



**1201 NW LeJeune Road,
Miami**

**Room rates: \$99.00
single/double occupancy**



**You don't want to miss out
on an exciting
Faith-filled weekend
with your sisters from
all around the
Archdiocese of Miami
and the Bahamas!**

**Check the MACCW Website
for additional information**



**Miami Archdiocesan
Council of Catholic Women
NEWS NOTES**

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NEWS NOTES
December 2013

 **Bulletin Board** 

2014 Chastity Days

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Gusman Concert Hall, University of Miami
1314 Miller Dr, Coral Gables FL 33124

Thursday, February 11, 2014

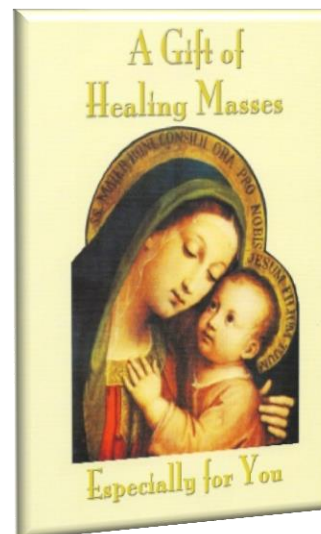
BCC, Bailey Concert Hall,
A. Hugh Adams Central Campus
3501 SW Davie Rd, Davie, FL 33314

Thursday, February 13, 2014

FMU, South Florida Memorial University,
Lou Rawls Performing Arts Center
15800 NW 42nd Ave, Miami, FL 33054

Thursday, February 20, 2014

Belen Jesuit Prep School,
500 SW 127th Ave, Miami, FL 33184



**Join
MACCW Penny-a-Day Club
Support And
Pray for Vocation**