

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>



“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel” Mt 1:23

November 2012 December

MACCW
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2012-2013

President

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

Vice President

Ann Cubillas
305-206-8632
ann.cubillas@gmail.com

Recording Secretary

Fabiola de Armas
786-457-6422
fabiolas@prodigy.net

Treasurer

Alice Riddell
954-479-1821
Roberts-828@hotmail.com

Corresponding Secretary

Sharon Utterback
305-525-4367
hammocks@aol.com

Parliamentarian

Diane Tugander
954-804-3508
busyd19@cs.com

Historian

Sandy Sanchez
305-914-4503
sas1054@att.net

Immediate Past President

Barbara Asfendis
954-559-1242
galagirlb@aol.com

Spiritual Moderator

Very Rev. Michael Greer, V.F.
Assumption Catholic Church
954-941-7647
blessedassumption@att.net



A message from The President

My Dear Council Sisters,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your dedication and faithfulness to the work of the Council throughout this year. My sincere thanks to Archbishop Wenski and his staff for the support they give us throughout the year. The same goes to all of our Spiritual Advisors, Pastors, and supporters throughout the Archdiocese. We cannot have a successful year without prayers and support. You will always be in our prayers and we pray that Our Lady of Good Counsel will continue to intercede for us to be wise, courageous and loving leaders of the church.

On Saturday January 5, 2013, the MACCW Board will start the year with a **Morning of Reflection** at St. Bartholomew Church, 8:30 am - 1:00 pm. The theme: **“Come Holy Spirit; Enlighten Our Hearts”**. I am happy to announce that our Guest Facilitator is Rev. Vivian Loughrey.

In February 2013, our affiliations will conclude the **FCCW “Hugs for the Homeless”** fund raising events, **Chastity Days for our Archdiocesan Catholic Schools Eighth Grade Students** and most of all, the **MACCW Scholarship Gala on Saturday, February 23rd, 2013** at the InterContinental Hotel in Doral. The history of our **MACCW Scholarship Program** is being featured under the Family Commission in this issue of “Newsnotes”. Please consider supporting this program by sponsoring one of the gala tables, donating auction items or making a donation. In recent years, through your support, we have been able to award scholarships as high as \$6000 each to young girls striving to continue their Catholic education.

In this past election, Amendment 6 and 8 did not pass. Was it very disappointing? Yes, because these issues are important to us as Catholics as well as those of other Christian faiths. This tells us that we still have a lot of work to do and we need to persevere until there are conversions of hearts. As Catholics, we are to remain faithful as urged by our Bishops. This is why, on March 19th through the 21st, 2013 during the **Catholic Days at the Capitol (CDAC)**, quite a number of our members, along with some Respect Life staff members, will be on the Archdiocesan bus to Tallahassee. We will be

joining the other six dioceses from Florida to visit our elected officials to make our presence known and our voices heard on issues that promote the common good as echoed by our Bishops. It is useless sitting at home lamenting and wondering what happened and pointing fingers. The Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women will participate in the legislative briefing of the issues to be discussed prior to meeting with our elected officials. We will not be promoting our individual agendas but armed with our unified Catholic voice, will urge the Florida Legislators to support public policies that respect all human life from conception to natural death; policies that promote the dignity of every person in this life.

The month of December is a significant month in our lives. It is the time to prepare our hearts to welcome the celebration of the birth of Baby Jesus. May our hearts be warm to receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior, the only one that gives us love and hope of eternal life. May we, during this busy month, know the reason we celebrate Christmas and be able to proclaim Him to all around us. Merry Christmas to all and May the Joy, Love and Hope that Christmas brings, stay with you always.

Love

Josephine

From the desk of Fr. Greer

MACCW Spiritual Advisor

Prayer from the Mass at Dawn, Christmas Day...

“Grant, we pray almighty God that, as we are bathed in the new radiance of your incarnate Word, the light of faith, which illumines our minds, may also shine through our deeds. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.” Amen.

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Coming your way are Christmas wishes and blessings for you and your loved ones. May the New Year bring a deeper appreciation of our faith, and a determination to share it with others.

Sincerely in the Lord,



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

Church

Claudia H. Charles, Commission Chair

The Celebration of the Mass and Vatican II

The beginning of the *Year of Faith* coincides with the anniversaries of two great events which have marked the life of the Church today. The first is the fiftieth anniversary of the Second Vatican Council called by Blessed Pope John XXIII, and the second is the twentieth anniversary of the Catechism of the Catholic Church given to the Church by Blessed Pope John Paul II.

The Second Vatican Council (1962 – 1965) was the twenty-first Ecumenical Council of the Catholic Church and the second to be held at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. It opened under Pope John XXIII on October 11, 1962 and closed under Pope Paul VI on December 8, 1965. The council's four sessions from 1962 to 1965 and its sixteen landmark documents modernized the liturgy, renewed the priesthood and religious life, enhanced the role of lay Catholics, opened dialogue with other churches and non-Christians, and identified the church as the "people of God" attuned to the problems and hopes of the world. Although the council defined no new dogma, Catholics who lived through the Second Vatican Council will never forget the changes that impacted the celebration of the Mass.



A great majority of Catholics first experienced the fruits of Second Vatican Council in their parish churches on Sunday mornings at the celebration of the Eucharist. The essence of the Mass is, of course, timeless and changeless. But those of us old enough to remember the Sunday morning experience of the 1960s (no Saturday evening Masses then) can testify that the Council radically changed the way we experienced the Mass. The changes to the Catholic Mass during the Second Vatican Council included making it less vertical and more horizontal; making it a meal (Holy Thursday) in addition to a sacrifice (Good Friday); allowing the priest to celebrate Mass with the people rather than saying it for them. These changes expressed who we were as a Church, how we worshipped God, and how we acted in the world.

What was Mass like before the Council? If we close our eyes and remember the Latin Mass of our youth, the

image that comes to mind is of a very reverent, mysterious, majestic ceremony unlike anything else in our daily lives: different language, different garments, different gestures, and different music. Everything pointed heavenward to the transcendent God of majesty.

We went to Mass to pray, but our prayers were not coordinated with the prayers of the priest at the altar. We said the rosary and other devotional prayers while the priest was saying the Mass. Of course, we stopped what we were doing and looked up at the ringing of the bell when the priest elevated the consecrated host. But other than that, we were not on the same page as the priest. He was engaged in the official prayers of the Church, the liturgy, which was primarily the worship of the transcendent God of majesty, a "vertical" action. We were saying the rosary and other devotional prayers—prayers that were more focused on ours concerns, a "horizontal" action. The priest prayed in Latin, God's language; we prayed in English or our native language. The bishops of the Second Vatican Council tried to bring these "vertical" and "horizontal" prayers together into one. They realized that the worship that is most pleasing to God is the worship that brings us to our full spiritual, mental, and physical potential.

The Second Vatican Council's *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* states that the Mass is the work of the priest and people together. The faithful are to "take part fully aware of what they are doing, actively engaged in the rite and enriched by it." The priest now speaks our language; we can understand the prayers. We can make the liturgical prayer our own and respond with faith. We can see the face of the priest and he can see ours. We can follow his expressions of invitation, petition, praise, and thanksgiving.

Whereas the priest formerly said Mass *for* the people, now he celebrates the Eucharist *with* the people. *For* or *with* are small words, but a big change. And the faithful, for their part, are asked to move from *watching* to *doing*—again, a big change. And just as it takes more knowledge, skill and effort to *play* basketball than it does to *watch* a basketball game, it takes more knowledge, skill and effort to celebrate and participate in the Eucharist than it does to watch the priest say Mass.

The Mass, the heart and soul of every Catholic Christian, is the central focus of our faith, and faith was the central focus of the Council of Vatican II. As we commemorate the anniversary of the Council and its many changes, especially changes to the Mass, may we appreciate the gift of faith, may we deepen our relationship with God, and may we strengthen our commitment to share our faith with others.

Family

Ana Portela, Commission Chair

Catholic Education Scholarship Program

A Little History-Contributed by Barbara Asfendis

The MACCW Scholarship Fund was established in 1996 with the goal of helping an 8th grade girl, attending a Catholic Elementary School in the Archdiocese of Miami, who was in need of financial assistance in order to continue on to a Catholic High School. We initially chose two winners from the nominations received.

The intent of the program was not to tax the members of the MACCW affiliations for donations, but to appeal to the communities in the three counties of the Archdiocese for donations. However, true to their form, our Council members have been more than generous. Our first major donation was from the MACCW. We will always be grateful to them for their support.

With the cooperation of the Archdiocesan School Department, applications are sent each year to the principals of the Catholic elementary schools with an eighth grade. Our first consideration is a financial need; next we consider character and academics. The application must be accompanied by a recommendation from the Principal of the school which must also be signed by the Pastor. We ask each girl to write a brief statement as to why she wants to continue with a Catholic High School Education. The Scholarship Committee, along with our Spiritual Advisor & President, selects the winners from the names submitted. This is truly a task which requires the guidance of the Holy Spirit, as each applicant is very deserving. Each recipient, and one guest, is invited to the Closing Banquet of our Annual Convention in the spring, at which time she is presented her award.

We held our first official fund-raising function—Dinner & Auctions at the Ft. Lauderdale Museum of Art in February 2000. The successes of these annual

events have enabled us to increase our awards over the years, as is evident by the list of recipients. The first awards in *1997, were for \$750 each. We have been fortunate to be able to increase that amount to \$6000 each in 2011 and 2012. Since the inception of the program we have awarded over \$ 150,000 in scholarships to deserving young ladies!*



In 2005 we welcomed our Mascot Scarlet Scholarship, an adorable white bear who will sing a song for you for \$1.00. She has earned additional donations through her efforts alone.



Our members are constantly thinking of prospective donors, and are willing to go anywhere if invited to explain our project. Our main hope is to make the communities outside the confines of the MACCW aware of our program and expand our possibilities. Ideas are always welcome. With the support of our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Michael Greer, and our Diocesan President, the dedication of our Committee, the members of MACCW, and of course, our sponsors and benefactors, this worthwhile project can only continue on the road to success and happiness.

Legislation

Monica Kramer, Commission Chair

The November 2012 elections disappointed many especially with the two Florida amendments, 6 and 8.

Even though many of us tried very hard, we have more hard work, more faith building and more prayer before us. The Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops commented *that they are grateful to its supporters for dedication and commitment; and will continue to pursue protection of all life and work in defense of religious*".

Amendment 6 received 55% of the vote. Now the state can use public funds for abortions whether we as Catholic are in agreement or not. A child may still not get a tattoo without parental consent, but may go to abort an unwanted pregnancy, without truly understanding the short and long term consequences.

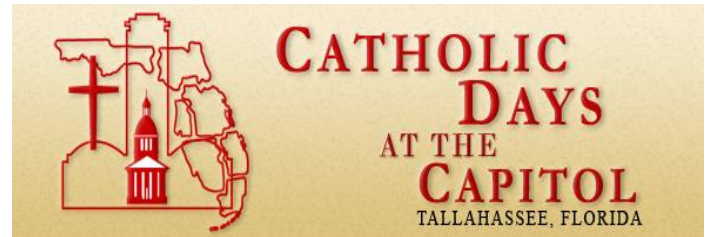
Sheila Hopkins, Associate Director for Social Concerns/Respect Life commented, "Without passage of a constitutional amendment, parents are deprived of their rights regarding this decision that can have life-long physical and emotional consequences because of a Florida Supreme Court ruling that a school-aged child has a right to an abortion without a parent's consent."

Amendment 8 received a 56% majority. Religious based organization must continue to attempt to protect our rights and those of our brothers and sisters.

"We must continue to create consciousness to those who we pray will recognize the right to life of every unborn child and the defense of human life in all its stages, from conception to natural death. We will support public policies that respect all human life whether unborn, disabled, poor, alien or rejected; on death row or the family of a victim of crime; well, sick or dying; young or old", as stated by our Florida Bishops.

In March 2013, the Council of Catholic Women will again attempt to make a difference in Tallahassee. Visits to Florida legislators during the **Catholic Day at the Capitol will take place March 19 through 21.**

Please be on the bus!



SAVE THE DATE:

Catholic Days at the Capitol, March 19-21, 2013

Red Mass of the Holy Spirit, March 20, 2013

**Homilist: Bishop Gregory L. Parkes,
Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee**

Join fellow Catholics from around the state as they gather in Tallahassee to participate in Catholic Days at the Capitol. Participants attend a legislative briefing of issues prior to scheduled meetings with their elected officials. A luncheon on day two is attended by the Bishops of Florida, legislators and Catholic Days participants.

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

**Please note, that we finish
on March 21st and travel back to
Miami that day.**

International

Louise Scott, Commission Chair

Taken from an article in the Sept/Oct issue of Catholic Women by Sharon D. Butler

According to UNICEF, 22,000 children die each day due to poverty. They die quietly in some of the poorest villages on earth, far removed from the scrutiny and the conscience of the world. Some 1.1 billion people in developing countries have inadequate access to water, and 2.6 billion lack basic sanitation. One out of every five children in the United States is now living in poverty.

The International Day for Eradication of Poverty (IDEP) has been observed every year since 1993, when the General Assembly of the United Nations designated this day to promote awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and destitution, particularly in developing countries. IDEP was inspired by the fact that many organizations had been observing October 17 as World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty since 1987.

The National Council of Catholic Women partners with Cross Catholic Outreach and Catholic Relief Services in an effort to reach across the oceans and provide a helping hand to women and their families living in dire poverty and suffering great social injustice.

Cross Catholic Outreach helps restore dignity to poor women and children in the developing world. Catholic women are called to action to uplift women suffering some of the worst attacks on their humanity. Through the Women Helping Women Campaign and NCCW's partnership with Cross Catholic Outreach, Cross is able to rescue women who are subjected to abuse, human trafficking, and early death through lack of healthcare and are even more likely to lose their lives through forced abortion.

According to the United Nations, almost 1 billion people lack access to water, while over 2.4 billion lack access to basic sanitation. **Catholic Relief Service's** Water for Life was established to make safe and clean water available to women and their families.

Another possible partner is the **Society of St. Vincent De Paul**, which is concerned not only with meeting needs of the poor but also with identifying the unjust

structures that cause poverty. The Society strives, with charity, to foster new attitudes of respect and empathy for the weak so that all are able to understand, recognize and defend the right of each person to be responsible for his or her own life.

I would like to thank all our affiliations who are supporting these organizations and to let you know that your efforts are truly appreciated.



FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
The nonpartisan public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Florida

ACTION ALERT **Urge Congress to Protect** **Poverty-Focused International Relief**

BACKGROUND: The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, "The duty of making oneself a neighbor to others and actively serving them becomes even more urgent when it involves the disadvantaged, in whatever area this may be." (no. 1932). As Christ willingly took it upon himself to identify with the least of his brethren, we are called in solidarity to protect our brothers and sisters living in poverty, whether at home or abroad.

U.S. poverty-focused international assistance makes it possible for Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to deliver food and care to poor and vulnerable children and families around the world. It also makes it possible for CRS to provide education to communities so that malnutrition and common diseases can be prevented. Seeds, tools and training are helping families grow gardens and raise livestock so that they can overcome droughts and have a constant, diverse source of food. The teaching of new farming practices is helping communities conserve soil, protect water resources, and reforest the land. For more information on the work of CRS, see <http://www.confrontglobalpoverty.org/>.

ISSUE: Congress is deliberating how much funding to make available for poverty-focused international assistance. While our nation's fiscal challenges are significant, poverty-focused international assistance makes up less than 1% of the U.S. federal budget. Cutting this assistance will not balance the federal budget, but it will cost lives. Reducing future unsustainable deficits is important, but it must be done in a morally responsible way that gives priority to those who are poor and vulnerable at home and abroad.

ACTION: Go to the link below to send an electronic message urging your U.S. Representative in Congress to protect poverty-focused international relief and development assistance in FY 2013 appropriations negotiations.

<http://www.votervoicenet/link/target/fcc/2zqbFRWN.aspx>

Community

Marcia Perez, Commission Chair

FCCW “Hugs for the Homeless”

Contributed by Claudette Spellman, MACCW
Homeless Concerns Chairperson

The 2013 FCCW “Hugs for the Homeless” Campaign will be the third annual fundraising event of its kind and it is a statewide event. The second FCCW “Hugs for the Homeless” project raised \$ 43,400.29 to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, and clothe those in need through charities selected by the seven Archdiocesan Councils of Catholic Women (ADCCW) in the state of Florida. This amount exceeds the \$36,000.00 collected in 2011. From December 2012 until the end of February 2013, all seven dioceses will again engage in fundraising events to benefit the third annual Hugs for the Homeless project.

Florida has the 3rd largest homeless population. Families are the fastest growing homeless, mostly due to home foreclosures and diminishing jobs; an increase of 30% in 3 years. 60,000 people live on the streets and 49,000 school age children are identified as homeless. In Florida over 12,000 of our homeless are veterans.

In our the Miami Archdiocese, the following shelters received assistance from this project; Providence Place/Angelic House with Catholic Charities in Broward; Chapman Partnership for the Homeless in South Dade, Independence Cay in Monroe and New Life Family Shelter in North Dade .

The success of the program begins with our affiliations. This year each ADCCW can hold their drive anytime that is convenient, from December 2012 through February 2013. All affiliation presidents have received Archbishop Wenski’s endorsement letter for this project. Suggestions given at the FCCW convention stressed **we (CCW) make a statement. Use a Bear as a mascot, posters that light up with miniature battery operated lights, decorate a large Christmas box to collect your donations, give**

Hug chocolates with each donation or use your own creative ideas.

Materials like the Bear template, Flyers or Prayer Cards for Homeless Children are available on line from the FCCW website, flaccw.catholicweb.com.

REMEMBER when advertising use only the name of the Florida Council of Catholic Women. It is also a good opportunity to promote your own CCW affiliation and all their good works.

Please use the more inclusive title of “Homeless Families”. We realize that there are many single fathers taking care of their children in situations of poverty and homelessness.

If you wish, the St. Benedict Labre cards can be distributed to your donors and they are available from Catholic Prayer Cards@CatholicPrayerCards.org. Mr. Bond can personalize your cards with the name of you affiliation and accepts Florida Tax Exempt Certificate. Prices for cards are as follows; 100.... \$66.89, 250.... \$81.89, 500.... \$101.89, 1000.... \$136.89, plus shipping and tax.

3rd Annual HUGS FOR THE HOMELESS



(Province of Miami)

Florida Council of Catholic Women



Our Lady of Good Counsel; Patroness of National Council of Catholic Women

Did you know?

Our Lady of Good Counsel has other titles; Mother of Good Counsel, Our Lady of Shkodra, Our Lady of Good Services and St. Mary of Paradise.

The painting of Our Mother of Good Counsel is an *Eleousa*, (the Mother of Tenderness). The Christ Child nestles close to his mother. The image is a half figure. The Christ Child rests on Mary's left arm, her head bends toward him, and their cheeks touch tenderly. The left hand of the child gently grasps the rim of her dress, indicating the intimacy of nursing. The image as it is known in the West is traced to the year 1467 to Genazzano, Italy, a small town ca. thirty miles southeast of Rome. It is presently located in a side chapel, built between 1621 and 1629, in the

Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel, hence the image derives its name.

Over the centuries, there are many prayers written in the spirit of the respective age, seeking advice from Mary on how to live a Christ-centered life.

A "Short Prayer to Mary Most Holy of Good Counsel to Implore Her Protection" from 1796:

O Mary of Good Counsel, inflame the hearts of all who are devoted to you, so that all of them have shelter in you, O great Mother of God. O most worthy Lady let everyone choose you as teacher and wise counselor of their souls, since you are, as Saint Augustine says, the counsel of the Apostles and counsel of all peoples. Amen.

**The National Council of Catholic Women,
devotion 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 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 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 all 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 gift of faith and living hope prepare us for the fullness of the world to come. Amen.

MACCW Board Morning of Reflection

January 5, 2013

Theme: “Come Holy Spirit; Enlighten our Hearts”

Facilitator: Fr. Vivian Loughrey

Time: 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

At St. Bartholomew Catholic Church

8005 Miramar Parkway

Miramar, Florida 33025

RSVP

Sharon Utterback

hammocks@aol.com

305-383-2030 or 305-525-4367

A light lunch will be served



Save the Date

**55th Annual
MACCW Convention**

May 3—5, 2013

**Embassy Suites Hotel
17th Street Causeway
Ft. Lauderdale**

**Hosted by
The MACCW Board of Directors**

**Check the MACCW Website for updates
Registration packages will be available in 2013**



InterContinental at Doral
2505 NW 87th Ave. (Galloway Rd.), Miami

COCKTAIL RECEPTION/AUCTIONS 11:30AM

LUNCHEON: 12:30PM

TICKETS: \$ 35.00

The *MACCW Scholarship Committee*, and of course our mascot, *Scarlet*, are looking forward to seeing you there!

The 14th Annual MACCW Scholarship Gala Luncheon & Auction February 23, 2013

InterContinental at Doral
 2505 NW 87th Ave. (Galloway Road), Miami

Join us for another outstanding afternoon of *fun, fine food, fantastic auction prizes, and good friends* all for a very worthy cause.

Our theme this year is *"Let's all Go to the Movies!!"* which is just another way to thank you for your support for the Scholarships we have been able to present since 1997!

We are looking for table sponsors at \$100.00 each. If you have items you would like to donate to either one of the Auctions, please contact Diane Tugander (Chinese Auction) 954-804-3508, or Barbara Asfendis (Silent Auction) 954-437-6805. Auction Items can also be brought to the MACCW Board Meeting on January 15, 2013.



Contact Scholarship Committee Chairman, Lucy Petrillo, 305-232-1976, or your affiliation President for tickets.

CHASTITY DAYS

Gusman Hall February 12, 2013

Florida Memorial . February 14, 2013

Bailey Hall February 19, 2013

Belen February 21, 2013

**For information, please contact
 MACCW Chastity Days Chairperson**

**Cathy Donn at 954-432-6824
donnfam@yahoo.com**

You are invited!!!

***The Archdiocesan
 Catholic Women's Auxiliary
 Nassau, Bahamas***

**2ND Biennial CONVENTION
 February 7th – 10th 2013**



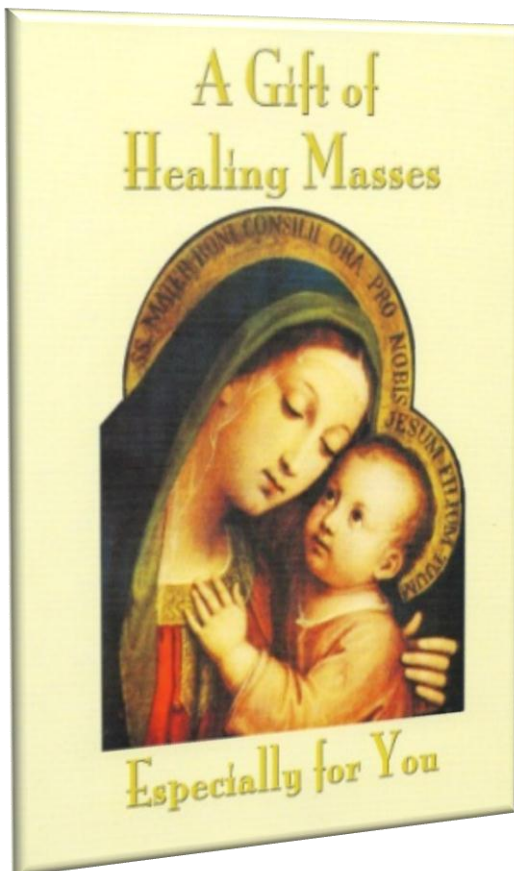
**THEME
*"Fanning to Flame"***

**Super Club Breezes
 Nassau, Bahamas**

**Registration: \$225 (before Dec. 15)
 \$250 (after Dec. 16)**

**Hotel: \$99 per person per night.
 (double occupancy)**

Forms available on our website: maccw.org



Support MACCW Seminarian Burse Fund

Contact: Ann Cubillas at 305-206-8632
ann.cubillas@gmail.com

**Miami Archdiocesan
Council of Catholic Women**

NEWS NOTES

Maria E. Padilla, Editor

c/o Sharon Utterback, Permit Holder
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Miami, FL 33196

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NEWS NOTES

November-December 2012