

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 affiliate 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.

www.maccw.org



Joyous Christmas

December 2015

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2015-2016**

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A message from The President



With Thanksgiving behind us and the Christmas Season upon us, we need to remember from where all our blessings come. God gives us so much on a daily basis and we give thanks to Him!

Thanksgiving is a time to spend time with our families and relive past gatherings with joy and laughter. I so look forward to this time of year but I also must not become complacent and forget those less fortunate than myself. We have so many in need today and I know many of our Affiliations put together baskets so that all God's children can celebrate this day.

Don't get caught up in the commercial side of this time of year but offer prayers for all those suffering around the world. Take some time to spend an hour at Adoration if it is being offered by your Parish. Make a commitment to take 5 minutes more every day for prayers.

Advent is our time to become more involved, more caught up in the meaning and the possibilities of life as a Christian community. Thus we are preparing not only for Christmas but also for Christ's Second Coming. This means that when he comes again, we will be awake and watchful. He will not find us asleep.

Make sure that all within our Catholic community receive the gift of God's love by our own actions toward each other. Let us be a "Martha" and work for the betterment of all mankind through service to others.

Therefore my Council Sisters let us always be awake and vigilant of those less fortunate than we are. We live in times of turmoil and non-believers. Let us continue our good works in our Parishes, Families and Communities. We are the Church and everything we do reflects that.

May God bless all of you and your families during this upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas Season and give you safe travels and true family time together with each other.

Merry Christmas
Ann Cubillas

You are cordially invited to the
Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women
17th Annual Scholarship Luncheon and Auction
Proceeds to benefit the MACCW Scholarship Fund

Saturday, February 27, 2016

EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL
1100 SE 17TH Street
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

“The 17th Gala on 17th Street!”

Silent and Chinese Auctions

Cash Bar & Reception at 11:30 am
Luncheon at 12:30 pm

Donation: \$40.00/person – Due by February 16th After February 16th – \$45/person

Send Reservations to: Mrs. Suzanne Auer 385 Caribbean Dr., Key Largo, FL 33037
305-451-3021 keys kitten@aol.com

Make Checks Payable to: MACCW Scholarship Fund

For additional information, please contact Mary Weber, Chairman, 305-469-3515 or webermcm1@gmail.com

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To Make a donation to either Auction, Contact:

Diane Tugander (Chinese Auction) 954-916-0624 Barbara Asfendis (Silent Auction) 954-437-6805
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Corporate Table Sponsors Welcome!

For \$100.00 donation you can have a sign included in the Centerpiece
Contact Bette Clark 954-721-0326 or auntiebet@aol.com

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

A message from Fr. Greer



Organization

Cathy Donn, MACCW Recording Secretary

Dear Sisters of the MACCW:

As we prepare for the holidays, I would like to share with you an occasion in life for which I give thanks but more so which I felt was an awesome gift.

When I first heard of plans for a papal visit to our country I had the desire and compulsion to attend one part or ceremony.

With assistance from a parishioner with strong ties in New York City, I was able to not only witness but concelebrate at the Pope's Liturgy in Madison Square Garden. The emotion of being close to Christ's representative on earth, but especially to feel faith and joy resound in that place, was unforgettable. Hearing Pope Francis lead us in prayer and preach about Christ's concern for others, was a blessing and inspiration.

In conclusion, if either through the public media or personal experience, we people of America should be grateful for the Holy Father's visit and message(s) shared. What a gift for which we shall give thanks. An yes, remember to pray for him, as he so often requests.

Happy Thanksgiving and a joy-filled Christmas season.

Fr. Mike

Very Rev. Michael J. Greer, V.F.



Cathy Donn had the most wonderful experience by being able to go to Cuba and see the Pope. She is sharing her observations with us. Cathy is Vice-President of her CCW at St. Bernadette Church and she is also MACCW Recording Secretary.

"It was the trip of a lifetime, and I feel so very blessed to have been able to go, and am so grateful for the faith, perseverance and commitment of the Archdiocese for planning it.

Havana, Cuba was a fascinating place. What an anomaly...5 star hotels mixed in with poor housing and seemingly abandoned buildings. Every block had nice places mixed together with not so nice... it was kind of sad. When you walked down certain streets, people would have the building front doors open, and souvenirs would be hung on both sides of the walls just inside the door of the steep staircase. Lots of people selling the same merchandise, trying to make a living. The odd thing was, you couldn't have found a papal souvenir anywhere to save your life, even at Revolution Square where the Papal Mass was. There is an 'old' Havana and a 'new' Havana, and we got to see parts of both. Although most of the old parts were a bit run down or not kept up, the architectural detail and size and scale of the buildings were amazing. It must have been something in its time. Very high ceilings/spacious rooms; the floors, esp. the first floors, were all 12' high or so. I was reminded of buildings I saw in Italy, where they were all attached to one another to make up the whole block, and they had real big doors, and sometimes a door in a door. The people were all very hard working, friendly and nice; and the city was generally neat and clean. But you could tell the money wasn't there to keep things up/maintain the buildings. Some were painted beautiful colors, but most were just plain concrete. There would be old, dead trees in the yards, and I guess no one had the equipment to take them down or the money to pay someone to do it. At night, it almost looked like a ghost town, as most of the buildings were dark, and I assumed the lack of lights burning was a symptom of keeping costs down. The churches we visited were stupendously ornate and beautiful inside, with frescos, beautiful alters, intricate woodwork, domed ceilings, stained glass, etc., but the outsides always needed pressure cleaning!! No A/C inside of them, of course. We attended Mass with Archbishop Wenski on Saturday, the Holy Father on Sunday amid the masses

out in Revolution Square, and with Cardinal O'Malley of Boston on Monday. At Monday's mass, we were treated to singing from a female choir, that during the Mass, I couldn't figure out where the choir was housed... and what a surprise to find out that the choir was made up of cloistered nuns from the Discalced Carmelite order that lived there! It was very cool to discover their presence, especially since we have been active supporting the same order of nuns living in Miami. After Mass, we were invited to come up to the alter and see and speak to a group of about 10 nuns, standing in what looked like their living room, behind 2 large interior openings with bars, that directly faced the alter area from the left side... a sight that I had never seen, and took me by such a surprise! The masses were a treat for us every day.

We saw the Pope on Saturday when his motorcade came into town from the airport, then again for Mass on Sunday, where a small group of us were treated to a close encounter of the Catholic kind when his motorcade paused right in front of us! We saw him close up again that same day in another motorcade on the street outside our hotel, which we just happened upon when we had an hour to kill and decided to talk a walk! The hotel we stayed at, as well as the meals and receptions we were treated to in different places around the city, were all planned for us by the Archdiocese. Each one was wonderful, and while traveling by tour bus to each place, we had a wonderful guide assigned to our bus that pointed out all sorts of attractions and explained quite a lot of Cuban history as it related to the sights. And although some excursions did not work out as planned, you remembered why you were there and what was important...

As far as the Catholic presence in Havana, other than the 180+ of us that traveled as part of the Archdiocesan group, it is hard to say how many Cubans there really were practicing Catholics. There seemed to be some additional people at the two masses that our group attended, but mainly the masses we went to were especially scheduled for us, so there was no way to know how full the churches may have been at Sunday Mass. But the churches were very large, so at one time at least, there must have been many Catholics attending... There was, of course, a large crowd at Revolution Square for mass celebrated by Pope Francis, but it was also hard to tell how many people were Catholics, although the majority of people that were around us had Mass programs and were following along and responding/singing. I had been depressed about the thought of traveling all the way to Cuba to attend Mass with the Pope, yet not being able to understand a word of the Mass, but I found that with the program, I could follow along and know exactly what part of the Mass was happening, and could actually sing along to some

song choruses and recite (albeit not as quickly as the locals!) some of the responses. That pleased me greatly - that I felt as though I could participate in the Mass, and not be left out as a non-Hispanic. I was also surprised to realize that (I am guessing at the %) at least 25% of the people in our group as well, did not speak Spanish, and so my brother-in-law and I were not the only 'clueless' ones ☺. I don't know the numbers of people who attended, but I did hear someone say that the government paid people to be there, but don't know if that was true. Our group all brought rosaries to offer to the Cuban people, and I decided to target the very few young people that were there, as they are our future... but once you gave one out, people would surround you wanting them; but I don't know the bottom line there/what the real attraction was of wanting a set of rosary beads, esp. since I could not communicate with them. But you could tell there were some Cubans who were very humbled and truly happy to have received one. What also amazed me was when we left the hotel in the dark, and got in a tour bus at 6:15 AM Sunday morning to get there early for the Papal mass, and once the bus pulled out onto the local street, I looked out the window, only to realize that many people already filled the sidewalks, making the long trek to the Square. It was about a 20 min. ride for us... so quite a long walk for them, moving forward step by step in the dark... it seemed kind of like they were zombies -- just walking along following one another with a singular purpose, which was wonderful, but it worried me because it was dark out, and there were not many building or street lights on, and I was afraid they would get hit by the big busses... but on they pressed... true pilgrims.

It was a bit of a letdown to leave Cuba to return to the US, but it was pleasing to be able to now see TV footage of the Pope in America, and to be able to understand what the announcers were saying! ☺ I would go back to Cuba to visit or vacation in a heartbeat... prices were affordable, and such a pleasant, quiet, peaceful, and overall, a beautiful place. Our bus guide told us that the Canadians flock there and stay for a month at a time... only I think it might be sad to be there, and know the Cuban people surrounding you are oppressed."

Blessings,
Cathy

MACCW NEWS

The following are the members of
the 2015 MACCW Nominating Committee:

Lisa Shelley, Chairman	North District of MACCW
Claudia Charles	Central District of MACCW
Margaret Wright	South District of MACCW

International

Louise Scott, Commission Chair

This past September I attended the NCCW Convention in Orlando. It was a very inspirational and informative time. For me, the highlight of the event was attending a presentation by keynote speaker Dr. Carolyn Woo. She is the President and CEO of Catholic Relief Services or CRS.

Dr. Woo has been with CRS since 2012. From 1997 to 2011 she served as dean of the University of Notre Dame's Mendoza College. Dr. Woo's credentials and accomplishments are too many to list but you can find her biography on CRS.org.

I enjoyed hearing her speak and was inspired to "Do More." Here is some information that she passed on at the convention.

CRS or Catholic Relief Services was founded in 1943. It is one of 164 members of Coritas International. There are 1200 partner organizations that help support CRS, with a motto of "Need not Greed." CRS is one of the first responders to areas in crisis. Between 85 to 100 million people in 103 countries worldwide are served by CRS in the name of the Catholic Church which goes to places in crisis and leave when the area is stable. 92 cents of every dollar donated goes to the field.

12 % of the 2 billion people who live in poverty live on \$1.20 a day and the rest live on \$2.00 a day. Poverty is related to conflict worldwide. Half the women in the world do not have access to proper health care. CRS strives to serve the common good with uncommon excellence with faith of the people, taking action and getting results.

I urge every one of you to continue your support of CRS though your donations to Help a Child International; Change for Change, Water for Life and The Madonna Plan

District Meeting Dates

North District of MACCW

Spring: April 9, 2016

Central District of MACCW

Spring: April 15, 2016

South District of MACCW

Spring: March 12, 2016

Church

Claudia Charles, Commission Chair

Advent: A Time of Mercy

Advent is perhaps the most challenging liturgical season for Catholic Christians. The secular world has kidnapped this time intended for quiet reflection and turned it into a time of premature celebration. During Advent, we spend four weeks trying to balance ourselves. Like standing in the middle of a seesaw, we often have one foot in the materialistic world of gifts, decorating and parties, while the other foot is in the spiritual world of prayerfully expecting the miracle of Christ's birth.

A Christmas tradition started by St. Francis may help us keep our focus more on the coming miracle than the latest sales. By choosing the name Francis, our Holy Father has called the world to pay more attention to the beloved saint from Assisi, who taught us to live simply and care for the poor. One way St. Francis reminded us of our Lord's kinship with the poor was through the Nativity scene. We may think the Nativity scene is as ancient as the celebration of Christmas itself. Yet, Nativity scenes were unheard of until St. Francis set up the first one in a cave outside of Greccio, Italy, in 1223.

Because St. Francis was afraid his idea might be too radical, he petitioned Pope Honorius III for permission to re-create the scene of our Lord's birth. His goal was to remind people of the poverty into which Christ chose to be born. He felt the faithful were missing the message of the Gospel because they were too enmeshed in materialism. Sound familiar?

We may be able to keep our balance a little better this Advent by focusing on the rich symbolism of the Nativity scene. Inspiring words from Pope Francis, weekly Scripture readings and simple prayers can also help us find new ways to make this season of Advent a time of prayerful preparation, mercy, joy and expectation

Susan Erschen, *OSV*
Newsweekly, November 28, 2014



**58th ANNUAL
MACCW CONVENTION
MAY 20—22, 2016**

**EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL
17TH ST. CAUSEWAY
FT. LAUDERDALE**

**Please join us and as we celebrate 58 years of
Leadership, Spirituality and Service
To the churches and communities
in the Archdiocese of Miami**

Meet old friends

Make new friends

Invite friends

**An educational, rewarding experience
You don't want to miss it!!!**

**The Central District of MACCW
Host District**

Celebrate Mass with:

Archbishop Thomas Wenski Sunday, May 22
Bishop Peter Baldacchino Friday, May 20
Very Rev. Michael J. Greer Saturday, May 21
Sheila Hopkins, NCCW President
Diane Tugander, FCCW President/Province Director

Awards:

MACCW Scholarship Award Presentations
Our Lady of Good Counsel Award
Outstanding Member Award

Presidents Appreciation Luncheon
Prayer Services
"Children Matter" Paper Doll Campaign
Jewelry Sale & Raffle
Welcome Reception

Hotel Room Rates:

**\$149.00 single/double
\$10.00 per each extra person
Maximum of 5 to a room**



Family Concerns

Ana Portela, Commission Chair

Five Great Pope Francis Quotes
about Marriage and the Family

World Youth Day 2013 in Rio de Janeiro concluded July 28. Below are five great quotes from Pope Francis about marriage and the family, all given during World Youth Day. Enjoy!

Number 1: Thursday, July 25: “Dear friends, it is certainly necessary to give bread to the hungry – this is an act of justice. But **there is also a deeper hunger**, the hunger for a happiness that only God can satisfy, the hunger for dignity. **There is neither real promotion of the common good nor real human development when there is ignorance of the fundamental pillars that govern a nation, its non-material goods: *life***, which is a gift of God, a value always to be protected and promoted; **the *family*, the foundation of coexistence and a remedy against social fragmentation; *integral education***, which cannot be reduced to the mere transmission of information for the purposes of generating profit; ***health***, which must seek the integral well-being of the person, including the spiritual dimension, essential for human balance and healthy coexistence; ***security***, in the conviction that violence can be overcome only by changing human hearts.”

Number 2: Friday, July 26: “**How precious is the family as the privileged place for transmitting the faith!** Speaking about family life, I would like to say one thing: today, as Brazil and the Church around the world celebrate this feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, Grandparents Day is also being celebrated. **How important grandparents are for family life**, for passing on the human and religious heritage which is so essential for each and every society! How important it is to have intergenerational exchanges and dialogues, especially within the context of the family.”

Number 3: Saturday, July 27: “Not only would I say that the family is important for the evangelization of the new world. **The family is important, and it is necessary for the survival of humanity.** Without the family, the cultural survival of the human race would be at risk. **The family, whether we like it or not, is the foundation.**”

Number 4: Sunday, July 28: “God calls you to make definitive choices, and he has a plan for each of you: to discover that plan and to respond to your vocation is to move forward toward personal fulfillment. God calls each of us to be holy, to live his life, but he has a particular path for each one of us. **Some are called to**

holiness through family life in the sacrament of Marriage. Today, there are those who say that marriage is out of fashion. Is it out of fashion? In a culture of relativism and the ephemeral, many preach the importance of ‘enjoying’ the moment. **They say that it is not worth making a life-long commitment, making a definitive decision, ‘forever’, because we do not know what tomorrow will bring. I ask you, instead, to be revolutionaries,** I ask you to swim against the tide; yes, I am asking you to rebel against this culture that sees everything as temporary and that ultimately believes you are incapable of responsibility, that believes you are incapable of true love. I have confidence in you and I pray for you. Have the courage ‘to swim against the tide’. And also have the courage to be happy.”

Number 5: Sunday, July 28: “In mission, also on a continental level, **it is very important to reaffirm the family, which remains the essential cell of society and the Church;** young people, who are the face of the Church’s future; women, who play a fundamental



ADVENT

Advent comes from the Latin word meaning “coming.” Jesus is coming, and Advent is intended to be a season of preparation for His arrival. While we typically regard Advent as a joyous season, it is also intended to be a period of preparation, much like Lent. Prayer, penance and fasting are appropriate during this season.

Advent is not as strict as Lent, and there are no rules for fasting, but it is meant to be a period of self-preparation. The purple color associated with Advent is also the color of penance. The faithful should fast during the first two weeks in particular and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The color of the Third Sunday of Advent is rose. This color symbolizes joy and represents the happiness we will experience when Jesus comes again. The Third Sunday is a day of anticipatory celebration. It is formerly called “Gaudete” Sunday; gaudete means “rejoice” in Latin.

Finally, Sundays during Advent, just as during Lent, should not be given to fasting, but instead to celebration because we celebrate the resurrection of Our Lord every Sunday. It is important to remember, however, there are no particular rules for how the laity should observe Advent.

Community

Marcia Perez, Commission Chair

“What Goes Around Comes Around”

Illustrates the moral fiber and the spirit of sainthood. It gives us a glimpse of “heaven”. It also shows how wonderful our world could be if we live out fully the Gospel spirit of Mercy and of the entire Beatitudes.

One day a man saw an old lady stranded on the side of the road, but even in the dim light of day, he could see she needed help. So he pulled up in front of her Mercedes and got out. His Pontiac was still sputtering when he approached her. Even with a smile on his face, she was worried. No one had stopped to help for the last hour or so! Was he going to hurt her? He didn't look safe; he looked poor and hungry. He could see that she was frightened, standing out there in the cold. He knew how she felt. It was that chill which only fears can put in you. He said, “I'm here to help you ma'am. Why don't you wait in the car where it's warm? By the way, my name is Bryan Anderson.” Well, all she had was a flat tire, but for an old lady, that was bad enough.

Bryan crawled under the car looking for a place to put the jack, skinning his knuckles a time or two. Soon he was able to change the tire. But he had to get dirty and his hand hurt.

As he was tightening up the lug nut, she rolled down the window and began to talk to him. She told him that she was from St. Louis and was only just passing through. She couldn't thank him enough for coming to her aid. Bryan just smiled as he closed her trunk. The lady asked how much she owed him. Any amount would have been all right with her: She already imagined all the awful things that would have happened had he not stopped. Bryan never thought twice about being paid. This was not a job to him. This was helping someone in need, and God knows there were plenty who had given him a hand in the past. He had lived his whole life that way, and it never occurred to him to act any other way. He told her that if she really wanted to pay him back, the next time she saw someone who needed help, she would give that person assistance needed, and Bryan added, “And think of me.” He waited until she started her car and drove off. It had been a cold and depressing day, but he felt good as he headed for home, disappearing into the twilight.

A few miles down the road, the lady saw a small café. She went in to grab a bite to eat, and take the chill off before she made the last leg of her trip home. It was a dingy looking restaurant. Outside were two old gas

pumps. The whole scene was unfamiliar to her. The waitress came over and brought a clean towel to wipe her wet hair. She had a sweet smile, one that being on her feet for the whole day couldn't erase. The lady noticed the waitress was nearly eight months pregnant, but she never let the strain and aches change her attitude. The old lady wondered how someone so little could be so giving to a stranger. Then she remembered Bryan. After the lady finished her meal, she paid with a hundred dollar bill, but the old lady had slipped right out the door. She was gone by the time the waitress came back. The waitress wondered where the lady could be. Then she noticed something written on the napkin. There were tears in her eyes when she read what the lady wrote: “You don't owe me anything... I have been there too. Somebody once helped me out, the way I'm helping you. If you really want to pay me back, here is what you do: Do not let this chain of love end with you.” Under the napkin were four more \$ 100 bills. Well, there were tables to clear; sugar bowls to fill, and people to serve, but the waitress made it through another day...

That night when she got home from work and climbed into bed, she was thinking about the money and what the lady had written. How could the lady have known how much she and her husband needed it? With the baby due next month, it was going to be hard....She knew how worried her husband was, and as he lay sleeping next to her, she gave him a soft kiss and whispered soft and low, “Everything is going to be all right. I love you, Bryan Anderson.”

*Contributed by
Father Jesus Arias, Pastor
Good Shepherd Catholic Church.*

A Prayer for Mercy

Heavenly Father,

Please help me to see you not only in the smiling face of an infant but also in the eyes of all who are lonely, hungry, depressed, angry, hurting, in pain or in need this Advent season.

Give me courage to move out of my comfort zone so I can give comfort to another.

Let me make room in my heart for You by making room in my heart for those who are most in need of my love and kindness.

Teach me to be a person of mercy, just as You are a God of mercy.

Amen.

Legislation

Sandy Sanchez, Commission Chair

In its 2015–16 terms, the U.S. Supreme Court will revisit Florida's death penalty procedures in *Hurst v. Florida*.¹ This time, however, the court will primarily focus on juries' roles in capital sentencing proceedings.

In May 1998, Timothy Lee Hurst allegedly murdered his assistant manager, Cynthia Lee Harrison, at the fast food restaurant where he worked and robbed the safe. Harrison was eventually found locked in a freezer bound with electrical tape. She had more than 60 stab wounds. Hurst was convicted of the crime and faced the death penalty. At his capital sentencing hearing, prosecutors presented evidence concerning two aggravating factors relevant to the crime: that he killed Harrison while committing a robbery and that the killing was especially "heinous, atrocious and cruel." A majority of jurors (seven of 12) found beyond a reasonable doubt that an aggravating circumstance existed. They further determined that the aggravating factors were not outweighed by any mitigating factors that would argue against the death penalty and recommended that the judge sentence Hurst to death. In a subsequent hearing, the judge held that the specified aggravating factors also outweighed factors in mitigation — in this case, Hurst's young age (he was 19), his limited prior criminal history and his poor mental functioning² — in sentencing him to death.

Florida is unique among the 33 states that allow the death penalty in that it does not require capital sentencing juries to achieve unanimity in both finding beyond a reasonable doubt the existence of aggravating factors and recommending the death penalty. Also, a majority of Florida's jurors in a particular case do not need to find the same aggravating circumstance exists, they simply have to agree there is one that qualifies the defendant for the death penalty. Moreover, the jurors' eventual decision on the aggravating factor(s) and the imposition of the death penalty is also only advisory to the judge. Separate finding at a different hearing must be made by the sentencing judge for the death penalty to be imposed. The Supreme Court will decide whether Florida's unique procedures unfairly abridge the defendant's right to a fair and impartial jury trial afforded by the Sixth Amendment of the Constitution and whether these particular procedures might lead to cruel and unusual punishment under the Eighth Amendment.

Psychological research has much to offer the court in its eventual decision. Considerable empirical research exists

examining unanimity as a requirement for legal decision-making generally as well as specifically in regard to capital sentencing. A review of this research indicates that majority rather than unanimous jury decisions lead to briefer and less evidence-based determinations, less discussion of minority viewpoints and less satisfaction in eventual decisions of even the group members in the majority.³ As a consequence, Florida's procedures likely lead to less thoughtful deliberation of evidence and alternative viewpoints.

Yet, almost no research exists investigating several other relevant issues raised by Florida's capital sentencing scheme. For example, how does making a recommendation to a judge affect how motivated and invested jurors are in the capital decision-making process and in their findings of aggravating factors? And does the majority (as opposed to unanimity) rule further affect the length and quality of discussions and the jury's decisions? Also, does Florida's uniquely complicated role for jurors further confuse their deliberations when psychological research has already demonstrated that capital jurors have substantial difficulty understanding and weighing aggravating and mitigating factors in reaching their decisions?⁴ It will be interesting to see how much the court relies on the psychological research in its discussion of the constitutional issues at stake.

Next February, I expect this will be one of the issues that The Council of Catholic Bishops will ask us to address in Tallahassee. Since the past three years we have not been able to take the Death Penalty Sentence off the table, I believe this is the next logical step. We need you, we need everyone to write your legislators, make phone calls, come and join us in Tallahassee.

Life, all life is precious and it's not up to mankind to decide when to take it away

Mark your calendars
Catholic Days
at the Capitol
February 16 -18, 2016



NCCW & FCCW News

“Press Release” on NCCW’s 95th Anniversary Convention

September 2015—Nearly 700 women attended the National Council of Catholic Women’s 95th anniversary convention in Orlando, Florida, September 9-12.

Attendees of the 2015 National Council of Catholic Women’s annual convention in Orlando, Florida, were surprised by the guest appearance of Mickey Mouse and a special presentation on the 95 years of NCCW history by Mary Matheus at the 95th birthday luncheon celebration. Held at the Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista from September 9-12, the NCCW convention is the annual gathering of women leaders from Catholic women’s organizations in parishes and dioceses throughout the United States.

“Celebrating 95 years of history and the program packed with training, speakers and fun generated the excitement to draw this exceptional gathering of Catholic women to Orlando,” said Sheila Hopkins, newly installed NCCW President and Co-Chair of the Convention.

The opening liturgy was celebrated at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe by NCCW Episcopal Liaison the Most Reverend James V. Johnston, Jr., Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, and concelebrated by the Most Rev. Gregory L. Parkes, Bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee. Friday’s liturgy honoring deceased members of NCCW was celebrated by Most Rev. John Noonan, Bishop of Orlando. The closing liturgy, celebrated by the Most Rev. Thomas Wenski, Archbishop of Miami, included the installation of the 2015-2017 officers of NCCW—President Sheila Hopkins, Tallahassee, FL; President Elect Maribeth Stewart, West Haven, CT and Secretary Jean Kelly, Elm Grove, WI. Mary Matheus, from Longwood, Florida, was elected to a second term as Treasurer last year. An additional 48 priests, spiritual directors and friends of NCCW attended the liturgies including the Most Reverend David R. Choby, Bishop of Nashville, who concelebrated the Saturday liturgy.

Keynote speakers included Dr. Carolyn Woo, President and CEO of Catholic Relief Services; Richard Doerflinger, Associate Director of the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; Marybeth Hicks, Marketing Director for FAITH Catholic and Brandon Vogt, Content Director for Bishop

Robert Barron’s Word on Fire Catholic Ministries. Training sessions were conducted by the three commissions—Spirituality, Leadership and Service—and training for new council presidents was offered by the Leadership Training Development Team.

At the closing session of the convention, new province directors from several areas of the United States were installed. Disney entertainer Billy Flanigan, currently playing the part of Nemo at Walt DisneyWorld entertained at the closing banquet.

The 2016 Annual Convention will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, on September 7-10.

For more information, please contact Laraine Bennett at 703-224-0990 or email lbennett@nccw.org.

6th Annual HUGS FOR THE HOMELESS



(Province of Miami)
Florida Council of Catholic Women

The campaign runs from **December thru February** (the winter months) and each affiliation can pick whatever weekend they chose or they can collect throughout the winter doing small projects. One thing should be emphasized is that this is an FCCW project and that Catholic women all over the state are collecting monies to aid the homeless.

Some talking points can be:

- The FCCW has chosen “Hugs for the Homeless” as state project because we have homeless families in every area of the state.
- The majority of homeless people are women and children
- Once again, the *Sunshine State* has been deemed the most dangerous in the nation for homeless people -- the third such designation it has earned since 2008 -- according to the National Coalition for the Homeless' 2012 database of known cases of violence.

FCCW will divide the money equally between the 7 Diocesan Councils, who will then distribute the Proceeds to their chosen charities.

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

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17th St. Causeway, Ft. Lauderdale

FEBRUARY 27, 2016

MACCW 58TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Embassy Suites Hotel

17th St. Causeway, Ft. Lauderdale

MAY 20- 22, 2016

