**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](http://www.maccw.org)
A message from

The President

Dear Council Sisters,

Lenten Season came very early this year and we have been involved in Lenten Missions, Adorations, Stations of the Cross and other activities within our communities that remind us of the greatest sacrifice ever given for man – The Crucifixion. It is a time when we fast, give up worldly pleasures, but most importantly remember the absolute Love showered upon us from God. I pray this is a serene season for each of you and that your reflections may bring you closer to Christ.

On Tuesday, February 16th, we hopped on the bus to Tallahassee for Catholic Days at the Capitol. We had 32 attendees from the MACCW and Respect Life, as well as the Knights of Columbus. Donations from our Pastors, affiliated and non-affiliated, allowed us to continue this journey again this year so these members could participate. We were 300 strong in Tallahassee with women and men from the Council of Catholic Women and Knights of Columbus. The Red Mass at the Co-Cathedral in Tallahassee was standing room only, with Governor Rick Scott and our Senators and Representatives in attendance. It is breathtaking to see this event. May our community continue to support those Catholics who wish to lend the voice to the Florida Bishops and those issues which affect each and every member of our State of Florida.

On Saturday, February 27th we hosted the MACCW Scholarship Luncheon at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Ft. Lauderdale. With the support of Patrons and Attendees it was a great event. We honored Ana Garcia, Principal at Msgr. Edward Pace High School for making a difference in the field of education in the Archdiocese. We enjoyed a wonderful afternoon together.

We are in full swing planning the 58th Annual MACCW Convention to be held May 20-22, 2016 at the Embassy Suites in Ft. Lauderdale. The theme is “Blessed are the Merciful, for They Shall...” . Our opening keynote speaker at 4:30 pm will be Auxiliary Bishop Peter Baldicchino, followed by Vespers at 6:00 pm and then dinner. We encourage our affiliations to invite their Pastor and Spiritual Advisor to this dinner for an opportunity to enjoy their Company and show our appreciation for their continued support of the Council. Friday evening at 7:00 pm will officially kick off the weekend with a Welcome Reception. Our Host, Central District of MACCW, has planned a fun evening of music and dance.

On Saturday we will have the pleasure of hearing Stephen Colella, Cabinet Secretary of Parish Life at the ADOM speak. At the awards luncheon that afternoon we will hear from Most Reverend Patrick C. Pinder, Archbishop of Nassau. What a blessed day this will be.
The Memorial Mass is scheduled for 10:30 AM with our Spiritual Advisor, Father Greer, presiding.

After lunch we will again have the “Pillow Case Dresses” workshop led by Louise Scott.

Saturday evening will be “Hospitality Night” hosted by each District and MACCW. It will be an evening of relaxation and a time to enjoy each other’s company visiting each Host Hospitality Room.

On Sunday morning we will hear from Sheila Hopkins, NCCW President and from Diane Tugander, FCCW Province Director.

Our Closing Liturgy starts at 5:00 PM at St. Sebastian Catholic Church with Archbishop Thomas Wenski presiding. Following the Mass we will return to The Embassy Suites for our Closing Banquet to wrap up the evening. The Lucy Petrillo Scholarships will be awarded during the banquet. Our newly elected MACCW 2016-2018 Board will be installed at the Mass. My term will finish when I transfer the gavel at the Closing Banquet. Please bring your Pastor or a Seminarian to enjoy this evening.

We encourage all women of the Diocese to come join us for this weekend filled with spirituality, relaxation and enjoyment!

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to intercede on our behalf, so we may continue as wise, loving and courageous voices of the Church.

God Bless Each of You,

Ann

The Miami Archdiocese Council of Catholic Women would like to thank the following Pastors and Parishioners for their support to assist our members in attending Catholic Days at the Capital in February.

St. Coleman
St. Boniface
St. Andrew
St. Anthony
Mother of Our Redeemer
Our Lady Queen of Martyr
St. Henry
Our Lady of Lourdes
All Saints
Our Lady of the Divine Providence
St David
St. Thomas the Apostle
Homegrown Fruit

On the morning of Saturday, December 19, 2015, the Gospel reading for the day was taken from Luke 1:5–25. According to the scripture, as Zechariah carried out his priestly duties in the Temple, he experienced the greatest God given moment in his life. An angel, ablaze with the glory of God’s presence, suddenly appeared before him. As spectacular as this heavenly encounter was, it was just a small piece of what God was doing in and through Zechariah. One of the most compelling verses in the reading is oft overlooked because it feels almost anticlimactic: He went home. However, it was precisely there – home – that the greatest fruit in Zechariah’s life began to grow.

It was at home that he and Elizabeth conceived their miracle child. It was at home that Zechariah spent the better part of a year in contemplative silence, experiencing an exponential growth in his faith. It was at home where, with the help of the Holy Spirit, that Zechariah formed his son into a powerful prophet.

On the morning that I read this reflection taken from The Word Among Us, I was preparing to attend the funeral Mass of a favorite teacher from junior high school. Just as I was about to step out of the door, my husband received a telephone call that demanded his immediate attention. In an attempt to help him resolve the matter, it became apparent that I would not be attending the Mass. The reading had made such a profound impact on my life, that home became a priority.

What about you? Chances are, you like so many of our Council sisters, carry out ministry duties, just like Zechariah. Maybe you volunteer as a lector, choir member, extra-ordinary Eucharistic minister of the altar, sacristan, catechist, or nursery worker. Like Zechariah, you have perhaps experienced God moments during your particular ministry. Whatever your God-given task, know that your work truly honors the Lord, He sees your service, and He is very pleased with it.

But your ministry is just a small piece of what God is doing in and through you. When your commitments are over, like so many, you go home, and that is usually when your sweetest and most enduring fruit has the chance to grow. Home is where life happens! It is where you learn to let Christ live through you. It is in the little everyday decisions that you make that God can work miracles. When you wash the dishes without grumbling, it is far from anticlimactic. Responding gracefully to a snarky comment? That’s the fruit of inner transformation. Praying with your children and/or grandchildren. That sets the stage for a generational legacy!

Nothing is more delightful to the Lord than homegrown fruit.

Water...what is it and who needs it? Water is the essence of life and everyone on this planet needs it. Many people take water for granted, just turn on your faucet and there it is. There are many countries in the world where there is an abundance of water, however, there are many countries in the world where water is not so easy to obtain.

An African woman may spend up to 3 hours a day just getting water. A family in Central America might live in a village where there is only one well for everyone to share. Obtaining clean and safe water is a problem for everyone.

Here a just a few examples of how your donations to NCCW’s Water for Life program partnered with Catholic Relief Services have helped communities around the world.
In Ethiopia CRS has provided four drilling rigs that dig wells to serve over one million people with water for drinking, bathing and raising crops. CRS is the leading promoter of sanitation infrastructure, having supported construction of over 36,000 latrines in the past 3 years. Bringing water to Ethiopia is a priority for CRS.

In some areas of India where drought is a problem, CRS’s training and support have mobilized the communities to “harvest” rainwater through the construction of traditional stone embankments, ponds, contour trenches, groundwater recharge pits and underground storage tanks. The resulting increase in water security improves community water management and makes people’s livelihoods more sustainable. In post–tsunami India, CRS has worked with local partners to improve community toilets through an innovative wastewater treatment system. As communities rebuild, their access to good hygiene and sanitation is vital to their family and community health.

Organization–Publicity

Every Member is on the Membership Committee!

Membership begins with relationship. Membership is strengthened by diversity. Membership grows one by one!

#1. Each One Reach One
Every member brings a friend to the next meeting and the attendance doubles---but the membership is unlikely to be diverse!
石榴 If the group welcomes and embraces her, she will come again.
石榴 If the group has fun and a spiritual focus, she may join.
石榴 If the group listens to her ideas and suggestions, she will become ACTIVE.

This is GOOD----but not complete.

#2. Parish Wide Membership Meeting
Announcements and good public relations work attract women who are comfortable jumping into a group---the “joiners”---but might leave the others in the pew!
石榴 If the group welcomes and embraces her, she will come again.
石榴 If the group has service opportunities and community outreach programs, she may join.
石榴 If the group listens to her ideas and suggestions, she will become ACTIVE.

This is BETTER when added to #1!

#3. Membership Outreach Plan
The membership committee enlists the help of every member in an ongoing effort to bring potential members into the group throughout the year.
石榴 If members of the group issue personal invitations and potential members are accompanied to meetings, everyone will be more comfortable.
石榴 If the group’s varied activities and scheduling make membership possible for women of all ages, everyone will feel welcome.
石榴 If the group shares the success of programs and service projects, everyone will want to help.
石榴 If the group is willing to adapt and change in response to new ideas and suggestions, everyone will benefit.

This is BEST when added to #1 and #2

Jane Carter
2013-2015 NCCW Leadership Chair

Legislation

Sandy Sanchez, Commission Chair

Our question of the day: What — or who — should take the blame for the latest shooting at a Planned Parenthood located in Colorado Springs. Detectives have reported that three people were killed and nine wounded by Robert Dear, an odd 57-year-old recluse.

After his arrest, he is reported to have muttered something about “No more baby parts,” an apparent reference to a controversial hidden-camera video purporting to prove Planned Parenthood harvests
and sells the organs of aborted fetuses for a profit. (And let us not forget that just this week it was reported that the videos in question were found to be heavily edited.) Planned Parenthood has emphatically denied this allegation. So again I ask who is responsible for this murder.

It’s a question asked with deadening frequency in a country where you can pretty much set your watch by the random shootings. Nor are answers ever in short supply. We frequently hear that someone’s rhetoric is at fault. This happened several years ago when an emotionally disabled man killed six people and wounded 13 others, including Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, in Tucson. Jane Fonda blamed Sarah Palin. It happened again. A deranged man ambushed and executed two police officers in Brooklyn, New York. Erick Erickson, a Fox “News” contributor, blamed President Obama.

In the wake of this incident, one is hardly surprised. Ms. Dawn Laguens, Planned Parenthood’s Executive Vice President, blamed the “toxic environment.” Truth is, if you want to blame someone for this shooting, start with the man who pulled the trigger. You might also investigate what roles were played by the mental health system and the legal system that allowed him access to this weapon of destruction.

The point I am trying to make is, in the rush to draw the larger moral lesson; we have to be wary of absolving the guilty of their crimes, even if only by inference. That said, let us note that Laguens’ criticism is qualitatively different from that leveled by Fonda against Palin or Erickson against Obama. This is not absurd on its face. After all, while one has a constitutionally guaranteed right to express one’s opinion; one has no such right to threaten or incite violence. There is, in other words, a fundamental difference between saying “Joe Blow is a terrible person” and saying “Somebody should teach Joe Blow a lesson” or “Joe Blow needs to get what’s coming to him.”

Have the politicians crossed that line with regard to Planned Parenthood? Most likely no. But they have danced uncomfortably and undeniably close to it. When you habitually refer to abortion providers as criminals, butchers, Nazis, barbarians, and baby killers, you cannot be surprised if someone sees them as less than human — and acts accordingly. Carry lit matches through dry tinder and every now and again, you will start a fire.

One is reminded of how, years ago, before he himself became a TV cop, rapper and heavy metal singer Ice-T was asked if he thought his songs expressing hatred of police might cause acts of violence against them. He said no. If somebody aspired to kill cops, he said, “All I did was make him a theme song.” He was right, except that he seemed to think himself morally exonerated by that reasoning.

But if you create an environment where violence against some person or group seems righteous — even if you don’t explicitly call for that violence — are your hands wholly clean when the violence comes? If you give hatred a theme song, what is your responsibility when a disaffected soul starts singing along?

The United States Council of Catholic Bishops regard ABORTION, whether it was performed at a hospital or at a Planned Parenthood Center is murder. It is wrong, it is taking a life. Our religion dictates to us that all life is precious.

You’ll find no pat answers here — only a question worth pondering for people of conscience in general. No, they did not cause this shooting. They are not guilty.

Problem is, they’re not innocent, either.

Community

Marcia Perez, Commission Chair

Making a significant contribution to the community:

If you’ve ever taken hugging for granted, consider one woman who for years has been giving them out in Texas. It’s a comforting act of kindness and thanks for military men and women.

At 82 years old, Elizabeth Laird is still working full time. To her customers, she’s the tax lady. But to soldiers at Fort Hood, Texas, she’s the hug lady. Every time troops here deploy or return, Elizabeth’s open-arm assembly line is in full operation.
“They appreciate it. When I give them a hug, they smile,” she said. The smiles are certainly evident. As soldiers return, Elizabeth is there offering them hugs. “My family’s not here, per se, but it’s like she fills in for them,” explained one soldier. Born into a military family, Elizabeth enlisted in the Air Force in 1950 on her 18th birthday. “I wanted to do my part for my country”, she said. Long after her service, she continued to volunteer, but didn’t become the “hug lady” until 2003. Before that, she shook hands. “And then, one day, a soldier hugged me. Well, there was another soldier that said, well, this one hugged me, that one needed a hug, too. So I turned around and gave him a hug. Well, then another one needed a hug, and so it went,” she said. Eleven years later, Elizabeth has issued hundreds of thousand of hugs – whether it’s 2:00 am, a weekend or a holiday, her dedication is unwavering. “And I’ve had a few your men say, ‘Oh, my wife wouldn’t like this.’ I said, ‘Oh, if I was young and all, it’d be different. But I’m a great grandmother, therefore it makes it all right for me to give you a hug.” She said. In return, soldiers have given her mementos and patches from around the world. Perhaps her greatest honor came Friday when Elizabeth received the Yellow Rose of Texas, awarded to WOMEN WHO MAKES SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THEIR COMMUNITY. It was signed by the governor. “I’ve hugged him a number of times, so he knows the hug lady,” said Elizabeth. Posted: Oct 20, 2014 3:52 pm EDT By NBC News

*A Save the date September 7 through the 11th, NCCW Convention in Indianapolis – Early Bird registration available on line March until June – nccw.org.

*Available for order NOW – the NCCW cookbook is back “Peace Be With You” – if you already have a copy inserts with over 300 new recipes will be available for purchase $8.00 each. If you miss the original printing - books are being redone with all the original 900+ recipes and the insert of new recipes for $25.00. PRE ORDER ONLY – orders and money due by July 2016 see your ADCCW president. Books and inserts will be at the NCCW Convention for pick up.

**State news – we have a raffle happening - some beautiful investment jewelry valued at over $14,000. is the prize – ticket cost is $5.00 each – drawing will take place at the FCCW Conference in Jacksonville in October – best part - each affiliation keeps ½ of the ticket sale price and the other ½ goes to NCCW a nice way to make a few extra dollars for your affiliation!

** SAVE the date NOW if you cannot make Indiana in September how about Jacksonville in October – The Florida CCW Conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel – Jacksonville Airport - October 27-30, 2016 - Room rates $99.00 per night up to 4 in a room – package price $187.00 (includes Welcome Reception, 2 lunches, Banquet, and a Breakfast). Bishop Parkes will be our opening Celebrant and Key Note speaker, Archbishop Wenski will be the main celebrant at the closing liturgy on Saturday followed by the banquet. Informative sessions, fellowship, and surprises! Our hostesses will be the members of the St Augustine DCCW under the leadership of Jean Bazley our FCCW Province Director-Elect.

More information on all of the above news is available from your MACCW President – registration packages, cookbook order forms and raffle tickets.

** A Message from your Province Director**

Greetings dear Sisters in Council,

I would like to update you on happenings in NCCW and FCCW.

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Greetings dear Sisters in Council,

I would like to update you on happenings in NCCW and FCCW.
I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming meetings and MACCW Convention. If you have any questions for me about any of the above feel free to call or e-mail me.

In peace, love and JOY,
Diane Tugander
FCCW President/Province Director

Easter Message from Pope Francis

“Dear Brothers and Sisters, a Happy and Holy Easter!

The Church throughout the world echoes the angel’s message to the women: “Do not be afraid! I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised... Come, see the place where he lay” (Mt 28:5-6).

This is the culmination of the Gospel, it is the Good News par excellence: Jesus, who was crucified, is risen! This event is the basis of our faith and our hope. If Christ were not raised, Christianity would lose its very meaning; the whole mission of the Church would lose its impulse, for this is the point from which it first set out and continues to set out ever anew. The message which Christians bring to the world is this: Jesus, Love incarnate, died on the cross for our sins, but God the Father raised him and made him the Lord of life and death. In Jesus, love has triumphed over hatred, mercy over sinfulness, goodness over evil, truth over falsehood, life over death.

That is why we tell everyone: “Come and see!” In every human situation, marked by frailty, sin and death, the Good News is no mere matter of words, but a testimony to unconditional and faithful love: it is about leaving ourselves behind and encountering others, being close to those crushed by life’s troubles, sharing with the needy, standing at the side of the sick, elderly and the outcast... “Come and see!”: Love is more powerful, love gives life, love makes hope blossom in the wilderness.

With this joyful certainty in our hearts, today we turn to you, risen Lord!

Help us to seek you and to find you, to realize that we have a Father and are not orphans; that we can love and adore you.

Help us to overcome the scourge of hunger, aggravated by conflicts and by the immense wastefulness for which we are often responsible.

Enable us to protect the vulnerable, especially children, women and the elderly, who are at times exploited and abandoned.

Enable us to care for our brothers and sisters struck by the Ebola epidemic in Guinea Conakry, Sierra Leone and Liberia, and to care for those suffering from so many other diseases which are also spread through neglect and dire poverty.

Comfort all those who cannot celebrate this Easter with their loved ones because they have been unjustly torn from their affections, like the many persons, priests and laity, who in various parts of the world have been kidnapped.

Comfort those who have left their own lands to migrate to places offering hope for a better future and the possibility of living their lives in dignity and, not infrequently, of freely professing their faith.

We ask you, Lord Jesus, to put an end to all war and every conflict, whether great or small, ancient or recent.

We pray in a particular way for Syria, beloved Syria, that all those suffering the effects of the conflict can receive needed humanitarian aid and that neither side will again use deadly force, especially against the defenseless civil population, but instead boldly negotiate the peace long awaited and long overdue!

Jesus, Lord of glory, we ask you to comfort the victims of fratricidal acts of violence in Iraq and to sustain the hopes raised by the resumption of negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians.
We beg for an end to the conflicts in the Central African Republic and a halt to the brutal terrorist attacks in parts of Nigeria and the acts of violence in South Sudan.

We ask that hearts be turned to reconciliation and fraternal concord in Venezuela.

By your resurrection, which this year we celebrate together with the Churches that follow the Julian calendar, we ask you to enlighten and inspire the initiatives that promote peace in Ukraine so that all those involved, with the support of the international community, will make every effort to prevent violence and, in a spirit of unity and dialogue, chart a path for the country’s future. On this day, may they be able to proclaim, as brothers and sisters, that Christ is risen, Khrystos voskres!

Lord, we pray to you for all the peoples of the earth: you who have conquered death, grant us your life, grant us your peace!

Dear brothers and sisters, Happy Easter!”

Taken from News.VA, Official Vatican Network
Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women
58th Annual Convention
May 20 – 22, 2016

REGISTRATION FORM

Convention Package: $140.00 $145.00
Single Day Registration: $30.00 $35.00
Saturday Luncheon: $40.00 $45.00
Sunday Banquet: $55.00 $60.00
Friday Dinner (optional) $30.00 $35.00

Name: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________
Address: ___________________________ E-mail: ___________________________
District: ___________________________ Affiliation: ___________________________

Please check the position below which applies to you (For the purposes of the Convention, it is the office that you held during the 2015/2016 year, NOT the office to which you have just been elected).

ARCHDIOCESAN BOARD MEMBER: ______ TITLE: ___________________________
DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER: ______ TITLE: ___________________________
AFFILIATION OFFICER: ______ TITLE: ___________________________
AFFILIATION MEMBER: ______ CLERGY: ______ RELIGIOUS: ______ GUEST: ______
INDIVIDUAL MEMBER of MACCW: ______

Please complete the form & mail with your check to: Mary Weber (305) 469-3515
Make checks payable to: MACCW 1700 NE 105th St., # 419 webermem1@gmail.com
Miami Shores, FL 33138

Take advantage of the savings and buy the complete convention package!
Additional savings if you mail in your reservations before May 1, 2016

Enclosed is a check (or money order, no cash, please) in the amount of $__________ for the following:
Convention Package: ______________ Single Day Registration only: ______________
Sunday Banquet: ______________ Saturday Luncheon: ______________

OPTIONAL CHOICE:
*Friday Dinner: ________ (*optional dinner; not included in cost of convention package)

Please indicate if you have any special dietary needs ___________________________

Is this your first Convention? ______ yes ______ no ___________________________

THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATIONS & PURCHASE OF ALL MEAL TICKETS IS May 13, 2016

- THERE IS NO REGISTRATION FEE FOR CLERGY OR RELIGIOUS
- You must be a registered delegate in order to attend the meetings, and/or seminars
- Notify Mary Weber, of any cancellations by May 1, 2016. No refunds will be given after that date.
- A late registration fee will be added for those postmarked after May 1, 2016
Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women
58th Annual Convention May 20 - 22, 2016

DEADLINE: No later than April 19, 2016

Group Rate:

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<th>Room</th>
<th>Single Rate</th>
<th>Double Rate</th>
<th>Triple Rate</th>
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<td>Double/Double Non-Smoking</td>
<td>$149.00</td>
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The above rates are applicable May 19, 2016 to May 23, 2016, based on space availability.

- To book your reservations call 1-800-362-2779 (1-800-EMBASSY)
- Make sure to refer to the Group Code: MAC in order to receive the group rate.

Have this information ready to give at time of registration:

NAME: ____________________________ PHONE: ____________________________

ADDRESS: ___________________________________________________________

E-MAIL ADDRESS: ______________________________________________________

ARRIVAL DATE: ____________________________ DEPARTURE DATE: ________________

NAMES OF PEOPLE IN ROOM: 1) ____________________________ 2) ________________

3) ____________________________ 4) ____________________________

CHECK IN TIME: 4:00PM          CHECK OUT TIME: 11:00AM

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY APRIL 19, 2016 IN ORDER TO RECEIVE CONVENTION GROUP RATE AND GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY. Reservations made after the cut-off date will receive group rate based on rate and room availability.

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METHOD OF PAYMENT: All reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card.

Guests that will be paying with a Church Check will have to provide payment 14 days prior to arrival with individual copy of Tax Exempt Form. No company or personal checks will be accepted at the Front Desk for payment within 14 days of group arrival.

Hotel Cancellation Policy: If an individual with a guaranteed reservation does not check in or cancels the reservation less than 48hrs prior to arrival, the credit card on record will be charged for one night plus 11% tax.

Parking: Hotel Guest Self-Parking is available at a charge of $7.00 per car, per day. Commuting Guest Self-Parking is available at a charge of $3.00 each time you arrive at hotel.
PLEASE JOIN US
MAY 20 — 22, 2016
AS WE CELEBRATE 58 YEARS OF
LEADERSHIP, SPIRITUALITY AND
SERVICE TO THE CHURCHES IN THE
ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

MEET OLD FRIENDS
MAKE NEW FRIENDS

AN EDUCATIONAL, REWARDING,
AND FUN EXPERIENCE
DON’T MISS IT!!