

# 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.

## Inspiring quotes from St. Theresa of Calcutta

*"If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one"*

*"If you judge people you have no time to love them"*



*"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."*

*"Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier"*

*"Peace begins with a smile"*

*"There are no great things, only small things with great love. Happy are those"*

*"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless"*



# Fall 2016



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2016-2017**

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## **A Message from The President**

Greetings to All,

As we begin our council year anew, I reflect back to the message I delivered at the close of our 58<sup>th</sup> year. I look forward to a year of growth and opportunity to enhance our membership and to renew our efforts in seeking out like-minded women to join us.

I would like to share with you some of the goals I have in mind and various plans to reach those goals:

◆ **Increase membership at the Affiliation Level**

- ◆ Affiliation Presidents are invited to attend MACCW Board meetings where they will receive first-hand information. This information will allow them to reach out with knowledge of the organization and activities to potential new members

◆ **Encourage members (new or recently joined) to serve in Board positions at the Affiliation, District, and Archdiocesan level**

- ◆ New faces have been recruited to fill some of the positions on the MACCW Board this year and bring with them new ideas and methods to enrich council

◆ **Financial Stability**

- ◆ Added Fundraiser this year "Macy's Shop for a Cause"
- ◆ "Tea for Two" (hundred) scheduled for November 13, 2016
- ◆ Campaign for Operating Funds (planned for year-end giving) to support Newsnotes expenses, Hospitality expenses, Spiritual Advisor, and Board expenses for attendance at events representing MACCW

◆ **Day of Reflection**

- ◆ Planning Committee has been formed and the date has been set
- ◆ January 21, 2017 – St. John Vianney College Seminary, Miami
- ◆ Open to *all* women of the Archdiocese

◆ **Streamline Convention**

- ◆ Eliminate Monday Post Convention Board meeting
- ◆ Friday Opening is planned to start later in the day to allow working members to attend

◆ **Direct outreach to Pastors of non-affiliated Parishes**

- ◆ There are 106 Parishes in the Archdiocese of Miami of which 26 are affiliated with the Council of Catholic Women

◆ **Encourage involvement with Seminarians**

- ◆ Each affiliation will be asked to sponsor a Seminarian to attend the Scholarship Luncheon and the Mass and Closing Banquet of the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

◆ **Update and Amend Bylaws and Standing Rules**

- ◆ Led by our Vice President, Lisa Shelly, a committee consisting of Dolores Ott, Paralegal and Certified Parliamentarian, and Margaret Wright, long-time member of CCW knowing the history of our CCW and accomplished proof-reader, are currently working on the revisions
- ◆ Suggested bylaw changes will be presented to members 80 days before the Annual Meeting to be voted on at the Annual Meeting in 2017
- ◆ Standing Rules will be revised at the Board of Directors Meeting, January 2017

I am keenly aware that change can be unsettling, but please keep in mind that change does not mean that the old way was not good. We need to be ready to transform ourselves so that we can transform our much loved Council of Catholic Women.

We are all God's Servants who share a common Mission.

Blessings,

*Sharon*

**FROM THE DESK OF:  
MACCW SPIRITUAL ADVISOR**

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

Greetings in the Lord!

In a sense, we extend a “welcome back. Our Councils, like most Church organizations, activities evolve around the academic year and so, like many students, we start again.

First, we are in the latter part of our “Year of Mercy” so there are many “works” we might yet accomplish working for the Lord. Second, as we Begin anew - besides the National and State convention, and District Meetings, we will have new opportunity to grow spiritually - with Days of Recollection and Prayer being planned.

So may your adrenalin and desire to assist be back and disposed for action. I am looking forward to seeing you.

Blessings,

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

**October 11th**

Happy Birthday  
MACCW  
Spiritual Advisor  
**Fr. Greer**

*Happy  
Birthday*

Remembering you  
in our prayers on  
your special day and always.....

The Members of the MACCW

**MACCW Scholarship Gala  
Saturday, February 25, 2017**

**Embassy Suites Hotel  
17th St. Causeway., Ft. Lauderdale**

**Invite your friends, family & neighbors  
to this special event**

**Chinese & Silent Auctions**

**Proceeds from this event enable girls  
who need tuition assistance in order  
to attend a Catholic High School**

**FLORIDA COUNCIL OF  
CATHOLIC WOMEN**

*Diane Tugander, Province Dir./President*

My very dear Council Sisters,

We have just returned from the National Council of Catholic Women Convention in Indianapolis. We prayed, learned, renewed old friendships and made some new ones. There were 39 of us at the Province Dinner hosted with style by Jean Bazley, your FCCW Province Director-Elect. We enjoyed good food and some lively entertainment by our own Fr. Luke McLoughlin (St Augustine DCCW Spiritual Advisor, and Fr. Miguel Gonzalez, (Orlando DCCW Spiritual Advisor).

By the time you read this, we have passed the deadlines for the 22nd Biennial FCCW Conference in Jacksonville the end of October. There might be a chance for a hotel reservation and Conference registration. We have 19 members attending from the Miami Archdiocese! I hope that your Ads, Memorials and Angel sponsors are in as the deadline is upon us. We hope that you asked everyone you know to place an ad. Did you fill out and mail in your registration forms for yourself, spiritual advisor, or a new member?? Remember *all* women are invited to come.

Our Speakers are ready to bring you more information and insight into our special Focus Committees of Immigration and Human Trafficking. The Raffle Baskets are being put together, and **DON'T Forget the Jewelry Raffle!**

I am looking forward to seeing and greeting you **all** on October 27<sup>th</sup>, when we gather in Jacksonville at the Crowne Plaza for our FCCW 22<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Conference.

In Peace, love & JOY,  
Diane



**PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUPPORT  
2017 HUGS FOR THE HOMELESS**

## CHURCH COMMISSION

*Marcia Perez, Chair*

As I begin my term as Church Commission Chairman, I have very good news to share.

With the guidance of our Spiritual Advisor, Father Greer and our President, Sharon Utterback, I'm pleased to inform you that we created a Committee to organize our **"Day of Reflection"**. The date that has been confirmed:

**January 21, 2017**

**St. John Vianney College Seminary, Miami**

The ladies who will take part in the planning and organization of the "Day of Reflection" are: Sister Joan Bonczek, Judy Fisher, Lisa Shelly and Ana Portela.

As we continue this special year of Mercy, and as Women of Council, I would like to share the joy that I have, knowing that our "ICON OF MERCY" was canonized on September 4, 2016 a day before the 19th anniversary of her death.

Mother Teresa continues to inspire and motivate us with her meaningful life messages and her devotion to care for the sick and poor. She dedicated over six decades of her life in the slums of Calcutta spreading peace, humanity and unconditional love. She set an example for everybody by devoting her life to service of the needy and the orphaned. She became a metaphor for selflessness and goodness during her life time.

Mother Teresa was the epitome of will power and kindness and her unwavering commitment to the needy made her one of the greatest humanitarians of the 20th century.

She has remained in the public memories for her quotes on living life with mercy, love and kindness. (We have included a few of her 17 most inspiring quotes on the cover)

Contributed By India.com, Sandhya Dangwal

## A MILLION WORKS OF MERCY

*Cathy Donn, Chair*

The Million Works of Mercy tally started on April 3, 2016 (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY) and ends on November 20, 2016 (FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING). We are two-thirds the way through the counting period, and the NCCW has only logged in 310,482 works!

Of the affiliations in the MACCW, I have heard from only 10 of the CCW's to date. The counts from these affiliations, along with the Prayer Warriors that Pat Clarke ministers to, and a few individual counts, has yielded us a total of **6,174** works! Ladies, I know you all do many good corporal and spiritual works, and I would love to make that count GO WAY UP!! Please count up the times you have prayed the rosary, taken food to the food bank, visited a nursing home, brought communion to the sick or homebound - there are many things to count. You can include your family members and that multiplies the good deeds done! We need to gather up all the works of mercy counts that have been performed!

Why don't we try this: for those affiliations that have not reported, at your August and September meetings, please take the time to go around the room and ask each person to make an educated guess as to the number of works they have performed each month, tally up each member's count for one total, and multiple that number by the number of months since April. If your affiliation does a group project, count all those in the group that worked on the project. Send me that ONE NUMBER ONLY - that's all that is needed!

Have someone in your council email me your count at [cathydonn58@gmail.com](mailto:cathydonn58@gmail.com), and tell me the date of that count, and your affiliation name, **and we should then be in great shape to help NCCW make their goal!!**



Bless you all for all you do, and have mercy!

*You are Cordially Invited to Attend*



*Presented by Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women*

*Sunday, November 13, 2016 2:00PM - 4:00PM*

*St. Henry Parish*

*1500 S. Andrews Avenue*

*Pompano Beach, Florida 33069*

*Donation \$25.00 per person*

*R.S.V.P. Lisa Shelly 954-775-5002 or  
smerdlap@mindspring.com*



*Welcome Mimosas*

*Scones*

*Saintly Sweets*

*Savory Bread Bites*

*Succulent Sandwiches*

*Tasty Teas*

*Thoughtful Conversation*

*For information only please contact Bette Clark 954-295-1141*

# FAMILY COMMISSION

*Linda Hatlan, Chair*

October is Respect Life month so my thoughts this month focus on the abortion industry. Mother Teresa called abortion the greatest evil of all. It knows no borders. Abortion is not a medical or political issue. It is the work of the devil.

Jim McGarvey is a compelling speaker who presented "Exposing the Spiritual Forces Behind Abortion" in April at Flourish, a conference presented by Catholic Witnesses and The Florida Family Policy Council. Google his name for some videos of talks he has given to various churches and groups around the state.

Righteous angels and fallen angels continue to battle for our minds. Abortion is a satanic enterprise; he tries to kill off her offspring (Gen 3:15). McGarvey pointed out the god Molech, worshiped by the Moabites and Annonites when the Hebrews came to the promised land. He was a fertility god but they still felt the need for baby sacrifice to ensure good harvests and prosperity.

Abortion is a gospel issue involving the shedding of innocent blood. We are saved by Jesus' blood. Satanic ritual sacrifices innocent fetal blood. Satan continues to pervert what God does. For a global crisis such as this, we can follow some local strategies.

The Supreme Court decision to allow abortion on demand became the law of the land in 1973. But it is not a moral or just policy. Hence the continued demonstrations and prayers for the sanctity of unborn life. All of us can fast and pray for an end to abortion.

40 Days for Life is an interfaith international campaign that began in Texas 9 years ago. Groups gather for quiet prayer vigils outside of abortion centers. Join their email list as I have at [40daysforlife.com](http://40daysforlife.com) for daily prayer and updates. The next campaign begins Wednesday, September 28. Get outside your comfort zone and participate in one or more of their prayer days as I will. In our own diocese,

In our own diocese, Archbishop Wenski has asked all Pastors to support their local pregnancy help office with \$150 monthly. Ask your pastor to contribute to the office in your area.

1. **North Dade Office**  
5801 N.W. 151st St., Unit 302,  
Miami Lakes, Fl. 33014  
786-452-0266
2. **South Dade Office**  
3410 S.W. 107th Ave.  
Miami, FL, 33165  
305-273-8507
3. **North Broward Office**  
5115 Coconut Creek Pkwy  
Margate, Fl. 33063 FL  
954-977-7769
4. **Central Broward Office**  
527 N.E. 13th St.,  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL., 33304  
954-565-0229
5. **South Broward Office**  
4747 Hollywood Blvd.  
Hollywood, FL. 33021  
954-963-2229

During Respect Life month my Council decided to include the entire parish. You can place a bassinet or cradle at the back or front of your church. Bulletin announcements can ask everyone to bring a layette item, gently used car seats, pak-n-play, etc. or checks for the utilities. Encourage new volunteers to call the local offices.

January 23 is the March for Life in Washington, DC to counter the Supreme Court decision in *Roe vs. Wade*. It is appropriate timing during your Council's January meeting to have a baby shower for your members to donate needed layettes and perhaps a speaker from your local center.

Mother Teresa during her visit to the US warned us that a nation that kills its babies will not receive God's blessings. We witness the fruits of this "culture of death" every day. Let us do small things for the smallest victims with great love.



# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION

*Ann Cubillas, Chair*

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING: You May Be Their Only Hope

Human trafficking is a form of modern slavery -- a multi-billion dollar criminal industry that denies freedom to 20.9 million people around the world. And no matter where you live, chances are it's happening nearby. From the girl forced into prostitution at a truck stop, to the man discovered in a restaurant kitchen, stripped of his passport and held against his will. All trafficking victims share one essential experience: the loss of freedom. (Information from Polarisproject.org) It is all about MONEY!

### THE FACTS:

Although slavery is commonly thought to be a thing of the past, human traffickers generate hundreds of billions of dollars in profits by trapping millions of people in horrific situations around the world, including here in the U.S. Traffickers use violence, threats, deception, debt bondage, and other manipulative tactics to force people to engage in commercial sex or to provide labor or services against their will. While more research is needed on the scope of human trafficking, below are a few key statistics:

The International Labour Organization estimates that there are **20.9 million victims of human trafficking globally.**

68% of them are trapped in forced labor.

26% of them are children.

55% are women and girls.

The International Labor Organization estimates that forced labor and human trafficking is a **\$150 billion industry worldwide.**

The U.S. Department of Labor has identified **136 goods from 74 countries** made by forced and child labor.

In 2015, an estimated 1 out of 5 endangered runaways reported to the **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children** were likely child sex trafficking victims.

Of those, 74% were in the care of social services or foster care when they ran.

There is no official estimate of the total number of human trafficking victims in the U.S. Polaris estimates that the total number of victims nationally reaches into the hundreds of thousands when estimates of both adults and minors and sex trafficking and labor trafficking are aggregated.

More than **27,000 total cases of human trafficking** have been reported to the NHTRC hotline in the last eight years.

The NHTRC hotline annually receives multiple reports of human trafficking cases in each of the 50 states and D.C. **Read more NHTRC hotline statistics here.**

The number of human trafficking cases that Polaris learns about in the U.S. increases every year.

**Review our 2015 statistics fact sheet here.**

23% of texting conversations on the Polaris BeFree Textline were from survivors of human trafficking compared to 11% of phone calls on the NHTRC hotline. Read Polaris **BeFree Textline statistics here.**

The NHTRC hotline receives an average of 100 calls per day. **Read stories of survivors who called the hotline for help.**

Are you or someone you know being trafficked? Is human trafficking happening in your community? Recognizing potential red flags and knowing the indicators of human trafficking is a key step in identifying more victims and helping them find the assistance they need.

To request help or report suspected human trafficking, call the **National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline** at 1-888-373-7888. Or text HELP to: BeFree (233733).

In conclusion, WE MUST BE WATCHFUL, and not be afraid to pick up the phone and call the National Hotline if we suspect any form of trafficking. This is our God given duty. Another way to help is when travelling add the APP to your smart phone called traffickcam.com and take a picture of the hotel room you are staying in. This is a resource to help locate victims throughout the world by seeing the actual hotels where these events take place.

REMEMBER, it could be someone you know who is victimized.



## COMMUNITY COMMISSION

Irene Nowak Lathrop, Chair

The National Council of Catholic Women recently revitalized the **RESPITE PROGRAM**. More and more of our Council members across the nation are becoming caregivers for family and friends, and are in need of Respite volunteers. The following article is taken from NCCW website.

### NCCW RESPITE PROGRAM

RESPITE trains local volunteers to help family members care for loved-ones at home by offering relief and renewal to the family caregivers. The NCCW program includes a curriculum to train volunteers, materials to promote the program, and a group insurance program for Respite volunteers.



The NCCW Respite program, if implemented by the diocese mandated that each Bishop select which program they would use and more than 80% of all US dioceses use the program, is regulated by their own safe environment criteria. The USCCB (the United States Council of Catholic Bishops) mandated that each Bishop select which program they would use and more than 80% of all US Diocese use the program called Protecting God's Children.

All volunteers must complete the PGC class, which is a once in a lifetime class, and they must have a current criminal background check on file with their parish or diocesan office. Criminal background checks are good for 5 years and then must be updated if the volunteer is to continue. It is necessary for each diocese to know what is required in their diocese. All volunteers must complete Respite Care basic training and have all safe environment criteria in place before being placed with a client. Since NCCW provides our insurance, we must have all components in line and cannot misrepresent the NCCW or any of our diocese.

*Copyright National Council of Catholic Women, 200 N. Glebe Rd., Suite 725, Arlington, VA 22203 1-800-506-9407*

If Respite Program is not a possibility for you, there are other ways to help the *Elderly, Shut-ins and Veterans* through visits, cards and prayers

Look for more information on the Respite Program in the future.

## LEGISLATION COMMISSION

Marliese Ljuba, Chair

### “To vote, or not to vote?”

Is voting a privilege or responsibility? One can determine voting is a privilege under our constitution. Some may also say voting is your chance to exert your influence for good. Some may choose not to vote because they feel there is no candidate worthy of their vote. Some may allege “you must vote”. Some may also say you need to at least vote for the “lesser of two evils”, although the lesser of two evils could be evil in one's mind.

Please keep in mind that change cannot happen unless you vote. Our Catholic faith has given us the guiding principles to use to determine who our candidate of choice should be.

- Does the candidate have any level of spirituality? Do they profess their faith in God?
- Remember the next President will fill vacancies of Supreme Court Justices. How could a Catholic possibly vote for a person who supports pro-choice?
- Moral and ethical issues outweigh economic issues. Does the candidate support the institution of marriage only be between man and woman?

Voters may disagree on the political candidates; each person must search the depth of their conscience and vote consistent with their own judgment.

If you have questions on where your polling place is please contact the Supervisor of Elections in the county in which you reside.

#### **Supervisor of Elections Broward County**

Phone: (954) 357-7050

#### **Miami-Dade County Board of Elections**

Phone 305-499-8683

#### **Supervisor of Elections Monroe County**

Phones: Key West (305) 292-3416

Marathon (305) 289-6017

Key Largo (305) 453-8740



**Mark your  
calendars for  
April 4-5, 2017!**

**Catholic Days at  
the Capitol**

## ORGANIZATION COMMISSION

Margaret M. Wright, Chair

An umbrella is a ‘portable canopy on a folding frame used for shelter from sun or rain.’ [The New Webster’s Dictionary 1986]

MACCW has a commission known as the ORGANIZATION COMMISSION. This Commission has been referred to from time to time as the umbrella Commission. It has become a very large umbrella in 2016 with eleven listed categories: Hospitality, Printing/Mailing, Bulk Rate Permit Holder, News Notes Editor, Publicity, E-Mail, Sunshine, Website, Convention Coordinator Assistant, Fundraising, and Reflection Coordinator. It would list twelve categories if we had a category known as Membership. MACCW’s current membership is from some Parish Affiliations’ Women’s Clubs within the Archdiocese of Miami and Individual Members.



Please take a couple of minutes to think of your Affiliation and think of it as a garden.

‘Does your garden have rows of **PEAS** – for peace of mind, peace of heart, and peace of soul? What about **SQUASH** – squash gossip, squash indifference, squash grumbling, and squash selfishness? How about **LETTUCE**- lettuce be faithful, lettuce be kind, and lettuce be patient. Your garden should have **TURNIPS** – turnip for meetings, turnip for service, and turnip to help one another. And finally your garden must have **THYME** – thyme for each other, thyme for family, and thyme for friends. Remember to water freely with patience and cultivate with love.’ [Daughters of Isabella 884 Newsletter 2013-2015]

We need to make sure we keep the members we have and to do all we can to cultivate new members. The hardest part of getting new members is having the answers to the questions: who, what, when, where, why, and how. Now might be the time to think of changing the number of meetings we have each year. Also how do we communicate with all of our members? Do we show hospitality and respect to all of our members all of the time? All ideas and suggestions are welcome.

Would you like to be part of the Membership Committee?

## REST IN PEACE DEAR SISTER

Barbara Asfendis, Editor



Antonia Heitzman, was known to all of us as “Tonie”. To me she was the tall red haired lady, with glasses, in a 2pc yellow suit at my first MACCW Convention back in 1982. As I became more involved in the Council, I soon learned that her love for her family and church knew no boundaries.

Besides a love of faith & family, we had a little in common—both were native New Yorkers, from Long Island, who moved to the same Miami neighborhood, (but not at the same time). When we met, Tonie was working part time for a dentist in Hollywood, transcribing notes and correspondence. I knew that she didn’t like to shop or cook. That was left for her husband. She was pre-deceased by her beloved husband, Joe, and her son Andrew. She is survived by her daughter, Tricia Somera, 8 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren.

Tonie was one of the reasons I decided to join the parish at St. Bernadette when I moved to Broward County from Miami. Along with Nancy Nesselt, she took me into her CCW arms, and shared her wealth of CCW information and experience. Tonie served as President of St. Bernadette CCW, South Broward CCW, and the Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (where she also served as Church Commission Chair, Treasurer, Vice President). Many conversations were held, and issues resolved as we traveled to the Deanery luncheons together.

Her dear friend, Joan Crown, Archdiocese Director of the Respect Life Ministry, shared very special thoughts about Tonie’s service to Respect Life which began in 1981. “Tonie was a founding member of the Respect Life So. Broward Pregnancy Help Center. Tonie dedicated her life to helping women facing crisis pregnancies and in so doing, saved the lives of many children. She worked as a counselor in the pregnancy center and faithfully Answered the “hotline” every Friday evening. Her gentle way of helping a woman see that there is still hope in her future, and that the child she carries is truly a gift from God, made her one of our most treasured volunteers and pro-life warriors. Tonie was also the Respect Life parish representative for St. Bernadette Church, helping to bring awareness and education on the critical life issues to her fellow parishioners. May she now rest in peace in the arms of Jesus and Mary.”

# **ARCHDIOCESAN CATHOLIC WOMEN'S AUXILIARY**

*Veronica Taylor - Chairperson Transition Team ACWA  
Caline Newton - President St. Vincent De Paul CWA*

## **Archdiocesan Catholic Women's Auxiliary (ACWA) Attends Convention In South Florida Archbishop Patrick C. Pinder S.T.D., C.M.G. Was Guest Speaker at Awards Luncheon**

*The Archdiocesan Catholic Women's Auxiliary (ACWA) in the Bahamas* has been affiliated with the Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (MACCW) since 2007 and have been attending their Annual Convention since 2008. The Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (MACCW) held their fifty-eighth (58) annual convention in Fort Lauderdale Florida from May 20<sup>th</sup> through 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016. As is customary, upon invitation, a total of thirty-three delegates from the Archdiocesan Catholic Women's Auxiliary (ACWA) Bahamas attended the convention. The highlight of this convention for the Bahamian Catholic women was the invitation of our Archbishop Patrick C. Pinder as their guest speaker at the Awards Luncheon on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2016. The delegation which consisted of twenty-one first time attendees was led by the Chairperson of the Transition Team. Delegates were from parishes in New Providence, Grand Bahama, Eleuthera and Exuma.

The Convention was dedicated to Mary, Our Lady, Mother of Mercy and celebrated under the theme "Blessed are the Merciful, For They Shall....." in significance of this extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy named by Pope Francis. Pope Francis said: "...the Church, in this time of great historical change, is called to offer more evident signs of God's presence and closeness".

The opening ceremony began with a "bang" during which the Bahamian delegation was invited to lead their National Anthem just after the singing of the American national anthem. The evening continued with a Welcome Reception under the theme "Carnivale Caribbean" where the ladies adorned in bright colours, complete with masks and beads while dancing to the sounds of Caribbean music mixed with golden oldies.

The Saturday Morning session began with a presentation by Mr. Stephen Colella, Cabinet Secretary of Parish Life in the Archdiocese of Miami, who did an excellent job outlining the differences of women and men; equal in dignity but with different gifts that reveal the authentic aspects of our Triune God. Mr. Colella underscored John Paul II and his revelation of the feminine "genius" which affirms a woman's dignity is closely connected with the love which she receives by the reason of her femininity; and likewise her connectedness with the love she gives in return.

Immediately following that session was the Celebration of the Eucharist/MACCW Memorial Mass which was celebrated by our very own Archbishop Patrick C. Pinder, assisted by the very Reverend Michael Greer, MACCW Spiritual Advisor. During the Mass the Bahamian delegation was invited to participate by announcing the names of the deceased auxiliary sisters.

The highlight of this session and moment of pride for the Bahamian delegation, the Awards Luncheon where the Guest speaker was the Most Reverend Patrick C. Pinder S.T.D. C.M.G., Archbishop of Nassau. Archbishop Pinder spoke to the special gift of this extraordinary year of mercy and forgiveness which has at its' center the mercy of God available to everyone and calling on us women to always put mercy before judgment. Additionally, he highlighted the doors of mercy available in the Archdiocese of Miami and Nassau and urged us to walk through before the year ends in November. Archbishop Pinder's presentation was graciously accepted by the thunderous applause and acknowledged by the standing ovation led by the Bahamian delegation.

During the Luncheon, a number of awards were presented however the most prestigious was the award to Our Lady of Good Counsel.

In the afternoon, the ladies gathered for an act of charity where they made dresses from pillow cases for underprivileged girls living in Africa. The idea was adopted by the Bahamian delegation as a pilot project to design and make as many of these pillow case dresses to take back to the ladies in Miami as a donation to the cause.

Later the same evening, the MACCW along with the Bahamian delegation hosted an evening of hospitality. The evening was fun filled as it afforded all attendees an opportunity to sample food provided by the Catholic Women in Miami and the Bahamas, (*which was undoubtedly the favourite*). The Bahamian menu included conchy conch fritters, tasty cracked conch, Eleuthera potato bread, banana bread, Nassau fruit cake, coconut, benny and peanut cakes as well as Cat Island flour cakes and Mortimer Candies.

Sunday morning there were a number of sessions with presentations and reflections on Devotion to our Mission, our Model and our Promise all embedded in the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

Later that afternoon, the convention's closing business session was attended by most delegates, where the first time attendees were given special recognition and dubbed "The Class of 2016" with official photographs taken to commemorate the occasion. Also raffles were drawn with tickets that were sold during the convention; three (3) of the nine (9) prizes were won by Bahamian delegates.

The Closing Mass followed at the nearby Saint Sebastian Catholic Church. Immediately following the Mass, the newly elected MACCW Board Members were installed for the period 2016 - 2018 by the Spiritual Advisor.

The weekend ended on a celebratory note with a gala banquet during which a number of presentations were made however the most notable being scholarships to three deserving young catholic ladies transitioning from primary to high school in September of this year.

The general consensus of all of the Bahamian delegates is that the weekend was a blessing, an eye opener and a spirit filled experience. They all commented on the environment, the relaxed atmosphere, the warmth, friendship and hospitality shown by the Ladies in Fort Lauderdale. They further expressed their desire to return next year for spiritual renewal and eagerly await the opportunity.

In conclusion, the theme and Pope Francis' message was the invariable thread that was woven throughout every fabric of the Convention from beginning to end and was a perpetual reminder of our obligation as Catholic women to bring the face of God to humanity through the **spiritual works of mercy**:...*to instruct the ignorant, to counsel the doubtful, to admonish sinners, to bear wrongs patiently, to forgive offenses willingly, to comfort the afflicted, to pray for the living and the dead* and the **corporal works of mercy**: ...*to feed the hungry, to give drink to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, to shelter the homeless, to visit the sick, to assist the imprisoned, to bury the dead*. As women of faith doing mission and experiencing joy of the gospel, we are not only obligated to bring the face of God to humanity through our individual and corporate works of mercy but to ensure that we bring His face on a daily basis in every encounter we have whether insignificant or grand.



Miami Archdiocesan  
Council of Catholic Women

## NEWS NOTES

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## NEWSNOTES FALL 2016

### 2016

- October 15** South District Fall General Membership Meeting, *Christ the King*  
**22** North District Fall General Membership Meeting, *TBA*  
**27 - 30** FCCW Biennial Conference, *Jacksonville*  
**November 5** Central District Fall General Membership Meeting, *TBA*  
**13** MACCW Fundraiser, *St. Henry Parish Hall*  
**19** Black Catholic Luncheon, *Embassy Suites, Ft. Lauderdale*

### 2017

**SAVE  
THE  
DATES!**

- January 14** MACCW Winter Board Meeting, *St. Bartholomew*  
**21** Day of Reflection, *St. John Vianney Seminary*  
**28** Respect Life Walk & Mass, *St. John Vianney Seminary*
- February**
- Tues. **14** Chastity Day, *Bailey Concert Hall, Broward College*  
Thurs. **16** Chastity Day, *Florida Memorial University*  
Tues. **21** Chastity Day, *Gusman Concert Hall, University of Miami*  
Thurs. **23** Chastity Day, *Roca Theater, Belen Jesuit*
- NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR ALL 4 LOCATIONS!!**
- March 25** MACCW Scholarship Gala, *Embassy Suites, Ft. Lauderdale*  
**11** South District Spring General Membership Meeting, *St. Thomas/Apostle*  
**18** Central District Spring General Membership Meeting, *TBA*  
**25** North District Spring General Membership Meeting, *TBA*
- April 4 - 5** Catholic Days at the Capitol  
*(tentative)* **28 - 30** 59th Annual MACCW Convention
- May 13** Ordination  
**14** Mother's Day