

News



November 2024

Notes

Florida Council of Catholic Women – National Council of Catholic Women

Sisters in Christ,

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>



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2024-2025

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A message from The President



MACCW President Report November 10, 2024

Dear Reverend Father and Sisters in Christ:

The last few months have been remarkably busy. Representing MACCW makes me realize how much I love the Council.

During June 13 & 14, I attended the FCCW Board meeting in Orlando. I was introduced as the new MACCW President. That was a very productive session, I not only learned about what the other Deanery were doing but also, Dorothy Harper, Palm Beach's DCCW President approached me, and asked me to participate as one of the speakers for their 2025 convention.

On June 17, I attended an Amendment 4 committee meeting, invited by Katie Blanco, President ADOM Development Corporation. The following individuals also attended the meeting: Stephen Colella, Juan Di Prado, Jim Rigg, Angela Curatalo, Michelle Jurado, Fr. Agustin Estrada, Lorenzo Rodriguez, Sister Elizabeth Worley, and Archbishop Wenski. The meeting was very productive regarding the strategies that the Archdiocese is implementing to help defeat Amendment 4.

On June 18, Father Greer and I had a private meeting with Archbishop Wenski, where we talked about the future of MACCW and the need to recruit more member. I requested to have a letter signed by him talking about the great service that the Council provides to our churches, and I am happy to report that he said yes! We have the letter, and it has been sent to the Archdiocese priests.

On July 7th, I reported to FCCW Legislative Advocacy Chair Maria Knoll about MACCW Pro-Life Activities.

MACCW President Report

November 10, 2024

Cont'd

On July 25th, I attended the Grassroots Bi-Weekly call (Sara Johnson-main speaker).

On August 13th, I arrived in Oklahoma City for the NCCW Convention. I had such a wonderful time. The speakers were amazing. The LTD team gave an outstanding presentation. I met a group of wonderful ladies creating such a spiritual bond that lasted throughout the whole event. The Liturgies were very uplifting. The President and President elect were impressive, and they made sure that every detail was perfect. The music was nice, dear Father Miguel sang beautifully, the food was excellent, they had young girls (teens) attending, and all these together melted my heart seeing the young generation attending.

On August 25th, after a pause because of COVID, we had our beautiful Layette Mass (former Haitian Mass). I want to give a big thank you to Our Lady of Lourdes team and their president Ceci Cantu, for all the long hours planning and making sure that we had everything under control. I also want to thank our Coordinator, Elizabeth Samuels, who always made sure of all the logistics and details. It was such a lovely time, meeting the 3 ladies that we showered knowing the hardship they had and the desire to keep their pregnancy amid the health issues (eclampsia, car accident, etc.). I am pleased to report all three babies were born, and the moms and babies are healthy. They shared pictures with me asking me to tell all of you that they are forever grateful for all the gifts. I have wonderful news, one of the mothers reached out to me asking for help because she wants to baptize her son. This is an amazing way to evangelize. For the first time, we can follow up with the ladies we help. God placed these ladies in our hands, and we are now able to continue our mission of Catholic ladies.

On August 29th, I had a meeting with my pastor Father Arias. I talked about Amendment 4 and told him about what the CCW was doing. He liked the idea and now we have on our parish website videos, Say No to 4 explanation and we are playing the video after Mass twice a month. I told Father about voter registration, and he gave me the go ahead to do it. I contacted the election department about doing an Outreach Voter Registration in our parish, which will take place on Friday, September 27 and Saturday, September 28th. The Voter Outreach was from 4:30 to 8:00pm.

On September 9th, I attended the Statewide Vote No on 4, via Zoom, with Sara Johnson as the speaker. There were so many people trying to attend that they created a second Zoom to accommodate the ones that could not log in because the meeting was at capacity.

October 16th, I submitted a report to Maria Knoll for the State Pro Life Coordinating Committee about all the wonderful job that our Districts have been doing.

October 24th to October 27th I attended FCCW Conference in Tampa. Despite the challenges posed by two hurricanes the conference was an inspiring experience. The speakers were phenomenal, each sharing profound insight, covering a range of topics leaving the audience both encouraged and challenged to grow spiritually.

Fabiola Sanchez-De Armas
MACCW President

Vice-President's Report

Dear sisters in Christ,

On August 25th we celebrated the Layette Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes, and we had three amazing pregnant ladies whom we honored with a baby shower... it was a blue cloud all around, as all three were expecting boys!

It was so nice to see some old faces once again and also some new ones... Food was delicious, and decorations were beautiful! We had so many items donated! It was wonderful to see how generous your ladies' hearts are... we split them all in three sets, and each took home a hefty bundle!

Baby Vicente Eliel was born on September 4th and baby Miller was born on September 17th. Thank you to all who attended and donated toward the Baby Shower to make it the success it was!

I also attended the Florida CCW conference in St. Petersburg, Oct. 24-27. It was a wonderful event, filled with amazing speakers and great fellowship. The Welcome dinner was a 1920s Whodunnit skit where we all dressed up as flappers! Our own Mary Weber's table was the one who guessed correctly who did it! It was an awesome night!

All during the conference we were joined by amazing speakers: Jim Gontis who spoke on the Holy Eucharist, Sacramental Confession and true devotion to Mary; Dr. Mary Soha, who gave a talk about the Martyrs of La Florida; Rev. Msgr. Stephen Bosso, who explained in depth the "Go in peace"; Mrs. Marlene Watkins, OFS who talked to us about Lourdes and her book "Everyday Miracles of Lourdes" and Dr. Mary Jo O'Sullivan, who explained her life as an OB-GYN and her experiences throughout her travels, amongst others. Next, is the NCCW convention in Orlando, FL August 19th through the 24th... Hope to see you all there!

Now, I would like to ask you all a favor... I'm looking forward to working on a project... We have, throughout the many years this Council has been, collected many photo albums that lay stored away and forgotten. My dream is to digitize them all, so that we can display them in our meetings, and you all can see the rich history of this Council.

I would like for affiliations to volunteer to digitize one album, and that way, one by one, we will bring these beautiful memories back... If you have someone within your walls that is handy with computers, and you are willing to take this project on, please see me later, and I will arrange to deliver one to you.

Looking forward to a blessed and wonderful year! May Our Lady keep us always under her protection and guidance.

Respectfully yours,

Mayte Cantillo
Vice-President



Joy to the World ... how many times we will sing or hear this song during the next couple of weeks! It comes with Christ's birth and what He presented and preached to us. The Light He continues to bring warms our souls with His grace and goodness. We are strengthened by His presence and His consistent support as we reverence and receive the Holy Eucharist.

We also recall Christ's message and mandate to his followers: "Go out to all the world and spread the Good News". We are commissioned to bring the core of what He encourages and expects of us: to "love our neighbor". This involves bringing such gifts as hope, encouragement, forgiveness, and peace to others.

In essence, it's bringing Jesus' joy to others, what the Lord offers us.

So, a blessed Christmas and New Year!

Very Rev. Michael J. Greer, V.F.
MACCW Spiritual Advisor



September 28, 2024

Greetings Ladies,

This is a report about the 2024 Layette Mass held on August 25, 2024, at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. When our Madam President asked that I assist with this important event, I was hesitant. In the past, I have assisted others, and though I was not able to take charge. So, I reached out to my CCCW members, and attempted to secure the cathedral as the venue. I was unable to secure the cathedral, so I reached out to a few parishes, and to no avail. In the meantime, our Madam President, was able to get the wonderful ladies from OLOL to volunteer their parish for the layette mass and reception. Upon getting this wonderful news, I was able to get beginning getting the word out. Then, I realized that fellow council sisters were already to go. Emails and calls were received on how many expected mothers and what was needed. This was the perfect example of what council sisters do.

Working with the MACCW President was amazing. Not only did she get a parish to say yes to hosting the event, but she also worked diligently to get the three mothers that were chosen to be honored at the Layette Mass. She interviewed and made certain that these expectant mothers met the criteria that is in place.

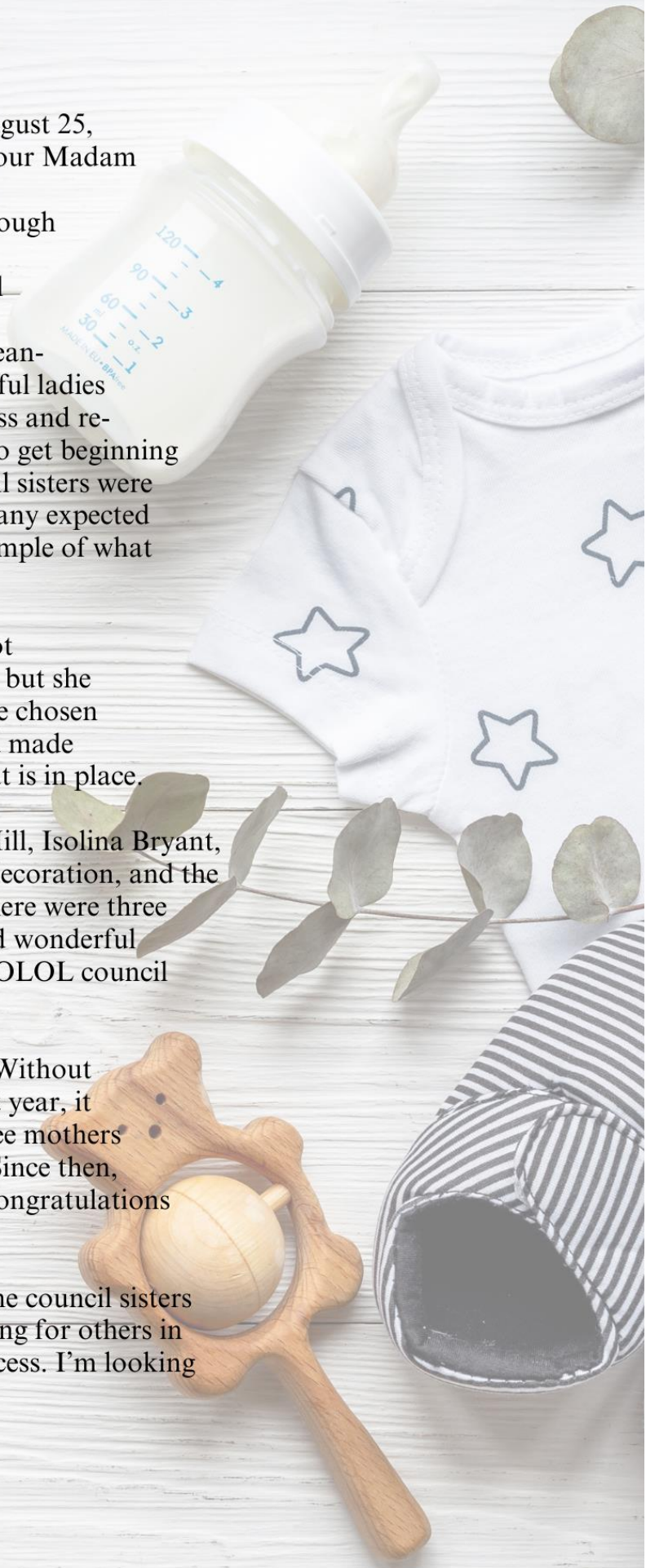
On August 25, upon arriving at the parish hall, Sarah Hill, Isolina Bryant, and I arrived for the event, and we were amazed by the decoration, and the number of gifts that these mothers were being given. There were three tables that were overfilled with gifts. They also provided wonderful refreshments. So much effort that was put forth by the OLOL council sisters was evident.

And to everyone that supported this event, thank you. Without your support, this event would not have been held. Last year, it was cancelled due to not having any recipients. The three mothers selected were extremely happy with receiving the gifts. Since then, two mothers have delivered two beautiful baby boys. Congratulations to them and thank God for the safe delivery.

I wish to say again to the MACCW President, and all the council sisters involved, thank you for being who you are, women caring for others in need. It was truly a pleasure to see this event such a success. I'm looking forward to working with the MACCW next year.

God Bless to all my council sisters.

Respectfully submitted by,
Elizabeth V. Samuels
Cathedral Council of Catholic Women



Central District of the Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women

President's Report

I worked with Fr. Michael Greer, MACCW Spiritual Advisor, to find a replacement for Fr. Christopher Marino, who was our Central District Spiritual Advisor, who now is at St. Mary Star of the Sea in Key West. I am pleased to announce that Fr. Luis Perez has been appointed to be our new Spiritual Advisor.

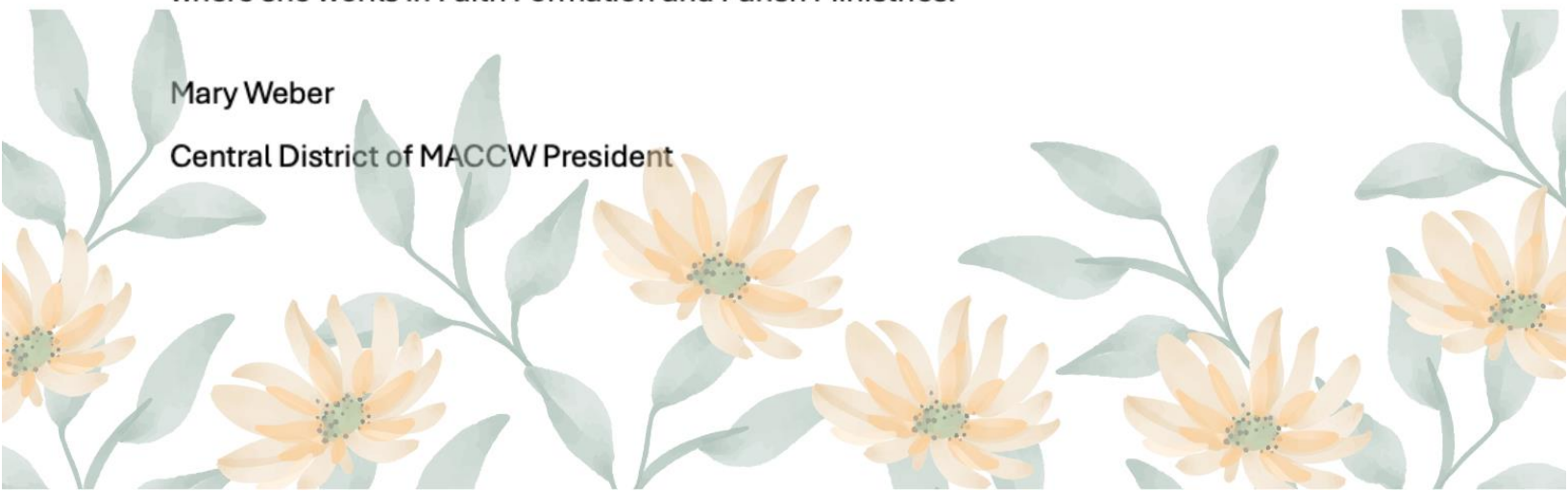
I attended the Florida Council of Catholic Women 26th Biennial Conference, on October 24th to 28th. I enjoyed the welcome mystery dinner theater party at Nativity Parish Hall. There were about 20 + tables and each table had to choose who the murderer was. I was at table 9 and we were the only table with the correct answer. It was fun, and more fun to win! The theme of the Conference was "Go in Peace Glorifying the Lord by Your Life." The speakers were fantastic. My favorite speaker was Msgr. Stephen Bosso. He spoke on the words of the Conference Theme. He talked about the word PEACE and its origins from Shalom and its meanings. Msgr. Bosso explained that as a noun "Shalom" means completeness, soundness, welfare, prosperity, be well, and peace. He added that as a verb "Shalem" means to be complete or to be sound, finished, ended, to be safe, unharmed, peaceful. He noted that, liturgically the word "peace" is used 16X's. Words are important.


The Central District held their Fall General Meeting and Breakfast, on November 2, 2024. The meeting was hosted by St. Rose of Lima Council of Catholic Women in their Parish Cafeteria. Fr. Luis Perez was officially installed by Fr. Greer, as our District Spiritual Advisor. Both Priests had messages to share with us. Fabiola Sanchez-De Armas, MACCW President, spoke on her activities and future plans for MACCW. Our Guest speaker was Josephine Gilbert, MACCW Legislative Chair and President of Friends of National Council of Catholic Women for the World Union of Catholic Women's Organization. Josephine gave us information about Catholic Days at the Capitol and Friends of NCCW for WUCWO. The District agreed to continue with the Seminarian Gift Cards for Christmas project. Claudia Charles will be collecting \$25.00 Gift Cards from CVS and Walmart. Our goal is to collect 35 gift cards (one for each Seminarians at St. John Vianney) by December first.

I have been in contact with 5 other parishes in our district, that are not affiliated with council, concerning the Council of Catholic Women. One of the ladies attended our District Meeting. We welcomed Rose Modzelewski from Little Flower Parish in Hollywood, where she works in Faith Formation and Parish Ministries.

Mary Weber

Central District of MACCW President





I returned yesterday from attending the 26th biennial conference of the Florida Council of Catholic Women Tampa hosted by the St Petersburg diocesan CCW "Go in peace glorifying the Lord by your life," Was the theme for this great event. Brenda Dolan, province director of Florida CCW, greeted us along with now FCCW president elect Melissa Garrett (Missy) and chairman for this conference. Brenda could not be any sweeter, and Missy is very excited and ready to take on her new role. The Sheraton hotel in Brandon Tampa was a nice venue. We were surrounded by vendors with lots of novelty items, jewelry, etc. There was a lovely shrine with our Blessed Mother Mary at the entrance of the conference room, and the ladies also set up a very peaceful room for prayer. There were many speakers over the weekend, and I'll share with you the ones that impacted me the most.

Archbishop Wenski was there and made sure to remind us, "as Catholics, we believe that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision of society We wish to protect not only the unborn child - the weakest, more innocent, and defenseless among us - but we also seek to protect countless women from the harms of abortion." Our Archbishop spoke at different times, celebrated mass and shared with us at the closing Banquet, as well as many other priests that you will see in pictures because I cannot remember all the names, I can tell you that Fr. Greer was there!

We also heard from two really nice CCW ladies, Susie and Laurie, that spoke to us about being a positive influence, by using a paper doll prompting us to answer questions about how we see ourselves, and what our views are towards what we do in our affiliations. Very simple, yet very important. We also heard via Zoom a message from Amy Kennedy, National CCW president elect, her theme "why we gather." she highlighted the importance of Make a personal sincere invite, not to be discouraged if the answer is no, and to share your own CCW story in order to attract new members to our affiliations. She emphasized the reasons for gathering, sharing our faith, joy, and hope! It was refreshing to hear her message.

And of course, I must mention one of our own, Dr. Mary Jo O'Sullivan who spoke about her professional life experience in reference to how medications made their way into the abortion business and how babies in the womb feel pain and experience fear during this very sad procedure. Also referred to the latest Vatican document Dignitas Infinita, which says that more than ever, we have to have the courage to look the truth in the eye and to call things by their proper name, without yielding to convenient compromises or the temptation ... of self-deception. Personally, I am always grateful to have the opportunity to hear Mary Jo speak. Her commitment is such an inspiration.

Lastly, I want to share with you what a great talk was given by Msgr. Stephen Bosso, Who used the conference theme as the topic for his talk. Gave us a three-page guide and included homework, yeap. I'm not kidding. But what a pleasure it was to hear him break down the meaning of the word peace from a linguistic point as a verb, the noun, to its liturgical meaning, how it is included on all of our very important and daily prayers. Msgr. Even included some humor along with it. I would not dare try to summarize his talk because I just can't. Lol. But I will make sure to share the guide (homework included) via email for all of you, dear ladies, to get a glimpse of what I'm talking about.

Seating for lunch with the ladies from the Bahamas was a delight, chatting with someone for the 1st time at the end of mass, turned into an invitation to her home for me to take my child to Weeki Wachee Springs, and the sweet chaos of picture taking at the end of the event were some of the best things I now cherish from this past weekend.

I thank you all for sponsoring this event for me, your South District CCW president, and I strongly encourage all of you, dear sisters, to promote and engage in all of the future Council activities. Please remember this is my personal input. If any of you who also had the opportunity to attend, please feel free to share your experience as well. May our CCW labors be pleasing to our dear Lord, and may our Blessed Mother Mary always be our guide,

Maria Sol Acosta



You are cordially invited to the
Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women
26th Annual Scholarship Luncheon
Saturday, February 22, 2025, 11:30 AM

Embassy Suites by Hilton
1100 SE 17TH Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

Donation: \$60.00 / Person
Proceeds to Benefit the MACCW Scholarship Fund

2025 Honoree: Jim Rigg, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools, Archdiocese of Miami

Meet The 2024 Scholarship Recipients
Raffle Grand Prize \$500.00!!!!

Name _____ **Parish** _____

Donation: Luncheon \$60.00/person – Due by February 8th - After Feb. 8th - \$65/person

PAYMENT

☐ **Check Enclosed.** Please make checks payable to: MACCW Scholarship Fund

☐ Credit Card payment information below:

Name on Credit Card _____ Signature _____

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ Security Code _____

Please note, Credit Card orders are assessed an additional 4% for processing.

Send Reservations to: Suzanne (Kitten) Auer, 385 Caribbean Dr., Key Largo, FL 33037

For more information, contact Mary Weber 305-469-3515 or maccwscholarshipfund@gmail.com

Mention MACCW for Complimentary Daily Self-Parking or \$15.00 Daily Valet Parking

MACCW Restoration Project

We want to
go from this:



To this:



MACCW has a rich history that
is at the brink of being lost...

For decades, women from all
walks of life, have helped
MACCW grow and help so
many in our community and
outside of it...

All this we have, recorded in
photos and letters, that now
lay in storage boxes, wasting
away.

We want to bring this richness
back to the spotlight and will
be spearheading a project to
digitize these forgotten gems,
to be displayed in our website,
for all to enjoy and reminisce,
for generations to come.

We are looking for affiliations that will help us get
this project off the ground... we already have our
first photo album in the works at St. Thomas!

Won't you join them and help YOUR Archdiocese
retain these memories and be proud of the heritage
our earlier sisters have left for us?

To be part of this wonderful work, please contact Mayte Cantillo, at:
cantillo.mayte@gmail.com or (305)342-2770

Thank you for helping us make YOUR MACCW unforgettable!

Healing Mass Cards

*Designed & made
Especially For
MACCW.*



What better way to let others know that they are in our prayers when they are sick, than by sending a MACCW Mass card?

The offering for each card is \$5.00, and the masses will be said at St. John Vianney Seminary. Proceeds from the sale of the cards go towards the MACCW Seminarian Burse Fund. Please contact Fabiola DeArmas at 786-457-6422 for your supply to have on hand. To keep postage fees to a minimum, we suggest that you purchase several cards at one time.

North District of MACCW President's Report MACCW Board meeting

Good morning, Madam President, Board members, Father Greer

We had our North District Board meeting on Saturday, September 7th. At that time, we went over the current board list for corrections, our Pilgrim Virgin Schedule, discussed the fall meeting, we heard reports from the affiliation Presidents present and asked that they send to the Vine editor for the general meeting edition. We discussed the NNCCW Mary's Garden campaign, our ND Raffle and upcoming events, FCCW Conference & MACCW Meeting. We are in the process of preparing for our Fall General Breakfast meeting which will be held at St Helen's CCW.

We currently have 5 **active** affiliations and 3 who are trying to renew and revitalize their group. I have been in contact with all three and I am trying to keep them in our Council loop with happenings in the area. I did get a heads-up so to speak that an area pastor wants to start a women's group – this parish had an active group when I first started in the Broward area. I will keep you posted.

I am in the process of checking my calendar to schedule visits to all our ND Affiliation meetings sometime during the coming year. This is just a visit to see if they need anything or help of any kind.

Madam President this concludes my report.



NORTH DISTRICT OF MACCW

2024-2025 RAFFLE



This lovely frame of the Holy Family from Italy can be yours

Chances are \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00

Sell within your Affiliations or can be purchased at all North District meetings until our Spring General meeting.

Make checks payable to BCCW

\$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00

**2024-2025 North District Raffle
Holy Family Frame**

Name _____
Phone _____
Affiliation _____

\$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00

**2024-2025 North District Raffle
Holy Family Frame**

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**2024-2025 North District Raffle
Holy Family Frame**

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MACCW 2024 - 2025

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

YEAR	Month	Date	Time	Event / Function	Place
2024	May	5		MACCW Spring Board Meeting	The Embassy Suites Ft. Lauderdale
	May	18		Presidents Meet & Greet	Asumption Church
	June	1		MACCW Summer Board Meeting	Good Shepherd
	June	13-14		FCCW Board Meeting	Orlando
	July				
	August	13-17		NCCW Convention	Oklahoma
		25		Layette Mass	Our Lady Of Lourdes
	September	28		MACCW Fall Meeting	St Andrew
	October	5		SDCCW Fall Meeting	St Thomas
		12		NDCCW Fall Meeting	St. Helen
		24-26		Florida Conference	Tampa
	November	2		CDCCW Fall Meeting	St Rose of Lima
	December				
2025				Event / Function	
	Jan	4		NDCCW Mornign of reflection	All Saints
	Jan	18		MACCW Winter Meeting	St Rose of Lima
	Jan	25		MACCW Day of Reflection	Good Shepherd
	Feb	22		MACCW Scholarship Luncheon	Embassy Suite Ft. Lauderdale
	March	15		NDCCW Spring Meeting	All Saints
		18-20		Catholic Days At the Capitol (50th Anniversary of Red Mass)	Tallahassee
		29		Central CCW Spring Meeting	St Marys Cathedral
	April	26		MACCW One Day Convention	Archbishop Coleman Carroll HS
	May				
	June				
	July				

Mark your calendars!



*Loving
Father,*

help us remember
the **birth of Jesus**
that we may share in

the *song of the angels,*
the gladness of the shepherds
and the *worship of the wise men.*

Close the door of hate and

open the door of love all over the

world. Let kindness come with every gift and
good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from
evil by the *blessing which Christ brings,* and teach us
to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be *Thy children,* and the Christmas
evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,

forgiving and forgiven,

for Jesus' sake.

Amen.