MIAMI ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN



FLORIDA COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN — NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

NEWSNOTES is the official publication of the Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, an affiliated organization of the National Council of Catholic Women.

Organization Objectives

To unite all Catholic Women Organizations of this Archdiocese in purpose, direction and action in religious, educational, social and economic fields

To stimulate these organizations to greater efficiency and usefulness in meeting the needs of the times

To give full support to the statements and programs of the United States Bishops Conference and to render them assistance in these efforts

NCCW Mission Statement

The National Council of Catholic Women acts through its affiliated organizations to support empower and educate all Catholic Women in spirituality, leadership and service. NCCW programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world.

http://www.maccw.org

Miami ACCW Welcomes Our Sisters to the



"The Voice of Catholic Women"

Marriott Harbor Beach Resort & Spa

September-October 2013

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A message from The President

Dear Council Sisters.

It is a privilege to welcome you back to the new Council year. I hope you all had a good summer. My sincere gratitude to all who contributed to our success. We give Glory to God for his love and blessings over us throughout the year.

I hope you have visited our website for the report on the Haitian Mass especially those of you who were unable to attend. We are grateful to Fr. Marino and the church of St. Mary's Cathedral for accommodating us.

Most of the summer was spent preparing for the upcoming NCCW convention later this month. Many thanks to all who have offered their time to help and to ensure that the convention runs smoothly and that the attendees have a successful and productive Convention.

I am looking forward to all the programs and projects this Council year. Along with our usual programs, under our service commission, we will be joining the Footprint Foundation in providing birthing kits for our sisters in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In the weeks to come, you will be hearing a lot more about the MACCW fundraising event scheduled for Sunday, November 10th 2013 at St. Henry's Hideaway. Please join us for an Afternoon Tea for mothers, sisters, daughters and friends.

May we always remember God's Love for us and to have the courage to extend the love to all mankind.

Many Blessings

Josephine

From the desk of Fr. Greer

MACCW Spiritual Advisor

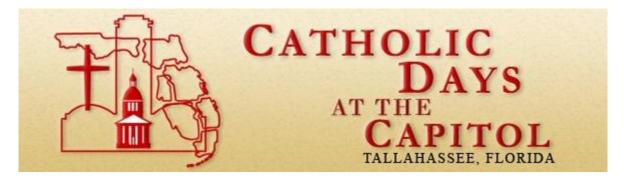
Greetings in the Lord!

Trends from the past have provided we Floridians with weather that's inclement (?). Well are you ready to be "taken by storm"—not, God willing, by a hurricane but by your council sisters from this country and others.

We are called to be ministers of welcome and hospitality and later instruments of implementation at our various parishes of the good news received or shared. This is a unique opportunity—let's participate and promote the inspirational message offered us. See you in September at the NCCW Convention!

Very Reverend Michael J. Greer, V. F.

Spiritual Moderator



Catholic Days at the Capitol, March 25-26, 2014 Red Mass of the Holy Spirit, March 26, 2014

Catholics from around the state gather in Tallahassee to participate in Catholic Days at the Capitol. Participants attend a legislative briefing on human life and dignity issues prior to meetings with elected officials. Included in the activities is a luncheon for participants, the Bishops of Florida and state legislators.

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

Church

Claudia H. Charles, Commission Chair

"Going to church does not make you a good Christian any more than standing in a parking lot makes you a car!" That statement might sound a bit flippant, yet it does cause one to stop and think. In doing so, we may ask ourselves, "Am I a good Christian; more so, am I a good Catholic Christian, and if so, can I do better?" Most of us would answer, "Yes, I am a good Catholic Christian and yes, I can do better."

As members of the Council of Catholic Women, we are always in the forefront and should strive at all times to be the women Christ has called us to be. He has asked that we "love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. The second like the first is to "love our neighbors as ourselves," even those we do not particularly like!

In South Florida, loving our neighbor includes welcoming the migrants, those who do not speak our language, and who are from a different culture. How would you feel if you arrived in a foreign country, not knowing the language, dressed differently, and not accepted by the majority of those living in that country? How do you think Jesus, Mary, and Joseph felt, strangers in a foreign land, when it became necessary for them to migrate to Egypt?

I am beginning my third year of teaching English to Brazilian adults. It has been an interesting and rewarding experience. As in most teacher-student situations, the relationship has been twofold. I have taught them the fundamentals of the English language and they have taught me much about their culture. As time progressed, two Haitian nuns appeared and wanted to join the class. I explained that the classes were for Brazilians, but they persisted in joining, and the priest in charge agreed they could attend. Needless to say I was not so confident that this could work; however, I have had the experience of watching the Brazilian migrants accepting and helping the Haitian migrants. Together we were STRANGERS HELPING OTHER STRANGERS.

As women of the Council, we are called to be just as welcoming. In addition to contributing money, clothing, and food for the migrants, we are expected to offer a warm greeting, a smile, and a hand in friendship; hence, we must continue to do all we can do to welcome strangers to our land! Remember, in the spirit of Christ, "Whatsoever you do to the least of my people, that you do onto me!"

As we prepare for the upcoming Convention of the National Council of Catholic Women, let us embrace the challenge and be the loving neighbors Christ has called us to be and extend a warm and friendly welcome to our sisters of Council.

As members of the Council of Catholic Women, we are always in the forefront and should strive at all times to be the women Christ has called us to be.

International

Louise Scott, Commission Chair

WUCWO – What is it?

World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO) is a worldwide catholic women's organization founded in 1910 and now active in 66 countries including all continents and some island states, representing more than five million catholic women from every walk of life. The organization is divided into five regions, Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and North America. NCCW is a member organization of WUCWO. There is also an organization called Friends of NCCW for WUCWO which operates within NCCW. The aim of WUCWO is to promote the presence, participation and co-responsibility of Catholic Women in society and the church, in order to enable them to fulfill their mission of evangelization and to work for human development.

May 13, 2013 was WUCWO Day of Prayer with the theme as "You Shall Love Your Neighbor as Yourself". The 2013 WUCWO Priority: Peace in Action: Reduce Poverty, Violence, Trafficking and Respect for Migrants.

The Poverty of Hunger

"If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it?" (James 2:15-16)

Reflection: Faith without action is meaningless. Stop and think; you are aware of this poverty, what can, what will you do for these, your sisters?

The Poverty of Violence

"The wicked flee when no man gives chase, but the righteous are as bold as lions." (Proverbs 28:1)

Reflection:

We learn the plight of women and children abused and young persons trafficked and subjected to a life of terror and slavery, babies killed before their birth through abortion. We are aware of much violence in this world. Complacency permits evil to flourish but steady courage and action can and must end these situations. What will you do for these, your sisters?

The Poverty of Intolerance to Migrants

"When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God." (Leviticus 19:33-34)

Reflection: People fear change. They fear those not like themselves coming to their land with new culture and speaking different languages. Do we forget that we are all the children of God living by the message of Christ? Stop and think, are we there to help or are we going to allow our fear to hinder our brothers and sisters seeking a new and better life among us. You are aware of this poverty what will you do for these, your sisters?

In September, following the NCCW Convention, the WUCWO North American Regional meeting will commence at the same Harbor Beach Marriott Hotel in Fort Lauderdale from September 29-30, 2013. Archbishop Wenski will give the keynote address, speaking on topic of Respect for Migrants.

For more Information on WUCWO, visit WUCWO.org

Organization

Deanna Cook, Commission Chair

In continuation of my last report, how do we increase membership? This is a question that I have taken the summer to Pray and act upon to be able to present it to you in this MACCW Organization report. GET OUT THERE AND GET MOVING! I always use my own affiliation, St. Rose of Lima, as a guinea pig for any of the programs I have offered you through NDCCW and MACCW's Organization Commissions.

This year we plan to take action and get out there. I remember hearing this joke last year where a guy dies and goes to heaven. St. Peter meets him at the gate and says "Let me show you around" He points over to a group of people chanting and says "Those are the Buddhists" then he points to the other side and there

are a group of people bowing repetitiously "Those are the Muslims" He then points to the farthest area and there is a group kneeling "Those are the Catholics, they think

Our love and devotion to our neighbor through our love and devotion to Christ should be something we should be shouting from rooftops.

they are the only ones here." It pained me to hear it and sent me on a journey last summer where I worked with two Franciscan Sisters on a Social Justice ministry. We received some high opposition and when I asked why that was, they had me read "The best kept secret". I remember returning the book after reading it (it was a 1976 version, I have since purchased the more recent 2008 version) and asking "Why do we keep this a secret?" Thank God for Pope Francis, here to remind us to not fall asleep in the waiting. I am excited to present you with these humble ideas of ways to implement new programs

and ideas to you and your affiliations.

Look at your own community; are they having any street fairs or community events? Why not get a booth and showcase your affiliation, let them know you are out there and what your mission is. Are you in a district that only has a few affiliations? Go to your neighboring church and ask the Pastor if you can hold some type of sale and split the proceeds with him. It is a great opportunity to show Pastors and Parishes why they need to be a part of this wonderful organization. If a parish already has some type of "Women's' Club" offer to team up with them, if nothing more it shows great fellowship. Maybe offer to sponsor a Little Flowers or Blue Knights group in your Parish or Parish school- Host a tea or an activity for the youth of your parish. Visit college campuses and explain what your affiliation/council does and invite them to a meeting, see if you can start some Junior CCW offshoots like the ones we have recently seen in the Archdiocese. Sponsor Respect Life

workshops in your parish. It is a great way to meet the women in your parish who are likeminded and promote your affiliation. Take Hugs-for –the-Homeless on the road. With prior permission you can collect donations in front

of stores, other denomination churches, sporting events. Have your affiliation meet on a Saturday and make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, then take them and some cold waters to the area most saturated with homeless in your city and let them know it is done in the name of your affiliation. I call it "Project How to make the homeless smile".

That's it for now; I will have more for you in winter. Until then, Remember "Have the courage to go against the tide of current values that do not conform to the path of Jesus"- Pope Francis

Community

Marcia Perez, Commission Chair

Transforming a Community

"There are times in every person's life when there is cause for doubt. As events, trials and even people begin to strip away the safety and comfort we long to have. While it is darkest just before the dawn, many worry that dawn may come too late. For the 100+ families that face homelessness on a daily basis, this is a valid concern. But we hold on to HOPE".

This statement I pulled from HOPE South Florida's website. I have read it over and over and so true, the end to despair is hope. Hope South Florida has certainly done that with their mission of providing hope for the homeless and hurting in our community through services and partnerships with the Christian community. Not so strange to some churches in Broward County that have partnered with with Hope South Florida to open up their churches to cater to some homeless families for a week and while they are there, the organization works tirelessly to find a home or shelter for them. Some of our council affiliated churches including All Saints, St. Bartholomew, St. Gabriel, St. Henry, Assumption, Little Flower in Hollywood participate in this program. All these churches know how to turn a gym or parish hall into make shift rooms to ensure privacy. Hosting families involves knowing the intended families so that you can plan well to make them as comfortable as they can be. Preparation involves a lot of creativity and cleaning up. Meals, including snacks, taking into consideration any health issues or allergies involve many volunteers. Planning arts, crafts, playtime and fellowship also are included.

You might say what is a week in the life of homeless families? It is bountiful:

A week of Hope when the family can see and know God is walking along with them and that they are not alone. A week under a roof, with shelter from hot sun or rain, a week when a parent will not need to explain to her child why they don't have a place to sleep.

Homeless is defined in the dictionary as person without a home. Homelessness transcends race, gender, age, family status and educational background as we have seen all around us. According to the Department of Children and Families, Florida has 85,907 homeless persons on any given day. We sometimes ask why? We also hear often enough that a majority of the working class is 1, 2 or 3 paychecks away from being homeless. Have you ever thought of loss of employment or long term illness, and can you imagine if you are one paycheck away from homelessness? No one is immune. You can also imagine the results of substance abuse, child abuse, domestic violence or divorce, these are some of the reasons people can become homeless.

FCCW HUGS for the Homeless project is a state wide project among our seven Diocesan Councils of Catholic Women. We are about to embark on the 4th annual fundraising campaign for the Homeless. Last year efforts raised \$48,510 with each diocese receiving \$6,930. All Dioceses combine their proceeds from the project and the money is divided equally among the seven diocese regardless of how much you contribute. MACCW received a little more than we contributed. This council year we need to work harder in our affiliations; start your campaign early and choose the best way you know to raise the money. We are grateful for the support Archbishop Wenski and we received his endorsement for the project. Copies have been sent out to all district and affiliation presidents. Display the endorsement on your event tables.

Last May at the convention, each district received a check for \$1732.50, to donate to the homeless shelter of their choice. All donations last year were distributed as follows:

Broward District -

Hope South Florida

South Dade District -

Chapman Partnership for the Homeless

North Dade District-

The Missionary of Charity of Mother Teresa New Life Family Shelter (ADOM Catholic Charities)

Monroe District -

Independent Cay

Homelessness should be a concern for all members of our community. FCCW HUGS for the Homeless project raises awareness in our community. Every dollar raised is very significant. Chapman Partnership chef feeds one person per meal with one dollar.

For the event this year plan early, be creative and don't forget your "Bear HUGs and Kisses"

Legislation

Monica Kramer, Commission Chair

MIAMI ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS MAY 2013

Conscience Protection and Religious Liberty

Whereas, we must ensure that as Americans we retain our religious liberty which safeguards our right to bring our principles and moral convictions into the public arena,

Whereas, these rights need to be both exercised and protected, as some legislation seeks to mute the voices or limit the rights of religious believers and religious institutions, and

Whereas, each Church and faith-based institution must be free to carry out its mission and contribute to the common good without being pressured to sacrifice its fundamental teachings and moral principles.

Be it resolved the Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women members use available resources to become informed advocates for conscience protections based on Catholic Church teachings as they relate to current legislation and mandates; and

Be it resolved that members of the Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women advocate for conscience protections at the local, state, and national levels consistent with Church teachings and continue to pray for religious liberty.

Be it resolved that the members of the Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women will actively participate in Catholic Days at the Capitol in our state's capital city on March 25-27, 2014, in order to help ensure our Catholic voices are heard by lawmakers on matters of human life and dignity.

Serving the Needs of the Homeless and Hungry

Whereas, Catholic Social Teaching reminds us that every person has fundamental rights to life, adequate shelter, protection and food,

Whereas, those without shelter and protection have a high risk of hunger, health problems, and spiritual and emotional hopelessness, and

Whereas, those without these basic needs are vulnerable to violence and abuse.

Be it resolved, that members of the Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women pray for the needs of persons facing homelessness and hunger, particularly during the NCCW Day of Fast and Prayer to end hunger;

Be it resolved, that members of the Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women support their local agencies and services that aid the homeless and the hungry; and

Be it resolved, that members of the Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women encourage personal involvement helping the homeless and hungry and pursuing opportunities that allow the members to offer spiritual support and hope, sharing the love of Christ.

These resolutions were approved and adopted at the 2013 MACCW convention, to guide us in the work we will do in this council year.

Council sisters, we will continue to be mindful of our migrant brothers and sisters, and taking action by signing up for the action alerts. Our country has a long history of immigrants since the beginning, and our church teaches us to "welcome the strangers among us" for the encounter with the immigrant, migrant and refugee in our midst, we encounter Christ.

We join our Florida Bishops in asking the 113th Congress to support immigration reform that:

- Provides a path to citizenship for undocumented persons in the country;
- Preserves family unity by reducing backlogs and waiting times for family reunification;
- Protects vulnerable populations including refugees, asylum seekers and unaccompanied children;
- Addresses the root causes of migration, such as persecution and economic disparity.

Archbishop Wenski stated in his article in the Miami Herald, Sep. 2nd, 2013, "Everyone should have a safe workplace, wages to support their families, and the protection of labor laws. Immigration is not just a political issue, but a fundamental human and moral issue. For the immigrant workers are not faceless numbers – but human persons. They are our brothers and sisters".

Please sign up for the Action Alert on the <u>flaceb.org</u> or link to the Florida Bishop website through <u>MACCW.org</u>.

Take action; let your voice be heard.

Save the date for the Catholic Days at the Capitol, March $25^{th} - 27^{th}$, 2014. Let us fill the bus to Tallahassee again! Together we can make a difference.

Family

Ana Portela, Commission Chair

The main and most fundamental part of any family is the Marriage in which it is built. Marriages produce families, and families produce the society in which we live. Family life plays such an important role in society that, historically, no civilization can survive without it. Yet in our country today, marriage is being re-arranged, re-examined, and re-defined. As Catholic women we are called to protect marriage as the union of one man and one woman, for the sake of all society, but also for the sake of the future of our children.

As the Second Vatican Council put it, "The well-being of the individual person and of human and Christian society is intimately linked with the healthy condition of that community produced by marriage and the family." The marriage and union of husband and wife has the distinct ability of creating life, and so the Church describes marriage as the very "condition" for society's existence.

Pope John Paul II taught that the family is "the first and irreplaceable school of social life," where each person "learns what it means to love and to be loved, and thus what it actually means to be a person."

The love of a man and a woman in marriage is such a decisive gift for the entire of society that it should not be taken lightly. Love is a decision. Love should be responsible and definitive. It does not fluctuate like feelings. It is deeper and more permanent than moods or emotional state. Many young men and women today do not "trust" marriage. Many have a false view that marriage is about adult interests only. This view is not sustainable. Like feelings, adult interests evolve and change. Young people are hungry for the Truth about marriage and seek the Actions, rather than the Words, from those who advocate marriage. Regardless of how young or old you are, regardless of whether you are single, married, divorced or widowed, what are you showing others about marriage?

Marriage: Strengthen it and protect it!

Miami ACCW Welcomes the National Council of Catholic Women to Ft. Lauderdale

The Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women will be welcoming over 500 women from all over the country. The National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) Annual convention will held at the Harbor Beach Marriott from September 25th -28th, 2013. The theme of this convention is "The Voice of Catholic Women"

This convention is the forum in which all catholic women from its affiliated groups are united, providing education, operational and social activities through programs and guest speakers at the convention. Annual business meetings are also conducted at this convention. The last time NCCW and its members gathered in our diocese was the year 2000 for the General Assembly, fourteen years since we had the opportunity, so this makes hosting National Council this year a big deal for us. MACCW members are ready for the task and are working hard to ensure things will run smoothly.

We have received great support from Archbishop Wenski and his staff, Governor Rick Scott, Mayor John P. Seiler of Fort. Lauderdale and the Fort. Lauderdale Visitors Bureau. Some groups in our diocese that have stood to help us, include our spiritual advisors, affiliation pastors, Knight of Columbus, St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame Knightingales and the Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Our sincere thanks to everyone. We certainly cannot do it without all the help we have received. Along with the donations from our members, our sisters from the other diocese in the Province of Miami have sent in donations of goodies for the convention registration bags.

You are welcome to participate in the masses celebrated each day at the hotel without the registration. Come and support all our programs by your support with various fundraisings efforts throughout this convention. The auction has generated significant support for NCCW and is a wonderful opportunity for attendees to enjoy "shopping" for unique gifts and specialty items. It's a chance to support NCCW, have fun and even get a jump on Christmas gift giving.

- **Silent Auction** with unique items with opens 9:30 am on Friday September 27th and bidding closes at 10 am Saturday September 28th.
- **Purse Auction** at 6 pm 7 pm on Friday September 28th. Name brand purse with valuable prizes inside.
- "Share the Wealth" Thursday September 26th Saturday September 28th.
 - Three Winners per day, you don't have to be there to win.
- Exhibits, over a dozen vendors waiting for your interaction.
- Join us for Daily Mass, right there at the Harbor Beach Marriott

Thursday, September 26, 2013

- $^{\circ}$ <u>Confession</u> 7:30 am 8:30 am Meditation Room Tampa 5th Floor
- ° Rosary 1:10 pm 1:30 pm Meditation Room Tampa 5^{th} Floor
- Opening Liturgy 4:30 pm 6 pm -Celebrant: Bishop James V. Johnston, Jr. NCCW Episcopal Liaison, and Bishop of Springfield - Cape Girardeau. - Grand Ballroom F-K

Friday, September 27, 2013

- ° Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament − 7 am − 8 am Grand Ballroom F-K
- Memorial Mass for Deceased Members of NCCW,
 11:30 am 12:30 pm Celebrant Fr. James Stembler,
 NCCW Spiritual Advisor Grand Ballroom F-K

Saturday September 28, 2013

- ° <u>Confession</u> 7 am 8 am Meditation Room Tampa 5th Floor
- $^{\circ}$ Rosary 1:30 pm –1:50 pm Meditation Room, Tampa 5^{th} Floor
- Closing Eucharist Liturgy (Vigil Mass for Sunday),
 4 pm 5:30 pm Grand Ballroom F-K Celebrant: Most
 Reverend Thomas Wenski, Archbishop of Miami

May Our Lady of Good Counsel intercede for us to always be wise, courageous and loving leaders of the church.





COME JOIN

THE MIAMI ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN FOR OUR FIRST FUND-RAISING VICTORIAN TEA SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2013

1:00 P.M. - 4:00 PM

ST. HENRY CATHOLIC CHURCH

1500 South Andrews Avenue Pompano Beach, Florida 33069

\$25.00 PER PERSON

PLEASE COME AND SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR MACCW!! BRING A FRIEND!!!

Chinese Auction - 28 tickets for \$20.00 13 tickets for \$10.00 5 tickets for \$5.00

Share the Wealth (Pot of Gold) - 6 tickets for \$5.00

For more information contact: Bette Clark, (954) 721-0326 or Barbara Asfendis, (954) 437-6805







Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women NEWS NOTES

Maria E. Padilla, Editor c/o Sharon Utterback, Permit Holder

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NCCW Election Results

- President-Elect -- Karen Hurley, Diocese of Harrisburg, Harrisburg, PA
- Secretary -- Carolyn Morrison, Diocese of Kalamazoo, Coldwater, MI

Nominating Committee:

- Diane Andraska,
 - Diocese of LaCrosse, Black River Falls, WI
- Jackie Brandon,
 - Diocese of Orange, Yorba Linda, CA
- Mary Rausch,
 - Archdiocese of Dubuque, Fort Atkinson, IA
- Suzanne Erpenbach,
 - Diocese of Knoxville, Knoxville, TN
- Helene Beauregard,
 - Diocese of Manchester, Rochester, NH
- Sue Bregel,
 - Archdiocese of Seattle, Auburn, WA
- Teresa Sarzinski.
 - Diocese of Amarillo, Amarillo, TX

We extend a warm welcome to our newly-elected Executive Committee members and the 2013 Nominating Committee members

MACCW Nominating Committee

The following members have been appointed to serve on the 2014-2016 MACCWNominating Committee:

Broward District Barbara Asfendis, Chairman

North Dade District Sandy Sanchez
South Dade District Margaret Wright
Monroe District Virginia Bowes

2014 Chastity Days

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Gusman Concert Hall, University of Miami 1314 Miller Dr, Coral Gables FL 33124

Thursday, February 11, 2014

BCC, Bailey Concert Hall,

A. Hugh Adams Central Campus

3501 SW Davie Rd, Davie, FL 33314

Thursday, February 13, 2014

FMU, South Florida Memorial University,

Lou Rawls Performing Arts Center

15800 NW 42nd Ave, Miami, FL 33054

Thursday, February 20, 2014

Belen Jesuit Prep School,

500 SW 127th Ave, Miami, FL 33184