

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.

<http://www.maccw.org>



"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isiah 9: 6 - 7



WINTER 2014

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2014-2014**

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A message from The President

Dear Council Sisters,

Below is from Liguori Publications Excerpt from Advent:

“Preparation for Christmas is an important theme for Advent, but more is involved. Advent gives us a vision of our lives as Christians and shows us the possibilities of life.

The vision of life that Advent gives us is twofold; it looks back to the first coming of Christ at Bethlehem, and it looks to the future when Christ will come again. In the interval between these two events we find meaning for our life as a Christian.

First we celebrate Christ-become-human. We view his life and experience his presence as a human being in our history. Christ came to show us what life can and should be. He gave us true and valid principles by which we can live true and valid lives. But Jesus knew that the human heart could not live in isolation. He formed the Church around the concept of a people held together by love. In that community we discover unlimited possibilities and meaning. Alone we can do nothing. Together we find real meaning.

When Christ left this earth, he did not abandon us. He remains with us in his Spirit, the Church, the sacraments, the Scriptures and each other. He lives in community with us and keeps his vision of life before us.

When Christ comes again, his presence will no longer be hidden behind the signs and symbols of the liturgy or the words of the Scriptures. His presence among us will be revealed in all its fullness, a presence that will never end, a presence that will perfect and complete our community.

This is the "greater significance" of Advent. In these few short weeks we take in the sweeping panorama of time - from Christ's birth to his Second Coming. The season of Advent brings us the magnificent vision of life and hope for the future given to us by Christ.

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

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

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

Merry Christmas
Ann



From the desk of

***Father Greer
MACCW Spiritual Advisor***

Dear Sisters,

As we enjoy Thanksgiving may we be especially grateful for the people in our lives, certainly those of our immediate family, but also ones from our churches and individual councils.

Not only do we form one body in Christ but are so.

Best Wishes and Blessings,



Very Reverend Michael J. Greer, V. F.
Spiritual Advisor



**“IT IS THE BEAUTIFUL TASK OF
ADVENT
TO AWAKEN IN ALL OF US
MEMORIES OF GOODNESS AND
THUS OPEN DOORS
OF HOPE”**

Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI)

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a wonder at the [wisdom](#) and power of Your Father and ours. Receive my [prayer](#) as part of my service of the [Lord](#) who enlists me in God's own work for justice.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a hunger for peace: peace in the world, peace in my home, peace in myself.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a joy responsive to the Father's joy. I seek His [will](#) so I can serve with gladness, singing and love.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me the joy and love and peace it is [right](#) to bring to the manger of my Lord. Raise in me, too, sober reverence for the [God](#) who acted there, hearty gratitude for the [life](#) begun there, and spirited resolution to serve the Father and Son.

I pray in the name of [Jesus](#) Christ, whose [advent](#) I hail.

Amen.

Church

Claudia Charles, Commission Chair

As a member of the Council of Catholic Women, it pleases me to say that I have attended various conferences and/or conventions sponsored by MACCW, FCCW, and NCCW. In truth and in fact, I love a *good* conference/convention. They serve not only to inspire, educate, empower, and entertain, but also to promote the common good of the organization. It is a time to renew acquaintances, make new friends, share faith experiences, and renew the mind, body, and spirit. It is a time to experience an encounter with God, and likewise an encounter with self and with others. The Twenty-first Biennial Conference of the Florida Council of Catholic Women Province of Miami was all of that and more. The program speakers, all of whom were expertly tailored for the occasion, presented talks related to legislation, family concerns, and vocations, all of which were informative, inspiring, and entertaining.

The theme for the occasion, “Women of Faith, Sharing His Love,” reminded us that as members of Council we are called to evangelize, to go and make disciples of all nations. Catholic evangelization is now more than ever understood as the “essential mission of the church...bringing the Good News into all the strata of humanity, and through its influence transforming humanity from within and making it new” (*On Evangelization in the Modern World*, 14, 18). As women of faith we are encouraged to not only speak out, reach out, and live out the Good News of Christ Jesus but also to instinctively share our faith in Christ Jesus with whomever we meet and wherever we go.

In his final remarks at the closing banquet, Archbishop Wenski asked the question “Who was the first woman disciple?” Like most I said to myself, Mary of course. Others thought it might have been Mary Magdalene. To our surprise the answer given by the Archbishop was a woman called “Annette”. Never heard of her, have you? He then went on to say, “When Jesus

called James and John to follow Him, they were with “Annette”. Afterwards, he said that one day when the disciples were fishing, Jesus instructed them to throw “Annette” into the sea. Needless to say we all had a good laugh, and he left the story at that. But it was Father Miguel who told the rest of the story on Sunday morning. It seems that after “Annette” had been cast into the sea, her catch was so large that the disciples were unable to haul her in.

When Jesus called Andrew and Peter, James and John, they knew what kind of man He was and were willing to follow Him. They were told to leave their fishing businesses and become “fishers of men,” that is, to help others find God. Jesus was calling them away from a trade that was productive financially to a ministry that would be productive spiritually.

Like the fisherman, we too are called to fish for souls. We are all called to be an “Annette”, that is to say, we are all called to be *a net*. If we practice Christ’s teachings and share the gospel with others, we will be able to draw those around us to Christ Jesus as a fisherman who pulls fish into his boat. Jesus calls each of us to discover Him, follow Him, and proclaim the Good News. This is our mission. If we are faithful, like Annette (*a net*), when cast into the sea, we too will obtain a catch unable to be hauled.

As women of faith, there are many things we do within our parish communities. However, if we are to fulfill the mission of the Church we must go beyond the front doors and reach out to those on the margins of our parishes. We must reach out to those whose language, marital status, or sexual orientation makes them feel unwelcome. We must extend a hand of welcome to the elderly who are frail and often forgotten, the sometimes infamous and unpredictable young adults, welfare recipients, and those who have left the Church for whatever reason. In sharing the love of Christ Jesus, reaching out to those in need, and living out our Catholic Christian values, we can strengthen our evangelization efforts and “transform the world.” It is good to know that evangelization starts at home, but equally good to know that it does not stay there.

International

Louise Scott, Commission Chair

Avoid the rush of shopping!
“Give the gift that keeps on giving.”

This year, instead of fighting the crowds at the mall, or stressing because the package you ordered on line has yet to be delivered, consider giving a gift that can last forever.

MACCW, through its affiliation with the NCCW, has options available to members through partnerships with several organizations: **Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Charities, Cross International**, to name a few. Visit NCCW.org or CRS.org for more information.

Consider making a donation in the name of your family member or friend to help make a difference. Your contributions will help provide emergency relief and long term sustainable solutions to alleviate hunger and poverty around the world.

You can also help by purchasing **Fair Trade** coffee, chocolate or high-quality handicrafts from the Work of Human Hands catalog. Visit crsfairtrade.org to shop responsibly.

Food for the Poor also has a gift giving catalog. Visit foodforthe poor.org/gift. The holidays are a wonderful time to “give”. Please consider giving to one of these charities today.

Thank you for all that you do.



Organization

Ann Cubillas, MACCW President

FCCW Conference A Great Success!

First and foremost I want to thank all the women from MACCW who attended or volunteered their time to make the FCCW 21st Biennial Conference a great success! I received many comments on how helpful and pleasant all of you were. Thank you for all you do.

I also want to give a big shout out to our own, Diane Tugander, FCCW President/Province Director Elect and the Biennial Conference Coordinator. It was her guidance and planning that made this a huge success!

The weekend was filled with wonderful speakers reminding us we must find common ground in order to get along with all people, to remember the many different vocations – vocation of marriage, vocation of the person, vocation of the religious. We heard from Senator Rene Garcia how he stands firm in his Catholic faith when making decisions on issues put before him in the legislature and doing the right thing. We were privileged to hear the journey of Bishop Gregory Parkes of Pensacola/Tallahassee Diocese from ordination to his position today. We had many laughs and tears while listening to these speakers. It was phenomenal and one of the best CCW Conferences I have attended.

Evening events and luncheons were wonderful. And the food was fantastic too. Our own Corinne Steinbauer was posthumously awarded the Our Lady of Good Counsel Award. Her husband, 2 daughters, daughter in-law and 1 grand-daughter were at the luncheon to accept this award. It was a weekend of opportunity to meet women from all over the state and share their journeys through Council of Catholic Women. What joy could be seen on everyone's faces throughout the weekend.

I know that I have walked away from this conference with an invigorated spirit to continue promoting the Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women and all the wonderful works they do.



Our hearts were so happy to see-
John Steinbauer & his Family....
Corinne Steinbauer was chosen the
2014 FCCW
“Our Lady of Good Counsel”
Posthumous Award



Family Concerns

Ana Portela, Commission Chair

Caps Of Love: Helping the disabled



The goal of our non-profit organization is to help the disabled. "Caps Of Love" is *the only US affiliate* with the international charity "Bouchons D'Amour".

By recycling plastic caps, we raise money to buy wheelchairs for disabled children. This also has an environmental benefit as discarded caps are put in our landfills or incinerated which harms the earth if not recycled. Plastic caps are a different grade of plastic from the bottles and are valuable in bulk. They can be sold to companies using recycled "post-consumer" plastic to create new products such as plastic shipping pallets, plastic park benches, plastic paint cans and many other items.

Have you ever thought about how much you could change things just by *not* throwing out your plastic caps?

My mission is an ongoing collection of plastic caps. Speaking to local organizations, schools, churches, and clubs to increase awareness of the charity.

I have posted upcoming "Cap Sorting Parties" on my website under "weekly drop off times" as the volume sometimes exceeds my ability to sort in a timely fashion. Volunteers will be asked to help remove metal debris, paper liners, and trash from collected caps .

At this time, about 5% to 10% of all collected material must be discarded due to metal beer caps, aluminum pull-tabs, metal jar lids, and

trash thrown in with the caps. All this devalues the plastic for recycling!

The sorting is time-consuming and tedious but necessary to provide a pure plastic result for recycling. The sorted caps are then placed in large recycled boxes that I use for storage until they are shipped to the recycling plant.

Want to Become a Collector?

visit my website at www.CapsOfLove.com

Facebook at [Caps Of Love](https://www.facebook.com/CapsOfLove)

email at CapsOfLoveUSA@gmail.com

Mail Tax deductible donation checks payable to

"Caps Of Love"

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Lake Worth, Fla 33467

IRS Tax exemption #

46-5605705

Effective since Feb 17 2013

[Contact Us](#)



Valerie Jones-Mathieu, founder

Nondiscrimination Policy:

"Caps Of Love" does not discriminate or support on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, national origin, or physical or developmental disability.



Legislation

Sandy Ann Sanchez, Commission Chair

Recently I was reminded of a simple idea, as old as America itself. E Pluribus, Unum. Out of many, one. We describe ourselves a nation of immigrants – a nation that welcomes those willing to embrace America's precepts. That's why millions of people, ancestors to most of us, braved hardship and great risk to come here – so they could be free to work and worship and live their lives in peace. The constant flow of immigrants has helped make this country stronger and more prosperous. Let us not forget the genius of Einstein and the designs of I. M. Pei, the fascinating stories of Isaac Asimov and whole industries forged by Andrew Carnegie. That's the promise of this country – that anyone can write the next chapter of our story. It doesn't matter where you come from; what matters, is that you believe in the ideals on which this country was founded; that you believe all of us are equal and deserve the freedom to pursue happiness. In embracing America, you can become American. And that enriches all of us.

The United States Council of Catholic Bishops advises us that government has two obligations. The first is to welcome the foreigner out of charity and respect for the human person. People have the right to immigrate and government should accommodate this right to the greatest extent possible. The second obligation is to secure our borders and enforce the law for the sake of the common good. Self-governing nations have the right to enforce their laws and all persons must respect the legitimate exercise of this right: "Political authorities, for the sake of the common good for which they are responsible may make the exercise of the right to immigrate subject to various juridical conditions, especially with regard to the immigrants' duties toward their country of adoption. Immigrants are obliged to respect with gratitude the material and spiritual heritage of the country that receives them, to obey its laws and to assist in carrying civic burdens." Catholic Catechism, 2241.

Father Pedro Corces, Pastor at St. Rose of Lima Parish, came to America at the tender age of 15.

When I asked why leave Cuba? He explained that when a young man becomes 15 you are automatically pressed into military service and cannot leave Cuba. So his father spirited him away to Spain. Father explained that he and his father were separated from his mother and sister for many years. This placed a tremendous hardship on the Corces family. I asked Father Pedro what he thought of Miami. "Oh I Love South Florida, I love the people, the beaches everything. I feel more at home here." When I asked him what he would do with the undocumented immigrants that are here, he explained that each case should be reviewed individually. The person or family should be asked what you can offer this country. What have you accomplished while you have been here? What do you aspire to accomplish?

My friend Yelva Berry came to this country with her sisters. As I sit in her living room I can see the sparkle in her eyes as she explains that her family was forced to leave Nicaragua because of the civil wars. She studied to become a lawyer in her country. So when she immigrated here she found herself starting from scratch. But Yelva is a very determined child of God so she took English lessons and graduated from University of Miami with a JD Degree. I asked Yelva what we can do to fix the Immigration System. She replied that it is broken, even if we build, "miles and miles of walls, humans will climb the wall, dig underneath, or fly over it." Human beings aren't made to stagnate; they will always strive to better themselves. We need to find some sort of common ground and dig into our humanity and help those that are here become self-sufficient Americans.

In January 2003, the U.S. Catholic Bishops released a pastoral letter on migration entitled, "Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope." In their letter, the Bishops stressed that, "when persons cannot find employment in their country of origin to support themselves and their families, they have a right to find work elsewhere in order to survive."

Remember the words,

*"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

Emma Lazarus, author

Community

Marcia Perez, Commission Chair

After reading this article, I felt I should share with you this story for a good reflection of what is happening in our communities today.

TELLING THE STORY Contributed By Mary Boespflug

It has been said that “reflection is a lost art.” Making space and time for reflection in today’s hectic world might seem next to impossible. Nonetheless, it is an “art” that must be reclaimed in order to know one’s self, gain wisdom, and live a meaningful life.

Those of us who have raised children know how much more difficult it is today. Media bombards us at every turn; television and its commercials, billboards, magazines, the Internet and social media—all telling us what to buy, how to think, what to do, and how to look. We are so attached to our cell phones, iPods, computers, games gizmos that we can’t be without them for any length of time. I’ve heard couples say that cell phone is like a third person in the relationship, one that continues to interrupt and take precious time away from each other. This is true for time with our children as well.

A high school teacher recently challenged her students to hand in their cell phones for five days and, in exchange they wouldn’t have to take the midterm exam. Several students accepted the challenge and, in doing so, learned they were spending more time recording their lives than living them. All who took the challenge said they would begin spending much less time with their technological tools and more time being present to their lives.

Our values and priorities are being determined by outside influences rather than awareness of what is important to us. We are listening more to what others say in important than to own hearts. We are losing awareness of *who we are and whose we are*.

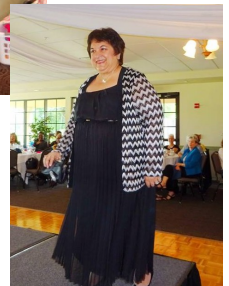
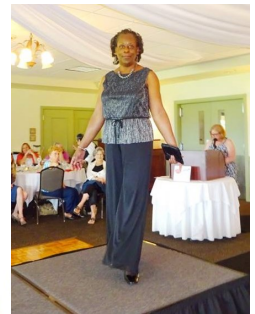
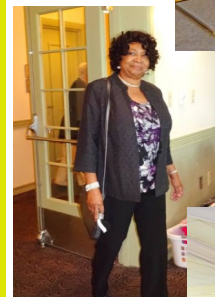
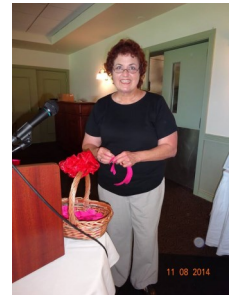
“Who tells the story, defines the culture,” says David Walsh, founder and director of The National Institute on Media and the Family. The influences of media and technology are at the center of our culture today. It’s time to be counter-cultural, to take back who is telling the story. There is a need to reclaim the necessity for quiet and stillness and to develop a sense of presence to ourselves, to one another, and to the moments in our daily lives that reveal God’s presence.

Wisdom comes from within, but we rarely spend time with our inner self. We need to allow silence in our lives for prayer and reflection in order to hear the “still small voice” speaking to us from within our being. “Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10). We come to know our God and ourselves through silence and prayer. Turn off the electronics and spend time being truly present to yourself and to others. Listen to God calling forth and awareness of our blessings and giftedness revealing our values, and prioritizing our lives according to those values.

Yes, it’s time! It’s time for families to take back from media the role of telling our stories. By acknowledging the powerful influence of media and the value of finding balance between electronics and human relationships, we can encourage ourselves and our young people to use media wisely and carefully. We can discover the art of reflection and place higher value on ourselves and our relationships with God and our loved ones. It is not only possible, but vital for our own well-being and that our families and our marriages, and for the well-being of generations to come.

*Article published By
Catholic Women Magazine*





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

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Winter 2014

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57th Annual Convention

May 1 — 3, 2015

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