

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>

## 24th Annual MACCW Scholarship Luncheon



This fundraiser was held on Saturday, February 25th, 2023 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Fort Lauderdale.

Four girls were chosen to receive a scholarship of \$4,000.00 each, to attend the Catholic high school of their choice. The 4 girls are: from St. Mary Cathedral Catholic School, Sasha Jean-Felix; from St. James Catholic School, Christine Bien-Aime; from St Lawrence Catholic School, Milagros Funes; and from Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic School, Ashley Elvir Lainez. The girls were presented with the MACCW Lucy Petrillo Scholarship Award Certificate at the MACCW Annual Meeting Luncheon on April 29, 2023.

❖ June 2023 ❖

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**2022-2023**

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# A message from The President

*"Our mission is singular,  
to be united with Mary as our guide"*



Dear Sisters in Christ,

As we wrap up my first year as president, I feel humbled and honored to be able to represent this wonderful Council of Women and be part of an amazing board. Our year-end anniversary meeting was so special in Spirituality, our guest speaker was Susie Harting from Orlando and the NCCW recording secretary who gave a very moving and meditative presentation.

We were able to give out 4 scholarships to very deserving young ladies going into Catholic High Schools, and we also had 2 Golden Rose award winners; Our Lady of Good Council Award recipient was Annya Koszas, and the Member of the Year was awarded to Pam Cameron.

We still have one more event to finish out our year and that is the Haitian Mass and baby shower on Sunday July 30, 2023 at the Cathedral of St. Mary. The mass will be held at 10:00 am and the baby shower will follow in the hall. Our Spirituality Chairs are working hard on this for us, and Fr. Marino is looking forward to celebrating the mass and joining us at the shower to celebrate the mothers and their new coming babies.

MACCW will be providing the carriages, car seats and the food for the shower, we ask the Districts and affiliations to donate layette sets, blankets, bottles etc. as before, anything a new mother will need!! Volunteers will also be needed to help with this event.

Thank you everyone for a wonderful first year, especially my executive board, as we know it takes a village to get things done, no one can do it all on their own.

Looking forward to getting together with all the presidents at the meet and greet in the beginning of August, date and place will be announced soon.

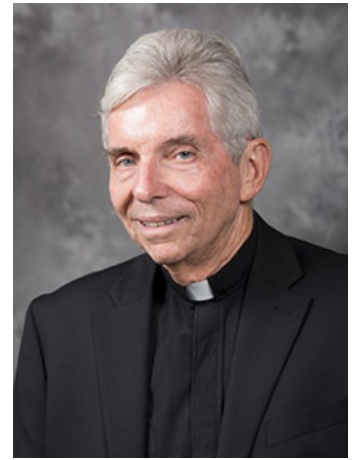
Blessings and joy to all,

*Karen*

MACCW President



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



My Sisters in Christ: As our activities conclude be assured that in spite of great effort and energy the disappointments or lack of acceptance we encounter are not in vain. These are a message and hopefully motivation going forward to others of our dedication and determination to promote what is good, just, and brings new life.

For if such actions are to further God's message in Jesus Christ then know this is pleasing to the Lord. Amen!

Yours in the Lord,

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

## Spirituality

Claudia Charles, Commission Chair

On April 22<sup>nd</sup> I was privileged to attend the Diaconate Ordination of eleven seminarians at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Boca Raton and later on May 13<sup>th</sup> I attended the Priestly Ordination of an additional five seminarians at the Cathedral of St. Mary in Miami. The numbers, thought to be impressive, are the results of prayers offered by the faithful asking for an increase to vocations. I consider such an occasion to be an awe-inspiring event as I witness young men laying prostrate of the marble floor of the sanctuary as the "Litany of the Saints" is being sung. I cannot help but to think what a life-altering experience must be taking place as the Bishop prays and lives transformed by the outpouring and anointing of the Holy Spirit.

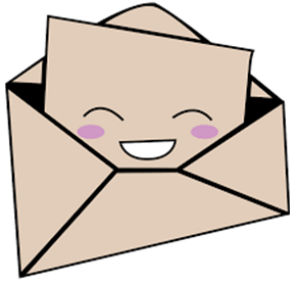
Now that classes have ended and activities suspended for the summer, we find ourselves at a spiritual lost with no meetings, no Bible study, and no choir rehearsal. With so much time on our hands, how do we remain spiritually hydrated. The answer is simple. We pray. Yes, we make prayer a priority during the summer months. Daily prayer is a necessary spiritual discipline for Catholic Christians that enhances our faith and promotes spiritual growth.

Herewith are a few tools provided by NCCW Spiritual Commission Chair that you may want to give some thought to:

1. Pray the Rosary daily and practice First Saturday Devotion.
2. Write your own faith journal, it could be the most powerful story you will ever tell.
3. Offer Prayers of Adoration as you joy in sitting in the presence of Jesus in the Adoration Chapel or while receiving the precious gift of His body in the Holy Eucharist.
4. Pray for the intentions of our priests and for an increase to vocations.
5. Prayers to Love: Healing Racism
6. Pray for the upcoming National Eucharistic Revival, a movement to restore and renew our worship of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

You are hereby encouraged to visit [www.nccw.org/commissionscommittees/](http://www.nccw.org/commissionscommittees/) and click on the individual bullets under Spirituality Commission for detailed information related to the above items.

In the spirit of Edith Stein, let us make prayer a priority. "The first hour of your morning belongs to God. Tackle the days work that He charges you with, and He will give you the power to accomplish it."



## *a letter from the Vice-president*

Sisters in Christ.

On January 14, I attended the MACCW Zoom meeting. I had the pleasure to attend Catholic Days at the Capitol from March 7 to March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

This year, the Florida legislature signed two out of the three bills we advocated for into laws, which made the experience more meaningful.

The Florida House of Representatives submitted the Abortion Restrictions (heartbeat) bill after we started our trip. While we were driving, the House of Representatives named the bill SB300.

The second, Educational Choice HB 1/SB 202 was ready for us to present it. and a few weeks after Governor DeSantis signed the bill into a law.

After so many trips to Tallahassee discussing with lawmakers, with the help of all the volunteers participating in this year's CDC and the ones who participated before, we got the satisfaction of seeing firsthand our hard work turned into a win.

If it is any lesson that we need to teach our CCW sisters is that perseverance pays off. That our presence may be the one little drop needed to fill the cup and make this happen.

April 29<sup>th</sup> was our 65<sup>th</sup> Celebration Meeting at the Ft. Lauderdale Embassy Suites. I had the pleasure to be the Toastmistress for the afternoon.

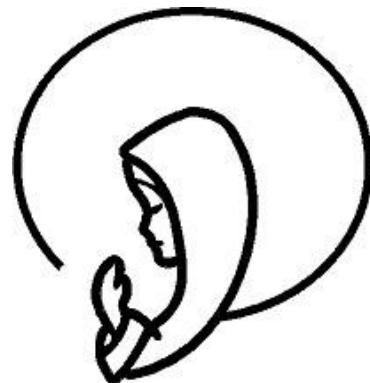
It was so nice to see our own Daniela Martinez's daughter, Sara, win the Golden Rose Award, along with the other very deserving lady Khloe Paredes.

I would like to remind everything about what Council is all about, to "Lead Like Mary". Great leaders are also a great mentor that encourage others to recognize and act on their God giving potential.

Respectfully

Fabiola Sanchez-De Armas

MACCW Vice-President





# North District Council of Catholic Women

Dear Council Sisters,

As my first term comes to an end, I want to thank all our Affiliates and Affiliate presidents for all the hard work you have done this year. Many thanks to our Board and Committee chairpersons first for stepping up and supporting our North District. It was new to all of us, and you have all done an outstanding job.

I would like to mention just a few of the many accomplishments that our affiliates have achieved. The Box of Joy Collections for Cross Catholic Outreach came close to collecting over 900 boxes this year, and this only happened because our affiliate presidents involved their parish and parish schools in the project. Because of you children around the world who never received a Christmas present received one this year!

Hugs for the homeless is also a charity that we all support and the amount of money we have collected for CCW Florida will allow Broward County to receive a substantial donation. Once the donations have been calculated our share is going to Hope South Florida.

Each of our affiliates support many, many other charities, there is not enough room to talk about each one. One example is Saint Andrew completion of their \$3,600 commitment to build a house in Haiti. Congratulations!!

Right now, we have Teas, Concerts, Bake sales, and so much more going on.

Thank you all for your support of the MACCW Scholarship luncheon. So many of you showed up for this important project that enhances the lives of deserving young women who otherwise would not be able to attend a catholic high school. So many of our past recipients have gone to do great things with their lives! Your support is so appreciated.

Moreover, you still found time to support the MACCW Morning of Reflection and Catholic Days at the Capitol.

My hat is off to all of you! I am glad to call you all Sisters! I look forward to working with you next year.

Love, Peace, and Joy,

*Linda*

Linda Langley,

President North District



"I do not think of reward. I am working for God and do so cheerfully." Saint Marianne Cope



# Service

Cathy Donn, Commission Chair

MACCW supports various service projects, including NCCW's **Madonna Plan** and **Water for Life** in partnership with **Catholic Relief Services**. MACCW is no longer collecting money for the Change for Change and Help a Child program, as NCCW no longer supports these. We are still supporting the **Vocation Purse Club** in partnership with **The National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations (NFCRV)**.

The **Vocation Purse Club** assists women seeking to enter religious life with their financial obstacles. While vocation numbers have increased, many continue to be derailed or deferred due to educational debt. The average candidate to religious life owes \$33K in student loans, a great burden for many religious communities. Your support can directly help young Catholic women pursue their dream and realize their vocation of becoming religious sisters and nuns as they focus their lives on service, spirituality, and leadership - which are the pillars of NCCW!

## MADONNA PLAN

Since 1958, the Madonna Plan has supported Catholic Relief Service's Child Survival Project, which works with pregnant women and women with children under age 5. The project addresses healthy behaviors and provides needed health services, such as vaccinations and immunizations to pregnant women and their children, as well as support

groups for breastfeeding mothers.



## WATER FOR LIFE

The Water for Life program was established in 1978 to make safe and clean water available to women and their families in developing countries. Historically, the program has funded wells in villages throughout Africa and Latin America for the development of stronger communities by establishing irrigation, sanitation systems and basic hygiene education.



**Please send donations for CRS joint programs and NFCRV's Vocation Purse Fund to the NCCW Office: 10335-A Democracy Ln Unit 201, Fairfax, VA 22030. Make checks payable to NCCW and indicate the program name in the memo lines.**

# Legislation

Josephine Gilbert, Commission Chair

MACCW has been urging for members to participate in the Catholic Days at the Capitol (CDAC) for many years and as part of our legacies in the Archdiocese of Miami.

CDAC are days designated by Florida Bishops for Catholic men and women of Florida to gather at the state capitol and put their faith and civic responsibility into action. This is a yearly event at the beginning of the Florida Legislative Session. This year we had thirty-nine participants at CDAC from the Archdiocese of Miami, twenty of them were women of MACCW. This year CDAC Priorities are:

**Abortion Limits:** HB 7 (Persons-Mulicka) / SB 300 (Grall) would protect women and preborn children from abortion after six weeks gestation, as well as regulate chemical abortions. **House: Passed 70-40; Senate: Passed 26-13; Signed by the Governor: April 13, 2023** Prohibits abortion in Florida after six-weeks' gestation, with exceptions; includes \$25 million in funding to provide pregnancy and parenting support to women and their families; also prohibits state funds from assisting women traveling out of state to obtain an abortion and telehealth from being used to provide abortion services. **Supported by FLCCB**

**Educational Choice:** HB 1 (Tuck) / SB 202 (Simon) would make educational savings accounts (ESAs) available to all families, including homeschooled students, regardless of income. **House: Passed 83-27; Senate: Passed 26-12; Signed by the Governor: March**

**27, 2023** Expands state scholarship programs so that education savings accounts (ESAs) are available to all students eligible to attend a public school in Florida, including homeschool students; also expands access to larger scholarships for students with disabilities by increasing the enrollment cap. **Supported by FLCCB**

**Unanimous Juries in Capital Sentencing:** HB 555 (Jacques) / SB 450 (Ingoglia) would repeal current provisions requiring a jury to be unanimous to recommend a death sentence and require that only eight of the twelve jurors recommend death. **House: Passed 80-30; Senate: Passed 29-10; Signed by the Governor: April 20, 2023** Repeals current law that requires a jury to be unanimous in recommending a death sentence; instead requires that a recommendation by only 8 of 12 jurors is necessary to impose a sentence of death. **Opposed by FLCCB**

My sincere gratitude to all participants and **please save the date for the 2024 CDAC, February 6<sup>th</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

MACCW constantly encourages our women to be involved in programs or public policy issues pertaining to life, dignity and the common good. We encourage our women to be part of the Florida Catholic Advocacy Network. FLCAN is a statewide, online community established by the Bishops of Florida that exists to **connect, educate, and mobilize** Catholics across Florida's seven dioceses on public policy issues pertaining to life, dignity, and the common good. Please visit [www.flccb.org](http://www.flccb.org) to be part of this network, it allows you to make a difference without leaving the comfort of your own home by sending messages to your legislators and having a voice.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to give us courage to be a loving leader of the church.





# Scholarship

Mary Weber, Commission Chair

The MACCW Scholarship Committee members are MACCW Spiritual Advisor Fr. Michael Greer, MACCW President Karen Lorenzen, Treasurer Kitten Auer, Secretary Bette Clark, Diane Tugander, Barbara Asfendis, Josephine Gilbert, Marie Mohammed, and Chair Mary Weber. We want to thank all of you for helping to make our 2023 Annual Scholarship Fund Raising Event on February 25, 2023, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Ft. Lauderdale a success. It was the largest attendance in recent years. Msgr. Dariusz Zielonka, Chancellor for Canonical Affairs for the Archdiocese of Miami, started the luncheon off with a prayer. We Honored Ana Rodriguez-Soto, Editor of the Florida Catholic Miami Edition, for "Continued Support of Our Efforts in Fostering Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Miami." We were pleased to be able to meet the 2022 scholarship recipient, Astrid Cadevilla, who is attending Archbishop Edward McCarthy High School. On behalf of the scholarship committee, I would like to thank you for the outpouring of support from the membership. Thanks to our benefactors and all of you, we raised \$15,211.23.

The scholarship committee met on March 26, 2023, to judge the 37 scholarship applications that were sent in from 16 different schools. Three of the applications were missing

requirements to be eligible and were not judged. We choose 4 girls to receive a scholarship of \$4,000.00 each, to attend the Catholic high school of their choice. The 4 girls are: from St. Mary Cathedral Catholic School, Sasha Jean-Felix, who will be attending Immaculate LaSalle High School; from St. James Catholic School, Christine Bien-Aime, who will be attending Msgr. Edward Pace High School; from St. Lawrence Catholic School, Milagros Funes, who will be attending Chaminade-Madonna College Preparatory School; and from Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic School, Ashley Elvir Lainez, who will be attending St. Thomas Aquinas High School. The girls were presented with the MACCW Lucy Petrillo Scholarship Award Certificate at the MACCW Annual Meeting Luncheon on April 29, 2023.

We will continue to seek ways to make the MACCW Scholarship Program a financially sustainable and viable enterprise. We are seeking additional sources to help finance the scholarships. If you know of anyone who can help with the cost of sponsoring the fundraiser or donating auction or raffle items, please contact any of the members of the Scholarship Committee.

[maccwscholarshpfund@gmail.com](mailto:maccwscholarshpfund@gmail.com)

We thank you for your support. We hope you will continue with your generosity to the scholarship fund so that together we can continue to invest in the future Catholic leaders of our world.

Thank You!

**FOR MORE NEWS, INFORMATION AND PICTURES  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE @ MACCW.ORG**



## SAVE THESE DATES!

### 2023:

*July 30 Haitian Mass*

*August 22-26*

*NCCW Annual Convention  
Salt Lake City, UT*

### 2024:

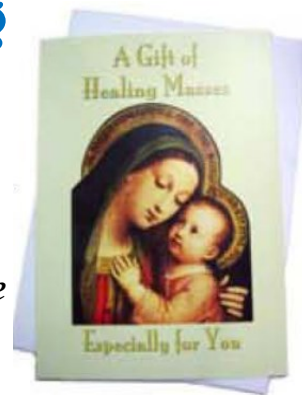
*February 06-08*

*Catholic Days at the Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL*

*February 24 Scholarship Luncheon*

*May 3-5 MACCW Annual Convention*

## 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.

## Current NCCW Partners/Programs

- ☐ Catholic Climate Covenant – Earth Day Resources
- ☐ Catholic Relief Services – Madonna Plan and Water for Life
- ☐ Catholic Mobilizing Network – Ending the Death Penalty/Promoting Restorative Justice
- ☐ Education For Justice – A project of Ignatian Solidarity Network
- ☐ National Catholic Educational Association
- ☐ National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations NFCRV.org
- ☐ Purse Fund
- ☐ Religious Alliance Against Pornography
- ☐ U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF  
CATHOLIC WOMEN

**Wednesday, Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup> —  
Saturday, Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> 2023**

**Hyatt Regency Salt Lake City  
Diocese of Salt Lake City**

**For more information go to  
[www.nccw.org](http://www.nccw.org)**

**Registration is open!**

*Path* of Renewed Encounter  
NCCW Convention 2023