

June 2024

# News 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>

## MACCW Convention May 3 - May 5, 2024

This year's 66th Annual Convention in Deerfield Beach, Florida theme was "Reach out, renew, revitalize with love and respect" and it did not disappoint. Below are some pictures summarizing the weekend.





**MACCW**  
**Board of Directors**  
**2024-2025**

**President**

Fabiola De Armas  
786-457-6422  
fabiolas@prodigy.net

**Vice President**

Mayte Cantillo  
305-342-2270  
cantillo.mayte@gmail.com

**Recording Secretary**

Marilyn Portal  
786-859-4389  
marilynprodriguez@yahoo.com

**Treasure**

Sharon Utterback  
305-525-4367  
hammocks@aol.com

**Corresponding Secretary**

Marica Perez  
305-458-1719  
305-559-5129  
mpmarcita@gmail.com

**Parliamentarian**

Mary Weber  
305-469-3515  
webermcm@gmail.com

**Immediate Past President**

Karen Lorenzen  
954-465-6095  
klorenccw@gmail.com

**Spiritual Advisor**

Very Rev. Michael Greer, V.F.  
Assumption Catholic Church  
954-941-7647  
blessedassumption@att.net

**News Notes Editor**

Angela (Angie) Ramirez  
305-282-1299  
angiemramirez1920@gmail.com

*a message from*  
**The President**



**MACCW President Report**

**May 5<sup>th</sup> 2024**

**Double Tree Hotel Deerfield Beach**

Dear Council Sisters:

We are about to embark on a new busy Council year. I am so honored to serve as your new MACCW President. All the ladies in our Council are women of deep Catholic values, vision, and desire to make a difference.

Change happens when women come together. The unity of our three districts will make us bond, sharing camaraderie, and growth in our local affiliations. The strength of our membership lies in the strength of connections that we have with each other.

For the past 25 years, I have been blessed to grow in my faith with the council. I firmly believe that if we listen and work together diligently, we can bring about great change in the community. Thank you to all the ladies who agreed to join my board. We are committed to bringing a new perspective to my presidency. The board will create a committee who will train members in this new era and help take the council to the next level. One of my main goals as president is to bring in new members, specifically from younger generations. Collaborations work best when we have different perspectives and I know that we could benefit from some new faces.

I look forward to working with you and thank you for your time, talent, and dedicated volunteer service to our Council.

Respectfully,  
Fabiola Sanchez-De Armas  
MACCW President





# Spiritual Advisor Report

The Lord be with You! As you gather for the first board meeting of the new slate of officers for the '24 – '26, I extend prayerful best wishes and support. I

know you will be dedicated and are determined to have the MACCW progress and build upon the achievements and dedication of previous boards (administrators).

We thank in particular Karen Lorenzen and her officers who can now rest on their laurels and encourage your efforts. May their guidance and promotion of membership continue and influence our future endeavors.

Fabiola, may your election and selection of officers lead all our sisters in Council to advance the cause of the MACCW and assist in the needs and aspirations of all. You have shared with me, Fabiola, your desire to enhance the spirituality of the Council, which has and continues to be such an important focus. You can depend on my –and I'm sure –other Spiritual Advisor collaboration. May other ideas and efforts branch forth the center of our faith.

Looking forward to our coming together, collaborating, and celebrating liturgies and our life at the CCW –let us rejoice in Christ!

Very Rev. Michael Greer  
Spiritual Advisor

# A Report from MACCW Vice-President



Dear sisters in Christ,

During the weekend of May 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated our 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention at the Embassy Suites in Deerfield Beach and as always, it was an amazing event, made possible by all the CCW sisters who attended.

We had some exceptional speakers: Seminarian Aristides “Ari” Lima, Dr. Mary Jo O’Sullivan, Dr. Carol Razza, FCCW President and Province Director Brenda Dolan, and Author Marlene Watkins. Their talks moved us to the core, lit our spirits on fire and we even had a chance to purchase and get autographs, Ms. Watkin’s book, ***Everyday Miracles of Lourdes***.

During lunch on Saturday, we announced the Outstanding Member of the Year and Our Lady of Good Counsel awards. Congratulations to Sandra Hill and Claudia Charles respectively! Bishop Delgado celebrated Mass afterwards and he also blessed the new incoming board.

During the Banquet dinner, we announced the Scholarship recipients and the Golden Rose award, an extraordinary young lady: Eva Beloso. Her story was very moving, and her achievements showed the scholarship recipient’s level of excellence.

On May 18<sup>th</sup> we had our First Meet and Greet, which the ladies at Assumption so graciously hosted. We were able to greet new and known faces and had a great time together.

I am 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



# Immediate Past President

## Post-Convention Report

Good morning Father Greer, and all my CCW sisters in Christ,

My post-convention report is mostly based on the evaluations that were given to us after the convention. I can honestly say that overall, the ladies who attended the convention were very happy with our speakers, Ari Lima, Seminarian, our own CCW sister, Dr. Mary Jo O'Sullivan, Dr Carol Razza our keynote speaker Brenda Dolan, FCCW Province Director and author Marlene Watkins. Here are some of their comments from the question "What did you enjoy most about the weekend":

- "I think everything was well organized with hard work, thank you."
- "It was great having tables in the meeting rooms."
- "The comradery with new and old friends."
- "The comradery and sharing the Faith."
- "Spirituality & sisterhood."
- "Speakers staying and being with the women, and spirituality."
- "The speakers were all wonderful & knowledgeable and loved that there was more prayer & spirituality at this convention."
- "The speakers, very touching stories, and themes."
- "It was very enlightening and enjoyable."
- "The speakers were excellent, very enlightening."
- "All the speakers."
- "Both the awards luncheon and dinner were wonderful."
- "Beautiful installation service."

- "All the prayer services were wonderful."
- "A proper convention enjoyed the speakers each had a special impact that related to me."
- "The joy of newbies who attended & their amazement at what we do."

To summarize, there is a definite love & need for comradery and spirituality within CCW.

I want to thank my board members for their 2 years of hard work, Fr. Greer, Fabiola Sanchez de Armas, Diane Tugander, Patty Van Bresselen, Sharon Utterback, Nancy Gonzalez, Peggy Hart, Claudia Charles, Josephine Gilbert, Mayte Cantillo, Joan Tai,

Marilyn Portal and many others who were always there for me with a YES when I asked for help and guidance. Also, the District presidents, Linda Langley, Mary Weber & Maria Sol Acosta, and all the Affiliation presidents for without all of you there is no CCW for us to have a convention, comradery, and spirituality for the Catholic Women of the Archdiocese.

I also want to congratulate our Outstanding Member of the Year, Sandra Hill, Our Lady of Good Counsel recipient Claudia Charles, the Golden Rose recipient Eva Beloso and our 5 scholarship recipients.

I will be praying for Fabiola and her board of 2024-2026 for guidance from Mary our Mother, and all our past presidents and board members to be there for them to help when guidance is needed.

Madam President this concludes my report.

Karen Lorenzen  
President Emeritus





# MACCW Convention Report

After months of planning with numerous emails and phone calls the Convention weekend was upon us. President Lorenzen and I met with our hotel contact staff Christelle and Fran to go over the BEO for our event and everything was in place.

## For the numbers:

Full-Time Attendance...**37**

1-day Attendance...**10**

(there may have been a couple of additional which I did not get)

Total Attendance...**47**

We served **56** at lunch [**8** lunch only]

We served **81** at Banquet.

Golden Rose winner and mom + 6 paid guests

Scholarship 5 girls + 5 parents + 12 paid guests

[which gave us the additional 30 people in our banquet court]

## Raffles,

the Share the Wealth MACCW made...**\$215.00**

the Raffle Gifts made...**\$555.00**

I believe the final count was about 150 outfits that were distributed to the districts from the Doll Campaign.

Overall, everything went well –the hotel staff went out of their way to make us feel welcomed and they had everything we ordered available. I have started a tub with the shawls for the Hostesses returned badge holders, reserved signs, left over raffle tickets and Collection bags for next year.

Madam President, this concludes my report.  
Diane Tugander



"I can do all things through  
Christ who strengthens me"  
Philippians 4:13

## North District

Diane Tugander, President

"And we know all things  
work together for the good  
of those that love God"  
Romans 8:28

Greeting from North District,

I have sent my first letter to our board members thanking them for their service to North District CCW and their affiliations. I am hoping to get us together in a more relaxed setting and to get better acquainted with the members of the board. I will be doing this in several small gatherings in my home over the summer. One of my goals is to make sure every board member is comfortable in their position and that they know their responsibilities. We have several things we need to schedule for the upcoming year, and I would like their input and assistance. Therefore, we need to go over our calendars and make sure everyone knows and adheres to all deadlines.

My second goal is to reach out to our suspended affiliations and to affiliations who have been out of

the Council for several years. I am hoping to set up meetings with the pastors and their ladies, if they have a woman's group, see if they would be interested in becoming a part of North District and MACCW.

To make scheduling easier, all Board meetings will be in my house this year and our Fall general meeting is October 12, 2024, at St. Helen CCW. In addition, our tentative Spring meeting will be March 8, 2025, at All Saints, we are waiting on confirmation from Father.

With Our Lord's help and the guidance of Our Lady of Good Council, I pray we have a successful and fruitful year.

As always, in peace love & JOY,  
Diana Tugander  
North District of MACCW, President



It was a pleasure to attend the MACCW Annual Convention. I received the 2 checks from the FCCW Project, Hugs for the Homeless. The Central District chose to send half to the Missionaries of Charity of Mother Teresa Homeless Shelter, Miami, and half to Camillus House, Miami. I received a call and an email from Christine Perez, Camillus House VP of Development. She thanked us for the donation and also invited us for a tour of the main campus to witness the impact of our support.

Our portion of the clothes from the Doll Campaign went to His House Children's Home, located in Miami Gardens. The organization's founder felt called in 1987 to establish "a place to call home" for children who could safely live with their parents, due to abandonment, abuse, or neglect. His House Children's Home is a private non-profit, faith-based organization dedicated to restoring the lives of children from newborn to 18 years of age. His House has grown through the years from one home to the largest campus in the State of Florida, with a 232-bed capacity.



Designated by the Office of Refugee Resettlement, His House International was established in 2008 to care for Unaccompanied Children under the age of 18 who left their native countries due to gang violence, homelessness, economic hardship, or abuse in the hopes of starting a new life in the U.S. Since its inception, over 6,000 unaccompanied children have called His House their home. The day I dropped off the clothes, they told me they were expecting 3 more children the next day.

The Fall meeting for the Central District will be November 2, 2024, and hosted by the St. Rose of Lima CCW.

Mary Weber  
Central District of MACCW President



The past few months have been some of the greatest together at our MACCW South District Council. We proudly carried on the tradition of getting together, sharing ideas, participating in events, and fostering goodwill in our communities.

In the month of February, I enjoyed taking part and participating in our MACCW Scholarship Luncheon where our District invited Deacon, now Father Milton Martinez, to to experience one of our biggest yearly events.

In the month of March, we had our Spring meeting at the parish of St. Augustine hosted by their CCW. The parish was so beautifully decorated and themed in honor of St. Patrick. We participated in a spiritual Lenten reflection in the form of arts and crafts.

Then, in April, the wonderful parish of St. Andrew invited me to attend such a lovely tea party. Shortly after, we at South District had a tea party of our own. Organizing Tea Parties are so much work, but in the end, it was worth it! Not just because of the great prizes and raffles, but because of the nice conversations and great ambiance, all the while savoring delicious scones and other tea desserts.

April was also a time of hard work towards convention. We were in charge of convention registration, and although there is

room for improvement in this area, it was done with lots of love.

The convention was definitely the highlight for the month of May. We had the opportunity to get to know each other a little bit better through prayers, guest speakers, and communion. Spiritually unity is so important; let it be that someone might need help with their hair or finding an extra seat for a surprise guest at our table. Our Blessed Mother is our role model and although we may fail, it is her everlasting love that tell us...keep trying.

May also brought us the joy of four priestly ordinations, quite a few of us from all of our parishes were there. We received the first blessings and took plenty of pictures. Our faith is such a wonderful gift!

We also attended the installation of OLOL's new board, and it's so inspiring to see the willingness and dedication of our members. Just recently, we drove down to Homestead on a rainy afternoon and delivered the donation check to the Chapman Center, where they have about three-hundred people without homes. They were incredibly grateful and extended an invitation for us to go and serve with them in the near future (Keep an eye on your emails).

In conclusion, we are not alone. It takes a village to accomplish many remarkable things and I am so grateful to be surrounded by an army of angels and such strong supportive board who keeps our districts in good shape, both financially and spiritually. We will continue to support our parishes' ongoing activities and the charitable work led by MACCW.

Many Blessings to All,  
Maria Sol Acosta  
South District, President



# National Council of Catholic Women

## Who are we:

- We are represented at the biannual meetings of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).
- We are a member of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO).
- We have representation at the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering which advocates Catholic views to Congress.
- We have a representative at the United Nations in New York.
- We are partners with Catholic Relief Services, Cross Catholic Outreach, Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Catholic Climate Covenant, Religious Alliance Against Pornography, Catholic Mobilizing Network, Bread for the World, US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking, Education for Justice, and National Catholic Education Association.

## What do we do:

- We support unified social action.
- We train women to be leaders at the intersection of church and society.
- We provide a forum for Catholic women to speak and act.
- We present the United States Catholic Women in national and international arenas.
- We gather annually to share faith and fellowship
- We provide resources for prayer, service, and leadership.
- We communicate monthly via national members calls and electronic newsletters.
- We publish quarterly magazine, Catholic Woman.
- We offer a modern website and social media avenues.

**Join us now and be connected with  
likeminded faithful women across the  
nation and transform the world  
through prayer and action!**





# Legislation

**Catholic Days at the Capitol**  
**Save the Date: March 18-19, 2025**

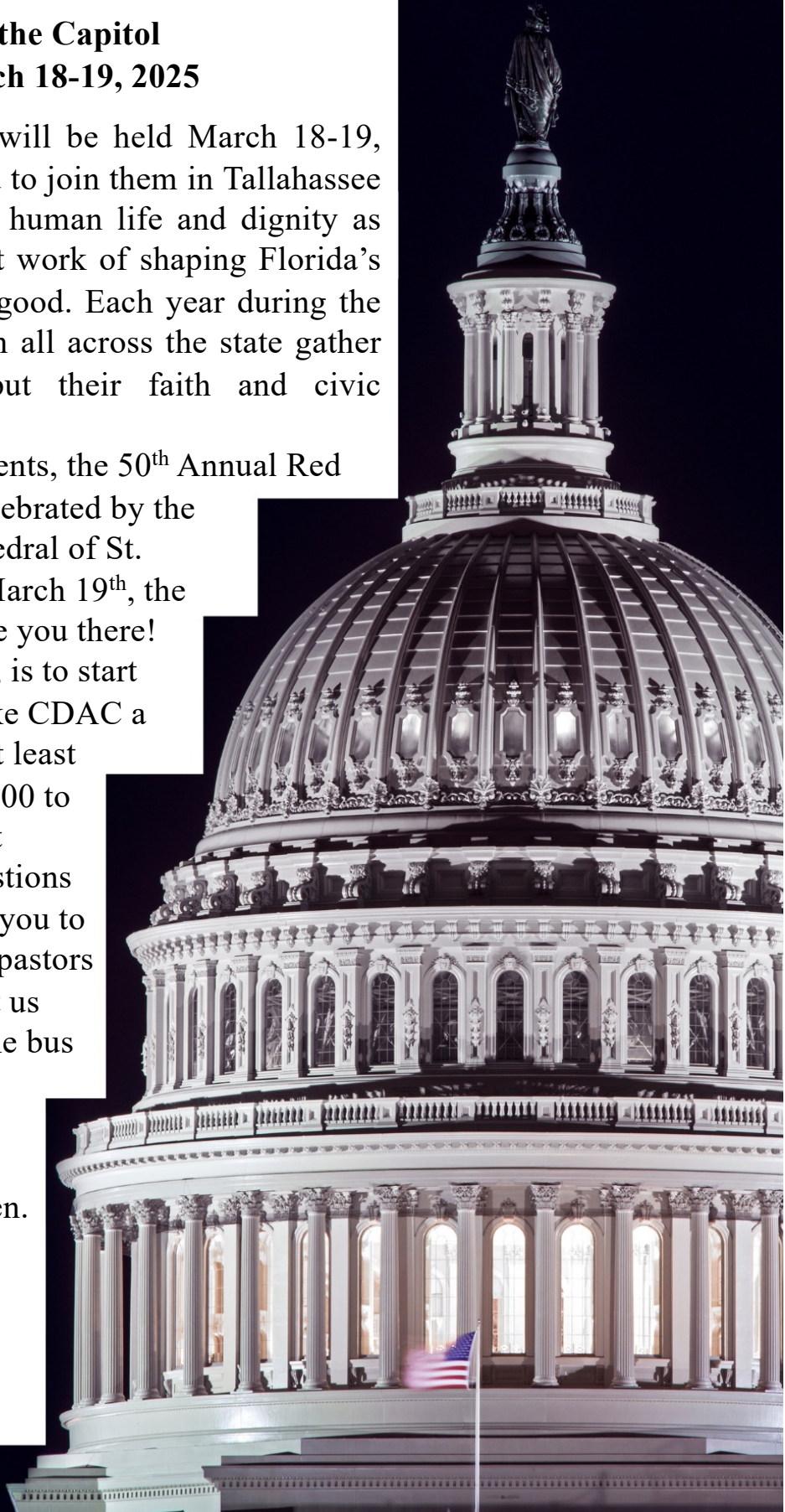
Catholic Days at the Capitol will be held March 18-19, 2025. Florida's Bishops invite you to join them in Tallahassee to advocate for the protection of human life and dignity as lawmakers continue the important work of shaping Florida's laws and future for the common good. Each year during the legislative session, Catholics from all across the state gather in Florida's Capitol city to put their faith and civic responsibility into action.

in addition to the legislative events, the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Red Mass of the Holy Spirit will be celebrated by the Bishops of Florida at the Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas More on the evening of March 19<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of St. Joseph. We hope to see you there!

My message to you, presidents, is to start Preparing for your affiliation. Make CDAC a line item on your budget to send at least one member, this will equate to \$300 to \$500. This year, we had the lowest Participation. If you have any questions regarding the CDAC, I encourage you to contact me. We thank our ADOM pastors that donated our transportation, let us show our appreciation by filling the bus to Tallahassee in March 2025.

May Our Lady of Good Council  
continue to intercede for us. –Amen.

Josephine Gilbert  
MACCW Legislative Chairperson





# MACCW SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

## JUNE 1 2024

The scholarship Committee was very pleased that there were 24 people from scholarship recipients, family, friends, and school staff attending the MACCW Convention Banquet Dinner on May 4, 2024. The support shown for these girls was outstanding. Five eighth grade girls will receive a scholarship of \$4,000 each to attend a Catholic high school of their choice. The 5 girls are **Ashely Bell** from St. Mary Cathedral Catholic School, who will be attending

Msgr. Edward Pace High School, **Moriah Francois** from St. Rose Lima Catholic School, who will be attending St. Thomas Aquinas High School, **Ana De Leon** from St. Lawrence Catholic School, who will be attending Msgr. Edward Pace High School, **Jasmine Viola** from St. Ambrose Catholic School who will be attending Cardinal Gibbons High School, and **Amelia Petrillo** from Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic School who will be attending St. Thomas Aquinas High School. The girls were presented with the MACCW Lucy Petrillo Scholarship Award Certificate.

After many years of service, as the MACCW Scholarship Secretary, Bette Clark, has resigned. We want to thank Bette for her excellent service and outstanding dedication to helping sustain the Scholarship Fund.

Joining us on the Scholarship Committee will be Karen Lorenzen, Nancy Shutt-Aine, and Sharon Utterback, who will fill in as Secretary. I welcome these ladies to the committee and I look forward to working with them.

Our Scholarship Fundraiser Luncheon will be held February 22, 2025, at the Embassy Suites Hotel located on 17 Street Causeway in Ft. Lauderdale. This is not just for Council Members, please consider inviting family and friends. I hope to see all of you there.

Mary Weber  
MACCW Scholarship Chair





# MACCW SPIRITUALTY REPORT

## JUNE 1, 2024

Praised be Jesus Christ, Now and Forever!

Good morning my name is Ana Portela and I am the new Spiritual Chair. I do not have much to report since I just started a few weeks ago, however I would like to share some of our goals for this coming year.

Our first and foremost goal is to grow in our relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. These are some ideas to encourage you to grow in your faith:

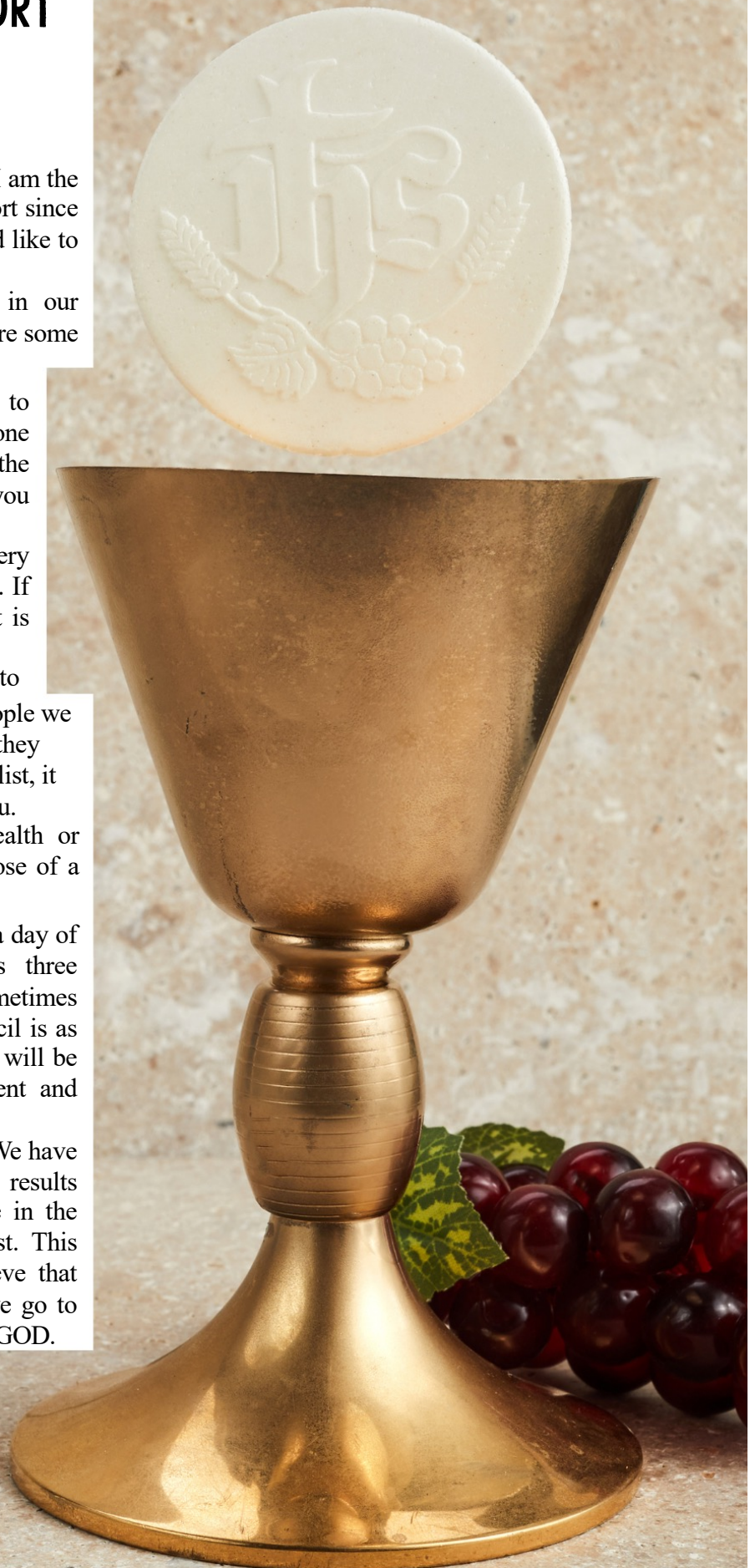
1. Spend 5min reading the Bible. Commit to opening your Bible to any page and pick one paragraph, and then spend the rest of the 5min. reflecting on what God is telling you through that passage.
2. Pray the Rosary. Some people do this every day but try to do this at least once a week. If you gather with somebody else to pray it is even more fruitful.
3. Keep a journal of people that you promise to pray for. There are many of us who tell people we will pray for them but then we forget who they are. Even if we use our phone to keep that list, it is better to have those names in front of you.
4. Try Fasting. Not for the purpose of health or weight loss but try fasting with the purpose of a spiritual sacrifice for someone you love.

Our other goal as a Council will be to have a day of Reflection. Every Catholic organization has three aspects: Social, Service, and SPIRITUAL. Sometimes we forget that the Spiritual aspect of our Council is as important as any other business. Hopefully, we will be able to provide Days of Reflection for Advent and Lent.

Finally, we are in the year of the Eucharist. We have not heard a lot about this. In a recent poll the results showed that 70% of Catholics do not believe in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. This belief is uniquely Catholic. If you truly believe that Jesus is present in the Eucharist, then when we go to Communion understand that you are in front of GOD.

It is the closet you will get to God Himself, outside death.

May God Bless you all,  
Ana Portela  
Spirituality Commission, MACCW





# MACCW

## Family Life Report

On May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> there were multiple calls to Patrick Madrid on Relevant Radio regarding stay-at-home moms. Relevant Radio found on 1010AM or on your Podcast is an excellent source of information on family life and our Catholic faith.

Abortion continues to be a big issue, especially at this time for the State of Florida. Our current law bans abortion after 6-weeks of pregnancy. However, a baby's heart begins beating on the 4<sup>th</sup> week of gestation.

Amendment 4 is being placed on the ballot this November 2024. The wording on this amendment is very devious and misleading. If passed, this amendment would allow **ANY** healthcare worker to recommend abortion. The state does not define healthcare worker and therefore **ANYONE** working in the healthcare industry from a doctor to a janitor at a healthcare facility can recommend an abortion to a woman. In addition, the state does not define what "viability" means. Therefore, the meaning of a viable pregnancy leaves a lot of room for interpretation and opens the door to killing babies at any gestational age up to and including full term pregnancies. Lastly, parental consent for minors would **NOT** be required. Parents would only be notified of the abortion, but the abortion **CAN** be done with or without the parents consent or knowledge.

Be aware that several countries in Europe have banned puberty blocking drugs because there is enough medical evidence, especially those coming from Britain, proving how harmful these drugs can be. Interestingly, the American Academy of Pediatrics in the U.S. has made no comment in response to the call from British pediatricians to stop puberty blockers.

Lastly, if you know of any couples who have been married outside the church, encourage them to speak to their parish priest to see if they are candidates for the convalidation of their marriage. It is a very beautiful if it can happen.

-Mary Jo O'Sullivan



# Human Trafficking Report

The human trafficking industry is a \$150 billion dollar criminal industry that does not just affect young women and men.

Women and men of all ages are affected. They use older women as den mothers to care for the younger women. As a community we need to bring more awareness to our parishes/communities.

During the coming weeks and months, I'll be reaching out to the affiliations and parishes to talk about putting up tabletops so that we can hand out brochures and such and start bringing more awareness. The hope is that we can bring this subject out in the open and start learning how to detect this horrible crime.

Isabel Stegman  
International-Human Trafficking





# Save the Dates

Year	Month	Date	Event/Function	Location
2024	May	5	MACCW Spring Board Meeting	The Embassy Suite Ft. Lauderdale
		18	President's Meet & Greet	Assumption Church
	June	1	MACCW Summer Board Meeting	Good Shepherd
		13-14	FCCW Board Meeting	Orlando
	August	13-17	NCCW Convention	Oklahoma
		25	Layette Mass	Our Lady of Lourdes
	September	28	MACCW Fall Meeting	St. Andrews
	October	5	SDCCW Fall Meeting	St. Thomas
		12	NDCCW	St. Helen
		24-26	Florida Conference	Tampa
	November	2	CDCCW	St. Rose Lima
2025	January	18	MACCW Winter Meeting	St. Rose Lima
		TBA	MACCW Day of Reflection	
	February	22	Scholarship Luncheon	Embassy Suite Ft. Lauderdale
	March	15	NDCCW Spring Meeting	All Saints
		17-19	Catholic Days at the Capitol 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Red Mass	Tallahassee



# HUGS FOR HOMELESS CAMPAIGN



The Hugs for Homeless Campaign is a statewide campaign led by the Florida Council of Catholic Women (FCCW) in response to the Florida Bishops to aid the homeless in Florida.

From September to February all our CCW's here should have some kind of event to raise funds.

The funds are to be turned into MACCW's Treasurer by February 1, 2025, so they can be sent to FCCW by March 1, 2025.

*This is a year-round event.*

If you have any questions, contact Lourdes Armas at [lourdesarmas@bellsouth.net](mailto:lourdesarmas@bellsouth.net)



Florida Council of Catholic Women's  
26<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference

Oct. 24-27, 2024

Sheraton Tampa Brandon Hotel

Information will be available soon at [flaccw.org](http://flaccw.org).

