

Sisters in Christ,

# 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>

## Mark your calendars for the MACCW Convention May 03 to 05, 2024

I am looking forward to welcoming you all to the 66th Annual Convention on May 3, 4 & 5, 2024 at the Deerfield Beach DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel.

I am so excited to announce that we have 2 guest speakers confirmed. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Carol Razza, a full-time faculty member and formation advisor at St Vincent de Paul Seminary in Boynton Beach. On Sunday we have Marlene Watkins, author of the "Everyday Miracles of Lourdes". The Florida Province Director, Brenda Dolan, will also be attending our convention this year.

We will start with the opening session on Friday afternoon, followed by the Rosary and Memorial Prayer Service for our deceased members. After dinner we plan to have some fun bringing back the District hospitality rooms!!

Bishop Delgado will be joining us for Mass and Banquet on Saturday to present our Scholarship Winners and our Golden Rose Award Winner. At the Saturday luncheon we will announce our Member of the Year and Our Lady of Good Counsel winners. Sunday Morning, we begin with breakfast followed by our speaker, author Marlene Watkins. We will then resume business and end with the installation ceremony of our new board.

Let us gather together in sisterhood and friendship with love and respect for all, as we celebrate another year being the hands and feet of Christ on earth.

Karen Lorenzen, MACCW President.

❖❖ February 2024 ❖❖

## MACCW

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022-2023

#### President

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

#### Vice President

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

#### Recording Secretary

Patricia Van Brusselen  
305-812-5247  
patty.ololccw@gmail.com

#### Treasurer

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

#### Corresponding Secretary

Nancy Gonzalez  
786-493-8184  
emilymar40@aol.com

#### Parliamentarian

Diane Tugander  
954-804-3508  
busyd19@cs.com

#### Historian

Josephine Gilbert  
305-510-3163  
nikefglad@aol.com

#### Immediate Past President

Marliese Ljuba  
305-340-8719  
mljuba33@gmail.com

#### Spiritual Advisor

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

## A message from The President

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



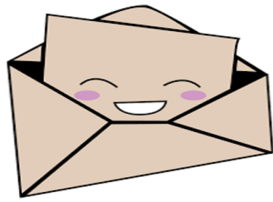
I was lucky enough to meet some wonderful people in the last several months who help others with full conviction and selflessness and humility. I was lucky enough to meet people who worked at Women in Distress, Kids in Distress, Covenant House, Hope South FL, Catholic Charities of Palm Beach and a doctor from See your Future, whom I am already friends with.

Where I am going with this, is I was lucky enough to spend time with and talk with directors of all of these foundations, and I learn something new every time we speak. The new foundation I just learned about is with someone I have known for some time but was not aware of this and she was not aware of the knowledge I had about human trafficking. An eye doctor, Dr Bita Sabipour whom I have known for many years gave me her "other" business card and it had on it See your Future. I asked her what it was about, and she said I help underprivileged children and adults and human trafficking victims with free eye exams and free glasses. We then of course talked about what we each knew, then she called me and invited me to come to her office and hear some young ladies from Catholic Charities speak to her interns. She wanted the interns to understand about the victims she helps and learn more of a background about what they had been through. Dr. Sabipour's foundation "See Your Future" has done dozens of free cases with these victims and explained how one victim would not let her take her glasses off of her face to examine her and when she finally got her to talk the victim told her that how they kept her to keep doing what they wanted her to do was take her glasses away from her and would only give them back when she raised enough money for the day as you would say her "quota", she could not see more than a foot in front of her without her glasses. (Read testimonial of another survivor) Dr. Sabipour told me she also works with other doctors in another foundation who are pediatricians, OBGYNs, GPs and other doctors who all treat these victims for free and do all they can to help.

The young lady she introduced me to was Joanna Bejarano from Catholic Charities of Palm Beach and another young lady who are case managers, she told us several stories of the survivors of human trafficking that they have counseled. These young ladies are only in their late 20s and deal with many types of victims but especially human trafficking survivors. I told them they are so brave to be able to help people come out of the worst nightmare anyone can go through and be able to hold onto themselves as it cannot be easy to go home every night and leave that behind. They say there are angels behind every door, I have met so many in the past few months that it gives me hope to know that there are so many people helping others. We don't realize that we are one of them. These young ladies said because we talk to people about this we pass on the word that other people learn from us and the more educated people are the more help those in captive a chance to be helped & to be found.

Karen Lorenzen  
MACCW President

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



## *a Report from the MACCW Vice-President*

Madam President, Reverend Father Greer, sisters in Christ.

My Report on June 3<sup>rd</sup> covered our 65<sup>th</sup> Celebration Meeting, since our yearly Haitian Mass on July 30<sup>th</sup> was Cancelled.

Our next event was an MACCW meet and greet hosted by Our Lady of Lourdes on August 12. With Diane Tugander and Sharon Utterback, we conducted the event explaining to our District and Affiliation Presidents about the Annual reports, Our Lady of Good Counsel Award, Member of the Year, dues and so on.

A package send by our President Karen Lorenzen was distributed to each of the Presidents.

On August 14<sup>th</sup> I attended the Installation of the new board of St Thomas. It was a wonderful event filled with comradery and sisterhood.

On August 20<sup>th</sup> I attended the wonderful celebration that

Holy Rosary St. Richards had prepared in honor of Kloe Paredes, the NCCW Golden Rose Award recipient and Pam Cameron, the MACCW Member of the Year.

A great number of individuals from our Council came along to celebrate. Orlando Diocesan CCW President Lisa Marie Gil traveled from Orlando to be present. Our President Karen Lorenzen oversaw representing of our National CCW President in giving Kloe her national award along with all the extra goodies.

Father Dan's words of encouragement and humor inspired us all!

October 14<sup>th</sup> Celebrated Father's Greer Birthday. February 6<sup>th</sup> I will Represent MACCW at the Catholic Days at the Capitol Event this year.

Respectfully

Fabiola Sanchez-De Armas  
MACCW Vice-President

From  
*the desk*  
of...

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

Sisters in Christ,

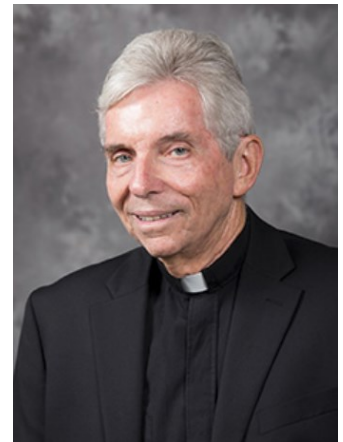
We have recently begun our Lenten Journey '24. While frequently this holy season relates to sacrifices or suffering, it also encourages renewal and rejuvenation. We unite with Christ in carrying our Crosses of frustration, pain, attacks from others. We realize that Jesus experienced all the difficulties of humanity, less sinning. We likewise recall that the Lord restored many people to the fullness of life they had never previously experienced. But Lent's purpose is to lead us to the Paschal Mystery, Christ's dying and rising, his saving deeds.

During this our second year of "Eucharistic Revival" in the U.S.,

may we recall Jesus' great sacrifice on the Cross for our salvation, which we remember in each Mass. At the same time, may we rise with Him, to a new appreciation of the grace and empowerment of God's spirit in Holy Communion, which equips us to do great things for the Church and Christ. Repent and be renewed!

Blessings,

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





# Scholarship

Mary Weber, Commission Chair

## ABOUT MACCW SCHOLARSHIP FUND

**PURPOSE:** The MACCW Scholarship Fund was formed to assist 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls attending Catholic Elementary Schools in the Archdiocese of Miami, to continue their education at a Catholic High School.

**OUR STORY:** In 1997, the MACCW Scholarship Fund was established. In 2015, in memory of longtime chairman of the scholarship committee and one of this committees founding members, the scholarship was named the MACCW Lucy

## SCHOLARSHIP Events 2023 - 2024

The 2023 Annual Scholarship Fund Raising Event was held on February 25th. The event was held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Ft. Lauderdale . We Honored Ana Rodriguez Soto, Editor, Florida Catholic Miami Edition, for her continued support of our efforts in fostering education in the Archdiocese of Miami.

The 2024 Scholarship Luncheon will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 1100 SE 17th St., Fort Lauderdale, on February 24th. We will be honoring His Excellency, the Most Rev. Thomas Wenski, Archbishop of Miami, for “Making a Difference in Education in the Archdiocese of Miami”. The 2023 Scholarship Recipients will be recognized.



2023 Scholarship Honored Guest, Ana Rodriguez Soto, with her mother, Carmen Rodriguez.



## 2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

In 2023, four girls received a \$4,000 Scholarship from the MACCW Scholarship Fund. Bishop Enrique Delgado (center of picture) presented the MACCW Lucy Petrillo Scholarship Award Certificates to the girls at the MACCW Meeting on April 29th. Shown, from left, are Ashley Elvir-Lainez, who is attending St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Milagros Funes, who is attending Chaminade - Madonna College Preparatory, Christine Bien-Aime, who is attending Msgr. Edward Pace High School, and Sasha Jean-Felix, who is attending

## PAST SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### All Saints

Melody Morris 04

Jenne Gauzzi 06

Kailee Fernandez 08

Celine Duverge 09

Amanda Cadigan 10

Tiffany Soto 14

Christodoula Shiahinian 15

### Annunciation

Juwita Chavez 00

Tiffany Balbuza 04

### Blessed Trinity

Ashley Evans 05

Alexandra Soto 11

Melissa Rey 12

Karina Santin 13

Sophia James 16

Sabrina Sousa 17

Sabina Gueseynova 18

Gena Escanaverino 19

### Immaculate Conception

### Little Flower Hollywood

Eva Buckalew 97

Caitlyn Jones 20

### Nativity

Elizabeth O'Neil 98

Jessica O'Neil 99

### Our Lady of the Lakes

Vanessa Perez-Robles 15

### Our Lady Queen of Heaven

Megan Baldwin 02

### St. Bartholomew

Noble El-Bey 18

### St. Bernadette

Ashley Muckunlall 19

### St. Bonaventure

Courtney Wozkiewicz 09

### St. Clement

Kari Gastel 06

### St. Coleman

Alexis Battoo 20

### St. Jerome

### St. James

Ashley Zephirin 97

Manoucheca Phanourd 01

Cynthia Massillon 04

Widlyne Coles 07

Adora Nacier 11

Alexandra Laroche 12

Joanina Daphins 16

Lisdrasanac Louimeus 17

Rosedele Augla Joseph 22

Christine Bien-Aime 23

### St. Helen

Shari Chin 03

Dianne Merlien 09

Marie Seide 17

Julie Nguyen 22

### St. Mary Cathedral

Elizabeth Presume 99

Wanda Fritz 07

Tajmara Antoine 14

Christy Raymonvil 19

Yardora Bayard 22

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

MACCW Scholarship Committee: Mary Weber, Fr. Michael Greer, Karen Lorenzen, Suzanne Auer,



# North District

Linda Langley, President

Below are a few of the things that have taken place since the last MACCW Fall Board Meeting held at Saint Vincent, September 9th :

North District had our Fall General meeting October 21, 2023:

All Saints hosted this meeting at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Plantation as their Church is being remodeled. We were pleased with the attendance and the food was great. At this meeting we reviewed all important upcoming deadlines for dues as well as important upcoming events.

It was good to have Karen Lorenzen, MACCW President and Mary Weber Scholarship Chair there to give us updates . They both respectively updated us on the MACCW Raffles as well, Mary Weber presented the Scholarship necklace and earrings raffle, and we presented our North District Raffle: Two Spa packages, one for the East side of Fort Lauderdale and one for the West side of Fort Lauderdale.

Our program for the day instead of a guest

speaker was a presentation focusing on increasing membership and strengthening our current North District affiliations.

It consisted of a powerpoint presentation, breakout sessions and group sharing. Diane Tugander and I put together and presented this program taken from several National CCW Council Presentations; we utilized the pieces that focused on membership and affiliation retention. I have copies of some of the suggestions that came out of this meeting, and I will be happy to share them with you today or by email.

I was delighted to be invited to and attended the Central District Meeting September 28th held at Saint Bartholomew Catholic Church in Miramar. It was an informative meeting and of course it was great to see everyone. The luncheon was delicious.

Our North District Board Meeting will be next week, January 21, 2024, at Saint Vincent, Margate.

Thank You all and Happy New Year.

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**Prepare Your Heart and  
Mark Your Calendar for  
July 17-21, 2024**



80,000 Catholics from all over the U.S. will gather in Indianapolis for a transformative encounter with the Real Presence of Jesus. Together, we will ask him to revive our hearts, our Church, and our world, launching us into a new chapter of missionary faith.

This is the Catholic event of the decade and a milestone within the National Eucharistic Revival movement. Don't miss this incredible opportunity for grace! Many seats have already been claimed.

# Central District

Mary Weber, President

The Central District of the Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women again participated in our Gift Cards for Seminarians Christmas project. \$25.00 Gift Cards from Walmart, CVS or Visa were collected from affiliations and individual members. The District collected a total of 51 gift cards and the distribution was as follows:

St. John Vianney College Seminary 38

Redemptoris Mater Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary 10

St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary 3

This project was initiated several years ago by Claudia Charles, and she continues to chair this effort.

Our Spring District Meeting will be hosted by St. Stephens Women of Fiat on March 16, 2024.



# South District

Maria Sol Acosta, President

We had our Fall SDCCW meeting on Oct. 21 of 2023 at the Good Shepherd parish, with the presence of members from five out of our seven SDCCW parishes and where the attending affiliation presidents shared their latest activities and upcoming events.

By the end of this meeting we all agreed to take on the challenge of adding more parishes to our district, our goal is at least four by the end of this year 2024, especially when I recently

heard from Josie Duffeck, President of Sacred Heart CCW that their affiliation decided to withdraw from MACCW.

Therefore we have lots of work ahead of us!

We shall do so with a joyful and grateful spirit, with the guidance of our Blessed Mother Mary and by the grace of our Lord Jesus.

Maria Sol Acosta  
SDCCW President

# Spirituality

Claudia Charles, Commission Chair

The Serra Club of Miami, of which I have recently become a member, is an organization that promotes and fosters vocations to the priesthood and consecrated religious life. It is one of many communities affiliated with the USA Council of Serra International, who each year organizes a Rally that is designed to provide opportunities for spiritual development, strengthen connections among Serra communities, and inspire attendees to continue their work in promoting vocations. This year Serra Club of Miami will serve as the host community for the 2024 Rally. Because of our involvement with the seminarians of St. John Vianney Seminary College, St. Vincent de Paul Seminary, and Redemptoris Mater Seminary, I encourage you to pray for and perhaps register to attend the 2024 Serra Rally scheduled to convene the weekend of January 18 - 21, 2024 at the Miami Dadeland Marriott. Needless to say, it pleases me to announce that our own Archbishop Thomas Wenski will be the keynote speaker at the opening session.

The National Eucharistic Revival is a movement to renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. At this historic gathering, Catholics from every corner and every parish in our nation will come together to reconsecrate their hearts

to the source and summit of our faith. At this writing, the Revival has reached our parish pews! This year, which began June 2023 thru May 2024, is about fostering Eucharistic devotion at the parish level, strengthening our liturgical life through the faithful celebration of the Mass, Eucharistic adoration, missions, resources, preaching, and organic movements of the Holy Spirit. Find out how parishes within the Archdiocese of Miami are answering the call and assume an active role in revival efforts. The National Eucharistic Revival convenes in Indianapolis, Indiana July 17 - 21, 2024. For additional information and / or to register visit the [10th National Eucharistic Congress - Official Website](#).

Finally, if you have a thirst for the study of God's Word and have not yet done so, I encourage you to download the Ascension Press App and follow Father Mike Schmitz in reading the Bible in a Year. Listen as he walks through the Bible in 365 episodes providing commentary, reflection, and prayers. Furthermore, if you have ever wanted to **understand what it means to be Catholic** and allow those truths to shape your life, I likewise encourage you to walk with him as he does the same in reading the Catechism in a Year. Both tools will transform your life and help you to appreciate "who you are and whose you are" in Christ Jesus.

# Legislation

Josephine Gilbert, Commission Chair

## **Catholic Days at the Capitol (CDAC)- February 6-8, 2024!**

Each year during the legislative session, Catholics from across the state gather in Florida's capital city to put their faith and civic responsibility into action.

### **Catholic Days activities include:**

- o A legislative briefing on policy issues affecting human life and dignity.
  - o Pre-scheduled meetings with lawmakers and/or their aides
  - o The opportunity to view the legislative process in action.
  - o An awards breakfast for Catholic Days participants, Florida's bishops, and legislators
  - o Group photos of each diocesan delegation with their bishop
- Annual Red Mass of the Holy Spirit concelebrated by the bishops of Florida to pray for those working in the legislative, judicial, and executive branches of government.

Registration is closed. Thank you for all that said Yes. We have thirteen Council members registered, five of those are from the North District. One from St. Gregory and one from St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton; making a total of seven from the North end. We also have 4 Seminarians going with us. We have three CCW sponsors, all from the North District. St.

Andrew CCW, St. Vincent CCW and St. Sebastian CCW. Sincere thanks to you. Please if you choose to pay by check, put the check in the mail immediately. They must pay for the hotel. Make check payable to the Office of Parish Life and mail to Archdiocese of Miami, 9401 Biscayne Blvd, Miami Shores, FL 33138 Attn: Stephen Colella / Office of Parish life.

We are grateful to all our ADOM Pastors that contributed to our Transportation Fund which made it possible to have our own bus for CDAC.

I am also reminding you to join the Florida Advocacy Network. You can participate without leaving your home. Visit to register:

<https://flaccb.org/join-flcan>

Josephine Gilbert  
Legislation Commission Chairperson.





## **SAVE THESE DATES!**

**2024:**

**February 06-08**

Catholic Days at the Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL

**February 25** Scholarship Luncheon

**May 03-05** MACCW Annual Convention

**July 17-21** Eucharistic Revival

**August 13-17**

NCCW 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.

## **Miami Archdiocese Council of Catholic Women (MACCW)**

***2024 Annual Convention***

***May 03 — 05, 2024***



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF  
CATHOLIC WOMEN

**August 13—17, 2024**

**Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

***Convention will be held at the  
Omni Oklahoma City Hotel***

