

SUMMARIES OF ANNUAL PROJECT RECOGNITION AWARD WINNERS 2023

LEADERSHIP COMMISSION

- **Membership Drive Ice Cream Social – with a Twist!** Submitted by St. Francis of Assisi in Central Deanery. An Ice Cream social was held to attract new members. The CCW President presented ‘who is the CCW and why is this important to our parish’. A cake walk of 11 cakes was held. Each cake was decorated to illustrate just one of the many aspects of the CCW including leadership, spirituality, legislation, service, NCCW, and our Lady of Good Council. They gained 4 new members.
- **Much Ado about CCW!** Submitted by Blessed Trinity in Central Deanery. To increase membership this CCW created a video titled Much Ado about CCW which showed CCW members in action. This video was shown at the first meeting and after Mass to all parishioners. At the first meeting a CCW survival kit was given to all members that included a balloon to help you reach for the sky; a band aid to help you heal hurt feelings; butterfinger candy to remind you that we all slip up and that’s ok; a candle to always let your faith shine through; a Hershey kiss as a reminder that love should be a part of everyday; lifesaver candy to remind you that the Lord is there to help; a lollipop to help you lick your problems; a pencil to list your blessings; a puzzle piece to remind you that without God we are not complete; rubber band to remind you to be flexible; a snickers bar to remind you to laugh often and a tea bag to remind you to take a break. The meeting ended with a powerful group sharing activity answering the question I am a CCW woman on a mission to: written on picture frames and members wrote their responses on a post it notes.
- **Monthly Newsletter “Our Lady’s Voice”** Submitted by St. Paul’s CCW in Northern Deanery. A newsletter was created for monthly distribution to members. It includes name and pictures of officers and the Spiritual Advisor; the NCCW mission statement and picture of Our Lady of Good Counsel. Guest speakers are mentioned with a short bio, prayer requests, special projects are featured, birthdays are posted and any message from the Spiritual Advisor.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

- **PURPOSE:** This project was selected to make affiliation members and invited guests aware of legislative and physician actions regarding Euthanasia.
OUTCOME: An eye opening presentation which included short video clips, printed materials and guest speaker (a doctor from Catholic Medical Association delegation that successfully persuaded the AMA NOT to abandon their longstanding position against physician assisted suicide). Informing about the importance of awareness of legislative action in our state, country and world as well as what we can all do to take a stand against Euthanasia. The program can be replicated and presented to other affiliations. The project was completed by January 26, 2023.
TITLE: EUTHANASIA PROGRAM PRESENTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
This project was submitted by Blessed Trinity
Legislative Advocacy Commission Chair: Irene Sandler, Co-Chair: Dona Tillman

- PURPOSE:** With 2022 being an election year, this affiliation thought it was important to have our voices heard on the current topics and legislation from the perspective of our Catholic morals and beliefs.

OUTCOME: Through use of email distribution, newsletters and social media, this affiliation consistently used Action Alerts from FCCB, USCCB and Florida Catholic Advocacy Network to educate our legislators and urging them to vote in accordance with our Catholic teachings and beliefs, as well as using these same materials to educate our members about how to advocate in accordance with our Catholic teachings and beliefs particularly around the abortion issue. We believe our advocacy efforts played a significant role in an indirect way to the overturn of Roe v Wade as well as facilitating advancement of HB 5 through the Florida Legislature which lead to the signing into law “Reducing Fetal and Infant Mortality” to ban abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy. The time span of his project was February 2022-November 2022 and was completed by November 2022

TITLE: CATHOLIC ADVOCACY FOR “LIFE”

This project was submitted by St. Mary Magdalen
Legislative Advocacy Commission Chair: Jeannine Ellenson
- PURPOSE:** Working with the Faith Formation ministry and young adult ministry in their parish, this Legislative advocacy commission sought to instill a sense of Catholic responsibility in the younger generation when it comes to voting by demonstrating that our faith can be lived out in every aspect of life and inspire the younger generation to dig deeper when it comes to our responsibility in governance of our communities. This affiliation used pre and post tests to assess the knowledge of young people about negotiable and non-negotiable issues for faithful Catholics on such topics as sanctity of life, dignity of marriage and family, capital punishment, the economy, healthcare and others. Resources were presented to the young people to inform them about Catholic teaching as described in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and to inspire the younger generation to rely on Christ rather than on themselves or the opinions of others in all their decisions, including their politics. The project was completed on February 1, 2023.

TITLE: CATCHING FISH IN THE FUTURE

This project was submitted by St. Joseph’s
Legislative Advocacy Commission Chair: Sylvia Abreu

SERVICE COMMISSION

- Socks, Underwear and Bug Spray Drive for the Homeless: St. Francis of Assisi, Central Deanery**

The purpose of this project was to provide socks, underwear and bug spray to homeless individuals as it was brought to the attention of the CCW membership as necessary. The CCW started the project in September 2022 and completed it in February 2023. They communicated through emails to the membership and monthly meeting agendas. They had a speaker in September 2022 at their meeting who brought to their attention that the homeless need socks, underwear and bug spray. They decided to collect the items beginning in October 2022 after that meeting and they were delivered on February 28th, 2023. They collected 732 items consisting mostly of socks & underwear of all sizes, bug spray and also other items such as shoes, first aid kits, tissues, etc.

- **Literacy Candy Strippers: St. Joseph, Central Deanery**
The purpose of this project was to promote literacy in a Title I elementary school. This CCW communicated through their general membership meeting in January 2023. Emails were also sent regarding volunteering to read to elementary school children. They started the project in January 2023 and completed on February 27th, 2023. This CCW contacted a Title I elementary school in their county and asked if their members could volunteer to read to the school children. The school principal was very excited about this and suggested to either bring age-appropriate books to read or could use books that the teachers would suggest. The members that wanted to read to the children had to go through a volunteer process and then picked their own dates and times to go to the school. Some of the members were so inspired that they decided to volunteer for other opportunities to help the school students, including mentoring.
- **A Shower to Wash Out Human Trafficking: St. Mary Magdalen, Central Deanery**
The purpose of this project was to raise awareness about human trafficking and to donate needed household items to help the residents, who are former victims of human trafficking and currently live at Samaritan Village. This CCW communicated via social media, announcements made at board & general meetings, emails and direct invitations. They started working on this in August 2022 and completed it on January 28th, 2023. The CCW hosted a luncheon & shower to benefit Samaritan Village at the home of one of their members. The director of Samaritan Village provided a presentation to them including videos of testimonies of some of their residents. They collected 1,573 items for the residents and received Thank you cards & emails from the residents.

SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION

- The purpose of this project was to bring a better understanding of Our Lady of La Leche and to get more information on the La Florida Martyrs. A notice was sent to all affiliate members at their general meeting followed by emails to members and surrounding CCW affiliates. An announcement was made at all the masses. The itinerary was discussed and a bus ordered to transport members who were attending. Our priest who led the retreat and Dr. Mary Soto who provided information on La Florida Martyrs were instrumental in bringing this retreat to us. They left the church at 7:15am with a full bus. While traveling a video from EWTN with Bishop Estevez from St. Augustine and Dr. Mary Soto along with the priest leading the retreat explained how the martyrs of La Florida were discovered and procedures that were taken to document the evidence so that the martyrs could be beautified. After the video the women prayed the rosary with several of the woman taking lead with each decade. Upon arriving at Our Lady of La Leche they toured the grounds and the women felt the Spirituality of this Holy ground as it was explained to them what transpired on these grounds. The group proceeded to the chapel and viewed the statue of Our Lady of La Leche and were struck by how this chapel survived all this time. The women viewed the rustic altar which was the first built on this land. The priest who led the retreat said mass at the church there and after they gathered for lunch. The group visited Castillo San Marco and then the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine. Dr. Mary Soto joined the group for dinner and she told them that she heard from the Vatican and they received all the paperwork and hopefully the beautification of the first martyrs of Florida will take place soon. On the bus ride home the women were

overwhelmed and excited by all that they heard and saw. They left the bus realizing how they had shared some things so special which brought them closer to the Blessed Mother and to each other. This project was titled “Time of Reflection with Our Lady of La Leche Retreat in St. Augustine” and presented by Western Deanery, Resurrection CCW Lakeland

- During the year of the Eucharist the Spirituality Commission felt it was important to reinforce that Adoration is an intimate contact with the Blessed Sacrament and essential to our faith. The commission also wanted to assist participants with making a commitment to Adoration as an integral part of their faith journey. They created a project team, met to determine specifics and had a group to produce the Adoration Purse Packets (this included a journal, a pen, tissues, an adoration aid with times and scriptures and a list of all adoration days and times within the diocese). This would be distributed to the members. They had a project meeting to develop the launch of the project at their January meeting. They prepared a wrap up presentation for their February meeting to recap the project. There were no guest speakers. They used newsletter, affiliation emails, instruction at meetings with aides and provided an Adoration Location list to assist with determining locations and times for adoration throughout the diocese. Attendees were challenged to set a personal goal for their crawl by trying to visit parishes throughout the time. A group app was developed so that the participants could check in with photos or notifications of their adoration time. This project was titled “Adoration Crawl” and presented by Central Deanery, St. Joseph Orlando
- This project was to provide rosaries needed and requested by the Peace Orphanage in Mexico City, Mexico. They were determined to emphasize the need to pray the rosary. They had a guest speaker who instructed them in the process of making the rosaries. They purchased items needed to make the rosaries and they had special meetings in instructions of what to do. Emails and social media were used to reach the parishioners interested. They received such an overwhelming response to making the rosaries that they were able to make rosaries for the Orphanage, for other ladies of the parish, NCCW and other parts of the world. Nearly 500 rosaries were made and distributed to NCCW for distribution, CCW Communion breakfast, Farm Workers association of Florida in Apopka and a New Jersey Parish for distribution to Confirmation and 1st Communion candidates. This project was titled “Prayer Across the Borders” presented by Central Deanery, St. Mary Magdalen Altamonte Springs