

Orlando Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Cornucopia

A Cornucopia of Ideas & Information
for Today's Catholic Woman of All Ages
February 2024



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A message from our President Lisa Gill

February 2024



How time has flown by. The parishes and deaneries are doing so many good things. I have seen spiritual presentations, adorations, forums for legislative awareness, fashion shows, luncheons and even funerals. I was also witness to the GOLDEN ROSE AWATRD in another DCCW in our great State! I was so sorry for the loss of our dear Sisters, the spouses and loved ones. I also hope that all our sisters who were ill, had minor surgeries, spouses had surgeries and are still battling health challenges are all on the mend and getting the answers they need to feel better.

I attended the NCCW convention in Salt Lake City. It was very informative and a very spiritual filled convention! I learned many things and hope to bring those same ideas back to our convention in 2024.

As promised in the September 2023 Board Meeting, I met with the Bishop's staff to get our calendars aligned, as well as to get the GOLDEN ROSE started here in our Diocese. The information gathered was very interesting.

I learned that we are all trying to build and recover after the Pandemic and all the great work we are still doing with programs in our areas for the homeless and needy! Central Deanery has really started up right with well over 100 new members added to the affiliates!

At the NCCW convention, I met women from all over the United States and even some Islands in the Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea. It was a joy to learn from so many women that our FAITH is what made us all ONE. Did you know that the GOILDEN ROSE did not start at NCCW but rather in Diocese and brought to them at the NCCW level? It was so enlightening to learn about the AWARD and how it began.

Our 56th annual convention is being planned and we can't wait to host you all there. The theme is TRANSFORM LIKE CHRIST INTO NEW LIFE. With all that has happened and with all we want to do to build we must first start from within by opening ourselves to the diverse nature of race, color, culture, age and Catholicism. You see some of us are that coined phrase "CRADLE CATHOLIC", while others are converted or have fallen away and are coming back. If we see them as DIFFERENT and not like us we are not thinking DIVERSELY.

A major battle we are still having is communication - affiliation to deanery to ODCCW to FCCW to NCCW and in reverse! I truly believe if we correct the communication issues we can truly build our CCW's.

I hope that you will all join me at the 56th annual convention. I hope and pray that as time goes on we will continue to build and grow. I have had the opportunity to visit so many of you and I want to continue my journeys to see you all if I can.

In closing, REMEMBER this is election year for so many of us! BUILD, SAY YES, STEP OUTSIDE THE BOX and let yourself out of the cocoon to transform!

Spiritual Advisor
Fr. Miguel Gonzalez



Dear Council Sisters,

On February 14, the Church prepares to enter the Season of Lent with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. The reception of ashes on our foreheads reminds us that the Season of Lent is a time for all of us to repent and believe in the Gospel Christ has revealed to all His disciples. For me Lent is like a transforming pilgrimage that we are all blessed to enter together. Each step we make, will lead us closer to the Glorious Season of Easter. Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday and conclude at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday night, as we gather to celebrate the Sacred Triduum.

Each Sunday at Mass, we have been able to connect with the ministerial work of Jesus. After his baptism in the Jordan River Jesus began His public ministry, throughout all of Galilee ending in Jerusalem. His powerful miraculous signs, exorcisms, and ceaseless prayers were opportunities for the Son of God to teach and proclaim His Father's Kingdom. We also learned how Jesus formed and prepared His disciples, along the journey that will lead Him towards His passion. Christ's greatest desire is for all His listeners, to seek first the Kingdom of God His Father. May this Season of Lent deepen our efforts and desires, to remain with the Lord as faithful witnesses of His gospel. I encourage of all of us during this Lenten season to seek the Lord's mercy by repenting from all our sins, and with contrite hearts ask the Son of God to change our hearts.

Executive Officer ..
Kim Kendall



Happy New Year!

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and are enjoying the New Year. The updated commission forms, as well as the report guidelines, are on the ODCCW website. Something to keep in mind is that having a catchy title and concisely reporting the details are a plus. The deadline is firm so make sure that your project is completed by February 29th. If the project is ongoing and not completed by February 29th you can always submit for next year. One thing to keep in mind is that a fundraiser, while it may new and successful, does not qualify as a commission project. If you use the money that you generate to support a commission project, make sure you include how the money was used. As always, if you need to contact me, you can reach me with any questions at kkendall1059@gmail.com.

Blessings to you and your family.

A graphic with a yellow background and a decorative border of colorful flowers. At the top, it says "SAVE THE DATE!" in pink. Below that is a square image of a colorful butterfly with a white cross in the center. Underneath the image, the text reads: "ODCCW 56th Annual Convention", "Transform Like Christ Into A New Life" (in italics), "April 20 - 22, 2024", "Florida Hotel and Conference Center", "Orlando, Florida", and "Convention Packet Information forthcoming".

SAVE THE DATE!

ODCCW 56th Annual Convention

*“Transform Like Christ
Into A New Life”*

April 20 - 22, 2024

Florida Hotel and Conference Center
Orlando, Florida

Convention Packet Information
forthcoming

Deanery Presidents Share ...

Eastern Deanery — Susan Sullivan



As we say goodbye to 2023, I am in awe of all that our CCW sisters have accomplished at all levels of Council and am looking forward to all that is to come in 2024.

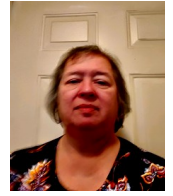
Christmas was a busy time for all our affiliations. Our Lady of the Lakes held their St. Nick party for the children in their parish's preschool. Other affiliations provided gifts to children living at Family Renew sites and other organizations and cheered up shut-ins with cards and gifts. Our Lady of Hope catered lunch for their parish staff in appreciation of their support of CCW. Affiliations celebrated the Blessed Season with each other with parties of all sorts.

Affiliations are showing their support for FCCW's Hugs for the Homeless through various ways. Eastern Deanery's share of the Hugs for Homeless money will be given to The Bridge in Deland, a 30-bed shelter providing a variety of services to the homeless. Three affiliations participated in Boxes of Joy and upwards of 200 boxes were collected.

Church of the Epiphany CCW held another of their well-received mornings of reflection, this one emphasizing bringing Joy to oneself and others. Our Lady of Hope CCW members took a guided tour of their own church – and were amazed by all they never noticed before and all the symbolism. St. Brendan's CCW sponsored a presentation on Human Trafficking and will host the Bad Girls of the Bible with Toya Martin in February. Prince of Peace CCW participated in a rosary rally outside their local Walmart Store.

Our Lady of Hope CCW has followed St. Ann's CCW lead and purchased polo shirts with their logo to build sisterhood and promote CCW. Newsletters will be encouraged to keep each other in the know as well as serving as a record of our accomplishments. St. Peter's CCW is looking into starting evening meetings a few times a year.

Central Deanery — Debbie Miller



What is happening in Central Deanery CCW? So glad you asked.

Our Members seem to be like the Energizer Bunny. They keep going and going and going.

At our last CDCCW meeting, all affiliations in our deanery reported that they have new members. By the time we ended up counting, it was over 100 new members. These ladies are out there promoting the Council of Catholic Women and making this organization known for what we are and what we do. It is due to their hard work and dedication that makes CCW such a wonderful organization of which to be a member.

One of our deanery's newest affiliations, St. Stephen's CCW, hosted an ODCCW meeting on January 13th. What a way to step up and get involved. Thank you ladies for all you did to make everyone feel so welcome.

CDCCW had a fundraiser which was Rock N' Roll Bingo. It was short notice getting this event together but the people who were there had a fun, active and rockin' time. There was singing and dancing while playing Bingo. If you want to get up and get yourself moving, what a fun and lively way to be part of this event. It doesn't matter if you can sing or dance, and let me tell you I can clear a room in seconds with my singing, it is getting outside of your routine. And you meet some of the friendliest people. We hope to have this event again.

Our deanery's ladies are getting ready for hosting the 56th ODCCW Convention April 20-22, 2024. They are planning and working on various parts of the duties that need to be done. They do not miss a step. We hope everyone will be able to attend all or at least part of the Convention. The packets are going out and information is also on the ODCCW Website.

And our deanery's affiliations are still having their teas, rummage sales, fundraisers and helping with their Parish events, among other activities.

Our affiliations are also busy putting together their Recognition Reports. It is always hard to choose just 3 from each Commission since they are all deserving of an award.

Southern Deanery
President
Carolyn Paternoster



We have great hope for wonderful things to happen for Southern Deanery.

It sadly began with our Spirituality Commission Chair, Susan Masiello passing from this life on January 9th. She will be sorely missed by her SDCCW Sisters, family and friends. May she rest in peace.



Our affiliation memberships are looking forward to the election and installation of new board officers, Lenten Retreats; Easter Vigil Celebration, May Crowning, End of Year Parties and more. There is a lot to do in 2024, so “Stay Hot” Southern Deanery Sisters!

There are many new and out of the box ideas from all SD Affiliates perhaps because new membership has increased substantially. Congrats SDCCW!! Samples of these ideas begin with Pies for Priests, Spiritual Adoption of the Unborn, Support “Hearts Out for Haiti”, Weekly Retreat Hour, Recommit to Better Support for our Seminarians and Priests, and much more. Of course, fashion shows, bake sales, baby showers, rosaries, and all the usual practices we do throughout the year remain on the agendas. Great work, Sweet Sisters in Christ -

“Rejoice in Hope, Endure in Affliction, Persevere in Prayer” Romans 12:12

**DOES YOUR POSTAL WORKER
KNOW YOU ARE CATHOLIC BY THE
MAIL YOU GET???**



Northern Deanery
President
Sue Miller



This president is proud of the commitment of our women in Northern Deanery! KUDOS to the CCW members at Blessed Sacrament, Blessed Trinity, St. Paul, St. Vincent de Paul because they are:

- K**-knowing the workings and responsibilities of Council
- U**-understanding the commission system and its effectiveness
- D**-devout in their prayers, and loyal to the precepts of Council
- O**-organizing prayers, fundraisers, community service projects, etc.
- S**-supporting their priests; involved in national and international projects

As we come to the closing months of this term, keep in mind that our work is ongoing. So, resume reviewing this mental checklist:

- ___ pray for our priests, our seminarians, our religious in this diocese, and beyond
- ___ continue with altruistic works
- ___ submit copies of annual recognition reports to ODCCW on time
- ___ volunteer for position in affiliations, deanery, and diocesan levels
- ___ attend ODCCW’s annual convention April 20-22, 2024
- ___ invite your priest/seminarian to annual convention



*Bishop John Noonan
February 26th*

*There once was a Bishop named
Noonan
And he couldn’t get here any sooner
But when he finally got here
The ODCCW gave a cheer
Because we love him so dear!*

Happy Birthday Bishop Noonan; we love you!

Service Commission Denise Campbell



The Council's focus for Service Commission includes:

1. Continue to raise awareness about Human Trafficking.
2. Continue focus on Domestic Violence and Child Abuse.
3. Protection on the sanctity of life from birth through death.

Human Trafficking continues to be a serious concern in our state and Central Florida and the Service

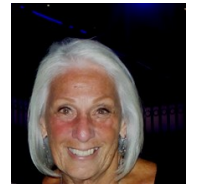
Service Commission's 2023 Convention Resolution was to STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING. I would like to see our Council continue to spread awareness of the dire situation and help in the continuing battle to combat Human Trafficking.

I am looking forward to the Service Commission Reports submitted for our 2024 ODCCW Convention. Your service to our communities is very inspiring and you should all be commended. I know we will all continue to do great works in our parishes and communities. Please get your reports to me by February 28, 2024 and if you need assistance in completing them, please don't hesitate to contact me. I would be happy to help.

It has been an honor to serve as your ODCCW Service Commission Chair. I have learned so much serving on the ODCCW Board and will cherish all of the friendships and knowledge that I have received. I feel very blessed.

Blessings to you.

Spirituality Commission Diane Drucker

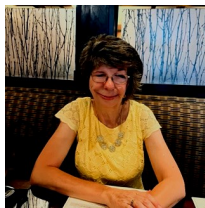


“THE CHURCH SEES IN THE FACE OF WOMEN THE REFLECTION OF A BEAUTY WHICH MIRRORS THE LOFTIEST SENTIMENTS OF WHICH THE HUMAN HEART IS CAPABLE. THE SELF-OFFERING TOTALITY OF LOVE; THE STRENGTH THAT IS CAPABLE OF BEARING THE GREATEST SORROWS; LIMITLESS FIDELITY AND TIRELESS DEVOTION TO WORK; THE ABILITY TO COMBINE PENETRATING INTUITION WITH WORDS OF SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT”.... SAINT JOHN PAUL THE GREAT

It is so easy to get lost in our daily lives, work, school, taking care of kids, etc. With so many tasks on our plates, we can get stuck under their pile and find it challenging to come back up. We constantly worry about making sure that everyone around us is satisfied and that our work is perfect in appearance. Of course, God calls us to serve others through our labors; and as Catholics we are often encouraged to offer up our sufferings. This does not mean, however, that we should keep pushing ourselves to where we lose our inner peace. We should especially not busy ourselves so much that our relationship with God is put on the back burner.

Find time within your busy day to sit quietly and *talk to God*. Prayer does not have to be hard; it can be as easy as talking to a friend. Tell him what is going on in your life, and express your feelings. He will hear you. Whether our anxieties are over big or small things, we can hand them over to God. As St. Padre Pio said, “Don't worry to the point of losing your inner peace.” As you go about your daily routine, raising our hearts to God will allow us to remain peaceful. Remember, He loves us and is always good! Jesus will never abandon you.

Legislative Committee Ann Fivie, Chair



The Florida 2024 Legislative Session opened on January 9, 2024 amid terrible winter weather. Let us pray that we do not have a stormy session ahead of us and that our elected representatives and senators can work together in an amicable and productive manner. Each year, prior to the start of Legislative session, FCCB publishes its public policy priorities. Key issues for this year fall under the advocacy areas of Life & Dignity, Health Care, Family & Social Concerns, and Education. These priority issues are expected to be considered by lawmakers during the 2024 Legislative session which runs through March 8, 2024.

Readers are encouraged to visit the Florida Catholic Advocacy Network website (flaccb.org) for more information about these public policy issues. The weekly summaries of legislative session will also be found on this website. Please visit and stay updated so we all know the progress being made on our issues in Tallahassee. Be prepared to respond quickly when we receive Action Alerts regarding legislative issues. I promise you, there will be a lot going on during this session - do not be afraid to contact your legislators to let them know how you feel about current issues. While they are in Tallahassee, call them, email them, write a letter, or better yet, plan a trip and visit them in Tallahassee. We all know how nice it is to see a familiar face from home when we are out of town. After session, visit them in their home office to thank them for their time and their work.

This year is a Presidential election year. While there is a lot of information swirling about all of the candidates, please educate yourselves on each of the candidates, learn about their skills and experiences, their voting records if they have previously held office, attend a campaign event if they are in your area. Avail yourself to a variety of resources to get a well-rounded impression of each of the candidates so you can make an informed choice when you cast your vote in November, for president, and in races closer to home. Every vote is important and needs to be made by an informed decision-making process.

Leadership Commission Georgette Hoppenbrouwer



Let's talk about Leadership. And believe me, that's not an easy topic. It's not like Service, all they must do is determine a need, pick a recipient and get to work on accomplishing the goal of fulfilling that need. Spirituality has got it easy too! They have a little help from the Holy Spirit.

But leadership.... shish. I wonder if we can come up with a consensus on the definition of leadership. Is it bossing the membership around? Is it putting on events and calling them membership?

Leadership inspires confidence in other council members and moves them to action. Leaders communicate effectively, provide vision and direction, and build consensus among team members. A good leader delegates responsibility and hold people accountable for their actions.

It's working together. There is no individual glory in Leadership. I saw from the deanery reports I received that you are intentionally looking to determine the needs of the women of the parish. Affiliates are using surveys. Some are using newsletters. You are reaching out to women of other cultures. You are engaging others to share their gifts.

And we are making the most of our other deanery affiliates cross utilizing our efforts and working together.

Keep it up.

There are so many ways we can work together. And there are so many ways we don't.

Western Deanery President

Angela Morris



Western Deanery is gearing up to conquer 2024. We are starting off the year with gathering ladies of CCW and parishioners of the parish for a trip to the capitol for the Catholic Days at the Capitol.

The Deanery is in the process of planning a social gathering for all ladies of the Western Deanery area. More information to come – stay tuned!

Resurrection Council of Catholic Women: President Irene Dobson and members of the council are getting ready for the Souper Bowl, an event which the ladies of RCCW collects canned goods on the weekend of the Superbowl for Resurrection's food pantry after each mass. Then off to St. Augustine for a field trip to St. Joseph Architectural Stained-Glass Studio, Tour of Motherhouse and Neighborhood Center in St. Augustine.

St. Anthony Council of Catholic Women: President Viviana Brenes – **increased their membership from 15 paid members to 28 paid members.** This is awesome news for this affiliate.

St. John Neumann Council of Catholic Women: President Karly McCullough and members of the Council recently had their annual walk which the proceeds will be going to Hugs for the Homeless.

DID YOU KNOW?

According to recent studies... 4,000-5,000 pastors quit each year. They don't quit because they have a lack of faith in God. They don't quit because they don't believe in the calling God has placed on their life. Most don't even quit because of financial reasons.

Pastors quit because they are overwhelmed with mental exhaustion.

Until you're a pastor you'll never fully understand what it's like to carry spiritual burdens for people. Getting up in the middle of night, praying for your family of faith. Awakened in the middle of night with someone on your heart. Overwhelmed with concern by a persons absence or distance. Your mind continually occupied with the presentation of the upcoming Sunday message - how to preach it, what to teach on, how do we apply it? Getting critiqued on a continual basis.

Being told you need to do better or that some areas of the church simply need to be better.

Pastors invest their whole life into people and yet people will turn their backs on their pastor at the first sign of a storm, usually without a conversation. Pastors stand in the middle of disputes.

Pastors stand in the middle of gossip.

Pastors counsel broken marriages.

Pastors comfort those who have suffered loss. Pastors navigate the waters of imperfect people with a desire to see each one thrive in their faith.

They long for spiritual breakthroughs. Your pastor craves the very best for you. All of this, while trying to battle their own flesh and grow in their own relationship with God.

Pastors see the posts.

Pastors hear the whispers.

Pastors endure the negativity.

Pastors are continually caring for the sheep while fending off the wolves.

Pastors pour out and pour out - rarely being poured into.

What keeps a pastor going? YOU!

You - the person who is genuinely hungry.

You - the person who worships with passion and freedom.

You - the teenager who is striving to be a follower of Jesus.

You - the single mom who understands the beauty of the hope found in Christ.

You - the one who walks through the door for the first time because you're in search of peace, hope, and community.

Pray for your pastor. Serve with your pastor.

Talk with your pastor. Encourage your pastor.

They are human.

They need You more than you think!

Pray for your Pastors and most of all

BE NICE TO THEM,

