

2024 COMMISSION YEAR-END REPORTS BOOK

of the

SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN



GOOD WORKS

*Completed throughout the
2023 calendar year
by*

**SCCCW COMMISSIONS, DEANERIES, AND
AFFILIATED PARISH GROUPS**

in areas of

SPIRITUALITY - LEADERSHIP – SERVICE

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THE SCCCW

COMMISSION SYSTEM DESCRIBED

The mission of the SCCCW is carried out through the work of three commissions. Each one supports and enhances activities at all levels of Council, educates about the issues of concern to Catholic women, and empowers women to respond in faith and with compassion.

SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION

The Church Committee aims to create a community that is educated and dynamic. Catholic women called to discipleship and holiness respond with personal witness and service to the Church and to the world. This work reinforces faith and assists in meaningful ecumenical dialogue. It offers the means to enhance public and private prayer, promotes sound liturgical practice that is sensitive to the cultural diversity of the church, and provides resources for spiritual nourishment and development of the faith community.

The Legislation Committee encourages legislative advocacy among all members. Guided by Catholic Social Teaching, it assists women in understanding the legislative process, provides the means to analyze current and proposed laws, and promotes activities that bring about greater social and economic justice in our society at the local, state, and national level.

LEADERSHIP COMMISSION

The Organization Committee provides organizational development, opportunities for leadership training, public relations resources, and publications to assure the successful organization and management of Council and its programs. It serves to strengthen the leadership team at every ring of Council.

The Membership Committee strives to grow the membership by promoting SCCCW and other levels of Council such as the Province of Atlanta, the National Council of Catholic Women, and the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations.

The Public Relations Committee promotes SCCCW within and outside of the Diocese and seeks ways to increase its visibility and professed value.

SERVICE COMMISSION

The Community Committee engages the members and others in working to address the needs and concerns of their individual communities. It is focused on actions that affect the life, growth, productivity, and wellbeing of all people, especially women and children and the communities in which they live.

The Family Committee aims to support and enhance the importance of family life within the Church and society. It works to assist families in achieving a truly Christian life and to carry out responsibilities within the Church, the civic community, and the world.

The International Committee promotes responsibility for the world community through the conviction that wealth and resources must be shared with all peoples. In response to this call for global solidarity, it creates awareness of and educates about the needs of women and children throughout the world. It encourages members to generously support the Works of Peace and Works of Reconciliation programs implemented in partnership with Catholic Relief Services.

2023 SCCCW COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Spirituality Commission Ch.- Lidia Sundberg

Church Committee Ch.—Kimberly Jones-White

Legislation Committee Ch.—Rosemarie Kovarcik

Leadership Commission Ch. - Juanita Henry

Organization Committee Ch.—Nancy Kuykendall

Membership Committee Ch.—Jeanette Altenburg

Public Relations Committee Ch.—Joan Mack

Service Commission Co-Chairs - Etta Harrison and Yvonne Pygatt

Family, Community, and International Committee Chairs

2023 SCCCW COMMISSION YEAR-END REPORTS FORMAT

Commission reports describe the **initiatives suggested** by the NCCW and SCCCW Commission Chairs to SCCCW Deaneries and Affiliates and **actions taken** by Deaneries and Affiliates in fulfillment of the suggested initiatives throughout 2023.



SCCCW SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION REPORT

Submitted by Lidia Sundberg

In gratitude to Our Lord in the year, 2023, it is with joy that we celebrate another year together. As we prepare in this season of Lent, let us take a moment to meditate on the love that our Lord showed us on the Cross and His infinite gift of goodness and mercy that He continuously pours upon us.

I pray that you find this report worthy of your time. Certainly, the activities done by our affiliates and deaneries have been wonderful. Despite this having been a year of relative calmness we are faced with difficult economic situations. We continue to hope and trust in our Lord that He will carry us through until we meet Him in Heaven. I am thankful for having had the opportunity to serve as chair of this Commission, and I am truly appreciative of all the members of the SCCCW for their continued efforts and sharing of ideas on how we can better serve our Lord God and grow in faith together.

Church Committee

Retreats

From the Charleston Deanery, the ladies of St. Patrick hosted the retreat entitled “Something about Mary”. From the Rock Hill Deanery, the ladies of All Saints participated in a one-day retreat entitled “Her Place”. The ladies from the Columbia Deanery had one day retreat themed “Living the Goodness of God as we Serve”. From the Greenville Deanery, the ladies at St. Mary’s hosted a spiritual retreat in October entitled “Inspired by Women of the Bible”.

Gatherings.

- The St. Patrick’s Women’s guild (Charleston) hosted an annual tea where they selected women from each commission to honor. The title of the annual tea was “Thank You for Your Service, Honoring Sisters in Christ”. The focus was that we should take time to learn about our sisters and thank them for all that they do every day to make our organization and the community better.
- Members of the All Saints Women’s Organization (Rock Hill), who were also active members of The Legion of Mary, organized a weekly “Meet & Greet” where members of the parish gathered for a fun morning of sweet treats and conversations. An average of 40 persons per week attended. From these reunions, fruits came. Many people joined our affiliate or joined to help with our other service activities as the result of our taking time to sit down and have nice conversations with them. Some of the parishioners that are not so involved in parish activities got to learn about what was going on, and if they like something, they participated.
- The Women of St Francis (Beaufort) celebrated St. Clare Feast Day with Mass followed by the St. Clare Chaplet and Litany in the prayer garden. The new garden angel was blessed.

Pilgrimages.

- Members from Our Lady Star of the Sea (Myrtle Beach Deanery) traveled to Kingstree for a presentation at the Shrine of Our Lady of Joyful Hope by Kathy Bell and Father Stan.
- St James the Younger (Myrtle beach) participated in the Corpus Christi procession in the town of Conway in June. Ladies decorated an altar for the procession. It was one of 7 altars prepared by different ministries.

Eucharistic Adoration.

- All of our deaneries reported participation in Eucharistic adoration as groups. Most of the affiliates took on an hour as a group to adore our Lord in Eucharistic presence.

First Saturday Devotion.

- As our resolution last year was to promote the First Saturday Devotion, various affiliates started leading rosaries on the first Saturdays of the month at their churches.

Proclaiming on the Streets!

- The Greenville Deanery held two 'Our Father T-Shirt' flash events where participants joined in and chanted the Lord's Prayer at locations on Main Street downtown. At a third event, a group sang the Lord's Prayer at a Marian Tea hosted by Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church. They also met at the SCCCW Convention and sang the Lord's Prayer.
- Two "Holy Face" billboards were contracted in the Greenville area. The billboards remained on display for about a month. The billboard depicted the holy face of Christ from the Shroud of Turin.

Legislation Committee

- The ladies of All Saints (Rock Hill) participate in the yearly March for Life both in Charlotte, NC and Columbia, SC. They also attended local political events that featured candidates for various offices, like Secretary of Education and the Local House Representatives. Recently one of their members brought attention to the need of one in the group by contacting their legislative representative. The lady needed a surgery that Medicare would not cover. After she asked for assistance from a government official, a way was found to get the surgery approved.
- The ladies of St. Mary Rosary & Confraternity (Rock Hill) continued to serve on the Parish Council and at parish functions. They actively wrote to government officials.
- The ladies of St. Anthony's (Greenville) participated in the World Day Against the Death Penalty at the State Capitol.



SCCCW LEADERSHIP COMMISSION

Organization Committee

Report submitted by Juanita Henry, Commission Chair and Nancy Kuykendall Committee Chair.

The committee promoted suggestions for organization activities from the NCCW and SCCCW to deaneries and affiliates. They were:

- Set up an appointment with pastor and/or Spiritual Advisor and reviewed plans for the Council year.
- Set-up Board meetings to plan for the next Council year.
- Appointed a Bylaw Review Committee, an Audit Committee, and a Budget Committee.
- Appointed Committee Chairs.
- Choose a theme or focus for the Council year.
- Choose a Sunday in October for Council Sunday and plan to celebrate with your parish.
- Prepare the calendar for the year and coordinate events with the Parish secretary.

- Try to attend the NCCW Convention.
- Survey your members...they have great ideas!
- Set up a mentoring program to help make new members feel included.
- Prepare a sign-up sheet for all committees. Get the membership involved!
- Prepare a checklist for each committee chair to use so nothing slips between the cracks, such as securing the date to contact the custodian to bulletin announcements.
- Ask all board members to review bulletin announcements before they are sent to the secretary for distribution: many eyes catch mistakes and omissions!
- Offer a NCCW Leadership Training Development program for officers and new members.
- Welcome new and existing members with enthusiasm and love. Give them the tools to be successful, such as a membership booklet.
- Institute a method of greeting new people who are alone. Introduce them to current members to help get them connected.
- Update officer handbooks.

Membership Committee

Report submitted by Juanita Henry, Commission Chair and Jeannette Altenburg, Committee Chair.

Be prepared to answer, ‘What is the South Carolina Council of Catholic Women’? We do this by memorizing and using our Mission Statement: “The purpose of the South Carolina Council of Catholic Women is to serve as a medium through which the Catholic Women of the Diocese may speak and act as one unit. Its goal is to stimulate the work of and render definite assistance to the efforts of all affiliate organizations that give service to the Church. The South Carolina Council of Catholic Women will endeavor to create interest in and to assist in the furtherance of the faith and wellbeing of the people of our Diocese.”

The Bishop of the Diocese of Charleston has suggested several ways of reaching those to whom we must bring into our fold, and many of his ideas were echoed at the NCCW Convention.

- Adopt Seminarians. Help them to feel needed and wanted.
- Include the young women of our parish by learning about what they need.
- Mentor these groups and educate them on what SCCCW does.
- Set up a group at local Campus Ministries and let them know that we want to help.

Know the priorities of the South Carolina Council of Catholic Women.

- Be a voice for American Catholic women of all ethnicities.
- Tell all your story.
- Transform the world through prayer and action.
- Regain, retain, and grow to increase membership.
- Mentor those who are to become our future leaders.

We can effect change and strengthen our sisterhood by listening, communicating, praying, and being present. We can transform the world one person at a time.

Public Relations Committee

Report submitted by Juanita Henry, Commission Chair and Joan Mack, Committee Chair.

One of the goals of the Leadership Commission through the Public Relations Committee has been to encourage and suggest various modes of communication for affiliates to build, maintain, and manage the many activities that were planned for the year. As we reviewed the 2023 affiliate Year-End Reports, it was found that many affiliates used the same public relation tools to communicate and make others aware of their many activities. They follow.

- The leadership chair at the affiliate level sent via e-mail all minutes and state and national information as it related to South Carolina Council of Catholic Women (SCCCW) and the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW).
- Weekly information was sent out through Flocknote.
- Videos were uploaded to the Facebook page of an affiliate which featured activities that were extremely helpful attracting individuals from surrounding areas.
- Flyers were posted for all events.
- Information was published in the church bulletins and followed up by posting to all social media outlets.
- The presence on Facebook grew followers by 20%.
- The history of the affiliates was documented in a slide show for a historical scrapbook.
- A computer slide show was set up to show pictures and members as they participated in the many activities they sponsored.

These were just a few of the many avenues by which affiliates promoted their programs and shined light on the many good things that were done in their SCCCW Deaneries and Affiliates.



SCCCW SERVICE COMMISSION

Family, Community, and International Committees

By Yvonne Pygatt and Etta Harrison

Greetings, from the Women of the Beaufort, Columbia, Charleston, Greenville, Rock Hill, and Myrtle Beach Deaneries! As Co-chairs of the Service Commission, it is our pleasure to share some of the many, wonderful service projects the women of SCCCW do on a daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly basis. The Service Commission includes community, family, and international services. Women continue to find creative ways to serve. Their willingness to participate in these efforts is appreciated throughout the state of South Carolina.

Our activities are based on the mission and goals of the National Council of Catholic Women. On the National level, our focus was on a program developed by The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), **Walking with Moms in Need**. This program was designed to welcome and offer resources to pregnant and unwed mothers in our parish community.

Regarding the state level, the Service Commission initiative encouraged Women of SCCCW to develop a Walking with Moms in Need Resource center within their parish and or community. The other initiative was the **Christmas at Sea/Seminarians Christmas project**, where we packed, delivered, and/or mailed Christmas gift boxes. All affiliates chose to participate in either one or both initiatives during 2023. We serve with God and prayer as our guide. Listed below are a few of their wonderful works!

The Women of the **Beaufort Deanery**.

- Sponsored a Road trip to Charleston to visit the SGG founding pastor's new parish, St. Clair of Assisi. They also visited the Cathedral and Pastoral Center.
- Held a silent auction to benefit the Scholarship Fund.
- Held an annual fashion show to benefit scholarships and other local charities.
- Held Stations of the Cross for victims of abortion.
- Held Grandparents Day flower sale.
- Participated in Rosary Week in October.
- Decorated the church for Christmas.
- Held a Thanksgiving dinner with St. Anthony's.
- Hosted the 20th anniversary celebration in January.
- All Affiliates collected items for Boxes of Joy.

The Women of the **Charleston Deanery**.

- Collected items for Boxes of Joy and gave a donation of \$250.00.
- Participated in the Lowcountry Pixie Project which provided wrapped feminine products delivered to Tri-County Schools.
- Supported Ms. Claudia Bing Foster Care Home for male and female individuals by donating household items, cleaning supplies, groceries, \$250 and other items.
- Provided Sanders-Clyde Elementary School teachers breakfast for Teacher Appreciation Week and sponsored 4 students to attend the SCSU Summer Program Research Project.
- Served as co-chairs to teachers for First Communion classes.
- Donated boxes to the Seafarers project.

The Women of the **Columbia Deanery**.

- Participated in Walk for Life.
- Supported Birthright of Columbia.
- Made donations to Catholic Charities.
- Made donation to Church Women United.
- Made a display for Breast Cancer Awareness Month which was displayed in the parish.
- Contributed to the Thanksgiving Baskets distributed throughout the community.
- Served as CCD teachers, a Rosary leader, and liturgy readers.
- Donated Boxes of Joy.
- Donated to the Seafarers project.
- Donated items to Catholic Charities.
- Participated in World Day of Prayer.
- Donated toiletries and clothing to Catholic Charities.
- Participated in Catholic Woman's Legislative Day at the State Capitol.

- Worked with the Parish Respect for Life leaders to provide a brunch monthly for single mothers in the parish.
- Supported the purchase of a traveling Mass kit for parish priest from funds raised from bake sale.

The Women of the **Greenville Deanery.**

- Donated toiletries and clothing to Soteria House Ministries to assist women returning to society from prison.
- Decorated a Christmas tree in the annual Festival of Trees held in downtown Greenville.
- Donated 138 boxes to the Seafarer Project.
- Participated in World Day Against the Death Penalty at the State House.
- Donated \$500.00 to the Child Freedom Coalition.
- Hosted the annual parish Christmas Party.
- Collected Boxes of Joy.
- Completed the publication of Deacon Olsen's Spiritual Advisor book, "From, Through, To Reflection of Faith". A book signing was held, and free copies were distributed to attendees.

The Women of the **Rock Hill Deanery.**

- Collected feminine hygiene items and volunteered time to help and clothing to Our Lady's Pantry.
- Collected items for Christmas gift basket that was given to the Sisters at the Poor Clare Monastery.
- Organized a huge school supply drive that supports the local school district with hundreds of backpacks and supplies.
- Continued to drive parishioners to appointments associated with the Restoring Mobility to the Blind group.
- Drove house guests of the nearby homeless women's shelter, "Her Place," to their appointments.
- Organized and completed another Box of Joy project sending hundreds of boxes to children in many developing countries.
- Continue to cook and donate homemade meals to stock the Feed the Flock freezer for distribution to the sick and homebound of the parish.
- Ran a food drive in connection with the Christmas gathering for a local food pantry that serves both North and South Carolina.
- Prepared food for Vacation Bible School.
- Sewing Ministry created numerous items that were donated to Catholic Charities.
- Hosted a Walking with Moms speaker.
- Adopted a Seminarian.

The Women of the **Myrtle Beach Deanery.**

- Collected recyclable soda can tops for Ronald McDonald House in Charleston.
- Served as a collection site for Boxes of Joy as well as donating boxes.
- Participated in Seafarers Project.
- Collected pocketbooks and filled them with toiletries for the Homeless Shelter.
- Members said the monthly Rosary in a public venue for Freedom of Religion.

- Had a speaker from Meals on Wheels, and Jason's House.
- Participated in Catholic Women's Legislative Day at the Capitol.
- Member walked in the March for Life in Washington, D.C.
- Packed boxes for Box of Joy.
- Hosted and organized the 2023 SCCCW Convention.
- Led a Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Joyful Hope in Kingstree, SC.



Our Lady of Guadalupe
Mexico, 1521

*"The apparitions and message underline both
the infinite transcendence of God and his unceasing mercy toward all men without boundary"*

EWTN

2023
SCCCW
YEAR-END REPORTS
from
DEANERIES
and
AFFILIATES



BEAUFORT DEANERY

Phyllis Atkins, Beaufort Deanery President

Affiliates

Women of St. Anthony

St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Walterboro

Carol Ferrari, President

St. Gregory the Great Council of Catholic Women

St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church, Bluffton

Nancy Kuykendall, President

Women of St. Francis

St. Francis by the Sea Catholic Church, Hilton Head *Island*

Rose Miriello, President

Women of St. James the Greater

St. James the Greater Catholic Church, Walterboro,

Davetta Greene, President



2023 Year-End Report of the BEAUFORT DEANERY PRESIDENT

*Phyllis Atkins, Deanery President
Report Submitted by Rosemarie Kovarcik*

The Beaufort deanery is composed of four affiliates: St. Anthony Women's Club, Women of St. Francis by the Sea, Women of St. James the Greater, and St. Gregory the Great Council of Catholic Women. The deanery consists of 390 members and 3 SCCCW Individual Members. This past year two deanery meetings were held.

- Held a meeting in January to honor all nominees for Catholic woman of the year. It began with Mass celebrated by Father Christopher Loester and was followed by a meeting where affiliates discussed various activities that were held. The Beaufort deanery Catholic Woman of the Year for 2023 was announced.
- Held a second meeting in August which began with a Mass celebrated by Father Rafael Ghattas. A meeting followed where various affiliate activities were discussed, and plans were made for a 20th anniversary celebration to be held in January. Linda Clark from NCCW spoke on "Understanding DNA of Council".
- Collected over 500 Boxes of Joy along with monetary donations.
- Sold tickets to the Italian Heritage Festival where part of the ticket proceeds was given to John Paul II Catholic High School for scholarships. Raised over \$800.
- Collected items for the Treat the Troops Military Christmas Packages. Items such as treats, pocket games, notes of were collected and monetary donations were also given for postage. These packages went to military members all over the world.
- Prayed the Rosary even in many languages.
- Continued to be involved in various ministries such as Eucharistic Adorers, Eucharistic Ministers, Religious Education teachers, lectors, ushers, greeters, and choir members.
- Encouraged members to sign up for email notifications from the SC Catholic Conference.
- Encouraged all members to attend Catholic Women's Legislative Day at the Capitol to be held on Feb. 28 at 10:00 a.m.
- Continued to be involved with many charitable organizations such as Mercy Missions, St. Francis Center, Pregnancy Center of the Lowcountry and various nursing homes.

AFFILIATE YEAR-END REPORTS



St. Anthony's Catholic Women's Club

All Reports Submitted by Carol Farrari

Church Committee Activities - Spirituality

- Organized Mary's Way of the Cross during Lent.
 - Invited all parishioners to participate in Coast-to-Coast Rosary in October. We prayed in five languages reflecting the cultures of our parishioners: English, Spanish, Tagalog, Tamil, and Mandarin.
 - Sponsored Masses for Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Grandparents' Day to honor and remember our parents and grandparents.
 - Six of our members (out of ten) served as lectors and Eucharistic Ministers: One is the sacristan for the parish and schedules lectors and Eucharistic ministers, and one is the organist for our church.
 - Purchased silk altar flowers for our church, as our pastor has allergies to fresh flowers.
 - Each Mothers' Day, Fathers' Day, and Grandparents' Day we post a large poster on the altar with the names of family members that submitted a donation for altar flowers in the name of a loved one. One poster honored the living and one poster remember the deceased.
 - For Grandparents' Day we handed out prayer cards with a Grandparents Prayer.
 - First Communion children received a children's bible and a Rosary, and we had a reception for them after Mass.

Church Activity of Greatest Impact

Our Coast-to-Coast Rosary was held at 1:00 pm on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary and was prayed in five languages reflecting the cultures of our parishioners: Spanish, Tagalog, Tamil, Mandarin, and English.

Organization Committee Activities - Leadership

- We celebrated each member's birthday at our monthly meetings.
- Our club had a Christmas Party hosted by Sue Stokes at her home and exchanged Secret Santa gifts.

Organization Activity of Greatest Impact

We really enjoyed the camaraderie at our Christmas party.

Community Committee Activities - Service

- Made desserts for the Fish Fry sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.
- Donated tickets to the Italian Festival in Hilton Head.
- Donated to Treat the Troops for postage.
- Filled 10 boxes for Boxes of Joy.
- Enlisted parishioners to sign Christmas cards for residents of three nursing homes. Over 300 cards were delivered.

- Donated supplies for a coffee cart for the Pruitt Nursing home for Christmas.
- Donated a picnic table with umbrella and four chairs to Magnolia Nursing Home for their patio for Christmas.

Community Activity of Greatest Impact

Our Christmas gift program to the nursing homes was a community effort and has been going on our parish for over thirty years. The response to the “Angel Tree” collection is heartwarming.



St. Gregory the Great Council of Catholic Women

All Reports Submitted by Nancy Kuykendall

Church Committee Activities - Spirituality

- Took a trip to visit St. Clare of Assisi church, the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, and the Pastoral Center.
- Walking with Purpose Bible Study.
- May Crowning, announcing our Catholic Woman of the Year.
- Day of Reflection led by Sr. Pamela Smith.
- Monsignor Cellini spoke on the history of St. Andrew, St. Gregory, and the Great churches.
- Stations of the Cross Through Mary's Eyes.
- Participated in Adoration.
- Attended SCCCW Convention and Deanery Meetings.
- Served as Eucharistic Ministers, lectors, ushers, and greeters.
- Sang in the choir and at funerals.
- Participated on Deanery and SCCCW Boards.
- Helped with Youth Ministry, Bible Camp, and St. Gregory the Great Catholic School.
- Took Communion to the homebound.
- Participated in Christ Renews His Parish.
- Participated in the Living Rosary.
- Prayed for the intentions of our members.
- Many are Associates of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius.
- Selected and honored a Catholic Woman of the Year.

Church Activity of Greatest Impact-

Road Trip! Our founding Pastor, H. Gregory West, founded a church on Daniel Island. We offered a bus trip to Charleston to visit the church. Father West presented some history of how Saint Clare of Assisi was built and some of the many miracles that happened along the way. We had our own miracle while at the church! We then stopped at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist for Mass and

a self-guided tour. Then, off we went to the Pastoral Center for a tour and lunch. It was a wonderful day filled with the Holy Spirit!

Legislative Committee Activities - *Spirituality*

- Michael Acquilano spoke to us about pro-Catholic legislation in Columbia.
- One of our members serves on the SCCCW Resolutions Convention Committee.

Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact - *Spirituality*

Michael Acquilano! It is always a delight to have Michael speak to our group. We had almost 100 women who came for wine and appetizers to kick off our program year. Michael spoke to us about the bills that were being considered in the legislature now and how we could help. We were given the South Carolina Catholic Conference website address so we can sign up for updates and ways to contact our legislators. He said that communicating with our legislators is especially important because they don't hear from many people.

The website makes it quite easy to send them a message. Since Michael is now in a new position working for the Bishop of Charleston, one of our members bought bee pins for everyone so we will remember to be bizzzzzy for the Lord! Michael also encouraged us to attend Catholic Women's Legislative Day at the State Capitol.

Organization Committee Activities - *Leadership*

- Updated our Membership Booklet.
- Updated our Core Group Binders with any changes in personal information.
- Added the new Save the Date pages.
- Sent information to members through Flocknote and the church bulletin.
- Provided for Core Group Members permanent name tags that identified members as individuals who one can go to for an answer to a question.

Organization Activity of Greatest Impact

Both our Core Group Binders and Member Booklet are a great sources of information contained in one place. They contain the prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel, save the date pages containing future events, the description of our affiliate, deanery, and SCCCW, volunteer opportunities, who to contact to get involved, list of officers of our affiliate, Core Group Directory, explanation of the Commission System, mission statement, vision, document, "What does Council do for me?", By-Laws, and a "Making the Connection" chart.

Membership Committee Activities - *Leadership*

- We made personal calls to members who did not renew their membership.
- At each meeting we asked for volunteers to help with future meetings.
- At the end of each meeting, we asked for intentions and then prayed for them.

- At each meeting we introduced new people.
- Had two evening meetings so people who work could attend.
- Had greeters to help people as they came in and if they were alone helped them find a spot to sit and introduced them to the others around them.

Membership Activity of Greatest Impact

Our greeters were friendly and smiling! They greeted each person who came in, and if they need to drop something off, took the item or showed where it should go. They also asked if they were looking for someone and helped them find them. If they were alone, led them to a friendly person or table and introduced them. They pointed out the refreshment table and offered to get them a drink. Our greeters will do anything a good hostess would do to make our members feel included and wanted.

Public Relations Committee Activities - Leadership

- All notices of upcoming meetings, pictures of presentations, announcements, and such were publicized in the weekly bulletin.
- Our greeters help to show the friendliness of our group.
- One of our members created a flyer which is located on the Welcome Table before each Mass. It told about our affiliate and encouraged women to join us.
- Flocknote was used to inform our membership about other opportunities that enhance our mission.

Public Relations Activity of Greatest Impact

The council placed a flyer at the Welcome Table outside the church before each Mass. It is a 9x11 sheet of paper folded in half. On the cover was our name, logo, and the words Spirituality, Leadership and Service. The inside on the left side was our mission statement, what we do at our meetings, a welcome sentence, and who to contact. On the right inside was a picture of our Lady of Good Counsel and our affiliated organizations: Deanery, Diocese and National. On the back cover were Beatitudes for Women.

Community Committee Activities - Service

- We presented SGG Catholic School and JPPI Catholic Junior High and High School with checks of \$3,000 each for their Scholarship Fund.
- Sister Canice Adams spoke to us about what they do at the Saint Francis Center for the needy of Beaufort County and what we can do to help.
- Giving Tree: Our members organized, promoted set up and collected toys at Christmas for needy children served by the Saint Francis Center. Over 1,000 toys were donated.
- Angel Tree: Our members selected ornaments with a child's name and Christmas wishes on them. They brought the gift to the Christmas Luncheon where women from the Pregnancy Center and Clinic of the Lowcountry spoke about their mission and collected the gifts.
- Provided meals for Family Promise.

- Collected non-perishable food for Mercy Mission and Saint Francis Center.
- Volunteered at Mercy Mission and Saint Francis Center.
- Organized a fashion show and game day that brought guests in to share our hospitality.
- Some members have joined *Catholics for the Common Good* and have participated in social justice events.
- Members helped with funeral hospitality.
- Members responded to needs from the Pregnancy Center and Savannah Care Center for babies and moms in need such as Christmas stockings, Easter baskets, diapers, wipes onesies, and other items.

Community Activity of Greatest

The focus this year was on raising money for scholarships for our two schools. Money was set aside if a profit was made on an event and combined with donated funds. We presented the principals of both schools with checks for \$3,000! One of our members started a foundation to make Catholic education affordable for all Catholic families who desire it.

International Committee Activities - Service

- Boxes of Joy.
- Drop off point for Boxes of Joy.

International Activity of Greatest Impact

A presentation on Boxes of Joy was made to the women in our council and the students at St. Gregory the Great. We explained what kinds of things should go in the boxes and things should not go in the boxes, and why. We discussed where the boxes would be going and why we put a tennis ball in each box. This year we collected 180 boxes from Saint Gregory the Great and sent 30 cartons of 18 boxes each from our drop off point. This project helped students to understand that there are children in other parts of the world who are much less fortunate.



Women of St. Francis

All Reports Submitted by Rosa Miriello

Church Committee Activities - Spirituality

- **First Saturday Devotion.** On the first Saturday of every month prior to Mass a group meets at 7:50 am for devotional prayer.

- **Rosary Rally for America Needs Fatima.** Msgr. M. Laughlin along with 20 WOSF members and parishioners held the Rosary Rally for America Needs Fatima on a cold windy day in front of our church.
- **Stations of the Cross for Victims of Abortion.** Rosary was prayed outside by our Stations of the Cross after 8:30am Mass. This concluded our Respect Life Month events.
- **Advent Day of Reflection.** One day of reflection with guest speaker Sonja Corbitt. Ms. Corbitt is an extremely popular podcaster with a large following on her podcast *Bible Study Evangelista*. There were over 100 attendees at this much advertised and well-received event.

Church Activity of Greatest Impact

Advent Day of Reflection was the most impactful event. The day began with 8:30 Mass followed by continental breakfast. Ms. Corbitt spoke on several topics starting at 9:30 am until we broke for a buffet luncheon. Ms. Corbitt took to the podium at 1:30 pm and concluded her discussion topic with a Q&A session and a book signing, ending the day at 4:00 pm. It was a well-received event with many people lingering to talk to Ms. Corbitt well past her time to leave.

Legislative Committee Activities - *Spirituality*

- **The Respect Life Committee** participated in the Baby Bottle Blessings campaign and raised \$16,000, an increase from the initial campaign held last year. Brochures were handed out to parishioners for educational purposes about the *Respect Life* campaign.
- **Rally for Life** was held on Hilton Head Island at Highway 278 in front of St Francis Thrift Shop. It was a friendly, peaceful, prayerful outdoor gathering in support of the sanctity of life. It was a very visible display of support for life.

Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact

Rally for Life meant the most to our affiliates. This event was held Sunday, January 14, from 2:00 - 3:00 pm right in front of a busy road, Highway 278. The group was very visible with clear, easy-to-read signs that were quickly identified. We had a large crowd of adults, teenagers and small children which made it a real family affair.

Membership Committee Activities - *Leadership*

- **Parish Ministry Fair.** Members participated in our parish ministry fair to inform our parishioners about our organization and to recruit new members.
- **Fellowship Sunday.** The WOSF was the featured organization and used this great opportunity to recruit and share information on not only our organization, but also the Beaufort Deanery, SCCCW and NCCW.
- **Registration.** The committee advertised in the church bulletin, on Flocknote, and on our webpage to alert members and new potential members of the upcoming registration for our organization. As of this writing there are 218 registered members.

- **Welcome Coffee.** Two welcome coffee events were held during the year for potential new members. They met our board and ministry chairs who explained their roles in our organization.

Membership Activity of Greatest Impact

The greatest impact on our affiliate was **the Parish Ministry Fair**. We attracted a great deal of attention with our posters, informational materials, and a beautiful new tablecloth with our logo prominently displayed. We received many compliments and were successful in recruiting new members and highlighting our work. The people were amazed at how many ministries we have within the WOSF organization and their positive impact on our church and our community.

Public Relations Committee Activities - *Leadership*

- **Monthly General Meetings.** The Leadership Chair reported on all Beaufort Deanery meetings as well as state and national information from the SCCCW and NCCN.
- **The Recording and Corresponding Secretary** handled information weekly through Flocknote, distributed minutes of meeting, and updated the WOSF webpage.

Public Relations Activity of Greatest Impact

(Not provided.)

Community Committee Activities - *Service*

- **The Elderly Outreach Ministry** provided monthly birthday celebrations for the residents with cake and ice cream. We also hosted Bingo on Wednesday and awarded small prizes to the winners. We introduced a new game program called “Getting to know you; A stroll Down Memory Lane” with lemonade and cookies. This Christmas we gave everyone new lap blankets. Last spring we cleaned their back garden, planted flowers, and outfitted them with patio furniture donated by Vacation Rentals.
- **The Collection Ministry** held two large donation drives with the whole parish for individuals in the military this November and December. Throughout the year we continued to have collections at our monthly general meetings. We also had a blanket collection for the military personnel this past spring. Operation Morale Support is an organization that picks up our collections and delivers or mails to the different military bases.
- **Fashion Show.** Our 18th Annual Fashion Show/Luncheon was held this year on December 5. Over 300 people attended and participated in a variety of fundraising activities to raise a total of \$35,000. Over 36 area business sponsors and 120 donors generously supported our event.



Community Activity of Greatest Impact

The **Elderly Outreach Ministry** has done wonderful things these last two years. They brought joy to a much-needed group, the elderly who are nursing home residents. The facility went through many Activities Directors who gave no real direction or importance to our mission. Our ministry brought birthday celebrations, bingo, a stroll down memory lane, a Christmas party, and fun and excitement to a group of elderly people who desperately needed to be thought of and recognized. It is a most rewarding site to see someone who never smiled begin to break into a wide grin. I would say that this had a huge, positive impact on both our members and the elderly in the nursing home.

Family Committee Activities- Service

- **Students of Family Faith Formation (SFFF).** We held a Christmas Party for approximately 116 students and their parents with desserts and goodies while waiting for Santa to arrive. Santa brought small presents and posed for pictures with the children and their parents.
- **Mentorship.** We partnered with a third-grade class at St. Francis by the Sea Catholic School by providing mentorship, reading books, and simple cooking demonstrations to our adopted third grade class. We collaborated with the class-mothers to help out in any way possible within the class.
- **Soup for Scholarships.** This fundraiser is held every year on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. All parishioners could purchase tickets to enjoy an evening of soup tasting with over 35 soups made by the WOSF. Last year we gave out \$10,000 in scholarships to 10 lucky St. Francis students. Our objective this February is to achieve an even higher goal.

Family Activity of Greatest Impact

The program **Students of Family Faith Formation (SFFF)** had a significant impact. We invited both parents and children of the SFFF program to a Christmas celebration. There was a slideshow of their past activities, music, games, and sweets for everyone. An award ceremony was also held to highlight the achievements of the children. The much-awaited arrival of Santa brought joy and excitement to the festivities. Individual and family pictures with Santa sitting on his big chair were a highlight of the day and put everyone in the Christmas spirit.

International Committee Activities - Service

- **Sewing Ministry.** WOSF adopted 20 different orphanages in Venezuela. They provide dresses, blankets, hygiene napkin kits, and hats all sewn by our members. Also, collections were made for shoes, toiletries, sheets, medicines, and canned goods. These items were shipped directly to our contact in Venezuela who distributed them directly to the orphanages in need. This group was awarded the William F. Pentis award last year for their unbelievable

effort in producing and distributing so much that was so desperately needed by an international community.

- **Box of Joy Initiative**. WOSF launched the Box of Joy program provided by Cross Catholic Outreach and recommended by the NCCCW. We committed 300 Christmas gift shoeboxes that would be sent to impoverished children in Latin America.

International Activity of Greatest Impact

This first-time program was launched on September 10 and concluded on October 25. We committed to filling 300 shoeboxes of appropriate toys, school supplies and other welcome gifts for impoverished children in Latin America. We involved the entire parish by advertising the event with posters, flyers, and church bulletins. We set up our stand in front of church, ready for the weekend Masses where parishioners could purchase a shoebox for \$20. The response was overwhelming, and we soon had sold all 300 boxes. We ended up filling 302 with stuffed animals, crayons, colorful drinking cup w/straw, hack-y-sack ball, stickers, writing pad, toothpaste, toothbrush, jump rope, sunglasses, candy bandana, and a Christmas note from all of us. The Sewing Ministry made over 300 colorful bandanas to include in the boxes. We gave Cross Catholic Outreach not only the boxes but a check for \$2,718 collected during the project.



Women of St. James the Greater

All Reports Submitted by Rosemarie Kovarcik

Church Committee Activities - Spirituality

- Held a Thanksgiving dinner with St. Anthony's in Waltherboro.
- Hosted a brunch after Mass on the first Sunday of the month.

Church Activity of Greatest Impact

(Not provided)

Community Committee Activities - Service

Volunteered to assist at Colleton County High School in many ways and provided assistance and aided in safety needs. It helped with absenteeism and discipline.

Community Activity of Greatest Impact

Answered the call when asked to assist at the high school.

Family Committee Activities - Service

- Conducted an Easter Egg Hunt for the children of the parish. Bags of goodies were distributed.
- Provided a dinner for fathers in the parish on Father's Day. Gifted each father with a gas card.
- Held a Sneakers Ball. Attendees wore a gown or suit with sneakers.
- Provided a repast for the families of deceased members of the parish after the funeral services.

Family Activity of Greatest Impact

The Father's Day dinner. It has become an annual event.



1933 Apparition
Beauraing, Belgium

The Lady With the Golden Heart

*"I am the Immaculate Virgin." "I will convert sinners."
"I am the Mother of God, Queen of Heaven. Pray always."*

CHARLESTON DEANERY

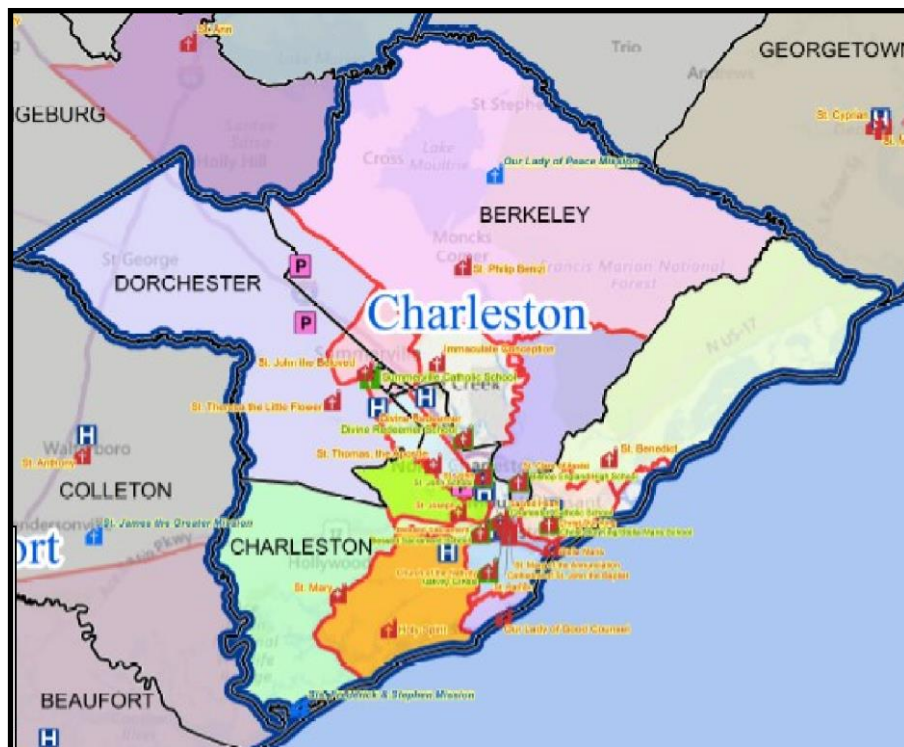
Marcella Holmes, Deanery President

Affiliates

St. Patrick Women's Guild

St. Patrick Catholic Church, Charleston

Kimberly Jones-White, President



2023 Year-End Report of the CHARLESTON DEANERY PRESIDENT

Marcella Homes

The Charleston Deanery Year End Report 2023

The Charleston Deanery is composed of 1 affiliate and 10 SCCCW Individual Members. Three deanery meetings were held this year. We were small in number but were busy and focused on the job and tasks that we adopted as a unit. As there is only 1 affiliate in the deanery, all the activities performed were done in conjunction with St. Patrick.

- Planning began for our first Champagne Brunch which was to include all the parishes in our local area. This was our tool for recruiting new members.
- On October 1, we hosted our first annual Brunch and Bubbles. We invited approximately 25 parishes and had 15 parishes represented. Since the Brunch, we are in the process of hopefully bringing in 2 new affiliates.
- The ladies of The Charleston Deanery and St. Patrick Women's Guild participated in church and community activities.
 - A new project called Period Pixies was adopted. Feminine hygiene products were collected and donated to schools in our area.
 - The Family commission served a continental breakfast for the staff and teachers at Sanders Clyde Elementary School during teacher's appreciation week as a part of our community outreach. We also sponsored 4 children from Sander's Clyde Elementary School to attend a 2-week camp at the South Carolina State University 1890 Research Extension Program.
 - Meals were served at different times during the year to the Hope Center patients receiving Cancer treatment at MUSC and their families.
 - We continued to support Ms. Bing by providing cleaning supplies.
 - We actively supported The Navigation Center with clothing and donations and provided 100 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to help with feeding the homeless population.
 - We participated in the Box of Joy project, processed 159 boxes, and served as a distribution center for the project.
 - The women of the St. Patrick adopted a program called "I Am Voices". It helped girls by these young women become independent.
 - The Deanery and St Patrick Women's Guild were grateful to share in the 100th birthday celebration for Ms. Amelia Taylor, our oldest member.
 - St. Patrick sponsored a fall retreat entitled "Something about Mary". It was very well attended.
 - The International Committee focused on **African Education Outreach, AEO**. Financial support was provided by the Guild and St. Patrick Church family. This outreach mission educates African children to improve their lives and communities by building a school. Father Obinna John Bosco Ikemeh, OP provided a video

presentation and shared details of building an educational campus for the Karis Dominican Academy in Abakaliki, Nigeria. Future plans include building a school chapel, administrative office building, sport fields, rectory, convent, and boarding facilities. A reception meal was also provided by the Saint Patrick Women's Guild for those in attendance. Several members of the Saint Patrick Women's Guild made personal monetary donations to this cause.

AFFILIATE YEAR-END REPORTS



St. Patrick Women's Guild

Church Committee Activities - Spirituality

Report Submitted by Beverly Buford ad Marcella Holmes

- We hosted our 46th Annual Tea. Our theme was “thank you for your service, honoring our sisters in Christ”.
- We had a retreat on September 9, 2023, with Deacon John Breeden as our moderator. The title was “Something About Mary”. A total of 50 were in attendance.
- As the project coordinator for Boxes of Joy, we collected a total of 150 boxes.

Church Activity of Greatest Impact

The activity that made the most impact was the retreat titled “Something About Mary”. A total of 52 attended. We enjoyed fellowship, broke out in groups, answered questions, and reflected on what the role Mother Mary meant to us as parents. Her love for her Son was so intense. Mother Mary did what her Son requested of her. This retreat brought people together following the separation due to COVID. We left the retreat feeling a renewed commitment to go out and spread the ‘Good News’ of Jesus Christ’s love for us and to know that the road is not without trials and problems.

Legislative Committee Activities – Spirituality

Report Submitted by Norma Davis & Patricia Mack

- During 2023 this committee continued in the quest for justice in the Charleston community. Our chairpersons continued to encourage Guild members to join the Charleston Area Justice Ministry (CAJM). We succeeded in getting several Guild members to become members. The areas that we were most concerned about were education, healthcare, housing, and the environmental impact of flooding that is worsening with climate change. The year brought

about commitments from county council, city council members, our new mayor, Son Secours St. Francis Hospital, and school officials to continue to address these concerns.

- The Legislative Commission made available and displayed voting and voter registration information to the parish in November. The 2023 End of Session Legislative Update was shared with the membership. Several bills have been passed that will make our state a better place to live and work, such as H3908 Paid Family leave, H3583 Sexual Extortion, and S284 Development of Workforce Housing.
- The membership was given the website, sccatholicconference.org, for a listing of the priorities for the 2023 legislative session.

Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact

(Not provided.)

Organization Committee Activities – Leadership

Report submitted by Kimberly Jones-White

- Facilitated training session for completing Affiliate Year-End Reports.
- Facilitated a tutorial on all levels of Council.
- Provided members with revised 2024 Directory.
- Provided Guild documents to new members that included the affiliate Bylaws, Directory, Commission descriptions, and Deanery Bylaws.
- Scheduled Zoom meetings when requested.
- Forwarded all correspondence and articles received from SCCCW and NCCW to members.

Organization Activity of Greatest Impact

The Leadership Commission co-chairs facilitated a training session on completing end of the year commission/committee reports. Providing this information and training aided the members of St. Patrick Women's Guild in preparing reports pursuant to guidelines.

Community Committee Activities – Service

Report Submitted by Veronica McDaniel and Francena Rogers

- The Community Committee conducted a drive to collect feminine supplies for “The Lowcountry Period Pixie Project”. This organization collected donations of individually wrapped feminine hygiene products which were then packaged and distributed to schools and homeless shelters and given to underprivileged female students and adults in the Tri-County (Charleston, Berkely and Dorchester) areas. The drive was conducted from July 15-30, 2023. A large, decorated box was placed in the Lower Church and the entire parish was invited to participate in this most worthy cause. The response



from the Guild members and parishioners resulted in an abundance of feminine products. We delivered three 64-gallon bags of products to the project coordinator on September 15, 2023.

- Foster Care for Males and Females. The St. Patrick Women's Guild assisted Mrs. Claudia Bing during the month of December with donations of much needed supplies of household items, cleaning supplies, and other items needed for the five to six residents in her care. The Guild has done this for a number of years. This year we presented her with a monetary donation of \$250.00, groceries, and a bouquet of flowers. She is a senior citizen and is always gracious and thankful for the donations.



Community Activity of Greatest Impact (Not Provided)

Family Committee Activities - Service

Report Submitted by Deborah Joseph and Daisey Ferrette

- Served as host for the 100th birthday party of one of the senior members of the Guild. A beautiful surprise birthday dinner was provided by her family and was organized and coordinated by the Family Committee. It was held in the Parish Center.
- We put together food baskets to be taken to the needy families. This was during the holiday timeline when families were most vulnerable. This let families know that we were present to help and assist. No one should feel alone.
- Assisted in organizing a birthday celebration for a community member who celebrated her 103rd birthday.
- Provided support to Sanders Clyde Elementary School, a neighborhood school in the City of Charleston, by providing breakfast for the teachers and staff (75 people) during Teacher Appreciation Week. The staff greatly appreciated our expression of gratitude by this donation on behalf of the students and their families.
- Student Support: The Family Committee sponsored four students from Sanders Clyde Elementary school to attend a two-week summer camp at the SC State University 1890 Research and Extension Program in Charleston, SC.
- Religious Education: The Family Co-Chair served as one of the teachers for the First Communion Class of 12 young students at St. Patrick's Catholic Church.
- Provided a successful move for two church members to a new home in the community.
- Provided Christmas gift bags consisting of fruits, cookies, and candy for 10 senior residents of a local nursing home.

Family Activity of Greatest Impact

The activity that had the most impact on our affiliate and had a most memorable impact on our parish community was the hosting of the 100th birthday celebration for one of members on February 5, 2023. It was a surprise affair attended by 20 or more family members from out of state and many church members. Due to COVID regulations, the number of attendees had to be limited.

The honoree received many well wishes, flowers, congratulations, a Papal Blessing from Pope Francis, and proclamations from the Mayor of Charleston, State and Federal officials, and our Most Reverent Jacques Fabre-Jeune, Bishop of the Diocese of Charleston. The honoree was totally surprised by the affair.

International Committee Activities – Service
Report Submitted by Wilhelmina Holmes-Jones

- **Box of Joy - Cross Catholic Outreach.** Again, this past year the Saint Patrick Women's Guild participated in this international gift giving program for children living in over thirty property-stricken countries like Malawi, Dominican Republic, Haiti, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua. The members of our Guild and parishioners of Saint Patrick donated shoe-size boxes filled with small toys, clothing, school supplies, hygiene items, and nine dollars per box to help with the shipping cost. Cross Catholic Outreach added the Story of Jesus and a rosary to each box. By participating in this cause yearly we show our love of Christ, and we practice our Catholic social teachings. A \$250.00 donation was made to Cross Catholic Outreach.
- **African Education Outreach (AEO).** The focus of Outreach mission is to build a school so that African children can be educated and can improve their lives and communities. Father Obinna John Bosco Ikemeh, OP, provided a video presentation and shared details of building an educational campus for the Karis Dominican Academy in Abakaliki, Nigeria. Future plans include building a school chapel, administrative office building, sport fields, rectory, convent, and boarding facilities. A reception meal was also provided by the Saint Patrick Women's Guild for those in attendance. Several members of the Saint Patrick Women's Guild made personal monetary donations to this cause.

International Activity of Greatest Impact
(Not provided.)



1859 Champion, Wisconsin
Our Lady of Good Help or Our Lady of Champion
The Only Approved Marian Apparition in the US
*"gather the children in this wild country and teach them
what they should know for salvation."*

COLUMBIA DEANERY

Deanery President, Gwen Skipper

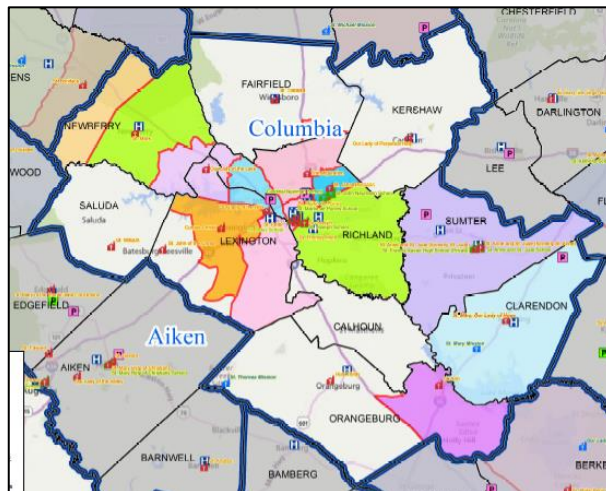
Affiliates

Corpus Christi Catholic Women's Group
Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Lexington
Bernadette Stellabotte, President

St. Joseph Women's Society
St. Joseph Catholic Church, Columbia
Julie Rotureau, President

St. Martin de Porres Rosary Alter Society
St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church, Columbia
Malorie Harrison, President

Women in God's Service (WinGs)
Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, Chapin
Suzy Howell, President



2023 Year-End Report of the COLUMBIA DEANERY PRESIDENT

By Gwen Skipper

The Columbia Deanery has four active affiliates and no individual deanery members. The total number of Deanery affiliate members is 158 and there are 14 SCCCW Individual Members. Corpus Christi Catholic Women's Council has 15 members. St. Joseph Women's Society has 86 members. Our Lady of the Lake, Women in God's Service (WinGs) has 33 members. St. Martin de Porres, Rosary Altar Society (RAS) has 24 members.

The affiliates came together for Deanery wide meetings three times during the year: winter in January, spring in May, and fall in September. The location of each meeting rotated among the affiliates. The hosting affiliate provided lunch and selected an outreach project for all affiliates to embrace.

Deanery Projects follow.

- The project chosen by Corpus Christi for the winter meeting was Corpus Christi Assistance Ministry which provided emergency food and financial assistants to residents of Lexington, South Carolina.
- The fall meeting was hosted by St. Martin RAS. They chose to support Daybreak Lifecare Center, that supports mothers who choose life for their babies.
- Speakers were invited to deanery meetings to make our members aware of ministry needs and opportunities:
 - In January Teresa Maybay, Nikki Grimball, and Sr. Angelita Vazzano spoke to us on the missions of Catholic Charities of the Midlands. They offer a clothing closet, showers, laundry, a prison ministry, and assistance to clients in getting re-established.
 - In May the deanery meeting format changed to a daylong retreat themed "Living the Goodness of God as We Serve". Deacon Malcolm Skipper gave the group an inspiring talk on servanthood based on Luke 9:7-62.
- At each meeting, the affiliate presidents shared the various activities of their affiliates.
- At each of the meetings the Deanery Commission Chairs presented information relating to the various commissions.
 - Leadership. Thesa Briggs surveyed attendees on leadership areas they would like explored. The highest interest was in defining the requirements of planning an event. An event planning outline was presented at the May retreat.
 - Spirituality. Mary Lees and Cheryl Stetar opened each meeting with a prayer and presented many prayer opportunities such as Novenas sponsored by USCCB, online programs "Into Life—Love", "Walking with Moms in Need", praying the Rosary, and participating in adoration of the Eucharist.
 - Service. Delores Gillard and Juanita Henry kept the membership aware of the National and State recommended projects, Boxes of Joy, Seafarer's Ministry, and Walking with Mom's in Need.
- The affiliates each worked on these initiatives as they fit the wishes of their organization.

- Three affiliates provided “Boxes of Joy”, one worked on Seafarer’s Ministry, and all four supported Walking with Mom’s in need.
- At the September meeting, all of the commissions invited discussion on the roles of their commission in the Council of Catholic Women. Special emphasis was placed on the importance of leadership at all levels of the council. Experienced leaders weighed in on the duties of each office and key resources to jump start new officers and leaders.
- The May retreat was a great day for praying, planning and team building. That day prepared us for the planning and preparation of the 2024 SCCCW convention. The Columbia team had a great leadership team for their term of office, 2022-2024.
- Board members are Martha Becht-Secretary, Brenda Peters-Treasurer, Yvonne Pygatt-Past President, Mary Sue Barnum- Parliamentarian, Delores Gillard and Juanita Henry- Co-Chairs Service, Mary Lees and Cheryll Stetar-Co-Chairs Spirituality, and Thesa Briggs-Leadership.

AFFILIATE YEAR-END REPORTS



Corpus Christi Catholic Women’s Group

All Reports Submitted by Gwen Skipper

Church Activities - Spirituality

- For newly baptized children in our parish, we provided a beautiful, embroidered Baptism garment and card to support and recognize the celebration of this sacrament.
- Members attending the 2023 SCCCW Convention had their expenses supported via \$1,000 raised at an annual, authentic Italian Dinner event for parish members and their guests. These members were able to experience spirituality, service, and leadership first-hand at the convention! At the dinner, parishioners enjoyed fellowship while members and parish youth served them in the parish hall. This annual event is a large undertaking for a committee but with a tremendous turnout!
- Support for purchase of a traveling Mass kit for our parish priest, Father Joseph Romanoski, was made possible due to funds raised from a bake sale. Our members provided a huge variety of baked goods to parishioners for a donation of their choosing after all Masses one weekend in the fall. This kit will allow Father to easily celebrate Mass anytime and anywhere!
- After our summer hiatus, new and existing members and interested women of the parish were warmly welcomed with a special wine and cheese reception at our August meeting. Several of the Knights of Columbus were recruited, and donned their black-tie attire, to serve the ladies humbly and honorably. All women of the parish were invited by way of an invitation handed out after all Masses by members a few weeks prior.
- Our Outreach program supported parish members who were going through hardship and/or struggling with health issues, either personally or with family members. They are prayed for and contacted through our Outreach program by our members. A different member was

responsible each month to express care, concern, and sympathy via a phone call, greeting card, Mass card, and such.

- Members were invited and encouraged to submit prayer requests at the beginning of each council meeting in writing. The secretary verbally shared the prayer requests, and our group then prayed the Hail Mary together for the requests. Members could also submit prayer requests outside of meetings and have them shared via email with the membership.
- Parishioners were recognized with a spiritual gift after the sacrament of the first holy Communion and/or Confirmation. Near the end of Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program, the participants and their sponsors were gifted with a light meal and a hand crocheted pocket prayer square that one of our members made as a celebratory memento.

Church Activity of Greatest Impact

The money raised from a bake sale was used to purchase of a traveling Mass kit for our parish priest, Father Joseph Romanoski. Our members provided a huge variety of baked goods to parishioners for a donation of their choosing after all Masses one weekend in the fall. This kit allows Father to easily celebrate Mass anytime and anywhere!

Organization Activities - Leadership

- Members attending the 2023 SCCCW Convention had their expenses supported via \$1,000 raised at an annual, authentic Italian Dinner event for parish members and their guests. These members were able to experience spirituality, service, and leadership firsthand at the convention! At the dinner, parishioners enjoyed fellowship while members and parish youth served them in the Parish Hall. This annual event was a large undertaking for a committee but with a tremendous turnout!
- Improvements to our monthly meeting structure provided members with opportunities to learn and connect. In addition to the regular 30-minute social time prior to each meeting, a short break was added mid-meeting that allowed members to interact, sign up for committees or events, ask questions of event chairpersons, and connect with a friend or new acquaintance. The majority of members used this time as designed! Also, large name color-coded tents were provided to each member to use at her seat for easy identification of new members. Contact information was included on meeting agendas for the person who was responsible for Outreach for the current month to allow any member to easily request outreach for someone in need.
- Several times throughout the year speakers were invited to our monthly meetings to inform, educate, and provide awareness of services and volunteer opportunities in our community. In 2023, the following women presented to our members:
 - Director of Development of the Dickerson Children's Advocacy Center.
 - President of the Columbia Deanery of SCCCW.
 - Lexington Citizens for Life.
 - Executive Director of Birthright of Columbia Organization.
- Christmas Giving Tree. Our parish gave back to the community by supporting local organizations and those they serve. Our council selected one or more organizations to support. A committee is formed annually to gather the needs, create 1000 plus handwritten

gift tags with the items needed (such as clothes, toys, shoes, essentials, gift cards for gas and food, and items used for therapy), stock the tree with tags, replenish tags after each Mass for several weekends, store and organize the collected items, shop for items where tags were not selected, and finally package and deliver the gifts just before Christmas. The labor of love made a difference for the recipients in providing items that many of us take for granted or can easily attain.

- For 2023, supported the Dickerson Children's Advocacy Center whose mission was to provide comprehensive assessment and treatment services to abused children in the Midlands area. This center has created a safe place for child abuse victims to share their trauma and to receive specialized therapy to provide nurture healing to mitigate the life-altering effect of abuse and trauma. Child maltreatment is comprised of all forms of abuse, neglect, trafficking, and exposure to or witnessing violence or illicit drug activity.
- Samaritan's Well was also supported this year. This local transitional shelter for homeless women and children provides them with the hope to live a purpose-driven, empowering life. They focus on personal, professional, financial education, and health and wellness development. Information on these organizations was shared with parishioners to inform and educate through pulpit announcements, the parish bulletin, and with an ornament flier on the Giving Tree in the church vestibule.

Organization Activity of Greatest Impact

The Christmas Giving Tree.

Community Activities - Service

- The Sistercare organization in the Midlands of South Carolina was supported financially with funds from our spring Bake Sale. Sistercare is a non-profit, United Way partner agency who mission is to provide trauma-informed services to advocate for domestic violence survivors and their children, and to promote prevention of domestic violence through community awareness and training. Our members provided a huge variety of baked goods to parishioners for a donation of their choosing after all Masses one weekend in the spring.
- Support for Catholic Charities of the Midlands was made possible due to funds raised from our fall bake sale. Our members provided a huge variety of baked goods to parishioners for a donation of their choosing after all Masses one weekend in the fall.
- The annual Christmas Giving Tree, organized and sponsored by our council, allowed our parish to support two local organizations that served many in need by providing clothing, toys, and basic essentials needed for services and direct support of those being served. The Dickerson Children's Advocacy Center is a child-focused facility that provides therapeutic and investigative services to physically and sexually abused children and their non-abusive family members. The Samaritan's Well is a transitional shelter for homeless women and children that teaches valuable life skills and lovingly provides guidance to independence. Information on these organizations was shared with parishioners to inform and educate

through pulpit announcements, parish bulletin, and on the Giving Tree in the church vestibule.

- A printed booklet for new and existing members was created by a committee of members to share who we are and what we do in a concise manner for easy reference. Information includes officers and their responsibilities, mission and goals, monthly meeting structure, activities, and committees, SCCCW and Deanery information, and Prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel.
- Support for our Parish Assistance Ministry occurs every meeting with collection of non-perishable food items, paper goods, laundry detergent and more. The meeting agenda included a friendly reminder to members. This Ministry provided services to many from our community each month.
- Our monthly meetings included speakers several times throughout the year to inform, educate and provide awareness of services and volunteer opportunities in the community. In 2023, the following women presented to our members:
 - Director of Development of the Dickerson Children's Advocacy Center.
 - President of the Columbia Deanery of SCCCW.
 - Lexington Citizens for Life.
 - Executive Director of Birthright of Columbia.

Community Activity of Greatest Impact

The annual Christmas Giving Tree, organized and sponsored by our council, allowed our parish to support two local organizations who serve many in need by providing clothing, toys, and basic essentials needed for services and direct support of those being served. The Dickerson Children's Advocacy Center is a child-focused facility that provides therapeutic and investigative services to physically and sexually abused children and their non-abusive family members. The Samaritan's Well is a transitional shelter for homeless women and children that teaches valuable life skills and lovingly provides guidance to independence. Information on these organizations was shared with parishioners to inform and educate through pulpit announcements, parish bulletin, and on the Giving Tree in the church vestibule.

Family Activities - Service

- The parish high school youth journeyed to Indianapolis, IN on November 15-19, 2023, to participate in the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC), a powerfully unique 3-day experience of prayer, community, evangelization, service, and catechesis. The NCYC's goal is to accompany young people while they encounter Jesus Christ in their lives and allow them to become better disciples of their faith. Our council provided financial support for this opportunity with proceeds from our annual Tea and Fashion Show. The Parish Hall was transformed into a beautiful setting with ten elaborate and unique tablescapes for guests who enjoyed a variety of fashions modeled by members while partaking of delicious food prepared and served by members.
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and investigative services to physically and sexually abused children and their non-abusive family members. The Samaritan's Well is a transitional shelter for homeless women and children that teaches valuable life skills and lovingly provides guidance to independence. Information on these organizations was shared with parishioners to inform and educate through pulpit announcements, parish bulletin, and on the Giving Tree in the church vestibule.

- Our Outreach program supports parish members who are going through hardship and/or struggling with health issues, either personally or with family members. They are prayed for and contacted through our Outreach program by our members. Each month, a different member was responsible expressing care, concern, and sympathy via a phone call, greeting card, Mass card, and such items.
- Easter was celebrated with a parish wide traditional Easter Egg Hunt held on Easter Sunday on our parish grounds to bring children and families together as they hunted for 1000+ eggs filled with individually wrapped candy.
- The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Columbia, SC was supported using \$500 of unencumbered excess funds of our council. Open since 1983, this organization's mission has been to keep families close and provide a home-like environment for families with sick children to live while their child is undergoing treatment.

Family Activity of Greatest Impact

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St. Joseph Women's Society

Church Committee Activities - Spirituality

Report Submitted by Julie Rotureau and Beverly Stricklin

- We strove to put faith into practice with our Fall Sale, "From the Divine Kitchens", as a means to pay *it forward*. Our members committed to make a wide variety of foods just before Thanksgiving. Items were made available for sale to our parishioners and others. This was a convenience for all with heavy cooking times that come around the holidays. With the proceeds of our sale, we gave back by allocating funds to the parish as a gift that was presented at our Annual Meeting, and then later for our outreach efforts. The act

of cooking provided many with much and started with our donations of time, talent and treasure.

- We wanted to increase awareness within the parish about our Seminarians and the men in the Diaconate. We invited our summer Seminarian, Daniel Perry, to be our speaker at our Annual Luncheon. With secured permission from his St. Vincent's Seminary to come to Columbia, he was able to travel to Columbia and do this. His trip also extended an opportunity to the Youth Ministry as they were able to have him spend time that weekend with the Youth Group. The Youth Ministry partnered with us in support of logistics at the Luncheon. They served as greeters, escorts for the ladies to their tables, and dessert servers. As all developed, we succeeded in structuring the luncheon fee to include a donation to the Diocese of Charleston's Vocations Office for our Seminarians greatest need.
- Also, we supported Mr. Jerry White, who is a Deaconate Candidate, and is a member of our parish with a donation directly to him for his greatest need. We understand that study books can become quite expensive.
- In support of Bereavement in the parish, we earmarked and provided funds for our Pastor to purchase a new Funeral Pall, which replaced an aged and worn one. As a result, the parish purchased a matching chasuble as well. Several of our members serve the parish at all funerals.
- Our members cleaned the church weekly and also washed and pressed the altar linens.
- Several members participated in the parish rosary making ministry. At least annually, we make a monetary gift to help defray their cost of shipping and/or to replenish the guild's supplies.
- Our members decorated the Church for Christmas and Easter. As is traditional, we also decorated a very tall Chrismon Tree. The Chrismon ornaments were made by our membership a number of years back and included a beautiful handmade tree skirt depicting the Nativity scene, also made by Claire Wagner, one of our oldest and dearest members.
- During Lent, we hosted a retreat on a Sunday afternoon, and invited the women of the parish. The retreat, led by Sr. Mary Cecile Swanton, was entitled *"Joy Comes with the Dawn: A Catholic Perspective on Suffering and Pain"*. It was well attended and enjoyed by all there.
- Also, during Lent, we took our turn and hosted the "Soup Supper" for the parish on March 31. Various meatless soups, breads and drinks were provided and served. Quite a few of our members cooked, set up, served, and cleaned up. This event follows the Stations of the Cross on each Friday during Lent.
- On May 7, we honored our Blessed Mother. We attended Mass together, and then, led by Monsignor Harris, processed to the Rose Garden for a prayer service which included the Crowning of the Statue Image of Our Lady. Our SC Catholic Woman of the Year, Martha Becht, held the honor of crowning Her. We invited all members of the parish. Approximately 100 attended, including several First Communicants.
- Our Spiritual Commission Chair taught us at every meeting and gathering. She led the opening and closing prayers. She provided specific focus on humility, with the Litany of Humility, and kept us mindful of this each time that she spoke to the Membership.
- We served the parish as Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers. We participated in Adoration and the Bereavement work, assisting Monsignor at Funeral Masses. One of our members served as Sacristan for daily Masses.

Church Activity of Greatest Impact

During one of our general meetings, discussion arose about our Seminarians in general and it focused on ways that we could support them. As a result of that discussion, the focus for the speaker for our Annual Meeting and Luncheon turned into an opportunity to offer more information to our membership, appreciation to our Seminarians, and a little financial support to the Diocesan office. This also opened the door for our future support. It was suggested that we look at creative ways to support our Seminarians. An example would be a “gift card” campaign at Christmas for these young men who are our future spiritual fathers. We also explored ways to bring in our younger women of the parish. Time schedules for these young women are more demanding than that of some of our older women.

Legislative Committee Activities - *Spirituality*

- We followed Legislative activity through the email promptings from the Diocese of Charleston. Our Legislative Committee Chair, Gwen Skipper, keeps our membership abreast of time sensitive issues and other information that comes from the Diocese.
- We participated in the Annual State House Rally and attended one Legislative session. Both were held in Columbia.

Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact

Keeping important information in front of our Membership. The Legislative information passed to us from the Diocese and via our Legislative Committee Chair was disseminated quickly to our Membership via our **Flocknote** system. It is easily shared online, both internet links as well as narrative information.

Membership Committee Activities - *Leadership*

Report Submitted by Julie Rotureau and Maria Carrero

- An event called ‘Women 2 Women’, was hosted on August 9. All women of our parish were invited to come and enjoy an evening out before the hustle and bustle of Fall activities beginning after a short and possibly lazy summer. Our Board provided refreshments and also conducted a “play money auction” for door prizes. This was all “just for fun” and for making new friends and renewing established friendships. This event, like prior years, was well attended. We hoped to introduce ourselves too and to invite new members into our Society. A prayer card, with our schedule was distributed.
- We made every possible attempt to keep our members and others who are interested informed by issuing our (almost) monthly “Mary and Martha News”. We included a welcoming letter from our President, a calendar of events, bereavement information that includes Mass dates, prayer intentions, Deanery News, and other articles submitted by our members.
- We offered a promotional type of brochure about our affiliate. This was given to new parishioners and was made available at events and meetings. The brochure included a registration form for new members.

- We included a registration form in every issue of our newsletter, “Mary and Martha News”, that is sent out.
- We continued to use Flocknote as a tool. This, provided by our parish, gave us the needed platform to communicate with our membership by email or text in an instant. It has proven most useful as we continue to learn how to take advantage of the tools and shortcuts available.
- Our Membership Committee received information on new parishioners who are specifically interested in our group. The lead member sent a personalized letter out to invite these interested Catholic woman to join us at our next meeting. We received information and sent out 14 welcome letters in 2023. We also added their email and phone information to our Flocknote database which included them in receiving current information for our group.
- Our Membership Committee, comprised of quite outgoing women, approached Catholic Women at parish events, or after Mass, with a face-to-face invitation to join us.
- Our Parish Ministries Fair was held October 15, 2023. The perimeter of our gym was lined with table after table, showcasing ministry after ministry. We were pleased to set up our table with much information, including handouts on our parish-wide Box of Joy Project. Interested women signed up. We are talking with these women about joining us.

Membership Activity of Greatest Impact

The most consistent effort of the Membership Committee was the recruitment of new parishioners who were interested in joining us. The direct contact by an individual fostered recruiting effort.

Organization Committee Activities - Leadership

Report Submitted by Julie Rotureau and Maria Carrero

- Our Board Members reviewed and updated the published listing of our committees which was posted on our parish website’s page that is reserved for our St. Joseph Women’s Society. This listing also provided the name of each Committee Chair and how to contact each.
- We supported our members who were willing to act as leaders in the SCCCW and the Columbia Deanery. No matter the role, we support Convention Planning Committees every year, and in particular in 2023, we participated as the Convention Planning Committee under the direction of our deanery leaders, Mary Sue Barnum, and Juanita Henry.
- Early in the year, SJWS Board Members inventoried our linens that are stored in our “closet” room at the Parish Ministries and Administration Building. Clothes were laundered as needed, measured, refolded, and labeled. There are approximately 85 linens on hangers.
- Our Telephone Committee remained active, supporting our effective communications. This year, our Telephone Committee Chair, Teresa Sowers, updated our lists to include additional members, their address changes, and those who are no longer active.
- During the course of 2023, our Board held 5 full SJWS Board Meetings. We provided an agenda, reviewed our recent activities, and then planned for upcoming general meetings, and other events. We usually had our full slate in attendance.

Organization Activity of Greatest Impact

Our periodic SJWS Board Meetings have had the most impact on our work. We respected each other and flushed out ideas to provide for our members and the community, and to ensure we are in line with our three Commissions of Spirituality, Service and Leadership. Still recovering from COVID and the Post COVID time, we gradually reassessed things to assist, improve and invigorate our various committees.

Public Relations Committee Activities - Leadership

Report Submitted by Julie Rotureau and Maria Carrero

- Already covered under “Membership Committee”, we should also express the importance of “Mary and Martha News”, our periodic newsletter, here. This instrument WAS Our Public Relations. We relayed information within the pages of Affiliate, Deanery, SCCCW and NCCW. We prayed, we shared, we discussed sometimes the current issues, we enlisted help, and offered services. The publication, primarily for our members, kept our organization “front and center” with dates, and deadlines, events, and opportunities to be involved.
- We documented our work and reported quarterly to our Pastor and to our Deanery. Also, this Affiliate Report was a Public Relation tool and was published within the pages of the reporting of our Annual Convention. These reports are historical and used for reference.
- Yearly we document our history in our Scrapbook which includes a vast number of photos. These scrapbooks were used on display tables at any opportunity.
- We published invitations to events and other pertinent information via Flocknote, and in our parish bulletin and on social media (provided by the parish).
- On the occasion of our parish’s 75th Anniversary, the Ministries Fair gave us the opportunity to showcase our work and invite Catholic Women to join us. We used, for the first time, a computer which showed a slide show of action pictures of our members and activities. Too, over the course of the Fair, approximately a dozen members came to help and talk to the women who stopped at our table.
- Even with our Bereavement work, we were hopefully visibly living the love of Christ when our fellow Catholics and other Christians most need support.
- One of our younger members was exploring with other young moms ways they can be involved despite their busy time schedules. One idea which is being worked on is to have a gift card campaign to collect cards for our Seminarians.

Public Relations Activity of Greatest Impact

Perhaps our “stepping out” at the Ministries Fair with new (to us) technology was an effort that had the greatest impact. We discussed other technical ways to promote our organization, including a similar slide show for our historical Scrapbook. Bringing in young women is key to our longevity, and these young women use technology in much more efficient ways that our existing member have experienced.

Community Committee Activities - Service

Report Submitted by Julie Rotureau and Teresa Sowers

- Many members continued to be signed up with Birthright of Columbia to be Prayer Warriors. We received many emails from them with specific prayer requests for mothers-to-be who were struggling physically or emotionally with their pregnancies or other circumstances.
- This past Fall, we expanded our efforts with our “Box of Joy” project, requesting 100 boxes! Over three weeks prior to our packing time at our October meeting, we ran a notice in the parish Bulletin and invited parishioners to join us in this effort. They came through in true fashion. At the October General Meeting, we packed the boxes, with a bit of support from our Youth Group. Joining other Affiliates in this Deanery-wide and State-wide effort was a labor of love. The Boxes of Joy Project ended up a booming success for our Affiliate! The generosity of gifts, time, and money filled 108 Boxes of Joy to be sent far and wide. In addition to all the donated items, generous monetary donations helped to offset the postage per box, as well as allowed us to purchase more items, so each child could have a "WOW" gift in his/her box. We plan to participate in this next year.
- In the months of February (“Share the Love”) and December (“Christmas Cheer”), we collected toiletries, gift cards, and other items for Catholic Charities, Clean of Heart, Columbia.
- Our members volunteered for many community and church efforts. We worked at Birthright of Columbia, Catholic Charities-Clean of Heart, Senior Life, and Bereavement.
- In support of our parish, we hosted a reception for scholarship recipients and their families. These recipients attended St Joseph School.
- This July, we hosted a parish-wide Baby Shower for Birthright of Columbia. In conjunction with the Baby Shower, we held a Tea Room which raised \$ 2,700, with 100% of the proceeds going to Birthright of Columbia. Gwen Skipper headed up this effort and was so pleased that 33 of our members were involved. We delivered and presented a carload of baby items and these funds to Birthright.
- Each Spring, funds permitting, we award Outreach donations to active groups in our area. In 2023, St. Clare’s Home in Greenville, Lighthouse for Life, and Box of Joy each received monetary gifts of \$750.

Community Activity of Greatest Impact

For this particular year, the “Box of Joy” Project seemed to have meant the most to our members, as it had a great impact on the parish. The generosity was overwhelming. Our efforts satisfied our goal to have local, national, and international projects. We worked collectively with the Deanery and alongside state and national Councils of Catholic Women. We impacted the level of joy in the lives of so many children who otherwise may not have even received one gift at Christmas.

We already have plans for “Box of Joy” for 2024, including our starting in the spring/summer and streamlining our methods for loading the boxes.

Family Committee Activities - Service

Report Submitted by Julie Rotureau and Teresa Sowers

- Several of our members provided rides to Mass for several elderly parishioners.
- Twenty of our members participated monthly in our “Smile Kit” outreach. Cards and/or emails were sent to other members not able to attend meetings or who were recovering from illnesses.

- Our “Food for the Bereaved” group continued working. We had three groups of ladies who took turns providing for this ministry when it is requested. Funerals were followed by a lunch or refreshment reception in Donor Hall of our Ministries Building. In cooperation with Monsignor and staff, we provided in many cases the meal itself. We also set up, served, and cleaned up in order for the families to have that quality time with their extended family. If preferred, the meal was delivered to the home of a family member instead. We currently are inviting more ladies of the parish to help and are desirous for a 4th group to evolve.
- Monsignor Harris continues each year, close to The Feast of All Souls, to invite families to an evening Reception which follows the annual Memorial Mass of Remembrance. We, along with the Knights of Columbus, sponsored this event. All families who lost a family member and parishioners over the past year were invited to the Mass and Reception. It was a wonderful celebration for our loved ones.
- We requested that Mass be said in memory of any member who died and also for immediate family members of our membership.
- With the Church Committee, took a turn during Lent to host a Soup Supper following the Stations of the Cross held on Friday nights in Lent. Our providing this meal supported our families. They had an opportunity for worship, fellowship, and to enjoy a meal together with the parish community. A collection was also taken for a local soup kitchen.
- On September 10, we hosted a Farewell Reception for Sister Mary Cecile Swanton, who was elected as Head of her Order for a 4-year term. The reception was for the parish, and we hosted it at the request of our parish staff. Sister Mary Cecile left for New York in September. This event allowed families to come together after Mass to celebrate together our dearly loved Sister and friend.

Family Activity of Greatest Impact

The work of our Bereavement Groups still stands as the activity that meant the most to our Affiliate and to our parish. Families of the deceased were visibly affected by the gestures from the parish in this work. In addition to having served these families at the height of their need for comfort, many times they returned their gratitude with a donation toward our work. We used these funds for outreach opportunities that were fully related to bereavement and served to pay it forward for other families who will face these circumstances down the road.

Specifically, we used these funds to purchase a replacement pall for funerals. We also remembered our deceased members, parishioners and our families in the Annual Memorial Mass and Reception and again in the Spring by providing a Sanctuary Light in memory of them. We also monetarily supported the Memorial Mass Reception, in addition to our own time, talent and treasure. Our guidelines for these funds include latitude to redirect or “pay it forward” for the bereaved in our parish. A stipend for each of the Masses said for our dead came from this fund as well. All was done as funds permitted and valid needs existed.

International Committee Activities - Service
Report Submitted by Julie Rotureau and Teresa Sowers

- Through our participation and support of Our Lady's Rosary Makers, we were able to reach remote locations around the globe. We know that rosaries were sent with parishioners on their various trips and pilgrimages. We also gave rosaries to be sent with Box of Joy boxes.
- We elaborated on our Boxes of Joy Project, under the Community Committee Report. Here, we share information on that same project because of the international impact we had through our gifts from our parishioners, and Catholic women across our parish, Deanery, state and nation. The children who received our boxes, we know from reports, experienced the joy of receiving perhaps just that one (perhaps ours) gift box during Christmas. We filled these boxes with items that impacted many aspects of their daily living and were age appropriate.
- We allocated funds that we had raised throughout the year to include sending \$750 to the Mission in Peru that was nurtured by the late Monsignor Gorski, a former pastor to many of our members. Sadly, since his death, the path for sending funds to the Mission ended, and our funds were returned. Our members re-allocated the money to help offset the cost of shipping our Boxes of Joy, so, there was an international action taken by our group.

International Activity of Greatest Impact

As the "Boxes of Joy" project was selected for the Community Committee activity of greatest impact, the International Committee chose participation in Our Lady's Rosary Makers. Manpower and financial support were provided. We are so joyful to continue this holy work. We saw and heard stories of how the rosaries were sent forth and how they were appreciated and used. Rosaries are being prepared to be sent to Inda, an upcoming destination. A dear friend of our Women's Society is traveling there in early 2024 and will deliver these personally.





St. Martin de Porres Rosary Alter Society

Church Committee Activities - Spirituality

Report Submitted by Etta Harrison and Delores Gilliard

Members:

- Decorated the church for Easter and Christmas.
- Members participated and involved the church in the May Crowning of Mary.
- Kept the altar and linens cleaned during the year.
- Participated in church clean-up day twice a year.
- Maintained consistent contact with the sick/shut-ins by making phone calls, get-well cards, visitations, and text messages.
- Performed duties of Eucharistic Ministers when safely possible throughout the year.
- Participated in group Rosary (Virtually).
- Maintained membership in Legion of Mary.
- Supported Church Women United with financial contributions: one member was an officer, and one member was honored for service to the church.
- Participated in the Women's Choir on the first Sunday of each month.
- Served on the Parish Council and the RAS.
- Represented on the Liturgy Committee of Parish Council.
- Provided spiritual readings and handouts at RAS meetings.
- Served as lectors for all Masses when assigned.
- Were involved in setting up displays set up for church activities during the year.
- Joined the KPC men in sponsoring items for Thanksgiving baskets for families in the community and school.
- Were on the Repast Committee and served dinners to bereaved families.
- Shared updates from NCCW to members at our Rosary meetings.
- Hosted "Day of Reflection" sponsored by Office of Ethnic Ministries.
- Day of Prayer.
- Monthly Webinars on praying the Rosary.
- Celebrated St. Martin de Porres by the USCCB.
- Led stations of the Cross on Friday during Lent.
- Were regularly active in sponsoring the first Eucharistic five- day Revival at St. Martin de Porres in December 2023. Additionally, members provided and served a meal for 2-3 of the revival days.

Church Activity of Greatest Impact

The activity that was most meaningful to the ladies of the Rosary Altar Society, was our active involvement in the first Eucharistic five-day revival at St. Martin de Porres Church. This event brought members of the church together for spiritual motivation, discussion, and reflection. The ladies of the RAS also provided and served meals 2-3 days during the revival.

Legislative Committee Activities - *Spirituality*

Report Submitted by Yvonne Pygatt

Members:

- Participated in the Breast Cancer Walk for Life.
- Encouraged affiliate presidents to ask members to write to their congressmen to support anti-abortion legislation.
- Sent information to deanery presidents on the opinion of USCCB on Roe vs Wade.
- Set up an informational table regarding Breast Cancer and the importance of being tested.
- Provided a monetary donation to Church Women United.
- Attended Church Women United yearly luncheon.
- Attended the Black Catholic Congress meeting.
- Assisted with organizing the Black Heritage Planning committee.
- Attended SC Catholic Women's Legislative Day at the Capitol, met with Legislators from House of Representatives and met with the Lieutenant Governor, who is also Catholic.
- Shared information from the USCCB at Deanery and Affiliate meetings and SCCCW Board meetings.
- Shared information regarding Human Trafficking updates.
- Participated in prayer vigils for the victims of Human Trafficking.
- Shared information on Prayer Vigils which occur monthly to pray for persons on Death Row, website to join prayer vigil catholicmobilizing.org.

One member:

- Was a member of the Legislative Advocacy Committee for NCCW.
- Was a presenter for a workshop on domestic violence, human trafficking, and Walking with Moms in Need project at the NCCW convention, in Minneapolis.
- Was actively involved in NCCW, serving on the Legislative and Advocacy Committee, Resolutions Committee, and has served on the Nominating Committee of NCCW. The member shared information and updates monthly, not only with the Affiliate, but with Columbia Deanery and SCCCW.

Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact

The activity that meant the most was Catholic Women's Legislative Day at the Capitol. This stood out because the members of the SCCCW in attendance met the Lieutenant Governor and shared our concerns as Catholics on legislative issues with the House of Representatives. We were also recognized as an organization by the House of Representatives. Another activity was participating in prayer vigils for those victims of Human Trafficking and sharing the informational sheet that can be found on the NCCW website under Service Commission.

Organization Committee Activities - Leadership

Report Submitted by Malorie Harrison

- Served as officers of the Columbia Deanery.
- Hosted and participated in Deanery meetings and projects.
- Participated in South Carolina Council of Catholic Women activities.
- Served on the board of South Carolina Council of Catholic Women.
- Attended South Carolina Council of Catholic Women Convention.
- Served on National Council of Catholic Women Nominating Committee.
- Represented at National Council of Catholic Women's Convention.
- Representation on Parish Council.
- RAS Zoom meetings.
- Members of the National Council.

Organization Activity of Greatest Impact

The leadership activity that meant the most was our involvement in parish leadership roles. The ladies of the RAS actively served as leaders in almost all aspects of the parish. For example, we have served as Director of Religious Education, members of the Finance Council and are actively involved on the Parish Council. We are repeatedly called upon to lead various sub-committees that help our church and community to be viable and effective.

Community Committee Activities - Service

Report Submitted by Cathy Chiles and Veronica Ramseur

Members:

- Attended Walk for Life.
- Supported in Birthright of Columbia.
- Donated to Catholic Charities.
- Donation to Church Women United.
- Donated to Deanery Projects.
- Donated clothing, bedding, towels, and toiletries to Providence Shelter for Men.
- Sponsored a Fundraising table Providence Shelter 60th Anniversary.
- Displayed information for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.
- Donated items to Sistercare, shelter for women and children.
- Participated in a Career Fair at W.A. Perry Middle School.
- Participated in Anti-Bullying Workshop at W.A. Perry Middle School.
- Participated in American Education Week /Reader's Rally at W. A. Perry Middle School.
- Participated in American Education Reader at Webber Elementary School.
- Contributed to Thanksgiving baskets donated by church.
- Donated clothing, toiletries and coats to Women and Family Shelter.
- .Donated backpacks stuffed with school supplies to several Elementary, Middle and High school students.

- Sponsored a Food Box Lunch for Seniors in Oak-Reed Senior Center each month in conjunction with Harvest Hope Food Bank.

One member of the Rosary Altar Society was honored by 100 Black Women as Outstanding Community Leader

Community Activity of Greatest Impact

The three activities that allowed us to be involved with schools such as the workshop on “Bulling”, “The Readers Rally”, and “Stuffed Back Packs” project meant the most to our young people who were just getting settled into enjoying school again. The Pandemic left many of them traumatized without contact with friends and teachers. We wanted to provide anything we could to bring back a sense of “normalcy”. Many schools had teacher shortages and appreciated all assistance given.

Family Committee Activities – Service

Report Submitted by Delores Gilliard

- Parishioners (RAS members), and youth participated in Catholic workshops and webinars offered through the Diocese Catholic Ministries for CCD, Retreats, Confirmation, and the Youth Conference.
- Parishioners (RAS members), youth and school students celebrated Black History Month with presentations and displays.
- RAS members served as CCD teachers and encouraged students to participate in service-learning projects throughout the community.
- Junior high and high school students participated in a service project.
- A Rosary member chaired the Parish Picnic in September. This was the first picnic since COVID. It was a big hit and members were actively involved in providing dishes, games, entertainment, and serving parishioners and guests.
- Rosary Altar Society members donated to Daybreak Ministries in support of women and men to provide an alternative to abortion.
- A Rosary member worked with students in grades three through five preparing their art presentations for the First Annual Student Art Expo. Students also made ornaments for their Nativity Exhibitions for the Christmas play in December.
- A Rosary member who is a member of the Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections (ESPER) presented to students a lesson on the Nativity, Kwanzaa, Dr. King, and Black History. Students then constructed displays to exhibit in the school and church.
- Rosary members assisted in setting up an exhibition for the Visiting Miracle Display for Advent and the Eucharist Revival. During the five-week revival, RAS members assisted in providing a light meal after each presentation.

Family Activity of Greatest Impact

From December 1 through 22, our Rosary Altar Society (RAS) members participated in a Eucharistic Revival/Retreat which included a Eucharistic Miracles Traveling Exhibit. Each Friday

during December, women, men, and children from our Parish gathered to hear a visiting priest and deacons speak to us on the importance the Eucharist plays in each of our lives. RAS members were given an opportunity to reconnect and reflect on the importance of and the representation the Eucharist should provide for each of us. The RAS members assisted in providing a light meal each Friday night which was served following each presentation.

International Committee Activities - Service

Report Submitted by Naomi Scipio and Sandra McDermott

Members:

- Participated in World Day of Prayer.
- Made donations to Church Women United health kit project in lieu of the kits as requested.
- Donation to Cross Catholic Outreach through the Boxes of Joy project.

International Activity of Greatest Impact

The **international** activity that meant the most to us was participating in Cross Catholic Outreach “Boxes of Joy” project for children around the world. Children and families of St. Martin School, our youth group, and members of RAS filled 65 boxes with toys and essential items. We enjoyed doing this project because it provided an opportunity for different organizations to come together for one project. We were glad that we were able to share blessings with others during these difficult times. It was a joy to bring happiness to children during Christmas time.



Women in God's Service (WinGs)

All Reports Submitted by Suzy Howell

Church Committee Activities - Spirituality

Members:

- Sponsored the inaugural First Friday Adoration at OLL in May, and members continue to attend each month.
- Led First Saturday Rosary each month prior to noon Mass.
- Decorated Our Lady of the Lake at Easter, Pentecost, and Christmas.
- Performed duties of Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors.
- Participated in group Rosary either virtually or in person.
- Presented spiritual reflections to members at WinGs and deanery meetings.
- Participated in the annual 40-Hour Adoration, Oct 5-7 at Our Lady of the Lake Church.

Church Activity of Greatest Impact

As part of the National Eucharistic Revival in May, WinGs sponsored a church wide First Friday Adoration where the Host was exposed for adoration in the church from after the noon Mass until

6:00 pm. At 6:00 pm, a deacon led group prayers with scriptural readings, rosary, a short sermon, and benediction. This has now become a monthly event, with other ministries taking turns leading the event. What we thought was a one-time event has blossomed into every First Friday Adoration. What a blessing this is to our church family!

Legislative Committee Activities - *Spirituality*

- Reports were given at meetings on various legislative measures.
- Members were encouraged to write to congressmen to support legislative measures as reported by the SC Catholic Conference.

Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact
(*Not provided.*)

Membership Committee Activities - *Leadership*

Members:

- Formed a New Member Committee which is in the process of creating a welcome package for new members.
- Held monthly meetings, that started with 30 minutes of fellowship time, followed by the formal meeting. Each meeting began with a spiritual spotlight from one of our members or a talk by a guest speaker.
- Held an annual Christmas party where members were encouraged to “bring a friend”.

Membership Activity of Greatest Impact

The annual Christmas party was the highlight of our year, where we celebrated the season and got to know our members better. Our monthly meetings were usually so packed with information and dates that it was refreshing and fun to get together and just enjoy each other’s company. This year’s competitive activity of putting marshmallows on a plate with Solo cups in our hands was indescribable!

Organization Committee Activities - *Leadership*

Members:

- Reviewed and updated WinGs By-laws.
- Participated in deanery meetings and projects, including service on the 2024 Convention Committee.
- Participated in SCCCW and NCCW activities, including attendance at both the state and national conventions.
- Presented a slide show of the 2023 Convention to WinGs members in March and then the slide show was shared with deanery affiliates to show at their meetings.
- Served on Parish, Stewardship, and Finance Councils at OLL, and on affiliate, deanery, and state levels of SCCCW.

Organization Activity of Greatest Impact
(*Not provided.*)

Community Committee Activities - Service

Members:

- Provided support for homeless by volunteering weekly at Catholic Charities Clean of Heart and donated items such as snacks, personal care, clothing, and gift cards.
- Donated and packed re-entry bags once a month for released women from prison.
- Hosted Bingo and seasonal parties at the Lowman Home for elderly residents.
- Co-hosted a video series “Into Life – Love Changes Everything” that was held on 3 consecutive first Saturdays.
- Assisted with a prayer brunch for single parenting moms as part of our Walking with Moms in Need outreach.
- Attended and prayed during the 40 Days for Life Campaign, and participated in Respect Life vigils several days a week at Planned Parenthood in Columbia, SC.
- Sent Easter cards to the elderly at several local homes such as the Lowman Home.
- Wrote Christmas cards for distribution to the homeless by Catholic Charities.
- Attended and donated money to the Lighthouse for Life fund-raising banquet in September.

Community Activity of Greatest Impact

Our members received joy from offering most of our community activities, but the Bingo and seasonal parties at the Lowman Home brought the most joy to those attending. As one member put it, “It’s hard to tell who has the most fun at these events – the elderly or us!”. Each month, four to six WinGs ladies hosted either a Bingo session or a seasonal party, such as the ice cream social held in June, pumpkin decorating in October, and Christmas party in December, with live music and some dancing. Members also donated items for bingo prizes, including costume jewelry, lap blankets, food items, and other items. Some of the prizes were highly sought (or fought) after!

Family Committee Activities – Service

Members:

- Provided cakes and hosted the annual cake walk at the OLL Fall Festival.
- Assisted in providing food, serving, and cleaning up at repasts for funerals.
- Hosted hospitality after Masses by providing and serving homemade treats, coffee, and water.
- Participated in the Our Lady of the Lake Annual Yard Sale.

Family Activity of Greatest Impact

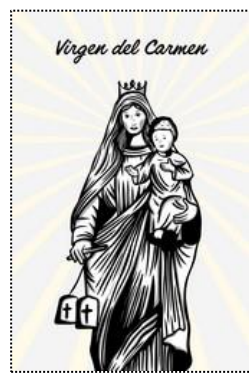
This was the first year we hosted the Cake Walk. The turnout was high, and participation was really fun. Cakes and other goodies were donated by members of WinGs and two of our members led the festivity once they figured out how to run a cake walk.

International Committee Activities - Service

- Fifty-three Boxes of Joy boxes were filled with toys, clothing, school supplies, rosaries, and other items. A WinGs member served as collection coordinator for the Columbia Deanery.
- Seventy-five Seafarers boxes were filled and delivered to the Christmas at Sea Ministry in Charleston, SC.

International Activity of Greatest Impact

This was the third year that members filled Seafarers boxes for the Christmas at Sea Ministry. This year, two members were able to actually deliver the boxes, tour a ship, and meet some of the crew members of the vessel, including the captain. The members presented a slide show at the next meeting, and it was exciting to see how well received our gifts were to those individuals who spend so little time at home, especially during the holidays.



1841

Acquafondata, Italy

A Vatican approved Apparition

"Wear the Brown Scapular, specially when praying the Rosary."

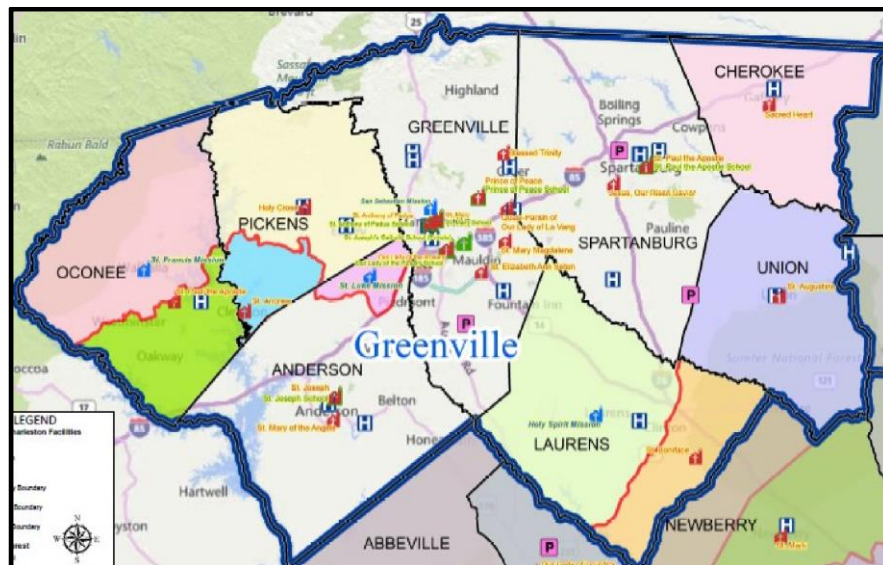
GREENVILLE DEANERY

Debra Drennon, Deanery President

Affiliates

St. Anthony of Padua Women's Council
St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Greenville
Kathleen Merritt, President

St. Mary's Council of Catholic Women
St. Mary's Catholic Church, Greenville
Lori Grant, President



The Greenville Deanery now includes Newberry County; however, the map has yet to be updated.

2023 Year-End Report of the GREENVILLE DEANERY PRESIDENT

By Debra Drennon

The Greenville Deanery is comprised of the members of two affiliated parish councils, seven SCCCW Individual Members, and 8 Greenville Deanery Individual Members from five unaffiliated parishes. St. Anthony of Padua Women's Council has 52 members and St. Mary's Council of Catholic Women has 121 members. Activities of both councils of the Greenville Deanery are listed below. Their contributions are varied and meaningful and exemplify their dedication to Spirituality, Service, and Leadership.

St. Anthony of Padua Women's Council: Activities under the competent leadership of Delores Martinez (1st half) and later Kathleen Merritt (2nd half of the calendar year) follow:

- Presented Spiritual Reflections at monthly meetings.
- Recognized birthdays of members at meetings.
- Hosted the annual Prayer Breakfast that was open to parishioners and the non-Catholic community. The theme was "A Clean Heart"
- Published a book of spiritual reflections titled *From, Through, To Reflections of Faith* written by Deacon Steve Olson, Spiritual Advisor to the council.
- Participated in voicing opinions and informing our representatives on the Heartbeat Bill.
- Supported the missions of San Sebastian, Safe Harbor, and the St. Anthony Food Pantry with donations of clothing, toiletries, and non-perishable food items.
- Gave a monetary donation of \$125 to The Way Outreach Center for homeless people.
- Provided the Phoenix Center, a treatment facility for drug-addicted women, with 42 slightly used handbags filled with toiletries, jewelry, and other feminine items.
- Hosted the annual Black History Month program. The script was written by one of the council members.
- Made Kente cloth stoles for the graduates of St. Anthony School and for confirmands.
- Provided five families with a complete meal for Christmas that included a turkey, dressing, other side dishes, dessert, plates, and cutlery.
- Sponsored an educational evening about the fight against human trafficking.
- Donated more than \$1000 to the Child Freedom Coalition to Fight Human Trafficking.
- Donated 9 Boxes of Joy and 76 Seafarer's Christmas at Sea boxes.
- Created flyers and posted notifications of council events.
- Increased the exposure of council events on social media.
- Maintained a booth at the Parish Ministry Fair.
- Held three significant fundraisers that allowed the council to sponsor projects. A Valentine Basket was raffled. A "Hat Parade" brought in more than \$2000. The Fall Bake Sale was also successful.

Four members attended the rally at the State House for World Day Against the Death Penalty.

St. Mary's Council of Catholic Women: Activities under the caring leadership of Karoline O'Rourke (1st half) and Lori Grant (2nd half of the calendar year) follow:

- Members prayed the mysteries of the Rosary before each monthly meeting.
- Volunteers prepared and served suppers of soup, salad, grilled cheese sandwiches, and cornbread after the Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent.
- Members were present at both the spring and fall 40 Days for Life campaigns, praying for the unborn.
- Held a fall Women's Retreat, "Inspired by Women of the Bible", that featured three speakers and a Holy Hour Eucharistic Adoration in the Church.
- Featured many guest speakers at monthly meetings to help members nourish their spiritual lives.
- Forwarded current legislative information from the Diocese to the membership bimonthly.
- Members attended the Catholic Women's Legislative Day at the Capitol and spent time with legislators who answered questions and explained the how they work together to pass bills, especially those important to Catholic Social teaching.
- Members participated in a Meet and Greet Reception to invite women to learn about membership in SMCCW.
- Donated 22 Boxes of Joy that included scrunchies, pillowcase dresses and barrettes made by St. Mary's Sewing Ministry and St. Anne's Stitchery Ministry.
- Donated 50 Seafarer's Christmas at Sea Boxes that included hats made by St. Anne's Stitchery Ministry.
- Members volunteered at Catholic Charities in Our Lady's Pantry to assist clients with food selections and the Catholic Clothing Closet to help clients with clothing selections.
- Hosted a Star party at Generations Home for abused boys. Served a chili supper, played games, and donated prizes.
- Provided boxed lunches for volunteers of the HomeWorks Project, a group that repaired homes of five upstate neighbors.
- Worked with the Knights of Columbus to collect shirts and caps for the Diocesan Migrant Farm Workers Clothing Drive.
- Decorated an angel themed Christmas tree for the Bon Secours Festival of Trees.
- Donated a Christmas Basket filled with treats, food items, homemade baked goods, and toiletries to the Sisters of the Monastery of St. Clare.
- Updated standing rules for the stitchery ministry, added criteria for a new Visitation Award, and developed a standing rule for inclusion of the parish's sewing ministry and added the ministry to the SMCCW.
- Held a Board Transition Meeting to provide guidance to new board members.
- Selected the church window for our ornament sale, ordered them, and sold all that were ordered. It was a copy of the Our Lady of Good Counsel stained-glass window from the church .



AFFILIATE YEAR-END REPORTS



St. Anthony of Padua Women's Council

Church Committee Activities - Spirituality

Report Submitted by Mary Morris Williams

Members:

- Presented Spiritual Reflections at monthly meetings: Topics included basic prayers, the Synodal Method, Conversations on the Holy Spirit, and the teachings of Pope Francis in the *Laudato Si* encyclical.
- Encouraged and supported Service Commission and affiliate activities in their responses to the social teachings of the church.
- Published a book on spiritual reflection written by our Spiritual Moderator Steve Olson.

Church Activity of Greatest Impact



We self-published a book titled *From, Through, To Spiritual Reflections* written by Deacon Steve Olson. This book was a collection of spiritual reflections written to our SAPWC by our Spiritual Director, Deacon Steve Olson. Deacon Steve is ill and has been fighting the battle for several years. During COVID he sent us beautiful spiritual reflection every month. Following COVID, he continued to do so. Subjects reflected the gospel, current events, holidays, and sometimes included reflection activities. We decided to share these with the world for free and hosted a book release party, where Deacon Steve read selections from his book and signed books for

guests. Over 100 people joined us in the celebration. Bishop Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS, provided an endorsement for the back cover. Books will be available at the 2024 convention at no charge.

Legislative Committee Activities - Spirituality

Report Submitted by Diane Love

- A group of four ladies represented the council and diocese on October 10 at the World Day Against the Death Penalty meeting held at the State House. Sr. Pamela Smith was one of the speakers. This was an ecumenical gathering. Our group was part of the Catholic Conference.
- We reminded members in our council that it is our civic duty to vote and that we need to be knowledgeable of our Catholic guidelines in "Faithful Citizenship" from the USCCB.
- Members participated in voicing opinions and informing our representatives of our feelings about the Heartbeat bill.

- Members followed information from the South Carolina Catholic Conference to stay updated on top Catholic priorities.

Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact

The SC Catholic Conference provided us with major updates and calls for action from our congressional leaders. By participating in those calls we saw results. The heartbeat bill passed. This was a tremendous win for life! This had the greatest impact on our affiliate!



McMaster signs South Carolina fetal heartbeat bill into law

Public Relations Committee Activities – Leadership

Members:

- Created flyers for all events.
- Sent out PR for all events to the parish bulletin and Serving Hearts emailer.
- Maintained, followed-up, and posted information to our social media page.
- Created flyers for distribution at the Masses that advertised our events and educational endeavors.
- Prepared and distributed decorative meeting announcements that encouraged new members to join.

Public Relations Activity of Greatest Impact



Our social media presence on Face Book has grown 20% in the past year.

Community Committee Activities - Service

Report Submitted by Ruby Moore

- We collected and donated socks, shoes, non-perishable food items, gloves, and coats to Safe Harbor, San Sebastian Mission, and the St. Anthony's Food Pantry.
- A monetary donation of \$125.00 was made to "The Way Outreach Center" for homeless people in Greenville.
- Handbags were given to the Pheonix Center for distribution to Women who had drug additions and needed help.



Community Activity of Greatest Impact



We provided 42 genuinely nice/slightly used handbags filled with personal toiletries to The Phoenix Center. This is a center that treats drug addicted women. Women who are pregnant receive priority treatment because of limitations on number of people they can serve.

Family Committee Activities - Service

Members:

- Hosted the Council's Annual Prayer Breakfast to start the new year off in prayer. This family event took place on the last Saturday in January 2023. Invitations went out to the parish and community, and it was well-attended by women, men, and children. All enjoyed a family affair.
- Hosted a Black History Month Program for the parish and community. The program was a family affair with a guest speaker, dancing, singing, and a delicious meal. It was well-attended by our church family and the community.
- Made graduation stoles for the graduates for St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School.
- Made confirmation stoles for the 2023 confirmands.
- Served breakfast to all the fathers in the parish on Father's Day.

Family Activity of Greatest Impact

During the month of December, we provided five needy families with full Christmas meals that included a turkey, side items, dressing, dessert, and lots of Christmas surprises. The women of the Council donated so much food that these families had plenty of food to last throughout the holidays.

International Committee Activities – Service

Report Submitted by Deloris Martinez and Karen Mathis

Members:

- Sponsored an educational evening about the Fight against Human Trafficking on October 19.
- Donated over \$1,000 to the Child Freedom Coalition to fight Human trafficking internationally. Funds came from the council selling t-shirts and collecting donations.
- Hosted a nail polish campaign for painting one nail in recognition of Human trafficking month.
- Launched a Social Media Campaign for International Women's Day.

International Activity of Greatest Impact

We donated \$1000.00 to the Child Freedom Coalition to support their international efforts. An informational evening was hosted where we collected donations that doubled our Council's donation of \$500.00. Knowledge is powerful!



St. Mary's Council of Catholic Women

Church Committee Activities – Spirituality

Report Submitted by Courtney Plyer

- The members of SMCCW prayed the mysteries of the Rosary as a group before each monthly membership meeting.
- A group of SMCCW members attended the Diocese of Charleston “Belonging Catholic Conference for Women” on Saturday, February 25, 2023, held at St. Joseph’s Catholic School in Greenville. The Belonging conference offered Mass, Confession, Adoration, a Keynote Speaker, and sixteen workshops to choose from, including topics such as Prayer, Pro-Life, and Vocations.
- Our affiliate provided volunteers to help with preparing and serving light suppers each Friday of Lent after Stations of the Cross.
- Our membership provided presence at both the spring and fall 40 Days for Life campaigns, praying for the unborn.
- The council’s Bereavement Committee contacted the family of a council member whose loved one died. We provided meals, Mass Cards, and donations to charities at the request of the council member who lost her loved one.
- Each year we have a Catholic Woman of the Year Committee, consisting of the three most recent recipients. Members nominate an eligible recipient, and the committee reviews the criteria, selects the winner, obtains the award pin, and creates a written report to present to the pastor for approval. The award was presented to the SMCCW Catholic Woman of the Year at our Spring Luncheon.
- SMCCW held a retreat for women on October 21 in Pazdan Hall, St. Mary’s Catholic Church campus. The retreat, *Inspired by Women of the Bible*, featured three speakers and a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration in the church.
- A Christmas Angel was announced and awarded an Angel pin by our President at the Christmas Luncheon. Established in 1993, this award is presented to a council member who works quietly behind the scenes, showing love and concern for members, friends, and family members.
- Inspiring speakers were invited to talk at our monthly membership meetings to help educate and nourish the spiritual lives of our members. Some follow.

- Spiritual Director, Lisa Buss spoke about Eucharistic Adoration and how it has impacted her life.
- Sr. Anna Sophia, Dominican Sister at St. Mary's School spoke on the Gifts of the Rosary
- Annette Burgess, member, and chair of "Walking with Moms in Need" shared the mission of this organization and the importance of defending life, which included helping moms who chose life even in difficult circumstances.
- Carol Clarke, WYFF Channel 4 News Anchor, St. Mary's parishioner, and a Council member, spoke to us about her faith journey and how important it is to stay grounded in your faith in the workplace.

Church Activity of Greatest Impact

The SMCCW Fall Women's Retreat 2023, *Inspired by Women of the Bible*, had the greatest impact on the members of SMCCW. The idea for the theme of the retreat came from SMCCW member Louise Riley. Louise had been talking with members about her experience of reading and studying about the women in the Bible for some time. She expressed interest in sharing her enthusiasm and knowledge with the SMCCW members. After several discussions with the Church Committee, Louise graciously offered to speak at a retreat about the topic. Her enthusiasm was contagious as the Church Committee developed the retreat content. The speakers who committed expressed their support of the theme "Inspired by Women of the Bible". The Retreat featured Louise Riley who spoke on "Learning from Women of the Bible". Nina Obier spoke about her conversion experience in a talk called "From Thirst to Transformation: Following in the Footsteps of the Woman At the Well". Deacon Thomas Whalen spoke on "Ignatian Spirituality and Prayer". The fall Women's Retreat also included a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration. The attendees prayed the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary as a group during Adoration. Twenty-eight women attended the retreat, including some members of from other parishes.

Legislative Committee Activities - Spirituality

Report Submitted by Susanne Wolfe

- Every other month current legislative information is forwarded to the membership from the Diocesan SC Catholic Conference (SCCC) about the activities of the SC legislators. Often requests were sent out by the SCCC for members to respond to issues and to contact their legislators with their concerns or support.
- In consultation with Michael Acquilano, J.D., a Catholic Women's Legislative Day at the Capitol in February was organized for members of our council. It was open to all councils in SC. About 25 individuals attended.
- In consultation with the South Carolina Catholic Conference along with other SCCCW Associates Committee, a Catholic Women's Legislative Day at the Capitol for 2024 was organized and publicized that is open to all women of SCCCW. Around 30 have already signed up to attend. We are expecting many more.

Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact

On February 15, a Catholic Women's Legislative Day at the Capitol was held where members met with selected legislators, met with Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette, and toured the Capitol building. We had the opportunity to ask questions regarding how bills are addressed. Selected legislators explained how they work together to pass bills particularly important to our Catholic social teachings. About twenty-five women from throughout the state attended and it was an educational day for all.

Organization Committee Activities - Leadership

Report Submitted by Nancy Carrano

Bylaw Revisions/Leadership

- The SMCCW Standing rules were updated to officially add the parish sewing ministry and stitchery ministry to the Council. Criteria for our new Visitation Award, established in 2022, were also added.
- We held a Board Transition Meeting during the summer to provide guidance to new board members in assuming their new leadership roles.
- We met with our spiritual advisor and pastor, Fr. Jay Scott Newman, to propose new events designed to grow the spirituality and sense of community among our members and parishioners. He approved our proposal to provide Epiphany Home Blessing Kits, host a "Mother/Daughter Tea", and have a Eucharistic Procession for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi with a parish picnic to follow. Committees have been formed and plans are underway for these events.
- We held monthly board meetings to plan council programs and projects.
- A budget for the year was proposed and approved by the Board and then by the membership.
- Secured speakers for membership meetings to educate our members as well as to nourish their spiritual growth.
- We created our 23rd annual Christmas Ornament. The ornament was a replica of the stained-glass window from our church of Our Lady of Good Counsel. We sold all 255 ornaments.

Mentoring Programs

- We began a new mentorship program to help new members become integrated into our Council. Returning members who were interested in participating in the program were paired with new members who could contact them, answer any questions they might have, and encourage involvement in the council.
- We held a successful Bunco Night in September to welcome new members into our Council and help them become integrated into our group.

Public Relations Resources that assure the success of our council

- We held a "Meet & Greet" in August after all the Masses to recruit new members. Current members were available to welcome prospective member, tri-fold presentation boards were prepared to highlight activities/events, and refreshments were served. As a result of this event, 31 new members were recruited. We now have 121 members.

- We re-designed our Council brochure which better tells prospective members about our Council's mission and activities. Our brochure is included in the Parish Welcome Packet given to new parishioners.
- We updated our webpage to add more information about what we do to aid in recruiting potential members. We added links to our new brochure, membership form, registration forms for current events, and the scholarship application.
- We have begun producing beautiful, colorful announcements for use in our parish's weekly bulletin. The goal is to recruit new members by encouraging participation in Council events by all women of the parish. These announcements include:
 - Invitations to our meetings and upcoming special events
 - A monthly spotlight featuring activities of different commissions.
- Facebook and Instagram posts were made with photos about meetings and events.
- We had membership forms available at all parish-wide events.
- A Calendar of Events was emailed to members and updated as needed.
- An agenda of each meeting, Treasurer's Report, and meeting minutes of the prior month were emailed to members prior to monthly business meetings.
- A printed membership directory was provided to all members, which included bylaws, standing rules, photo directory of members, and much more information.
- Reminders of events and meetings were emailed to members as needed.
- A quarterly newsletter from the Council President was sent.
- A sign-up Genius was used for volunteer and food sign-ups as needed with reminders sent when dates were near.

Organization Activity of Greatest Impact

In previous years, we had a small group of members pray the Rosary in a separate space prior to the start of each of our monthly meetings. This year, we decided to begin our monthly meetings by having our entire group pray the Rosary together in our meeting room. We placed a statue of our Blessed Mother, a candle, and flowers on a small table in front of the podium at each meeting. Each month we pray for the different intentions of our members. Members have commented that they feel calm and peace in the room. More members are attending the meeting and are appreciative of this change.

Membership Committee Activities– Leadership

Report Submitted by Marge Scieszka

- A "Meet and Greet" for women of the parish to become new members after all Masses in the fall was held. Twenty-seven new members signed up and four returning members joined again. With continuing recruitment, we currently have 121 members.
- All council members were invited to attend a Bunco Night held for newcomers. The goal was to get new and existing members together for fellowship. We plan to hold another night this spring.
- New members who indicated interest in a particular Commission or Committee were contacted by the respective Chairs to welcome them to the council and encourage involvement.

- Name badges of new members were marked with a flower sticker to identify them so we could reach out to them at meetings.
- Sign-up sheets were provided at all meetings to encourage participation at events, such as Christmas Bake Sale and Bazaar, Mama Mia Spaghetti supper, and Lenten suppers.
- Sign-up sheets were provided at all meetings to encourage participation on Commission Committees.
- The process of developing a Mentorship Committee using the guidelines in SCCCW Procedures Manual has begun.
- A Birthday Committee was formed to send birthday cards to all members.
- The purchase of professional looking badges for the board members to wear at meetings and events outside of our parish was facilitated.
- Membership forms were made available at all our events, and because of this we have gained new members at many events we have hosted.

Membership Activity of Greatest Impact

The activity that meant the most and had the greatest impact on our members and community was the “Meet and Greet” at the beginning of the year. Many women (and their families) attended the event. The event was held after each Mass over a weekend. It promoted fellowship. Beverages and breakfast items were available. Each committee created a Display Board with information about its mission and work. It was good to share what we are about and also good for committee members to reflect on their work.

Due to that event, we gained twenty-seven new members and four returning members who had let their membership lapse – thirty-one new members. Many of them have become active members, attending our meetings and filling roles on committees. Two of the new members were the leaders of our recent bake sale. We continue recruitment. Membership is currently at 121.

Community Committee Activities - Service

Report Submitted by Veronica Mullenix

- Sewing Ministry. Members sew beneficial items that are donated to local and international charitable organizations that distribute them to needy children and adults. A wide variety of items are sewn, including fleece mittens, baby quilts, pillowcases, fleece blankets, and teddy bear stuffed animals.
- St. Anne’s Stitchery. Members knit and crochet beneficial items to be given out to those in need. This year over 297 knitted and crocheted items were created: neck scarves, lap robes, baby blankets, hand mitts, adult hats, baby hats, 23 pocket crosses, and 19 angels for Festival of Trees.
- From 2-6 members volunteered per day at the Catholic Charities’ Our Lady’s Pantry and Catholic Clothing Closet on Monday and Thursday each week from 9 am-1 pm per day. Volunteers assist clients with their food selections and with clothing selections. They also assisted with keeping the Clothing Closet organized.
- A monthly food and feminine hygiene drive was held for Our Lady’s Pantry throughout each month. We collected feminine hygiene products as well as different food items for the pantry.

- January 27 – SMCCW hosted a Star Party at Generations Home. Members prepared a chili supper for the boys and donated prizes. Volunteers led the boys in games.
- February - Mama Mia Spaghetti Dinner was held that built community and fellowship among parishioners. Proceeds went to support Catholic Education among our parish youth.
- February & March – Members prepared and served parishioners a simple soup, salad, and sandwich supper every Friday during Lent after praying the Stations of the Cross.
- April - A Pot-Luck Supper was hosted for the parish after the 5:00 Mass for the purpose of building community and fellowship among our parishioners. Donations that were received went to support Catholic Education.
- July - Our Council provided boxed lunches from Jersey Mikes for all the volunteers of the HomeWorks Project who repaired the homes of five Upstate neighbors.
- July 26 - Several members got together to pick blueberries at a farm and take the berries to Poor Clare's Monastery.
- October - Our members worked with Knights of Columbus to collect shirts and caps for the Diocesan Migrant Farm Worker's Clothing Drive.
- November - Our members participated in the Deanery Project and collected items for First Day kits for the Women's Soteria House. Personal hygiene items, bath towels, and Bibles were among the items we collected and donated. In addition, our Community Commission Chair created a Sign-Up Genius for the Deanery to use. This allowed Deanery Members to see what was needed and to fill in the gaps where donations might not have been received for a particular item.
- Bon Secours Festival of Trees: Members decorated a tree using an angel tree theme at the Courtyard Marriott. One member made angels and placed names of deceased council members on the angel ornaments. Angel wings were provided for council members as well as the public to place the names of their beloved dead on the tree. Our weekly mass booklets were recycled and used to make paper angels to decorate the tree.
- Several of our members helped decorate the Greenville Deanery tree that used a Nativity pro-life theme at the Bon Secours Festival of Trees.
- December - Our members contributed treats, food items, homemade baked goods, and personal items for a Christmas Basket for the Sisters of the Monastery of St Clare.
- In December, the Annual Bake Sale and Bazaar was held raising funds for charitable causes.

Community Activity of Greatest Impact

The Community Activity that had the greatest impact on our area was the increase in volunteers from SMCCW that consistently worked at Our Lady's Food Pantry and the Clothing Closet and the increase in and consistent monthly collection of donated food and personal care items, especially that of feminine hygiene products. We strove to ensure that the Pantry and the Closet had frequent and consistent donations and consistent volunteers serving throughout the year to meet the increased need in the Greenville area.

Family Committee Activities - Service

Report Submitted by Lib Reynolds

- The Family Committee participated in the August Meet and Greet Reception to invite women to learn about membership in SMCCW. A tri-fold poster was created highlighting the work of this committee. After each Mass, the booth was staffed so that questions could be answered regarding the committee's work and the prospective members' interests. A sign-up sheet was provided to record interests and provide follow-up after the reception. These women were all contacted after the event by phone or email.
- An overall goal was set to address the effect on families of loss of belief of the Eucharist and the related attrition among the faithful. To accomplish this goal, we focus on three areas:
 - Publicizing monthly updates from the Office of Family Life Calendar especially as they relate to our geographic area. This update is now emailed to each member.
 - Publicizing the Carlos Acutis Eucharistic Miracles Website with recommended monthly readings. We also make note of nearby parishes hosting the Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition.
 - Providing/promoting books, articles, or any media that promotes Eucharistic devotion.
- An attempt will be made to begin an email outreach from the church to our college students with a care package as an additional effort.
- Realizing our parish no longer had a Respect Life Coordinator, we sought to find a member who would serve in that capacity. A member did come forward to fill that role for our council and we hope our pastor will allow her to serve the entire parish.

Family Activity of Greatest Impact

To date, the greatest impact on our Council has been educating them about the significant loss of the faithful from the church and the lack of belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Data provided by Word on Fire Ministry and Bishop Robert Barron was used to inform the members of the serious impact on all families within our faith, across the nation, and the call to action to take steps to call our fellow Catholics young and old back to Our Lord in His Church. Each member seemed to have taken this to heart and was challenged to share information with the young, especially to restore belief in Christ and His church.

International Committee Activities - Service

Report Submitted by Louise Riley

The Committee:

- Directed the donation by members of 22 Boxes of Joy along with scrunchies, pillowcase dresses and barrettes made by St. Mary's Sewing Ministry as well as hats and made by St. Anne's Stitchery Ministry.
- Directed the donation by members of 50 Seafarer's Christmas at Sea boxes as well as hats made by St. Anne's Stitchery Ministry.
- Notified membership of Catholic International Grandparent's Day and forwarded prayers and activities for individuals to complete on this day.

- Notified membership of World Refugee Day, forwarded prayers and activities to accompany this day.
- Notified membership of 35 Catholic Martyrs from Kandhamal, India who have been declared blessed.

International Activity of Greatest Impact

I believe the announcement of the martyrs in Kandhamal, India had the most impact on our Council. One of our Council Members began a charity to assist the widows and children of these martyrs to create a school for the children. Our Council and Deanery have supported this worthwhile charity.

The men were killed because of their Catholic faith. In India, widows and children have an exceedingly difficult life when their husbands and fathers are no longer around as there is no way for them to earn money to support themselves.

These men gave up their lives rather than change their faith. Will we do the same when given the same choices?

Also, during this period when Christianity is being attacked from all areas, it is important to remember what we are called to do and how important it is to stand up for our faith, even when it is difficult.



1664

Our Lady of Laus also Our Lady of Refuge of Sinners
 Saint Etienne-le-Laus, France
“Do Penance”, “Pray Continually for Sinners.”

MYRTLE BEACH DEANERY

Mary Mann, Deanery President

Affiliates

Our Lady Star of the Sea Ladies Guild

Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, North Myrtle Beach

Michele Moulton, President

Andrew Women's Club

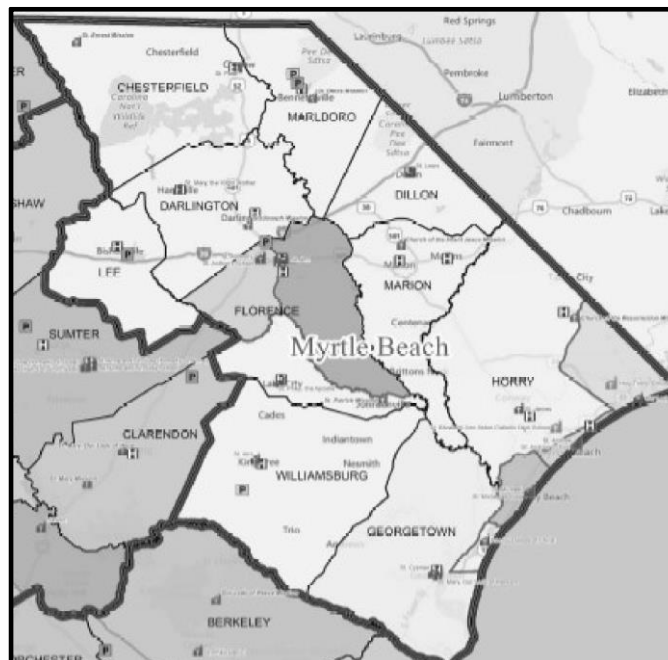
St. Andrew Catholic Church, Myrtle Beach

Cathy Kelly, President

St. James Ladies Guild

St. James the Younger Catholic Church, Conway

Karen Bleakney, President



2023 Year-End Report of the MYRTLE BEACH DEANERY PRESIDENT

By Mary Mann

Myrtle Beach Deanery has three affiliates, Our Lady Star of the Sea Guild, St. Andrew Women's Club, and St. James Ladies Guild. The Deanery membership consists of 171 members from the three affiliates, with Our Lady SSG having 32 members, St. Andrews WC having 74 members, and St. James LG having 64 members. There are 4 SCCCW Individual Members, Four deanery meetings were held throughout the year.

A summary of Deanery activities follows. Members:

- Prayed a Rosary monthly in a public venue for Freedom of Religion.
- Collected pocketbooks and filled them with toiletries for homeless women.
- Collected soda top cans for the Ronald McDonald House in Charleston to help pay their electric bill.
- Held quarterly meetings with excellent speakers, one from Jason's House, one from Meals on Wheels, and one from McLeod Hospital, who was in charge of Volunteer Services.
- Participated in Catholic Women's Legislative Day at the Capitol.
- Walked in the March for Life in Washington, DC.
- Attended National Religious Freedom Day event.
- Hosted, organized, and attended the SCCCW Convention in Myrtle Beach, SC.
- Supported the Boxes of Joy program of Cross Catholic Outreach that distributed Christmas gift boxes to children in underdeveloped countries.
- Led a Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Joyful Hope in Kingstree, SC.

The Deanery President spoke at affiliate meetings to promote membership in the Deanery.

AFFILIATE YEAR-END REPORTS



Our Lady Star of the Sea Ladies Guild

All Reports Submitted by Anita LeVan

Church Committee Activities - Spirituality

- In October 2023, prayed the Rosary in the parking lot for the unborn.
- Members volunteered to worked daily at the OLSS Catholic Gift Shop to assist visitors and parishioners in finding the perfect gifts for all ages. Money raised went to the church and the Ladies Guild for donations to charities. At OLSS we have been blessed to have Gift Shop that is open all year. Our gift shop is the largest on the Grand Strand. Books in English and Spanish

range from books for children to Bibles. Bible study material, Missals, daily prayers and meditations, religious novels, and other faith-based books are available. Religious merchandise includes, rosaries and accessories, statues, seasonal items, crosses and medals, wall crucifixes, prayer cards, and a host of other items.

- Each First Holy Communicants, 54 in number, was given a missal, rope bracelet, medal, prayer square, and cookies.
- In March we provided a dove tree, offering prayers for each of our RCIA candidates.

Church Activity of Greatest Impact

The Dove Tree for the RICA participants was new this year and was well received by our parishioners. The feedback was that they felt they were aiding in their step to become Catholics.

Seeing the 54 children who received their First Communion receive the gifts as well as the Eucharist was truly special. Those children hold a special place in all our hearts.

The volunteers in the gift shop helped a lot of visitors that came to our church to find that perfect religious gift or item for their own use. They also talked about our church community with them and even helped some to decide to join our church.

Legislative Committee Activities - *Spirituality*

- Introducing the Deanery to our new members and offering membership.

Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact

Having new members join this year.

Community Committee Activities - *Service*

- The Ladies Guild worked tirelessly in helping our church, community, hospitals, hospice center, and international groups.
- Our prayer shawl ministry made scarves, hats, gloves, blankets, shawls, lap robes, wash clothes, dish towels, dish cloths, and many other items. They were distributed to Kingstree Church in Kingstree, SC, which is an extremely poor and disadvantaged city. Items went to Julie's Kids, Children's Recovery Center, the Family Justice Center, McLeod Sea Coast Hospital, Loris McLeod Hospital maternity ward, Welcome Home Veterans Tiny Homes, and shelters in the area.
- The Senior Care Committee provided pen pals for individuals at assisted living resident centers such as River Park, New Haven, and Legacy. Music, games. Candy bags for bingo prizes were provided. Holy Communion was taken to residents.
- Internationally we have supported Emerita through Unbound.
- We participated in raising funds for a much needed well to be built in Kambia Village, Kenya. This will give 800 people clean water which will change their lives and their health.

- A clothing drive was held in January and December. We distributed over 18 large bags of clothing to Kingstree. The nuns in Kingstree told us that they had a need for underwear and socks for adult women and men as well as hats, scarves, and gloves for all ages. The Ladies Guild Board asked their members to donate those items and bring them to the meeting in September. It was a success and more than 4 boxes with the items were given to the nuns.
- We had a speaker come in from Southern Eye Institute Mission of West Africa. We donated \$250 to the mission.
- The Ladies Guild held a Souper bowl and Book sale in February. The proceeds were donated to The Family Justice Center, an organization that helps domestic violence victims and their families.
- The Ladies Guild also hosted a Card Party in February, and the proceeds were donated to Mobile Meals and Camp Chemo.
- In March, the Ladies Guild had a bake sale raising \$2,000 for Cape Fear Mercy Hospice.
- We had a guest speaker from the Children's Recovery Center in March. This organization serves children from newborn through 17 who have been sexually abused as well as mistreated. We donated \$250 to them.
- During Lent, volunteers served food and beverages at the Fish Fry that raised money for our outreach program.
- Our guest speaker in April was from the Family Justice Center. The Executive Director, Kim Parsons, updated us on the new shelter that was being built in our own Horry County. The Ladies guild ran a fund-raising effort through our parish to collect funds for domestic violence. We presented Kim with the money raised at our June Banquet.
- In May we presented lap robes and shawls for hospitalized and homebound parishioners.
- In June we had our end of the year celebration and fashion show. We ran a raffle and a 50/50. The proceeds were awarded to the Rape Crisis center.
- In October we had a guest speaker from Harbor Hope, Brunswick County NC, a Domestic violence center and gave a monetary donation.
- In October items were collected at our meeting for the Kind Keeper animal shelter. This is a no kill shelter.
- In November there were a few events:
 - Our Annual Craft Fair was on the first weekend of November which featured items by our talented crafters and quilters. The proceeds from this annual event were given to Our Lady of the Star Church.
 - The prayer Shawl Ministry provided fidget blankets for Alzheimer patients.
 - Items were donated to our Food Pantry by members of our Ladies Guild.
- In December, there were a number of events and projects.
 - Three hundred Boxes of Joy, a Cross Catholic Outreach project, were donated.
 - Cards and letters were sent to our Senior Centers.
 - Personal Hygiene items, snacks, puzzle books, journals, paper, and pens were collected for Sea Haven Place which aids homeless teens. According to the director, they were assembling Christmas bags for their 40+ teens and were short on items, when we brought them all that we had collected. They told us that we were God sent!

Community Activity of Greatest Impact

The greatest impact was hard to choose. I would say that the most humanitarian was being a partner in providing clean water to 800 people who would otherwise be walking up to five miles to retrieve water from muddy and diseased collection sites from which animals drink.

The activity with the greatest impact on our community was that of donating funds and collecting items that helped support victims of domestic violence and sexual assaults as well homeless vets and teens.

International Committee Activities - Service

Members:

- Provided financial support for Emerita through Unbound.
- Donated 300 Box of Joy for Cross Catholic Outreach..

International Activity of Greatest Impact
(Not provided.)



St. Andrew Women's Club

All Reports Submitted by Cathy Kelly

Church Committee Activities - Spirituality

Members:

- Made rosaries for distribution.
 - Coordinated a Rosary Challenge in October and prayed the Rosary daily.
 - Attended funeral Masses for members.
 - Promoted bible studies especially during December by reading one chapter of the Gospel of Luke each day by Christmas.
 - Provided a variety of religious books for personal reading.
 - Promoted devotion to St. Joseph through the making and selling of St. Joseph's Bread.
 - Cursillo speaker Marianne Joy spoke to the group about joining Cursillo.
- Knitters created prayer shawls and blankets for the elderly and infants.

Church Activity of Greatest Impact

- Many members commented on both the Rosary challenge in October and on reading the Gospel of Luke from December 1st to the 24th.

- The Rosary challenge was to pray a Rosary either with a friend, family member, or alone each day in the month of the rosary-October. Many members felt closer to the Blessed Mother and what she experienced during her life with Jesus.
- During the month of December, members read a chapter of the Gospel of Luke beginning December first and by the 24th all the chapters were read. The members felt a closeness to Our Lord-knowing Him more.

Legislative Committee Activities - *Spirituality*

- Members participated in Catholic Women's Legislative Day at the Capitol.
- Members prayed the Rosary daily for Freedom of Religion.
- Members walked in the March for Life.
- Members attended National Religious Freedom Day events.

Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact

Several members attended the Catholic Women's Legislative Day at the Capitol in Columbia in February. Those who attended met with the lieutenant governor, Pam Evette, who discussed various legislative topics important to Catholics. Members were recognized by the legislature. This event was very impactful to our members.

Membership Committee Activities - *Leadership*

- A membership drive was held in August and all women were invited to join us.
- A tea party was held in September and all women of the parish were invited to attend.
- New council members were spotlighted.
- The membership application was posted to the parish website.
- All parish women were invited to meetings and events.

Membership Activity of Greatest Impact

One hundred and sixteen women attended our Women's Club Tea Party in September resulting in 16 new members signing up to join us. A variety of teas as well as tea sandwiches, pastries, cookies, cakes, and pies were enjoyed by all.

Organization Committee Activities – *Leadership*

- Revised bylaws.
- Invited speakers to meetings.
- Attended and hosted deanery meetings.
- Hosted and attended SCCCW Convention in Myrtle Beach.
- Nominated Catholic Woman of the Year.
- In April, held Mass and Celebration for the Catholic Woman of the Year.
- In June, held an “End of Year Potluck Dinner”, and presented and installed new officers.

- In November, the St. Andrew Women's Club moved items back to the church from the community life center.
- In November, dedicated the new altar and organized and managed the dinner after the dedication our remodeled church.

Organization Activity of Greatest Impact

When our Pastor approached the St. Andrew Women's Club and asked them to assist in preparing the remodeled church for the dedication of the new altar and to organize the dinner afterwards, the members were elated! After a year of attending Mass in the Community Life Center, parishioners were excited about getting back to the church. The Women's Club was touched to be part of the dedication.

Public Relations Committee Activities - Leadership

- The St. Andrew Women's Club members served as greeters at all the Masses on Saturday afternoons and Sunday acting as a welcoming group to the congregation and visitors.
- Women's Club Meetings and all events were advertised in the parish bulletin as well as the parish website, Facebook page, and Flocknote.

Public Relations Activity of Greatest Impact

Those who served as greeters found much joy in welcoming parishioners and visitors to our church. We have so much pride in our church and want to share our excitement with the community.

Community Committee Activities - Service

- The importance of good mental health through mental health tips and strategies was addressed.
- Several members volunteered in the church office.
- Toiletries were collected and donated to the New Directions Homeless Shelter.
- Can tops were collected for the American Cancer Society.
- Valentine's Bags were distributed to Angel Oaks Nursing Home.
- A blanket drive was sponsored for Kingstree.
- The need of Meals on Wheels for volunteers was addressed.
- Change for Baby Bottles for Grand Strand Citizen's for Life was collected.
- A bake sale for donations was held.
- A baby shower for Baby Jesus was held. Items were donated to the Coastline Women's Center.

Community Activity of Greatest Impact

Affiliate members found good mental health tips and strategies helpful. Many commented on using

the strategies often and that they shared the ideas with friends and family.

Family Committee Activities - Service

- Participated in religious education activities with the school children.
- Attended Funeral Masses and assisted with comforting bereaved parishioners.
- Visited elderly in assisted living facilities and nursing homes.
- Provided speakers to discuss hospice care and nursing home living.

Family Activity of Greatest Impact

Members really appreciated hearing from Sherry Filler from Promedica Hospice Care. Sherry explained the hospice process and answered questions from the members, making members feel more at ease with the process.

International Committee Activities - Service

- Sent rosaries to Poland and the Ukraine.
- Deanery Boxes of Joy.
- Sent financial support to Sister Deepa's Life in Light Foundation for widows and orphans.

International Activity of Greatest Impact

Because Sr. Deepa spent some time at St. Andrew Catholic Church and was a member of St. Andrew Women's Club, the members felt close to this project. Sr. Deepa spends all of her time assisting the widows and orphans in India. She is inspired by St. Teresa of Calcutta.



St. James Ladies Guild

All Reports Submitted by Karen Bleakney

Church Committee Activities – Spirituality

- Members assisted at Mass serving as Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Altar Servers, and singing in the Choir.
- Dedicated their time teaching in the Religious Education program at St. James.
- Served on the Funeral Ministry helping families plan for the funeral Mass of their loved ones at St. James.
- Participated in the Rosary Ministry making rosaries.
- The Ladies Guild bought Children's Bibles for the 4th Grade Religious Education Classroom.

- The Ladies Guild prepared funeral receptions for 16 families this year comforting the mourning and helping them celebrate the life of their loved one.
- The Ladies Guild led the Stations of the Cross during Lent and prepared a meatless meal for all to enjoy.
- In April we celebrated the monthly Holy Hour with our deacon and prayed for the elderly and the homebound.
- We decorated, prepared, and served lunch for 100 visitors at our Lenten Ecumenical luncheon.
- In May, the Ladies Guild and the Religious Education classes prayed the Rosary as we had the May Crowning. It was the first time a child from the program and the Ladies Guild crowned Mary together. We will continue to do this practice.
- We led the Stations of the Resurrection after Easter on May 19th and prepared a meal for those attending afterwards.
- In June we decorated one of the altars and read at the Corpus Christi procession that St. James held in Downtown Conway. Our altar theme was Mary and the Eucharist.
- In July, the Ladies Guild assisted St. James Parish in the weekend long Eucharistic Revival. We helped the youth group sell refreshments, helped with registration and check-in, helped our visiting speakers with their book sales, picked up Father Torres at the airport, and drove him around since he had no car here.
- In September we formed a new ministry to welcome newly baptized members of St. James,
 - We sent out greeting cards to welcome them and let them know we would be praying for them.
- In October, the Guild worked together with the Faith Formation classes to celebrate the month of the Rosary by praying a Living Rosary after Mass.
- We decorated, prepared, and served lunch for 100 visitors at our Advent Ecumenical luncheon.
- We prepared dinners for our visiting speaker at our Parish Advent Mission who requested a home cooked meal each night during his stay.
- The Ladies Guild baked, plated, and sold over 173 plates of cookies for our Christmas Cookie fundraiser.

Church Activity of Greatest Impact

This year our affiliate was active in making a huge difference in the lives of our church family. Our focus on our parish youth was to transform their prayer life. We worked with the Religious Education Director and coordinated with the Faith Formation Teachers in praying a Living Rosary on October 22nd after the 10:00 Mass. The guild members prayed the Apostles Creed, the Mysteries' salutation, the Our Father, and the Glory Be to the Father. Over 50 children in the program prayed the Hail Mary. We were all connected physically and spiritually throughout the church aisles holding onto a long blue strand of yarn. Our little ones were significantly overjoyed as they grasped their battery-operated candles.

We arranged for the Living Rosary to be live streamed so that our homebound parishioners could watch and pray along at home. It was made even more exceptional thanks to the melodic music played by our wonderful organist. The parents were so delighted that their children were praying together at church for October, the month of the Rosary. They would like the program to be

repeated again next year so that they can see their precious little ones pray the Living Rosary again. In the future, we are eager to make this a beautiful experience bilingual where the Faith Formation Classes would pray the Hail Mary and possibly have them learn the Our Father as well as the Glory Be in their native languages. We are tremendously pleased that we helped to make an enormous difference in the lives of fellow parishioners.

Community Committee Activities – Service

- The Ladies Guild approved donations of \$200 each to Disabled American Veterans and Fostering Hope serving Horry County.
- Our members donated small cosmetic bags and mini backpacks filled with nail polishes, hair scrunchies, and fun accessories to teens in Hope4Kids/Backpack Buddies. It was pointed out that this age group is often overlooked in Outreach programs.
- Members volunteer time at the Fostering Hope store in Downtown Conway.
- Members collected boxes of cereal to be brought on the pilgrimage of the Myrtle Beach Deanery to Our Lady of Joyful Hope for the Spring Streets Food Bank.
- Members were active in the Nurses Honor Guard of SC performing the Nightingale Tribute and Last Call of Duty at funerals of nurses.
- Donated \$500 to the Neumann Center of Coastal Carolina University towards their chapel.
- The Ladies Guild prepared 2 dinners for Catholic Chants of CCU for their Fall Retreat.
- Supported the Youth Group of St. James in their fundraisers.
- Donated \$100 to a Youth Group member so he could attend SEEK conference.
- The Ladies Guild started an Outreach program at Anderson Oaks Assisted Living Home

Community Activity of Greatest Impact

This year our Guild members decided to venture out of our own parish community and perform a wonderful outreach program with the elderly residents of Anderson Oaks Assisted Living Home (AOALH). The Social Director of the home met with our Vice President and conferred on how we could lead a craft activity in the afternoon and provide a refreshing snack for the twelve seniors that we could accommodate.

We painted blessing rocks with them, chatted, and shared stories with them on our first visit in March, which was such a delight for them and for us. In April we painted coasters with Sharpie pens although fewer folks attended due to the fact that they were tired as the event was in the afternoon. We then brainstormed about how we could serve these delightful folks in a more improved approach.

In the following month we adjusted our Outreach Program to entertain the residents in the morning after breakfast when they are most active. We spoke to the Social Director of the home, and it was determined that a monthly Bingo game would be offered. This well-loved activity is now well attended by the eager residents and us. We now provide entertainment for a larger audience for the hour we are there, usually about twenty folks. Our Guild ladies eagerly helped any player, man, or woman, who may have missed a number, and it was pointed out so that the game was fair.

Since the residents of the AOALH purchase toiletry items at the commissary, our Guild collected toiletry items such as hand cream, toothpaste, and deodorant to use as prizes for the winners. We absolutely love seeing smiles on the faces of these sweet elderly men and women each month and have come to appreciate the opportunity to serve them and to make a remarkable difference in their more challenging golden years.

Family Committee Activities - Service

- The Ladies Guild members attended funerals of members of the parish.
- Upon request, members provided funeral luncheons or brunches for families and friends of the deceased.
- Members actively prayed for people needing prayers through our Prayer Chain Ministry.
- Members visited the elderly at Anderson Oaks Assisted Living facility through our Outreach program.
- We support the Youth Group of St. James in their fundraisers.
- We supplied the Youth Group with meatless recipes for them to use in their Cookbook.
- A donation of \$200 was made to Ronald McDonald House for the needs of sick children in South Carolina.
- A donation of \$200 was made to Alzheimer's Society in South Carolina for the needs of those affected in the state.
- A donation of \$200 was made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital for families with children who have cancer.

Family Activity of Greatest Impact

At St. James Church, our Ladies Guild provides an amazing service to families in mourning. If requested, our ladies provide a special meal consisting of home cooked food, side dishes and desserts for families and friends to enjoy after the Mass for their loved one. The huge burden of feeding their visitors often in a strange town is respectfully relieved by our charitable hospitality. Our large Parish Hall was used. The Guild has supported the requests of 16 families this year, one of them for our own member, Joan Lewandowski.

Our ladies worked together to provide a special opportunity for a family to celebrate the life of their loved one. The tablecloth settings with flower decorations add a special touch to the room as they gather to share their heartfelt memories. Additionally, we shared our love as we greeted and comforted them in their time of hardship. It has been said that families were grateful for the lovely reception that the Ladies Guild Funeral Reception ministry provided.

St. James Ladies Guild considers it a Christian privilege to support our parish family as we say "goodbye" to our beloved parishioners.

International Committee Activities – Service

- Supported Boxes of Joy for Christmas gifts to be sent to children in underdeveloped countries by Cross Catholic Outreach. St. James donated 78 boxes and had 3 boxes donated online.
- Ongoing support of Mika, of Unbound. We voted to increase our annual support this year to include extra money for birthday and Christmas gifts for our child.
- Donated \$50 to Our Lady Star of the Sea affiliate for the shipping costs of suitcases of shirts to Kenya, Africa.
- A member of the Guild who went on pilgrimage to the Holy Land brought with her to holy sites in Israel that she visited the prayers and petitions of members of the Guild.

International Activity of Greatest Impact

This year our member, Karen Bleakney offered the ladies the opportunity to be with her in spirit as she and her husband went on pilgrimage to Israel with Casting Nets Ministries. She gave everyone an opportunity to share their prayer requests and petitions with her as she went to the holy sites where she prayed for her Guild sisters. The requests were presented at each location before the Lord.

A beautiful picture of the Woman Disciple with Jesus was shared a meeting. The photograph of this wonderful sculpture was framed and is now placed in a prominent place at our monthly meetings to remind us of the women who were so important to Jesus' ministry and their support of the church.



1830

Paris, France

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal

“O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you.”

ROCK HILL DEANERY

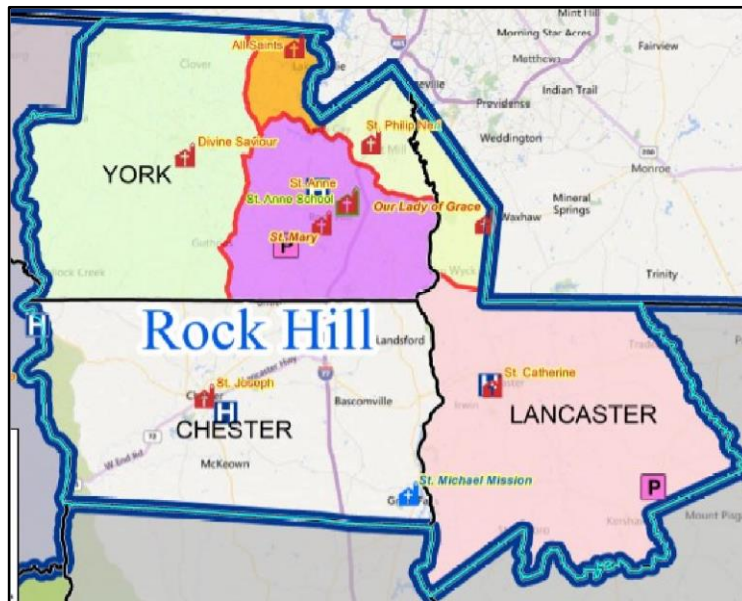
Carol Lintner, President

Affiliates

All Saints Women's Organization
All Saints Catholic Church, Lake Wylie
Tina Bougor, President

St. Mary Rosary & Confraternity Society
St. Mary Catholic Church, Rock Hill
Gwendolyn Finley, President

Women of Divine Saviour
Divine Saviour Catholic Church, York
Jeanine Schreiner, President



ROCK HILL DEANERY PRESIDENT

By Carol Lintner

The Rock Hill Deanery (RHD) began with four affiliates, 102 affiliate members and 2 SCCCW Individual Members. In January of 2023, St. Catherine Ladies Guild hosted the first of three deanery meetings. With a dwindling membership, they decided not to renew membership in SCCCW in December. Nan Robinson, of Women of Divine Saviour, hosted our May meeting in her home and Tena Bougor of All Saints Women's Organization hosted our September meeting in her home.

Deanery members mourned the loss of Karen Howze, deanery vice-president, who passed away on November 18. Karen's spirituality filled the room and set the tone for meetings through her beautiful prayers. Gwen Finley was appointed in her place.

SCCCW Commission Projects:

- Walking With Mom's in Need.
- Cross Catholic Outreach Box of Joy.
- Adopt a Seminarian (three members of the Rock Hill Oratory).
- Eucharistic Revival.
- Pray the Rosary.
- Bible Study.
- Legislation – writing to our representatives.

Deanery Activities:

- Supported "Her Place" with monetary donations, volunteer, and volunteer training. Sue Fullerton, guest speaker at All Saints Women's Organization meeting, invited deanery members and guests to attend the grand opening and tour the facilities of Her Place. Fr. John of All Saints and four deanery members attended the event.
- Sidewalk Advocates provided counselling support on site as well as through ongoing prayer and monetary donations.
- Multicultural Programs included Las Posadas, Cinco de Mayo, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and Celebrate Food and Your Heritage.
- Encouraged affiliates to partake in Cyber Security and monitor children's use of the internet.

Several members attended the Convention in Myrtle Beach. Lidia Sundberg of All Saints was honored as Rock Hill Deanery Catholic Woman of the Year 2023. Ann Marie West, parishioner of All Saints and student at St. Anne's, was awarded the Fr. William Pentis Scholarship.

Jeannette Altenburg attended the NCCW convention in Salt Lake City, UT, and the Diocese of Savannah and Archdiocese of Atlanta conventions. She serves as Secretary/Treasurer of the Province of Atlanta and Treasurer of the Rock Hill Deanery.

Gwen Finley, President of St. Mary Rosary and Confraternity Society, was nominated in September as the Rock Hill Deanery Catholic Woman of the Year for 2024.

AFFILIATE YEAR-END REPORTS



All Saints Women's Organization

Church Committee Activities - Spirituality

All Reports Submitted by Tina Bougor

- Our members participated in weekly “Divine Mercy Cenacle” studies drawing from the Bible, the Catechism, and the Diary of Divine Mercy from St. Faustina.
- Our members also participated in weekly bible study that followed the book series “Walking with Purpose” where we grow closer to the Word of God.
- Some of our members who are not able to participate in person in the bible studies at church benefited from technology and began learning with the daily Bible in a year and Catechism in a year offered by Ascension Press.
- Our parish Priest invited the community to start small group gatherings. One member met with a small Christian community bi-monthly to discuss upcoming gospels thus building up the body of Christ.
- Various members were part of the Legion of Mary as active and auxiliary members. Active members met weekly for prayers and continued to visit the sick and homebound of the parish bringing them the holy Eucharist and meals. The Legion of Mary also organized a weekly “Meet & Greet” where members of our parish gathered for a fun morning of sweet treats and conversations. We had an average of 40 people per week.
- Since 2019 we have organized a Christmas Novena called “Las Posadas, during the nine days leading up to Christmas. There is a reenactment Mary and Joseph’s search for a place to stay for Mary to give birth to Jesus. The reenactment is followed by the Rosary. Members are encouraged to keep Jesus in the center of the Advent season.

Church Activity of Greatest Impact

From the ‘Meet and Greet’ that was organized by the Legion of Mary, many people joined our affiliate or joined to help in our other service activities. This event allowed people to take time to sit down and engage in conversation. Some of the parishioners that were not so involved in the church learned about what was going on and if they liked something, they participated.

Legislative Committee Activities - Spirituality

- Members participate in the yearly March for Life in Charlotte, NC, and Columbia, SC.
- Members attended a local political group that brought candidates for various offices together, like Secretary of Education, Local House Representatives, and others.
- One of our members brought attention of our group by contacting our local house

representative. One person needed surgery that Medicare would not cover. After she asked for assistance from a government official, a way to get the surgery approved was found.

Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact

Contacted local house representatives.

Community Committee Activities - Service

- Some of our members continue to drive parishioners to appointments associated with the Restoring Mobility to the Blind group.
- Last January we hosted the board members of Her Place, a transitional house for homeless women. This was our project during the convention in 2022. The house finally opened and received the first residents in October of 2023. Some of our members volunteered continually to drive residents to their appointments, to do administrative clerical work, to clean or to spend the night with the ladies.
- Members ran a food drive in connection with our Christmas party for a local food pantry that serves both North and South Carolina.
- We hosted a table supporting Mira Via which an organization that helps pregnant women with housing and other material needs so they could choose to keep their babies while attending college.
- One of our members co-led the local Sidewalk Advocates for Life (SAFL) and counselled and prayed in front of Planned Parenthood abortion facility in Charlotte, NC, on a weekly basis. Our group supported the Sidewalk Advocates group by making blessing bags that they gave to the moms who stop and conversed with the counselors outside the abortion facility. These bags were filled with goodies and life affirming resources that could be used to make better choices.
- Made and donated a gift basket for the Oratory Valentine raffle this went to benefit the Oratory in Rock Hill.
- Provided food to replenish the freezer used for our community and our parish shut ins. This side ministry is called Feed the Flock. Members of our group took food to people to their houses and visited with them.

Community Activity of Greatest Impact

Last January we hosted the board members of Her Place, a transitional house for homeless women. Her Place was selected as the beneficiary of funds received from the SCCCW Convention Project in 2022. The house finally opened and received the first residents in October of 2023. Some of our members volunteered and continue to drive residents to their appointments, others do administrative clerical work, and others clean or spend the night with the ladies.

Family Committee Activities - *Service*

- We organized a huge school supply drive that supported the local school district with hundreds of backpacks and supplies. The whole parish community participated. Our group organized and distributed the materials to the local school district.
- We organized and executed a successful Apple Pie project. With the earnings, we made a donation to Feed the Flock for supplies so they could continue to support our community.
- We provided desserts - 300 cookies and 300 cupcakes- at no cost for the annual Life Festival that our parish held in September! We also hosted one of the activities. Our members helped children from the church decorate rocks. They painted them by hand and took them home.
- We make and sent birthday cards to all members of our affiliate. We also sent sympathy and get-well cards as needed.
- We donated blankets and socks to another church that was in need of donations.

Family Activity of Greatest Impact

We organized a huge school supply drive that supported the local school district with hundreds of backpacks and supplies. The whole parish community participated. Our group organized and distributed the materials to the local school district.

International Committee Activities - *Service*

We continued to organize and completed another Box of Joy project sending hundreds of boxes to children in many underdeveloped countries. This initiative by Cross Catholic Outreach is a staple activity for our parish every Christmas season.

International Activity of Greatest Impact

The Boxes of Joy project.



St. Mary Rosary Confraternity Society

Church Committee Activities - *Spirituality*

Report Submitted by Gwendolyn Finley

- Eucharistic Minister
- Lectors
- Members of Legion of Mary.
- Parish Council Members.

- Preparing food for vacation bible school.

Church Activity of Greatest Impact

Preparing the food for the full week of vacation bible school.

Legislative Committee Activities - *Spirituality*

Report Submitted by Mary Evans

- Sent letters advocating issue to Senator Graham.
- Sent letters to Senator Tim Scott.
- Sent letters to congressman Ralph Norman.
- Attended City of Rock Hill various committees meeting.
- Attended School Board Meetings.
- Responded to request on Catholic legislation.

Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact

Getting responses from the various legislators.

Community Committee Activities - *Service*

Report Submitted by Gwendolyn Finley

- School Supplies to Pilgrims Inn Family Shelter.
- Donated clothes to Foster Care.
- Donated men clothes & socks to the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen.
- Donated food to the St. Mary Food Pantry.
- Help unload food from Second Harvest truck at Pilgrims Inn.
- Distributed food from Food Truck.
- Prepared and served Veterans at the VFW.
- Took food to church member undergoing cancer treatment.

Community Activity of Greatest Impact

(Not provided.)

Family Committee Activities – *Service*

Report Submitted by Angela Novell

- Prepared food for families of deceased individuals.
- Purchased gift cards for family outing at Texas Roadhouse.
- Attended Confirmation of family members.
- Attended Baptism for a family daughter at another church.

Family Activity of Greatest Impact

Supported a church family whose daughter decided to join another church.

International Committee Activities - Service

Report Submitted by Gwendolyn Finley

- Ethnic luncheon.
- Boxes of Joy.

International Activity of Greatest Impact

Organized an ethnic luncheon which included all cultures in the parish. It was overwhelming. There was standing room only.



Women of Divine Saviour

Report not provided.



The Cross Symbolizes the Passion of Christ

The Bar Represents the Earth

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Represents His Love for Us

The Sorrowful Heart of Mary Represents Her Motherly Love for Us

The Twelve Stars Represent Twelve Tribes of Israel and the Twelve Apostles

The Intervening M with the Cross Shows Mary's Close Collaboration with the Passion of Her Son, Jesus,
for the Redemption of Humankind.

Addendum
Added 3/18/24, Post Publication

The Public Relations and Membership Committee Reports submitted by the St. James Ladies Guild (St. James Catholic Church, Conway) were inadvertently omitted from the St. James Ladies Guild section on pages 75-79. The reports follow. It is with regret that this omission occurred.

Membership Committee Activities

Reports Submitted by Karen Bleakney

- A new color brochure was crated and printed in August with the past year's activities and achievements highlighted. New contact information for our officers was included for reference.
- Ladies Guild meeting information was included in the Parish Staff column in the weekly bulletin.
- Upon registration, new parish members were actively asked if they were interested in joining the Ladies' Guild..
- The names of new interested members were provided to the Guild president so they could be contacted, welcomed to the parish, and personally invited to the next Guild meeting.
- The members wore their identification badges at activities and welcomed and invite visitors to join the Guild.
- In August, a membership drive was held, and brochures were handed out at all Masses. Women were invited to join at our September meeting.

Membership Activity of Greatest Impact

The Guild was determined to build its membership by reaching the women in the parish who were considering ways to be effective in our active church community. Our focus was to reach many women in the church family at all the Masses throughout the months of August and September before our first official meeting on September 18th. Our bulletin featured "save the date" notifications of our membership drive and pictures of our active Ladies Guild in action. Our bulletin board located in the hallway leading to the church was also restructured to feature the Guild's numerous activities.

On August 26th and 27th, a membership blitz was held. Wonderful representatives spoke before each Mass about the Ladies Guild and its commitment to the church community. After Mass about 100 colorful brochures were passed out to parishioners.

At the first meeting in September, 9 new members signed up. Over the following monthly meetings, a few more new members joined. By December, 20 new members had joined the Guild for a grand total of 66 members. Many of the new members immediately became active and assisted with the organization of our major fundraiser in October (the Rummage Sale), an ecumenical event of the church in early December serving 100 people, our funeral ministry, and a second fundraiser (the Christmas Cookie Sale) to name a few activities. The delightful ladies were extremely active and enthusiastic about serving the St. James community.

Public Relations Committee Activities

- Members attended St. James Town Hall meetings and used the opportunity to inform the parishioners of the various activities that the Ladies Guild had recently been involved .
- "Save the Date" notifications put in the church bulletins were used to publicize Guild activities and fundraisers.
- Color ads of our events were submitted to the church secretary for inclusion in the bulletin.
- St. James Ladies Guild shared our notifications with local churches so our activities could be promoted across the county.
- Photographs of our activities were shared with the parish office so that they could be posted on the St. James Facebook page and website.
- A video of the fundraiser activity was posted on Conway Alive Facebook page.
- Photographs of our events were identified with Catholic Church of St. James Ladies Guild so that one would be better directed to the St. James' Facebook page.
- Quarterly activity reports were submitted to the church staff and pastor so that Father Oscar Borda could mention the Guild's ministry activities at the deanery meetings with the Bishop.

Public Relations Activity of Greatest Impact

One of our lovely new members, Irma Bunora, made a video in early November of members who were busy setting up for the Rummage Sale in the Founders' Center. Tables of clothing were set up. Other donations were sorted on additional tables marked as housewares, linens, Christmas items, and knickknacks. Sports equipment, medical equipment, and furniture items were placed around the large room. Irma narrated her video. She described the items and provided the date, time, and address of the sale. Irma had the video uploaded to the Conway Alive Facebook page which featured activities in and around Conway. Thanks to her incredible work, we were able to reach another group of enthusiastic shoppers in addition to the ones who may have just seen our road signs. Many people were pleased with the many bargains that St. James Ladies Guild provided at its annual Rummage Sale.

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