

2026 COMMISSION YEAR-END REPORT BOOK

of the

**SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN
PRESIDENT
JEANNETTE ALTENBURG**



GOOD WORKS

Completed During the
2025 CALENDAR YEAR



Distributed at the 2026 SCCCW Convention

reports of

**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.

FORMAT FOR SCCCW COMMISSION YEAR-END REPORTS

SCCCW Commission and Commission Committee Chairs were asked to describe the NCCW and SCCCW **initiatives that were** suggested to deaneries and affiliates and the **actions taken** in 2025 by deaneries and affiliates to address the suggested initiatives.

FORMAT FOR DEANERY YEAR-END REPORTS

Deanery presidents were asked to provide information specific to the deanery such as the number of affiliates, affiliate members, SCCCW Individual Members, members on the SCCCW Board of Directors, and deanery individual members and to summarize activities throughout 2025 that related to initiatives adopted by deaneries that were suggested by SCCCW Commission Chairs or originated in the deanery.

FORMAT FOR AFFILIATE YEAR-END REPORTS

Each affiliate was asked to submit a year-end report of activities, initiatives, and accomplishments throughout the calendar year for each commission committee in which it operated. Not all affiliates operated with all eight committees. The affiliate was also asked to identify the one activity on each committee report that had the greatest impact on affiliate members or on the community.



*"You are the salt of the earth, you are the light of the world"
(Mt 5: 13-14)*

2026 SCCCW COMMISSION and COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Spirituality Commission Chair- *Rosemarie Kovarcik*
Church Committee Chair-*Debra Drennon*
Legislation Committee Chair-*Gwendolyn Finley*

Leadership Commission Chair- *Nancy Kuykendall*
Organization Committee Chair—*Linda Clark*
Membership Committee Chair-*Melanie Rotondi*
Public Relations Committee Chair-*TBD*

Service Commission Chair - *Yvonne Pygatt*
Community Committee Chair- *Mary Ann Bell*
Family Committee Chair – *Etta Harrison*
International Committee Chair – *Louise Riley*

2025 YEAR-END REPORTS

SCCCW SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION YEAR-END REPORT

Report Provided by Rosemary Kovarcik

The Spirituality Commission which includes Church and Legislation Committees reinforces our faith and supports service to the church and to the world. This past year has seen many activities enforcing these goals. Some of these activities are:

- Sponsored an international rosary which was prayed in seven languages.
- Held Days of Reflection in Advent and/or Lent.
- Participated in various Pro-Life rallies.
- Participated in various rosary groups notably the Patriotic Rosary.
- Held Stations of the Cross for victims of human trafficking and sponsored talks on domestic violence in South Carolina.
- Submitted prayer requests into a Prayer Bowl at each meeting. Members were asked to pray for these intentions.
- Rosaries were made for First Communicants and military personnel.

- Members frequently help their local church by providing repass meals and serving in different ministries.
- Sent thank you cards to the wives of newly ordained deacons.
- Held a retreat at the Basilica of St. Peter with the theme: ‘The Reason for My Hope’.
- Held talks given by new pastors, parochial vicars and deacons discussing their faith journey.
- Started a Women’s Bible Group.
- Started monthly First Friday or First Saturday mass and devotions followed by coffee fellowship.
- Put together Feast of the Epiphany kits to give to parishioners on the feast day.
- Laminated cards with Catholic Social Teaching and placed in the church and the social hall for parishioners to take.
- Generated a generic letter to send to representatives and congressmen with concerns regarding immigration policies.
- Sponsored pilgrimages to the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Charleston for Mass and Holy Doors for plenary indulgences.
- Sponsored Angel Trees to benefit various local charities.
- Participated in the Baby Bottle Campaign to help local pregnancy centers.



SCCCW LEADERSHIP COMMISSION YEAR-END REPORT

Report submitted by Nancy Kuykendall

- Regain, Retain, and Grow your Council
- Membership Brochure
- Membership Information Flyer
- Membership Poster
- On Saturday, October 25, 2025, SCCCW President, Jeannette Altenburg, Leadership/Organization Chair, Nancy Kuykendall, Membership Chair, Melanie Rotondi, Public Relations Chair, Linda Clark, traveled to St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Edgefield. The mission was to acquaint members of the Aiken Deanery with SCCCW and encourage them to join SCCCW.
- The Aiken churches represented were:
 - St. Mary, Help of Christians
 - Good Shepherd
 - Our Lady of Peace
 - St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception
 - Our Lady of the Valley
- Representatives from these churches were encouraged to attend by their pastors.
- Father Ken welcomed all the ladies and showed his support for Council.

- The video “We Are NCCW” was shown as a history and purpose of NCCW
- The SCCCW Team presented a roadmap for membership in SCCCW. An ice breaker was used, a display of brochures, Convention books, flyers and magazines were used to illustrate how an affiliate and deanery could function together. The group was told about the upcoming SCCCW Convention celebrating 95 years and held on Hilton Head Island.
- We brought lunch for the group and got to know the ladies.
- By the end of our time together Our Lady of the Valley and St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception had joined.
- Our team is proud to say that SCCCW is now seven Deaneries strong!



SCCCW SERVICE COMMISSION YEAR-END REPORT

Report submitted by Yvonne Pygatt

What a year 2025 has been! Kudos to the Women of The South Carolina Council of Catholic Women for their many acts of Service they rendered this past year, in the name of ***SERVICE!***

The Service Committee /co-chairs recommended the focus for 2025 consist of the following to be a guide when providing service within each parish. They were as follows:

1.Boxes of Joy, 2. Seafarer Project, 3 Walking with Mom’s in Need and 4 Praying for the people of South Africa for Peace, due to the increase killings and conflicts. This request came by way of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB) and The Most Holy Father Pope Leo XIV.

Here are just a few of the many services provided by the Women of SCCCW, keeping in mind that there are so many more services provided, all while keeping prayer in the forefront as we serve.

International Activities include:

- Participated in Boxes of Joy
- Seafarer’s Christmas Project
- Children from Catholic School sang Christmas songs in three (3) different languages - English, Spanish, and Latin
- Donation to JPII Senior project to help build a church in Lebanon.

Community Activity include:

- Donated 14,000 to seven local charities that serve children.
- Provided fifteen \$1,000 competitive scholarships to Catholic School students.
- Supported the Pregnancy Center of the Lowcountry with diapers, supplies, and funds, and provided expectant and new mothers with 179 Angel Tree gifts.
- Distributed Christmas cards for residents of three nursing homes
- Packed food care packages and maintained the church Blessing Box in need.

- Provided a home cooked meal for families of MUSC cancer patients staying at the Hope Lodge in Charleston
- Held a parish-wide baby shower for Birthright of Columbia with thousands of items donated.
- Hosted the annual Giving Tree which supported 113 recipients.
- invited all parish women to monthly meetings to learn about Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS)
- Provided 100 gifts for residents of Seteria Home
- Served lunches for bereaved families.
- Organized and serve lunch at the Annual Parish Picnic at Fort Jackson facility.
- Prepared Brunch/lunch for the men of the Parish on Father’s Day
- Served members of the community at Soup Kitchen
- Held a sewing session at Sea Haven Shelter for Children introducing them to basic life skills.

Family activities include:

- Monthly donations to Food Pantry and donations to Seteria House supporting women released from prison.
- Silent Auction and fashion show for scholarships
- Donated feminine products to Tri- County schools supported by. Ms. Claudia Bing Foster Care Home
- Supported the homeless in collaboration with Church Women United
- Prepared Thanksgiving baskets for families in the community
- Hosted “Walking with Moms in Need” speaker.
- Collected beverage tops for the Ronald McDonald House
- Served as a collection site for Boxes of Joy
- Prepared Boxes of Joy

Special thanks to the Service Commission co-chairs: Mary Ann Bell (Community), Etta Harrison (Family) and Louise Riley (International) who served alongside me with eagerness and vigor.

*“You Are the Light of the World!”
Matt. 5:14*



refrain part 1 The light of the world The salt of the earth We scatter the darkness When love becomes our way.	refrain part 2 The light of the world Christ is our light We shine with his brightness The reflection of his light from day to day
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2025 DEANERY AND AFFILIATE YEAR-END REPORTS



2025 Convention Theme

BE THE LIGHT!



*“Believe in the light while you have the light,
so that you may become children of light.”
John 12:36*



AIKEN DEANERY

Michelle Bunker, Deanery President

AFFILIATES

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Women's Ministry

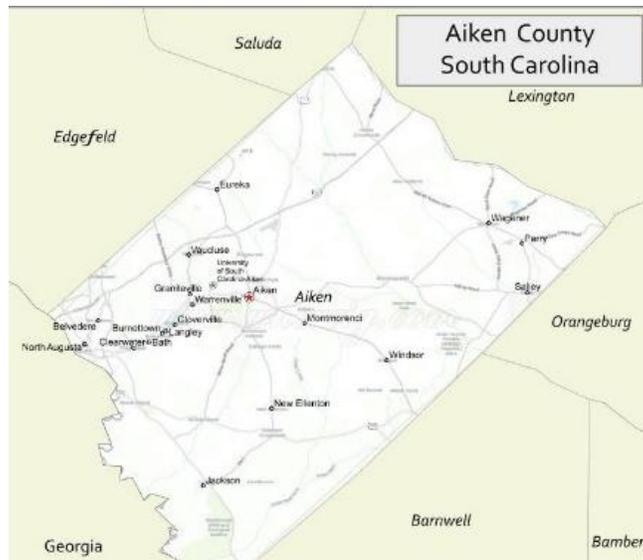
St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Edgefield

Jenny Teeters, President

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Women's Association

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church, Gloverville

Marsha Franklin, President





AIKEN DEANERY PRESIDENT

Michelle Bunker, Deanery President

The Aiken Deanery was organized last year, marking the first time a deanery has been established in this region in the ninety-year history of the South Carolina Council of Catholic Women. Two affiliates have joined the newly formed deanery: Our Lady of the Valley in Gloverville, South Carolina, and St. Mary's in Edgefield, South Carolina. The women of the Aiken Deanery are honored to be a part of SCCCW and look forward to working in unity with Catholic women across the state in faith, fellowship, and service.

Two officers were elected to lead the newly formed Aiken Deanery. Michele Bunker was installed as President, and Jenny Teeter was installed as Treasurer. In addition, Father Kentirgen Aririguzo of Our Lady of the Valley Church in Gloverville graciously agreed to serve as the Spiritual Advisor for the deanery, providing spiritual guidance and support as the deanery begins its mission.

Both affiliates experienced very active and fruitful 2025 years, which included parish involvement, fundraisers, retreats, and numerous opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship among the ladies. With gratitude for this strong beginning and confidence in God's guidance, the Aiken Deanery looks forward to many wonderful years of growth, collaboration, and faithful service.



AIKEN DEANERY YEAR-END REPORTS

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Women's Ministry

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Edgefield

New Affiliate: Reports not available this year

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Women's Association

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church, Gloverville

Church Committee Activities – Spirituality

All Reports Provided by Michele Bunker

- Opened each monthly meeting with communal prayer and spiritual reflection, fostering spiritual growth and unity among members.
- Promoted and supported parish Bible Study opportunities throughout the year, encouraging ongoing faith formation.
- Sponsored a Parish Mission in April, held immediately following Sunday Mass and featured Father Chidi Onwuka, who spoke on the theme of the Jubilee Year of Hope; prayer materials and pilgrimage information were distributed to parishioners.
- Organized and hosted a Women's Retreat themed Women of Faith: Embracing Mary's Model of Discipleship, attended by 39 women from multiple parishes; the retreat included adoration, Scripture reflection, workshops, group discussion, and fellowship.
- Coordinated and led Stations of the Cross, including readers and Lenten hospitality, providing a meaningful communal prayer experience.
- Maintained the parish Mary's Garden and coordinated seasonal clean-up in preparation for May Crowning, supporting Marian devotion.
- Members of the CWA served the parish as Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, strengthening the parish's liturgical life.
- Provided pastoral outreach through a Card Ministry, offering prayerful encouragement to parishioners, particularly those who are sick or homebound.
- Promoted awareness of advocacy efforts supporting a diocesan priest impacted by international visa challenges, emphasizing prayer and respectful legislative engagement for continued pastoral ministry.

Church Activity of Greatest Impact

The Women's Retreat had the greatest impact on the affiliate and the wider parish community. The retreat, themed Women of Faith: Embracing Mary's Model of Discipleship, brought together women from multiple parishes for prayer, adoration, Scripture reflection, workshops, and fellowship. Participants expressed strong positive feedback regarding the spiritual content, prayer experiences, and shared meal, noting renewed faith, encouragement in discipleship, and a deeper sense of connection within the Church community.

Legislative Committee Activities – Spirituality

- Supported respect-life efforts consistent with Catholic teaching, encouraging awareness of the dignity of all human life.
- A member of the CWA promoted the pro-life mission by serving as President of Aiken County Citizens for Life, providing visible leadership, education, and advocacy within the local community.

- Provided members with regular updates on legislative advocacy efforts addressing visa challenges affecting religious workers, including the situation of a diocesan priest from Nigeria.
- Encouraged members to pray for lawmakers, clergy, and those affected by immigration and legislative decisions impacting ministry.
- Promoted respectful and informed engagement with public issues that affect the Church and vulnerable populations.

Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact

Leadership in pro-life advocacy and increased awareness of legislative issues affecting clergy had the greatest impact by strengthening members' understanding of Catholic social teaching and the importance of faithful citizenship. These efforts fostered greater prayer, awareness, and confidence in advocating respectfully for life, justice, and the dignity of all persons.

Membership Committee Activities – Leadership

- Encouraged participation in CWA activities by inviting parishioners and non-members to attend spiritual events, fellowship gatherings, and service projects.
- Promoted involvement in parish-wide events sponsored by the CWA, including the Women's Retreat, Parish Mission, parish picnic, Christmas party, and fundraisers.
- Fostered a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere at meetings and events to encourage new attendees to become involved.
- Utilized parish communication channels, including the bulletin, Flocknote, email, and social media, to promote CWA activities and invite wider participation.
- Encouraged members to personally invite friends, neighbors, and fellow parishioners to CWA-sponsored activities.

Membership Activity of Greatest Impact

The Women's Retreat had the greatest impact on membership outreach by welcoming women from multiple parishes and introducing new participants to the mission and fellowship of the Catholic Women's Association. The retreat provided a meaningful spiritual experience that fostered connection, hospitality, and interest in continued involvement in parish life and CWA activities.

Organization Committee Activities – Leadership

- Provided leadership and organizational structure for the Catholic Women's Association through regular meetings, planning sessions, and coordination of activities.
- Developed and maintained an annual calendar of spiritual, service, fundraising, and fellowship activities to ensure balanced programming throughout the year.

- Prepared and distributed meeting agendas, recorded minutes, and maintained organizational records to promote continuity, transparency, and accountability.
- Facilitated communication between officers, committee leaders, parish leadership, and members.
- Encouraged leadership development by inviting members to assist with planning, organizing, and leading projects and events.
- Supported the onboarding of new members by explaining the mission, structure, and opportunities for involvement within the organization.
- Assisted in delegating responsibilities to ensure shared leadership and active participation.
- Ensured that activities aligned with the mission of the parish and the South Carolina Council of Catholic Women.
- Coordinated year-end summaries and reports to document the affiliate's work and preserve institutional memory.

Organization Activity of Greatest Impact

The coordination of the annual calendar of events had the greatest impact by providing a clear structure for the organization's spiritual, service, and fellowship activities. This intentional planning strengthened participation, reduced confusion, promoted shared leadership, and allowed members to engage more fully in the mission of the CWA. As a result, the organization functioned more effectively, with greater continuity and purpose throughout the year.

Public Relations Committee Activities – Leadership

- Communicated CWA activities, events, and service opportunities through the parish bulletin, Flocknote, email, and parish Facebook page.
- Designed and distributed digital and printed promotional materials for retreats, fundraisers, service projects, seasonal activities, and parish events.
- Promoted parish-wide participation in CWA-sponsored activities, including the Women's Retreat, Parish Mission, Angel Tree Ministry, Home Visitation Ministry, and fellowship gatherings.
- Publicized outreach efforts such as the Women's Retreat, Card Ministry, and Angel Tree Christmas celebration, encouraging parish involvement.
- Promoted and coordinated publicity for parish fundraisers, including the Spaghetti Dinner, Chicken Dinner, and Bake Sale.
- Shared information about South Carolina Council of Catholic Women (SCCCW) meetings, formation opportunities, and conventions.
- Encouraged member participation in diocesan, state, and national Catholic women's initiatives.
- Supported communication between members, parish leadership, and the wider parish community.
- Helped ensure that CWA activities were visible, accessible, and well-attended.

Public Relations Activity of Greatest Impact

Consistent and welcoming communication across multiple platforms had the greatest impact by increasing awareness of CWA ministries and encouraging strong participation in spiritual, service, and fellowship activities. Clear, timely messaging helped parishioners understand how they could become involved, strengthened volunteer participation, and fostered a greater sense of connection and belonging within the parish community.

Community Committee Activities – Service

- Coordinated an ongoing Home Visitation Ministry, providing regular visits and Holy Eucharist to homebound parishioners, hospitals, and rehabilitation facilities to offer prayer, companionship, and spiritual support.
- Two members of the CWA served as coordinators for the Ministry to the Homebound, organizing volunteers, scheduling visits, and ensuring consistent outreach.
- Led a Card Ministry, sending cards for birthdays, holidays, and special occasions, with special emphasis on outreach to those who are sick or homebound.
- Participated in the Food Pantry Weekend every third Sunday, collecting and donating food to replenish the Catholic Charities pantry serving individuals and families in need within the community.
- Organized and expanded the Angel Tree Ministry. The Angel Tree Ministry is a national ministry which provides gifts to children of incarcerated parents and grandparents. Each family submitted two wishes for each child. Each Angel Tree participant was given 2 gifts, new winter coat, personalized Bible, and a treat bag. Everything was given on behalf of the incarcerated parent or grandparent. This ministry was able to provide gifts, food, and support to families and children in need during the Christmas season.
- Planned and promoted an Angel Tree Christmas Party, including gift distribution, crafts, fellowship, and hospitality at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Also, the children had an opportunity for a visit and photo with Santa and Mrs. Clause.
- Sponsored a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser in May, with all proceeds donated to the Our Lady of the Valley Church pew reupholstering fund.
- Hosted an August Chicken Dinner Fundraiser, raising funds to support CWA service projects and parish outreach efforts.
- Organized a Christmas gift card tree in December, providing donated restaurant gift cards from local establishments to Father Kentigern, the parish priest, as an expression of appreciation and encouragement.

Community Activity of Greatest Impact

The Angel Tree Prison Ministry was the community outreach with the greatest impact this year. Through this ministry, our members served children whose parents and grandparents are incarcerated, ensuring that these children were not forgotten during the Christmas season. By providing gifts on behalf of their parents or grandparents along with messages of love and encouragement, we helped maintain the vital emotional and spiritual connection between parent and child.

This ministry reflects the heart of the Gospel by reaching families who often feel invisible or marginalized. Many of these children experience stigma, loneliness, and emotional hardship, especially during the holidays. Angel Tree allowed our affiliate to be a tangible sign of Christ's love, reminding these children that they are valued, cherished, and remembered by both God and the Church. In addition to meeting material needs, this outreach fostered compassion and awareness within our membership. It encouraged our women to reflect on mercy, forgiveness, and the dignity of every human person, regardless of circumstance. The gratitude expressed by caregivers and the joy seen in the children made this ministry deeply meaningful and spiritually enriching for all involved.

Through Angel Tree, our council lived out the call to serve "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40), strengthening families, spreading hope, and witnessing to the healing power of Christian charity.

Family Committee Activities – Service

- Coordinated a Back-to-School Supply Drive for parish youth, helping families prepare for the academic year.
- Sponsored and supported youth-centered activities, including pizza party and assistance for Youth Ministry needs, strengthening relationships among young parishioners.
- Purchased materials, assembled, and distributed Advent Wreaths complete with weekly prayer cards and candles to parish families, encouraging prayer and spiritual preparation in the home. We provided electric candles to our homebound parishioners and those in facilities.
- Provided seasonal treat bags for children and youth throughout the year, fostering joy, inclusion, and a sense of belonging.
- Organized and supported parish fellowship events, including the Parish Picnic, which brought together families of all ages.
- Organized a December Cookie Sale, with all proceeds donated to support the parish Youth Ministry.
- Utilized proceeds from the August Chicken Dinner Fundraiser to support parish family-centered activities, including the Parish Picnic and Advent Wreath project.
- Hosted a Christmas Party in December, attended by approximately 35 members, featuring fellowship, a White Elephant gift exchange, and live Christmas music provided on the dulcimer.

Family Activity of Greatest Impact

The Advent Wreath Project had the greatest impact this year by providing parish families with a tangible and meaningful tool for prayer and spiritual preparation during the Advent season. By encouraging families to pray together at home this project strengthened faith practices, deepened spiritual reflection, and reinforced the importance of Christ—centered family life.

This project strengthened faith practices within the home by encouraging families to pray together, reflect on Scripture, and engage in weekly moments of shared spiritual reflection.

These moments helped parents model prayer for their children, fostered deeper conversations about faith, and reinforced the importance of Christ-centered family life. Many families expressed gratitude for having a structured way to bring prayer into their daily routines, making the season more spiritually enriching and meaningful. Beyond individual households, the Advent

Wreath Project fostered a sense of unity within the parish community. Knowing that many families were praying the same prayers and lighting their candles together each week created a shared Christmas tradition. This initiative reminded parishioners that faith is not only lived within the walls of the church, but also in the daily life of the home. Through this project, our affiliate helped nurture domestic churches, deepen spiritual awareness, and bring the light of Christ into family life during this sacred season.

International Committee Activities – Service

- Promoted awareness of the global nature of the Catholic Church and the vital contributions of foreign-born clergy and religious workers serving in the United States.
- Supported advocacy efforts related to the Religious Workforce Protection Act, emphasizing the importance of protecting religious workers from many nations who serve in parishes, schools, hospitals, and charitable ministries.
- Raised awareness of the challenges faced by foreign-born priests and religious workers due to immigration delays and visa backlogs, encouraging prayerful and respectful advocacy.
- Encouraged prayerful solidarity with persecuted Christians worldwide, with special attention to violence against Catholics and other Christians in Nigeria.
- Promoted understanding of the Church's universal mission and the shared responsibility of Catholics to care for brothers and sisters across national, cultural, and linguistic boundaries.
- Encouraged members to reflect on global issues affecting the Church, including religious persecution, migration, and humanitarian concerns.

International Activity of Greatest Impact

Raising awareness of violence and persecution against Christians—especially Catholics—in Nigeria had the greatest impact by deepening members' understanding of the suffering faced by the global Church. This effort fostered greater prayer, compassion, and solidarity with persecuted believers, strengthened awareness of the Church's universal mission, and encouraged members to respond with faith, advocacy, and hope.



BEAUFORT DEANERY

Linda Clark, 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

Mindy Cawley, President

Women of St. Francis

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

Sandra Merritt, President

Women of St. James the Greater

St. James the Greater Catholic Church, Walterboro

Davetta Greene, President



BEAUFORT DEANERY

Linda Clark, Deanery President

Reflections on Our Year

I always look forward to writing our year-end report; it provides a valuable opportunity to review our goals and assess the progress we have made from where we started to where we now stand. This reflection helps us determine whether we have accepted the challenge to advance, to learn, and to grow in every aspect of our mission. This past year has been both humbling and rewarding, as we witnessed our affiliated groups come together in collaboration and unity, living out the mission of the National Council of Catholic Women—supporting, empowering, and educating all Catholic women as we pursue Spirituality, Leadership, and Service.

Deanery Accomplishments

Our achievements as a deanery have been possible through collective effort. Our members have embraced our vision, uniting with effective communication and problem-solving to address challenges and celebrate successes. I am especially proud of our smaller affiliations, who continue to step outside their comfort zones and embrace new initiatives.

Leadership and Growth

A primary goal this past year was to establish a strong foundation for leadership and create opportunities for development and change—because growth cannot happen without change. We promised a Leadership Day dedicated to learning about our council, its activities, and its beneficiaries. This event helped us discover more effective methods to ensure the success of our projects, learn new communication strategies, engage more members, and set and achieve strategic goals for maximum impact. This initiative originated from our members, and we remain committed to celebrating our strengths, identifying our weaknesses, and finding ways to improve. Our Leadership Symposium Day in July, initially open to our deanery, quickly expanded to include attendees from across the state and, eventually, the Atlanta Province. Thanks to our state president, Jeannette Altenburg, we secured funding to make this event free for all in the state, and our province director, Marlene Grover, extended support for lodging to those traveling from the North.

Spiritual Enrichment

This year, a group from our deanery traveled to Charleston for a tour of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist and attended a historical overview of Catholicism in the Lowcountry. Additionally, ten members of the Women of St. Francis carried prayer intentions from our Beaufort Deanery meeting to Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, during their pilgrimage to this site of Marian apparitions.

I continue to pray for our community to deepen our relationship with Christ Jesus and with each other. Coming together in prayer, adoration, eucharist, and evangelization is vital for our spiritual growth. Our Spirituality Chairs have been instrumental in guiding faith formation, worship, and prayer, exposing us to new opportunities for growth. They are

currently compiling a booklet of prayer services used at the deanery level over the past two years, which will be distributed in May as the year concludes. We are excited for our affiliation spirituality chairs to share this resource with their members.

Mission-Driven Programs

We have learned that every program we undertake is rooted in our mission statement and encompasses three essential components: prayer, participation, and purpose. We invite you to continue this journey with us as we fulfill Christ's mission on earth.



AFFILIATE YEAR-END REPORTS

St. Anthony's Catholic Women's Club

St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Walterboro

Church Committee Activities – Spirituality

All Reports Submitted by Carol Ferrari

- Each Sunday before the 10:30 Mass, the Knights of Columbus say a rosary. One or two of our members participate by leading one decade.
- During Lent we gather in our churchyard where there are 13 large wooden crosses and follow "Mary's Way of the Cross". There are pictures of each station of the cross affixed to the crosses.
- Each October we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima with an International Community Rosary said between the 8am Spanish Mass and the 10:30 am English Mass. This year the rosary prayers were said in seven languages: Spanish, Swahili, Tagalog, Tamil, Mandarin, Polish and English.

Church Activity of Greatest Impact

Saying the rosary in many languages together has a big impact on our community. After the rosary, some of the foreign members volunteered to be lectors, religious ed teachers and servers.

Legislative Committee Activities – Spirituality

Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact
(Report not provided)

Membership Committee Activities – Leadership

- Being a small group, we do not have a membership committee but several members have recruited ladies to join our group during the year and we have added four new members.

Membership Activity of Greatest Impact
(Report not provided)

Organization Committee Activities – Leadership

Two of our members were happy to attend the Leadership Training offered by our Deanery President.

Organization Activity of Greatest Impact
(Report not provided)

Community Committee Activities – Service

- To recognize the service of our armed forces, we donated to “Treat the Troops” to supply postage for the project.
- Our group filled 12 “Boxes of Joy” to be sent to children in foreign countries.
- 12 manual can openers were purchased by several members and they were placed in Blessing Boxes throughout the city that are filled with canned goods and non-perishable foods by various people in the city.

Community Activity of Greatest Impact

While talking to a volunteer from another church, she mentioned that she had directed a needy person to the Blessing Boxes in town. At the mention of canned goods, the person asked if there was a can opener available. In response to this conversation, we donated can openers.

Family Committee Activities – Service

- To support the religious education classes, our group donated \$ 500 for the purchase of smart TVs to be used in classes.
- The religious education students are offered small “rewards” after class (candy, trinkets) to encourage attendance.
- For Christmas, the nursing homes identified appropriate gifts for their community. One home was supplied with a new bingo set – cage, number balls, chart, and bingo cards with sliding

markers as well as an assortment of Bingo prizes. Another was gifted with lap blankets for each resident. At a third home, four needy men were supplied with shirts and pants to add to their meager wardrobe.

- For Christmas we sign Christmas cards for each resident of three nursing homes and deliver them. 321 cards were signed this year.

Family Activity of Greatest Impact

The nursing homes look forward to our gifts and cards each year.

International Committee Activities – Service

- Each October we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima with an International Community Rosary said between the 8am Spanish Mass and the 10:30 am English Mass. This year the rosary prayers were said in seven languages: Spanish, Swahili, Tagalog, Tamil, Mandarin, Polish and English. A special booklet is printed with the rosary prayers in English, Spanish, Tagalog and Swahili.
- This year, one of our Filipino members hosted our annual Christmas party. We were treated to a wonderful soup made by the hostess and other contributions by some of the other members. The table was set with fine dinnerware and beautiful table settings.

International Activity of Greatest Impact

Our Christmas party was enjoyed by most of our members and our priest joined us for the occasion.



St. Gregory the Great Council of Catholic Women

St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church, Bluffton

Church Committee Activities – Spirituality

Report Submitted by Rosemary Kovarcik

- A Day of Reflection was presented by Sisters Pam and Canice on Joy = Jesus, Others & You which was inspiring, entertaining and enjoyed by many.
- Parishioners were invited to Stations of the Cross thru Mary's Eyes after a weekday mass. Other members participated in Stations of the Cross: Overcoming Racism which members of the parish were invited to during Lent.

- There was a crowning of the Blessed Mother during Sunday Mass by our Catholic Woman of the Year.
- Our Prayer Bowl, which is at all our events, encourages our members to write prayer petitions or thanksgiving for favors needed and received. Members are asked to say a Hail Mary each day for the requests and praying for miracles which have already happened.
- Many members are serving the parish as lectors, extraordinary ministers, Eucharist Adorers, and in the Welcome Ministry, Funeral Ministry and various choirs.
- Some members make prayer shawls and rosaries to be distributed to parishioners in need.
- Members are also religious education teachers for our parish children.

Church Activity of Greatest Impact- *Spirituality*

The Prayer Bowl has been a blessing and wonderful addition to our events and members feel connected to others in the parish community and so thankful for the prayers for those who need them and might be hesitant to present verbally.

Legislative Committee Activities – *Spirituality*

Report Submitted by Rosemary Kovarcik

- In February, members attended the Day at the Capital where they were guests of the legislators. Questions were asked and information shared.
- In May, Michael F. Aquilano, Chief Operating Officer for the Diocese of Charleston spoke to members regarding the Bishop's five-year plan and what issues are important that the legislature will be acting on.

Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact – *Spirituality*

The presentation by Mr. Aquilano was very informative and gave us an avenue to keep track of what is going on in our Diocese and Government.

Organization Committee Activities – *Leadership*

Report submitted by Mindy Cawley

- Started using an online system for registration for all SGGCCW events. This has made a huge difference in having accurate numbers of attendees and simplified the accounting.
- Updated and published new membership handbooks.
- Updated and passed out new information for Core Group notebooks.
- Changed the color of the name tags for Core Team Members so they can be easily identified.
- Put the dates of our meetings on the Church Calendar, and secure the rooms needed.
- Created Flocknote messages to members.
- Created a survey for members about what activities they would like to have next year, tabulated it and brought it to the June Core Group meeting for planning.

Organization Activity of Greatest Impact

Using an online registration has made a huge difference in having accurate information for each event. Some members cannot use it, however, the majority can. We have seen 85% use the online process.

Membership Committee Activities – Leadership

Report Submitted by Mindy Cawley

- We sponsor a membership wine and cheese event each year.
- We advertise in our parish bulletin and we use Flocknote for communications
- Publish and distribute Membership Booklets with dates for the upcoming years events, officers, Prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel, History of our affiliate, affiliations, volunteer opportunities, mission statement, vision, Core Group directory, explanation of the commission system, What does Council do for me?, List of materials available for affiliates from NCCW and SCCCW, by-laws for SGGCCW, and the flow chart for the Council of Catholic Women organization.
- We held a Leadership Symposium over the summer that was very well attended. We learned a lot, laughed & cried! It was a great day.

Membership Activity of Greatest Impact

Our complimentary “Welcoming Wine and Cheese” reception is always a great hit! Close to one-hundred women attended and found out about our programming for this year. The membership was told about volunteer opportunities, and a sign-up sheet was placed on each table so members could sign up to help with set up, clean up, or bringing food for future meetings. Membership booklets were distributed and dues were accepted.

Public Relations Committee Activities – Leadership

Report Submitted by Mindy Cawley

- Produced a brochure for the Welcoming Table outside of each Mass.
- It tells our mission, what we do, dues, who to contact, our affiliations, a picture of Our Lady of Good Council, and the Beatitudes for Women on the back page. These are given to each woman who stops by the Welcoming Table before Mass and asks about getting connected with the church.
- Bulletin Announcements are placed in the church Bulletin 2-3 weeks before an event. Our meetings are open to all women of the parish so this is a way for them to be informed.
- We always place an ad in the SCCCW Convention Book.

Public Relations Activity of Greatest Impact

Our brochure about The Saint Gregory the Great Council of Catholic Women has been a vehicle to introduce our Affiliate to women who are new to the parish. It includes our mission, events we typically hold, cost of dues, contact person, a picture of Our Lady of Good Council, affiliations, and the Beatitudes for Women on the back.

Community Committee Activities – Service

Report Submitted by Mindy Cawley

- Over 250 toys and articles of clothing were purchased by our members for children of the clients of the Pregnancy Center as part of our Angel Tree program. Employees of the Pregnancy Center came to our Christmas Luncheon and told us about how the center works with a client from the first inquiry. We also provided goody bags for each mom with a special note from St. Gregory Council of Catholic Woman. This goody bag was filled with lotions, shampoos, lip balms, etc...
- We collected over 1200 toys and \$7,500 in grocery store gift cards and a donation of \$1,000 for the Saint Francis Center. Members helped Sr. Canice to put out the toys and helped with distribution. Grandparents were invited to come and choose toys for Christmas. For some it was the first time they could give their grandchild a Christmas gift!
- Our members volunteered at the Pregnancy Center of the Lowcountry twice. We sorted food items that had been collected. Sorted baby clothing, put information packets together and assorted other tasks the center needed help with. Afterwards we socialized by sharing a meal and fellowship.
- Participated in two Jubilee celebrations – a 55-year Jubilee for Sister Agnes Marie Winter and a 50-year Jubilee for Sister Pam Smith. Both sisters are from the Sisters of St. Cyril and Methodius that run the St. Frances Center on St. Helena Island.
- Participated in Walk for Water. Participated in Saint Vincent dePaul Society, helping people in need. Provided meals and overnight stays for Family Promise
- Members of Catholics for the Common Good provided Thanksgiving meals, sang Christmas Carols at a senior living home, sponsored an Ecumenical potluck with several different faith communities attending, walked in the Martin Luther King Day parade.
- Sent 194 Boxes of Joy to Cross Catholic and continued to be a Drop Off Location
- Collected snacks for Treat the Troops
- Sold tickets to the Italian Heritage Festival, we were given back part of the purchase price which we donated to the John Paul II Scholarship Fund
- Volunteered at Mercy Missions, run by the Sisters of Charity
- Volunteered at Heaven's Treasures thrift shop, proceeds go to scholarships at JPPII
- Volunteered at Saint Francis Center food pantry and thrift shop.
- Supported the Back to School Bash – SGGCCW popped popcorn and handed out over 100 bags. A great time was had by everyone. Supported Trunk or Treat for the parish kids.
- Supported the Fall Festival with a cookie tent.

Community Activity of Greatest Impact
(Report not provided)

Family Committee Activities – Service

Report Submitted by Mindy Cawley

- We provided bags of popcorn at the Back to School Bash.
- We provided a cookie tent at the Fall Festival.
- We supported Trunk or Treat for the school and youth groups.
- Provided the cake for the Jubilees for the Sisters.
- We collected suggested items for Treat the Troops.
- We collected toys and helped distribute them at the Saint Francis Center.
- Distributed meals at Mercy Mission.
- Made meals for Family Promise.
- Contributed to Food Pantries at Mercy Mission and Saint Francis Center.
- Members provided hospitality after funerals for the family and friends. A lunch is offered with homemade dishes.
- Members are part of the Respect Life group.
- Each year a Catholic Woman of the Year is selected. She is introduced to the parish the first Sunday in May.
- Several members volunteer at Saint Gregory the Great Catholic School.

Family Activity of Greatest Impact

Our school families are very important to us. Our members help as substitute teachers, homework helpers after school every day, aftercare playground help, listening to and helping emerging readers, sitting with classes during Mass, supporting the fund-raising Gala, adopting a student by helping to pay tuition and buy uniforms. Our school chorus sang at our Christmas luncheon. They gave us a taste of the Christmas program which many attended and enjoyed.

International Committee Activities – Service

Report Submitted by Mindy Cawley

- We sent 194 Boxes of Joy to Cross Catholic for children in Haiti and Central America. Saint Gregory was also a drop off point for other churches in our area.
- Members participated in the local Walk for Water to bring clean water to countries where it is desperately needed. A byproduct is that girls no longer have to walk many hours a day to get polluted water, so they can now attend school!
- In September we hosted our membership drive and had a young man speak to us about his capstone project as he is a senior at John Paul II Catholic School. His name is Angelo Iskandar and his project is to help fundraise a Catholic Church in his mother's village in

Lebanon. The name of the church will be St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church. The man that inspired Angelo is Pere Nicolas Kluiters who was kidnapped and martyred.

International Activity of Greatest Impact

Listening to the story about the church that is being built really brought home the freedom we have in this country. As Angelo mentioned, the mayor (his uncle) has been trying to build this church for 20 years. In 2019 the people of the town had saved up over a period of 20+ years and suddenly, the banking system collapsed in one day. Christians in the middle east are persecuted for having the name of Jesus on their lips. The St. Gregory Council of Catholic Woman made a donation to this cause.



Women of St. Francis

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

Church Committee Activities – Spirituality

Report Submitted by Sandra Merritt/Chris Murphy/Jane Von Voros

- SFFF Celebrations. The WOSF held parties for the SFFF students and families at the end of the school year and again at Christmas.
- Day of Reflection. At the Lenten Day of Reflection, speaker Judith Seible presented the story of Medjugorje and the Blessed Mother's Apparitions to 70+ Parishioners. As the result of this Day, 10 parishioners traveled to Medjugorje on Pilgrimage in October and delivered prayer intentions to a visionary to be prayed over by the Blessed Mother. Advent Day of Reflection. Speaker Tina Boyd presented the story of her faith journey through tragedy, a story of struggle and forgiveness.
- Seven Sisters Apostolate. Officially kicked off in November with 16 Sisters committing to pray a weekly Holy Hour for our priests.
- Tour of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist for the Jubilee Year. 22 ladies traveled to Charleston on Wed Nov 5th to Tour of the Cathedral.
- Devotions/Prayer Support. The WOSF continue to routinely support their members, as well as parishioners, through the recitation of devotional Rosaries and Stations of the Cross, i.e., Stations of the Cross for the Victims of Human Trafficking, Stations of the Cross for the Unborn, Mary's Way of the Cross, Monthly First Saturday Devotions, Rosaries at Funerals, Celebration of St. Clare Day and The Patriotic Rosary (this year we had military personnel participating)
- St. Clare Garden. We care for this garden the WOSF was established a few years ago, where parishioners can go for a quiet space for reflection and prayer.

- Rosaries Makers. This long-standing ministry and dedicated group have been going for over 20 years. They make rosaries for Confirmation candidates, Military personnel through Operation Morale Support and the infirmed.
- External opportunities. A number of women traveled to Greenville in October to participate in the annual Marian Conference. Wonderful weekend.

Church Activity of Greatest Impact

The Days of Reflection have had a tremendous impact on the WOSF and the broader parish community. Both speakers have had a long-term effect on who attended. Judith Weible (Lenten speaker) has traveled to Medjugorje multiple times and speaks to groups regarding the Blessed Mother and Continues to lead tours to Medjugorje. As a result, 10 St. Francis parishioners and friends traveled to Medjugorje in October with Judith. And Lisa Boyd (Advent speaker) in December, shared her personal story of a tragedy and how she came to overcome it through prayer, counseling and reflection. Lisa emotionally shared her faith journey, from the day of the accident where she crashed into a man on a bike and killed him, to one of a faith filled strength. Her book “The Ride of Your Life” is raw and real. Her presentation deeply touched everyone in the room.

Legislative Committee Activities – Spirituality

Report Submitted by Sandra Merritt/Chris Murphy/Jane Von Voros

- The Respect Life organized and coordinated a Baby Bottle Collection for the Pregnancy Center. Baby bottles were then collected before & after Masses in October.
- The Pro-Life Rally was held in front of the St. Francis Thrift Store in January.

Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact

Rally For Life has a wonderful impact on the community. It is held on a busy highway and draws lots of attention. The group was of all ages, including adults, teens and small children, which made it a real family affair.

Membership Committee Activities – Leadership

Report Submitted by Sandra Merritt/Lois McCue/Kay Crawford

- Parish Ministry Fair. All church ministries convened after the 9a and 1030a Masses to inform our parishioners about the organizations and initiate recruitment.
- Fellowship Sunday. WOSF were featured and we used this opportunity to inform and recruit members while sharing fellowship and a donut.
- Registration. The committee advertises in the bulletin, on Flocknotes and on our webpage to alert members and new potentials of upcoming registration for our organization. Current membership is 156.

- New Membership Directory. Our directory has current members name/address/email/and phone #. This year we have included Community (to help with attendance to meetings) and birthdays, by month.
- Welcome Coffees. Two coffees are held for new and potentially new members. Board members and Chairs of our ministries introduce what we do and why. We explain not only WOSF, but Beaufort Deanery, SCCCW and NCCW.
- Monthly Calendar. WOSF Vice Presidents compile a calendar of all of the activities of all our ministries. This calendar is distributed at each of our monthly general meetings.

Membership Activity of Greatest Impact

Monthly Calendars. This new idea allows every WOSF member to refer to what is happening in any given month. It's a great refrigerator reference.

Organization Committee Activities – Leadership

Report Submitted by Sandra Merritt/Lois McCue/Kay Crawford

- Scholarship Committee. A select group works with the school Principal to determine the recipients of our scholarships
- Bylaws Committee. Every 3 years this committee revise our bylaws to conform and mold with our current needs.
- Catholic Woman of the Year Committee. A select group of members work together to determine the person who contributed the most to the Women of St. Francis.

Organization Activity of Greatest Impact

Bylaws Committee. It is sometimes difficult to pull many ladies together to make changes that will help govern your organization. But this group worked together with respect and diligence to get the job accomplished.

Public Relations Committee Activities – Leadership

Report Submitted by Sandra Merritt/Lois McCue/Kay Crawford

- Leadership Committee Chair. Shares Beaufort Deanery meeting minutes and information from the SCCCW and NCCW with WOSF members.
- Our monthly General Meetings and Board meetings are open to all who wish to attend. Information and ideas are discussed.
- Flocknotes, emails, text messages and the church bulletin are used to disperse. We have recently been using Facebook to advertise some of our events.
- Monthly calendar of activities is distributed at each Membership meeting.
- Posters and Table Skirt. We have instituted both poster and table cover that has our name and logo prominently displayed. They are wonderful tools for making our name visible in public and at church events.

- Fashion Show Program. Our program highlights who we are and what we do. Each of the 300 people that attend gets a copy.
- Welcome Coffees. Our coffees educate our new and perspective members about what we do as well as Beaufort Deanery, SCCCW and NCCW.

Public Relations Activity of Greatest Impact

Our Recording & Corresponding Secretary does an excellent job of publicizing all our events and activities. It is a monumental job and we have many projects.

Community Committee Activities – Service

Report Submitted by Sandra Merritt/ Mary McFadden/Lynn Roberts

- Fashion Show. This December project starts early in the year and continues throughout. This ministry is our largest fundraiser and incorporates many of our members. We had over 300 in attendance and we achieved outrageous success. The money from this project helps fund most of our ministries for the year. In addition, we give back to the community through our Local Community Project.
- Elderly Outreach. If you know Seniors, they love Bingo and Cake. So that’s what we give the Lifecare Center residents. Twice per month this ministry brings Bingo and Birthday celebrations. Prizes are awarded and everyone has a good time. We purchased a new Bingo machine this year.
- Collections Ministry. We collect used stamps, eyeglasses, cell phones, pop tops, religious items, card fronts, greeting cards, calendars and small times for Bingo prizes. These are distributed to the needy and military.
- Angel Tree. Over 300 Christmas gifts were given to many Children’s charities throughout HHI.

Community Activity of Greatest Impact

Fashion Show. Without this project we could not do so many of our other ministries. It helps fund every project we do. Through the Fashion show we have purchased a Greenhouse for the Elementary school, bought new stained-glass windows for the church and have given out over \$30,000 to non-profits on the island.

Family Committee Activities – Service

Report Submitted by Sandra Merritt/Mary McFadden/Lynn Roberts

- Soup for Scholarships. This project grew in leaps and bounds this year. The two chair-people were very passionate about achieving the goal of (16) \$1000 Scholarships for St. Francis Catholic School. Again, this project requires a lot of our membership to help with making soup bowls, soup, basket for raffle and much more.

- St. Francis Faith Formation. We do two activities with these children every year. In May, at the end of the year Ice Cream Social and in December there are a Christmas party. Students and family members are treated to refreshments and fun.
- Elementary School Mentorship. We work with 2nd grade students. We provided a partnership with the class with instruction, art class and refreshments.
- Elementary School Liaisons. This year we worked with the principal to determine the requirements for receiving the WOSF scholarships. It is now a merit-based program.

Family Activity of Greatest Impact

Soup for Scholarships. Impacted so many.... parishioners and the WOSF. We had over 300 attendees, 44 soups, 16 (\$1000) scholarships. It's a real partnership with the school, the church and the community.

International Committee Activities – Service

Report Submitted by Sandra Merritt/Mary McFadden/Lynn Roberts

- Box of Joy. We work with Cross Catholic Outreach. This project is a real joy to do. We get a large assembly line of ladies ready with boxes in hand, and we put at least 20 items in each box. From sunglasses to crayons. Things for children for Christmas.
- Trip to Medjugorje. Through a recent Day of Refection, we incorporated a trip to Medjugorje for several of our members. This was a more personal ministry, but what was very nice was the ladies that went delivered prayer intentions to a visionary to be prayed over by the Blessed Mother.

International Activity of Greatest Impact

Trip to Medjugorje. The ladies that attended were overjoyed with being in the area where the Blessed Mother appeared. This pilgrimage in October was an extraordinary trip. Chris Murphy has been asked by our Pastor to give the parish an overview of the trip.



Women of St. James the Greater
St. James the Greater Catholic Church, Ritter

Membership Committee Activities – Leadership

Reports Submitted by Davetta Greene

- Each January we conduct a membership fundraiser where your membership donation is equal to your shoe size.
- We conduct meetings with refreshments and develop creative ways to raise funds to support our committee activities and operations.
- We purchased a 65” TV for a raffle. In addition, we purchased a 100.00 gift card for a dinner for two. This past year we made over \$600.00 on the raffle.

Membership Activity of Greatest Impact
(Report not provided)

Public Relations Committee Activities – Leadership
(Report not provided)

Organization Committee Activities – Leadership
(Report not provided)

Legislative Committee Activities – Spirituality
(Report not provided)

Church Committee Activities – Spirituality
(Report not provided)

Community Committee Activities – Service

- January through December, we sponsor a feed the hungry project at the local laundry mat. We leave a large food basket with canned goods for those who need it. This is an ongoing project.
- We also provide monetary donations to families who have experienced a death in the family. This gift can be used for food or funeral expenses, or whatever the family needs.

Community Activity of Greatest Impact
(Report not provided)

Family Committee Activities- Service

- At Easter, we host an Easter Egg Hunt for all the children of the parish. They dye eggs and fill plastic eggs with candy and money (some eggs may have \$1 to \$5). Following the Easter

Egg Hunt, we host a hot dog dinner for parents and children with juice, candy bags and dessert.

- We sponsor a Father's Day dinner for all the fathers in the parish. It is a huge hit in the parish.

Family Activity of Greatest Impact
(Report not provided)

International Committee Activities – Service
(Report not provided)



CHARLESTON DEANERY

Marcella Homes, Deanery President

The Year End Report provides an overview of the organization's performance, key accomplishments, and challenges. We would like to form some strategies to help us in the year to come. Formulating new ideas on how to grow and retain our membership. We need to show what the organization means and how we stand out in the community. I have been president for the past 4 years and have faced many challenges, now I would like to pass what I have learned on to the next leader. I will always be there to help but the has come for me to pass the torch.

Organizational Overview

Throughout the past year, the organization focused on being a good neighbor and providing the many needs in our parishes. We have been both supportive and available to do whatever we can.

St. Patrick Women's Guild

- Providing home cooked meals at Hope Lodge Charleston. Hope Lodge provides a place for patients and their families to stay while receiving life-saving cancer treatment at MUSC.
- Providing feminine hygiene products for Period Pixie, an organization in the Tri-County area providing menstrual products for our teens in schools.
- Provided support for Mrs. Claudia Bing a retired Social Worker who houses children now teens and young adults with disabilities. We have supported her for over 20 years.
- We collaborated with other community organizations to provide support for families in need of clothing, food and a sock drive.
- Participated in Toys for Tots.
- We sponsored 2 band students from Burke High School to attend Spring Concert Tour in Canada, Band Day at a Florida University and all the fees that their families could not afford. We established a partnership with the music department at the school so that the band members could.
- We organized and hosted a breakfast for our First Communicants along with their families and friends.
- We have a blessing box at our church which we frequently shop and keep filled with grocery and personal hygiene items for the less fortunate in our community.
- We send cards and make calls to our sick and shut in, just to let them know we are thinking of them.
- We are members of the alter guild where we train others and maintain the alter at our church.
- Our members serve on both financial and parish council.
- We are members and sponsors of Charleston Area Justice Ministry. The Charleston Area Justice Ministry is growing network of faith-based congregations that are culturally, economically, geographically and religiously diverse and strive to make the Charleston area a more just place to live, work and do business.

- We work with the other organizations in our parish to provide support to families dealing with grief, helping them to understand the challenges.

Nativity Women's Group

- The Prayer Shawl Ministry- members complete prayer shawls for sick members of the parish and community.
- Sending cards and monetary support to Seminarians.
- Host coffee and donuts after some Sunday Masses.
- Birthday party for Jesus/Creche Display providing cake for families and take pictures with members dressed in costumes as Mary, Joseph, Jesus and Shepards to celebrate the birth of Jesus.
- Provide financial support for organizations spreading the Gospel of Christ at USC College/ St. Thomas More Church and FOCUS college campus ministry. International Cross Catholic Outreach and local James Island Outreach Food Bank.
- Sunday Rosary on 5th Sundays with Knights of Columbus after Mass.
- Members volunteer at local polling booths.
- Members are educated on Catholic teachings on respect for life.
- Support Local Pregnancy Centers, participated in Respect for Life walk. Collected baby items for Lowcountry Pregnancy Center and Birthright of Charleston.
- Members partnered with Our Lady of Good Council and Knights of Columbus to collect items for St. Clare's Home Charleston.
- Participated in the Cake walk with Nativity School.
- Breakfast with Santa
- Holiday card for the sick and shut in members.
- Awarded the top 8th Grader at Nativity with a monetary donation to help attend Bishop England High School.
- The sewing group made Baptismal gowns for the newest members of our parish.
- Distributed Thanksgiving gifts to homebound members.
- Giving Tree for teachers at Nativity School to help with needs in the classroom.

Challenges and Lessons Learned. Despite numerous achievements, the organization faced challenges such as building the organization and adding to the membership. Bringing new and younger members to help continue with our mission.

Looking Ahead. We look forward to a healthy new year and hopefully we are able to continue our pursuit of growing our membership.

Conclusion. The past year has been one of significant losses and many, many challenges. We hope for a brighter future and developing better relationships within our organization. Appreciating our sisterhood and what we have, especially the love we share of the organization and of each other.

CHARLESTON DEANERY YEAR-END REPORTS



Church of the Nativity Ladies Guild

Church of the Nativity Catholic Church, Charleston

Church Committee Activities – Spirituality

*Report submitted by Christine Lewis, Karen Cellars, Debbie Kennedy,
Jackquin Doscher*

- Prayer Shawl Ministry – members network for learning a craft, fellowship and prayer as they complete prayer shawls, that are given to sick members of the parish/community. Recipients not only feel love, but these shawls promote prayer and healing touches.
- Seminarian support – members sign cards at each meeting for three Seminarians. The Guild then adds a check of financial support. Seminarian correspondence is displayed/read at meetings to get closer to the Seminarians supported.
- Fellowship Sundays – members host coffee and donuts after the 1st and 3rd Sundays after Mass promoting parish networking and getting to know your fellow Catholics in the pews
- Birthday Party for Jesus/Creche display – members set up the manger and provide a birthday cake for families to take pictures (in costumes) as Mary, Joseph, Jesus, Shepards, with arts and crafts while families are preparing and taking their pictures to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Members also donate their creche displays along with parishioners for viewing after all Masses during the first Sunday of Advent.
- Financial support to organizations spreading the Gospel of Christ including the USC College/St. Thomas More Church (yearly sponsor) and FOCUS college campus ministry, International Cross Catholic Outreach, and the local James Island Outreach food bank
- 5th Sunday Rosary – members join the Knights of Columbus for a 5th Sunday Rosary after Mass to pray for our parish.

Church Activity of Greatest Impact

Prayer Shawl Ministry – members network to learning a craft, fellowship and prayer as they knit/crochet prayer shawls. These are being blessed during Mass and are given to sick members of the parish (those on the sick prayer list/requests from members) and the James Island community (given out during our last Craft Fair). Recipients not only feel love, but these shawls promote prayer and healing touches. Sick members of the Guild have reported a true feeling of healing when worn.

Legislative Committee Activities – Spirituality

Report submitted by Christine Lewis, Joann Gottschal, Jackquin Doscher

- Political awareness – members are updated on Legislative issues. Members also volunteer to assist at the polling booths to provide community support
- Respect Life – members are educated on the Catholic teaching to respect all human life from conception to natural death. Members prayed at the local abortion clinic during 40 Days for Life alongside the parishes Knights of Columbus.
- Support of local Pregnancy centers – Lowcountry Pregnancy Center – Guild sponsored a table at the annual fund-raising banquet and attended this banquet with 10 members. Members participated in the fund-raising event – Walk for Life at Wannamaker Park. During the month of October, Respect Life Month, members/parishioners collected “Everything baby” for Lowcountry Pregnancy Center and Birthright of Charleston – collections included diapers, wipes, books and other miscellaneous baby items – 7 carloads were delivered. Members prayers continue for Life.
- St. Clare’s Home/Charleston – members partnered with Our Lady of Good Council Parish and the Knights of Columbus to collect money in baby bottles for the newest home in Charleston. Over \$12,000 in baby bottle donations and Charleston Gala Banquet support was raised, giving mothers and their families a home during their pregnancy.

Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact

Support of local Pregnancy centers – Lowcountry Pregnancy Center – Guild sponsored a table at the annual fund-raising banquet and attended this banquet with 10 members. Members participated in the fund-raising event – Walk for Life at Wannamaker Park. During the month of October, Respect Life Month, members/parishioners collected “Everything baby” for Lowcountry Pregnancy Center and Birthright of Charleston – collections included diapers, wipes, books and other miscellaneous baby items – 7 carloads were delivered. Members prayers continue for Life.

Membership Committee Activities – Leadership

Report submitted by Jackquin Doscher

- The Nativity Ladies Guild Board created and designed a member’s folder for distribution to each existing and new member joining the NLG. This folder contained our meeting dates for the coming year, our calendar which includes meetings, fundraisers and all other community events, contact information and list of all Board Members and Ministries, NLG By-Laws, Commissions with duties and commission chair, and the budget for the year.
- Provided each member with a magnet with a light house and our bible verse “Let your Light Shine” Matthew 5:16.
- Placed a flyer in the Church Bulletin explaining the mission statement of the NLG and inviting the women of the parish to attend/join.
- Placed brochures in the church foyer and Parish Life Center to encourage membership.
- Began using Flock note to communicate with members of the NLG and to track membership.

- A welcome letter from the NLG President was sent to all past members inviting them to re-join and bring a friend.
- Updated directory of members was provided to all members.
- We set up and manned a table at our Fellowship coffee and donuts with information on the NLG and invited members of the parish to consider joining.

Membership Activity of Greatest Impact

The informational materials, flyers, and ministry table at our fellowship event had the biggest impact. They allowed parish members to learn about our Guild and interact with its members directly.

Organization Committee Activities – Leadership

Report submitted by Jackquin Doscher

- The Nativity Ladies Guild Board created and designed a member’s folder for distribution to each existing and new member joining the NLG. This folder contained our meeting dates for the coming year, our calendar which includes meetings, fundraisers and all other community events, contact information and list of all Board Members and Ministries, NLG By-Laws, Commissions with duties and commission chair, and the budget for the year.
- Committee of guild members met and reviewed the By-Laws for changes. These were presented at our first meeting for discussion and vote. Once approved by the members it was presented to the Pastor for his approval.
- Audit Committee reviewed the financial records in August for the previous year to ensure there were no discrepancy or errors.
- During our May meeting we discuss all the activities and charities we have done/supported during the year and have the guild members provide input on what worked and what did not. It gives them the opportunity to be part of the decision-making process for the coming year.

Organization Activity of Greatest Impact

The members were very excited to receive the new member packets. They said it gave them everything at their fingertips. Also, getting the members’ input on the activities done throughout the year gives the Board directions on what to do in the new year.

Public Relations Committee Activities – Leadership

Report submitted by Jackquin Doscher

- A link was created on the Nativity Church webpage to take users to information about the NLG.
- Information about upcoming meetings, events, and activities were included in the parish bulletin.
- Photographs from events held by the NLG was published in the parish bulletin
- Information about the Guild’s activities were relayed to the membership, parish, outside groups and news outlets.

- Monthly Board meeting minutes and meeting minutes are shared with members via Flock Note.
- Announcements were created, fliers were designed, meeting notes were preserved and surveys carried out.
- Deanery activities were addressed at our monthly meetings.

Public Relations Activity of Greatest Impact

Sharing minutes and event updates via Flocknotes keeps everyone informed about our organization and activities.

Community Committee Activities – Service

Report submitted by Jackqulin Doshier

- Ladies Guild Sewing Group – member of varying talents make/sew Baptismal gowns/garments for the newest member of the parish. Members also sew/make burp cloths and bibs which are donated to Birthright of Charleston, Lowcountry Pregnancy Center and St. Claire’s Home.
- Members volunteer and provide over 400 lbs. of food to the James Island Outreach center. The 4th Saturday of the month is designated as Nativity’s Day to work at James Island Outreach.
- Distributed Thanksgiving gifts to the homebound of the parish and visited with them.
- Wreath making workshop for the parish.
- The Guild hosted a Parish Pie Contest after one of our Masses. Members of the parish made pies to be shared and judged by our parish chief. Prizes were given.
- Instead of doing Catholic Schools week we do a Giving Tree for the teachers in the school. They provide us with a wish list; we put it on envelopes on the tree and the parish then takes it from the tree and provides the item. On thoughtful Thursday the Ladies Guild presents the gifts to the teachers.
- We collect grocery gift cards from the parish families during Lent and give them to outreach centers such as the Neighborhood House, Our Lady of Mercy Outreach on Johns Island and James Island Outreach,
- We have an annual Oyster Roast in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus to raise funds for our charities.

Community Activity of Greatest Impact

Visiting homebound parish members has a significant impact, allowing connection with those unable to join parish events and bringing joy and conversation to their lives. We want them to feel remembered.

Family Committee Activities – Service

Report submitted by Jackqulin Doscher

- Members of the Guild volunteered to staff the prize booth and provide cakes for the cake walk at the Nativity School Carnival.
- Breakfast with Santa & Mrs. Claus in conjunction with the Knight of Columbus for the children and families of the parish. The children get to eat pancakes with their family, visit Santa and make Christmas crafts to take home.
- The Sunshine Ministry sends get well, Sympathy, thinking of you and holiday cards to NLG members and parishioners of the church.
- An annual Easter Egg Hunt with refreshments held for the children of the parish. We have pancakes and some religious crafts for the children to make.
- We sponsor soup dinners on 2 Friday's during Lent after Stations of the Cross for the parish.
- We award the top two 8th grade Nativity School Students who plan to attend Bishop England High School a monetary donation in their name.

Family Activity of Greatest Impact

Sending cards to both members and parishioners.

International Committee Activities – Service

Report submitted by Jackqulin Doscher

- Supported through prayers and monetary donation Focus
- Supported through prayers and monetary donation International Cross Catholic Outreach
- Financial support (yearly sponsor) and prayers to the USC College/St. Thomas More Church

International Activity of Greatest Impact

The support to organizations spreading the Gospel of Christ including the USC College/St. Thomas More Church, Focus Campus ministry and the International Cross Catholic Outreach.



Our Lady of Good Counsel Ladies Guild

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, Folly Beach

(Report not provided)



St. Patrick Women's Guild
St. Patrick Catholic Church, Charleston

Church Committee Activities – Spirituality

Report Submitted by Beverly Buford and Marcella Holmes

- We organized and hosted a breakfast in the parish hall for eight children receiving their 1st communion along with their families and loved ones. Our act of service demonstrated the Guild's commitment to bring joy, hope, and unity for the parish community.
- The Church Commission contributed to the parish's outreach efforts by shopping for and providing food items for the blessing box. Through this initiative, essential groceries and non-perishable goods were collected and placed in the blessing box, ensuring that individuals and families in need have access to food and supplies during difficult times. This ongoing effort is the Guild's commitment to support the broader community and addressing hunger within the parish, and the surrounding community.

Church Activity of Greatest Impact

Through regular collection and distribution of essential groceries and nonperishable goods, the Church Commission provided vital support and comfort during difficult times, reinforcing our mission to care for the community.

Legislative Committee Activities – Spirituality

(Report not provided)

Community Committee Activities – Service

Report Submitted by Veronica H. McDaniel, Francene W. Rogers, Doris Hamilton, Myrtle C. Brown, Mary Beth Orth and Amelia Taylor

- The members provided a “Hot Home-Cooked” meal to the residents at the Charleston Hope Lodge. The Hope Lodge provides a place for patients from out of town to stay while undergoing cancer treatments at MUSC hospital; a limited number of family members are allowed to stay at the Lodge also. Dinner is provided four days a week which helps the patients to save money and not have to worry about where their next meal is coming from. We socialized with the residents prior to serving, the highlight of the evening was one gentleman who was celebrating his last treatment and had the privilege of “Ringing the Bell” to signify the end of his journey with cancer. We served approximately 30-35 residents, family and staff. The meal was well received.

- We purchased approximately \$300.00 worth of feminine products for the “Period Pixie Project”, a program serving the Tri-County area providing menstrual products for less fortunate and under-served teens in school and young adults with limited resources. Volunteers assemble individual packets with supplies which are then distributed where needed.
- Our third project is in support of Mrs. Claudia Bing, a Retired Social Worker with young adults and teens in her care. In the past we have collected household items, clothing and other items at her request. This year, we donated \$400.00 towards the cost of groceries in light of the rise in the cost of food staples. We presented the check along with a bouquet of flowers.

Community Activity of Greatest Impact

The “Period Pixie Project” is a most valuable asset to the Tri-County area. There are many females, teens and young adults who cannot afford the basics needed for good feminine hygiene. These products will be placed in schools where they will be readily accessible in the nurse’s office and in shelters where needed in impoverished areas.

International Committee Activities – Service

(Report not provided)

Family Committee Activities – Service

Report Submitted by Deborah Joseph

- Members Collaborated with community organizations to support families in need of clothing, food, and with a sock drive.
- Members made donations to the “Toys for Tots” Project.
- Members provided support to Parish families and Guild Members/families (along with all Commissions) as we suffered the loss of a number of members during this year.

Family Activity of Greatest Impact

Family Commission spearheaded the financial support of 2 band students at an area high school. This assistance (\$410 each) enabled these students to pay their general band fees, fees for Spring Concert Tour to Canada and participation in Band Day at a Florida University. These trips serve to expose students to real life possibilities beyond high school and allows them to visit areas away from their home city. Many students are unable to travel beyond home due to their families’ financial limitations. Our Guild decided we wanted to establish a partnership with the school’s Music Department, and this project is a means to benefit the students, the school, and St. Patrick Church. The check was presented to one of the students along with the Band Assistant at our December meeting.

Membership, Organization, and Public Relations - Leadership

(Report not provided)



COLUMBIA DEANERY

Lori Long, Deanery President

AFFILIATES

Corpus Christi Catholic Women's Group

Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Lexington

Vickie Zarnick, President

St. Joseph Women's Society

St. Joseph Catholic Church, Columbia

Julie Rotureau, President

St. Martin de Porres Rosary Altar Society

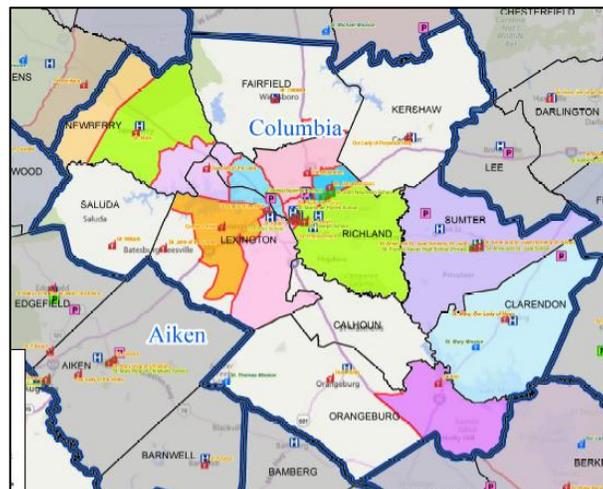
St Martin Porres Catholic Church, Columbia

Yulaundra Heyward, President

Women in God's Service (WinGs)

Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, Chapin

Jackie Chalmers, President



COLUMBIA DEANERY

Lori Long, Deanery President

The Columbia Deanery as of the writing of this report has four active affiliates with a total of 178 active members. Of the total of 178 active membership, 1 member is both an individual and an affiliate member. There are 2 individual members of the SCCCW who are in the Columbia Deanery area and sometimes attend the Deanery meetings.

Affiliates include Corpus Christi Catholic Women (CCCW) with 20 members, St. Joseph Women's Society (SJWS) with 80 members, St. Martin de Porres, Rosary Altar Society (RAS) with 24 members and Our Lady of the Lake, Women in God's Service (WinGs) with 52 members.

Our Current Officers until our Annual Meeting on January 18, 2026 are: Gwen Skipper, Past President; Lori Long, President; Maria Carrero, Vice President; Delores Glliard, Secretary; Thesa Briggs, Treasure; Mary Sue Barnum, Parliamentarian; Spirituality Chair, Juanita Henry; Leadership Chair, Martha Becht, Service Chair, Arlene Frederick.

There are new officers that will be nominated and put to membership vote in the Annual Meeting on January 18, 2026.

- The affiliates meet for Deanery wide meetings three times a year as stated in the Deanery By-Laws with affiliates hosting on a rotating basis. The hosting affiliate provides lunch and selects an outreach project with an invitation for all affiliates to support with monetary and/or physical commodities requested by the outreach ministry or organization. Often a speaker is invited from the outreach ministry or other organization to speak before the business portion of the meeting.
- Columbia Deanery Board Meetings this year continued to be held a couple of weeks before the General meetings via Zoom. This has helped tremendously with preparation for the meetings and giving more time in the General meetings for business and fellowship.
 - **Annual Meeting, January 26, 2025**, hosted by Rosary Altar Society, St. Martin DePorres Catholic Church.
 - Affiliate's Catholic Women of the Year were introduced and honored with the selected Deanery Catholic Women of the Year, Therese Petit Dionne, being recognized and subsequently sent to SCCCW. All CWOY received a small Marian Statue as a gift from the Deanery for their faith and representing the "catholic women" in their lives and service to the church.
 - Outreach Project was introduced in support of Hannah House. \$218 was collected at the meeting to be sent to Hannah House.
 - **Spring Meeting, May 18, 2025**, hosted by St. Joseph Women Society. Following the 2025 Convention, Columbia Deanery began focusing on the 3 resolutions voted on at the Convention.

In response to Resolution #2, Supporting and Praying for Priests, the speakers for the Spring meeting were two women from the Seven Sisters Apostolate, Sue Myers and Ann Nerbun. The

mission of the Seven Sisters Apostolate is to strengthen the Church by ensuring that a Holy Hour is prayed by one “sister” each day of the week for the sole intention of a specific priest or bishop. The result of this talk resulted in at least one member joining the Apostolate in support of her parish priest.

- In response to Resolution #3 Pilgrims of Hope and the Holy Year 2025. Discussion began about hosting a Deanery wide women’s retreat, with Past President Gwen Skipper chairing the retreat committee. The theme proposed: The Reason for Our Hope.
- **Fall Meeting, September 13, 2025. Deanery Women’s Retreat/Pilgrimage:** The Reason for Our Hope. (with a short business meeting during the lunch break).
 - This Retreat/Pilgrimage Day was held at the Basilica of Saint Peters in Columbia. The day themed “The Reason for My Hope” wove together many threads to create a beautiful experience for the women of the Columbia Deanery. The plan included meals, scripture reflections, group sharing, adoration, reconciliation, singing the Divine Mercy Chaplet and offering of a Plenary Indulgence, recognized by our Bishop.
 - The retreat attendees received a folder packet with the day’s agenda, a letter from Bishop Jacques Fabre-Jeune, a letter from the retreat committee, a note pad for taking notes and a printed name tag. Each were gifted with a handmade rosary that was designed and made by the late Deacon Skipper, husband of our Past President and Retreat Chair, Gwen Skipper. Many used their rosary as they prayed in Adoration in the Basilica of St Peters and recited the Devine Mercy Chaplet.
 - Eighty women attended the day including members of the four Columbia Deanery Affiliates and ladies from other parishes in the Deanery. Committee members from each of the affiliates met on Zoom for several months to develop the plan for the day. Everyone from the team contributed to the successful outcome of the day.
 - The morning began with introductions and prayer. Kathy Schmugge, Director of Diocesan Family Life spoke on two scripture passages. The first passage from Titus spoke about the hope of the promise of eternal life. A key take away was “the person that has hope lives differently. The second passage was the story of the woman at the well. The story tells us that the woman left her water jar to go and share her experience of Jesus. The question for us was: What do we need to leave behind to share our experience of Jesus?
 - During the lunch provided, attendees were invited to stay for the brief Deanery business meeting or take a walk around the gardens.
 - After lunch, a brief explanation of the “Plenary Indulgence” of the pilgrimage was presented.

- In the afternoon there was time for adoration in the Basilica and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Adoration concluded with singing of the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction.
 - An historical and informative tour was given of the Basilica and last but certainly not least the retreatants entered through the holy doors as a closing gesture of the blessed day.
 - Everyone participating, including the committee members who worked to provide the opportunity to the staff at St. Peters and our wonderful speaker, Kathy Schmugge stated what a success and blessing the day was for all. As a testament, the committee members heard comments like “When are you doing this again?” as the day was concluding.
- The Columbia Deanery four affiliates continue to share invitations to their events with the Deanery officers, who in turn distribute to the other affiliate presidents. Several members have attended other affiliate events in support and in fellowship with each other.
 - In support and in prayer for of our Past President, Gwen Skipper, several members from each affiliate attended the Mass of Christian Burial of Gwen’s husband, Deacon Malcolm Skipper at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church on August 19, 2025.
 - At each meeting, Spirituality Commission Chair, Juanita Henry shares a prayer and a true story that informs and inspires members and helps recharge spiritual batteries at the start of the meeting.
 - Leadership and Service Chairs also share information from SCCCW Commission Chairs and other resources that are geared to helping the affiliates in their efforts to support and promote the initiatives of the SCCCW Commission Chairs, President, Spiritual Advisor and Bishop Jacques Fabre-Jeune.

COLUMBIA DEANERY YEAR-END REPORTS



Corpus Christi Catholic Women’s Group

Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Lexington

Church Committee Activities – Spirituality

Report Submitted by Vickie Zarnick

- CCCW assisted in celebrating three key sacraments in our parish - Confirmation, First Holy Communion, Order of Christian Initiation for Teens (OCIT), and Order of Christian Initiation

for Adults (OCIA). Religious gifts were purchased by CCCW, blessed by the parish priest, and presented to each candidate. Receptions with sacramentally-themed decorations were hosted by CCCW for the candidates, sponsors, and their families.

- The CCCW September meeting featured the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) Missionary Annaliese Ramos from the University of South Carolina. She gave CCCW members a deep dive into the calling of a FOCUS missionary to grow in their faith and share who Jesus is with college students, walking with them wherever they are on their faith journey. As a thank you and to support the spiritual assistance that this ministry gives to the college community, CCCW offered a monetary donation. In addition, the link for donating to this ministry was shared with the membership.
- CCCW members participated in the “30 Years of Blessings” Sanctuary celebration at Corpus Christi Catholic Church. In honor of the 30th anniversary of our current sanctuary, a mass was held with a Eucharistic procession followed by a reception for parishioners. The CCCW helped organize and host the reception for several hundred people including decorating the tables, providing side dishes, and serving food.
- Praying all year long for our fellow parishioners, friends and families is supported with a little technology. The CCCW Secretary creates a Google form each month and emails the link to members to collect prayer requests. Form submitters may indicate if the request should be sent via email immediately to all members or have the request shared at the next monthly meeting. An option is included to indicate if the CCCW’s Outreach program should receive and respond to the request. Prayer requests can also be sent at any time via email to CCCW directly and/or submitted at each of the CCCW monthly meetings. During the monthly meetings, the prayer requests collected all month are read and the membership prays together for the intentions.

Church Activity of Greatest Impact

- CCCW continues to be instrumental in working with Corpus Christi Director of Faith Formation to assist in celebrating three key sacraments in our parish - Confirmation in February, Order of Christian Initiation for Teens (OCIT) and Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) in March, and First Holy Communion in May. Celebrating these sacraments is so important; candidates need to hear and feel the love and care of parishioners who pray for them and support them in this chapter of their faith journey. Religious gifts were purchased, individually addressed, beautifully wrapped in organza bags that included a congratulatory CCCW “business” card, and blessed by the parish priest. A reception with sacramentally-themed decorations was held for the candidates, sponsors, and their families after each mass with the OCIA and OCIT celebration being held during their class time a few weeks prior to Easter.
- Bishop Fabre-Jeune celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation followed by CCCW hosting 60 parishioners and friends for a lunch with the Bishop, Father Phillip Wodecki and Deacon Keppler in attendance. Gifts were a rosary, a confirmation prayer card, and keychain with a Miraculous Medal and finger rosary.
- OCIA and OCIT participants enjoyed breakfast, hosted by CCCW, with their teachers and sponsors during class time a few weeks before Easter. Gifts of a rosary, a confirmation

prayer card, and a how-to-pray the rosary pamphlet and wallet card were provided with congratulations on their upcoming reception of the holy sacraments.

- An ice cream social celebration was held for 50 children receiving their First Holy Communion sacrament. Gifts of a children's mass booklet and the "Little White Guest" prayer card were purchased by CCCW and beautifully prepared for Father Phillip Wodecki to bless and present to the children after the Mass along with their First Communion certificates.

Membership Committee Activities – Leadership

Report Submitted by Vickie Zarnick

- CCCW "business" cards were designed and professionally printed to help others learn about CCCW. The cards are used with the Outreach program in sending with greeting cards and throw blankets, when giving sacramental gifts, and as needed for sharing who we are, what we do, and how to contact us. The cards were also placed on guest tables at the Confirmation reception and given to meeting speakers.
- Blessing for Babies: A baby shower for Birthright of Columbia was hosted by CCCW in September with an invitation to all the women of the church. A new parishioner who attended the shower became a CCCW member. This event opened opportunities for current and new members to work alongside each other handing out invitations after mass, decorating, preparing food, sorting through the precious and voluminous gifts, and finding moments to share with parishioners about Birthright and CCCW's ministry. Terry Hodaly, Executive Director of Birthright, eagerly joined CCCW in welcoming guests. She prepared a slide show that CCCW played on a loop on the television during the shower showcasing Birthright's mission, values, activities, and client testimony. Thousands of items were donated through the deep generosity of the parish! The CCCW President and one of the Vice-Presidents delivered the items and were able to see firsthand where Birthright connects with pregnant women on their journey.
- Guest speakers at regular CCCW meetings are not only interesting, informative, and provide and encourage volunteer opportunities, but they also help grow membership. This strategy was used for four of the CCCW meetings this year. All parishioners were invited. The meetings, the featured speakers, and their website were presented to the parish at large through announcements at masses and shared in printed and online weekly bulletins. Topics and organizations included Identify Theft and Scams, Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), Leeza's Care Connection, and Midland's Orphan Relief.

Membership Activity of Greatest Impact

- To help other parishioners, ministries, and local organizations know about CCCW, "business" cards were designed and professionally printed. The cards will be used with the CCCW's Outreach program to send with greeting cards and throw blankets, when giving sacramental gifts, and as needed throughout the year for sharing who we are, what we do, and how to contact us. The cards were also placed on guest tables at the Confirmation reception and given to meeting speakers.
- The cost was around \$300 and there are two versions of the cards. The front of both versions includes the image of Our Lady of Good Counsel, the name of our council, the motto

“Women in Faithful Service”, and the CCCW email address. One version is specifically for when CCCW gives sacramental gifts for Confirmation, First Holy Communion, Order of Christian Initiation for Teens (OCIT), and Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA). The back of this version includes “Congratulations on receiving your recent sacrament! We pray for continued blessing on your faith journey!” Below the congratulations is the mission - CCCW strives to unite women in our faith as we encourage and support the parish and community through acts of spirituality, leadership, and charitable service. This sacramental congratulations card also comes in Spanish to use with gifts for OCIA recipients whose native language is Spanish. The second version is for general sharing as needed with other affiliates, community contacts, etc. The back of this version is the same as the first version except the mailing address replaces the congratulatory wishes.

Organization Committee Activities – Leadership

Report Submitted by Vickie Zarnick

- CCCW - Confess Convince Confabulate or Wing it! A casual questionnaire activity was incorporated at the CCCW February meeting. This one-page handout focused on the member’s experience and years involved with the CCCW and officer and committee positions held. In a continued effort to grow our ministry and identify potential leaders, the activity questions centered around the goals and focus the membership was interested in pursuing for the upcoming year. Engaging questions were sprinkled in to lighten the exercise and add a little fun - “Would you rather have a permanent clown nose or permanent clown feet? You are going to be stranded on a deserted island and can take 3 things. What will you take?” While the officers were excited to try the activity, members’ response was less enthusiastic and they preferred to keep their responses to themselves.
- Inventory: Hosting affiliate activities and assisting with parish events often results in decorating and a need for items to support the event. Eventually a lot of merchandise piles up! An electronic inventory of all items belonging to our council was created. This list includes item description, counts, last updated date, and a space to indicate if the item has been loaned out and to whom. This inventory will help committee chairs and event organizers know what items are available before acquiring more. The work resulted in eliminating all cardboard boxes used for storage, clearly labeling all bins and totes in our storage room, and sorting out unneeded items to donate.
- How to gift excess funds: A new process was created to distribute excess CCCW funds to non-profits and/or other ministries. An electronic survey was used to gather members’ suggestions on who to consider as recipients. A detailed ballot describing all potential recipients, with links to their websites, was used for voting in October. Members voted for funds to be given to the Corpus Christi Assistance Ministry food pantry, the Corpus Christi Life Teen high school youth ministry, and Samaritans Well which is a transitional shelter in Lexington for homeless women and their children.
- Standing Rules: CCCW developed and adopted a set of Standing Rules. The objective of these rules is to provide guidance and clarification in the administrative application of the CCCW Bylaws, facilitate smooth functioning of the council, and provide a firm basis for resolving questions of procedure not addressed in the Bylaws or provided in Robert Rules of Order, Newly Revised. These Standing Rules support the Bylaws and no rule can be adopted that deviates from the Bylaws.

- VIRTUS: Ensuring a safe environment for everyone is not only prudent but a must for everyone volunteering for them to fully receive the grace and benefit of the event. To that end, the CCCW implemented a new process to track and monitor members' VIRTUS training status and ensure all members who volunteer at events and activities followed Diocesan mandates for safe environments for everyone.
- CCCW "business" cards were designed and professionally printed. The cards will be used with the Outreach program to send with greeting cards and throw blankets, sacramental gifts, and as needed for sharing who we are, what we do, and how to contact us. The cards were also placed on guest tables at the Confirmation reception and given to meeting speakers.
- An Annual Timeline of activities and action items was created to guide the current and future CCCW Officers in knowing and understanding when various activities and work take place. The timeline closely aligns with the Officer Job Descriptions and duties. The chronological order helps ensure CCCW leadership stays on track.
- Nominating Committee Guidelines: A document was created to help this committee understand their responsibilities, tasks, and timeline for electing new officers for our council. This two-page document describes in detail the who, what, where, when, and why of the committee's work.

Organization Activity of Greatest Impact

- The Diocese of Charleston desires for all diocesan organizations and parishes to be safe environments. The VIRTUS program was adopted by the Diocese and includes training on methods of preventing, recognizing, responding to, and the reporting of sexual misconduct or abuse of minors or vulnerable adults. To aid in compliance of this mandate, a process was established to offer training and monitor CCCW members' status. CCCW members were provided detailed information about VIRTUS via a new Question and Answer document in addition to the documents provided by the parish and Diocese.
- CCCW Officers arranged a group training session at the parish hall, led by the parish Director of Faith Formation (DFF), for interested members who volunteer for functions. The training session was also offered to other ministries of the parish. Several CCCW Officers assisted, provided computers, and shared snacks.
- The CCCW President worked closely with the DFF throughout the year using a shared, confidential Google spreadsheet to ensure member's training status was recorded timely and accurately. This allowed the President to reference it easily before each activity and event to ensure all volunteers complied. Members volunteering, but not yet trained, are contacted and informed about the Diocesan requirement including how to obtain training.

Public Relations Committee Activities – Leadership

Report Submitted by Vickie Zarnick

- Guest speakers at council meetings provide the opportunity to not only learn about the speaker's organization or ministry but for the speaker to also learn about CCCW and our mission. This year, four guest speakers were featured at meetings that were advertised via mass announcements and parish bulletins. Topics and organizations included Identify Theft and Scams, Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), Leeza's Care Connection, and Midland's Orphan Relief. CCCW members now have an opportunity to support others

in need through avenues that might be new to them. These organizations also gain some insight into CCCW, our work, and our purpose.

- New process to gift excess funds: CCCW membership used a discovery and voting process to identify three ministries and non-profit organizations to donate excess CCCW funds to at the end of the 2025 calendar year: the Corpus Christi Assistance Ministry food pantry and utility assistance, the Corpus Christi Life Teen high school youth ministry, and Samaritan's Well, a transitional shelter in Lexington for homeless women and their children. While these organizations happened to be aware of CCCW, the new process for dispersing unneeded funds brings opportunities for organizations outside of Corpus Christi parish to learn about CCCW and the role of Catholic women in our community and South Carolina.
- Business Cards: To help other parishioners, ministries, and local organizations know about CCCW, "business" cards were designed and professionally printed. The cards will be used with the Outreach program to send with greeting cards and throw blankets, with sacramental gifts, and as needed for sharing who we are, what we do, and how to contact us. The cards were also placed on guest tables at the Confirmation reception and given to meeting speakers.

Public Relations Activity of Greatest Impact

- Guest speakers at council meetings provide the opportunity to not only learn about the speaker's organization or ministry but for the speaker to also learn about CCCW and our mission. This year guest speakers were featured at four CCCW meetings. These meetings specifics, speakers, and websites were announced at masses and shared in printed and online weekly bulletins with all parishioners invited to attend.
 - At the March meeting our guest speaker was Mr. Scott Cooke from the SC Dept of Consumer Affairs who spoke about Scams and Identity Theft. Mr. Cooke's "Ditch the Pitch" presentation, with an accompanying handout, was entertaining, informative, and included a Bingo game noting specific strategies to avoid identity theft.
 - The September meeting featured the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) Missionary Annaliese Ramos from University of South Carolina. She gave CCCW members a deep dive into the calling of a FOCUS missionary to grow in their faith and share who Jesus is with college students, walking with them wherever they are on their faith journey.
 - Ellen Hinsch, Program Manager of Leeza's Care Connection in Columbia, SC, spoke at the October meeting and shared how this organization makes taking care of caregivers a priority. This organization provides a proactive, solution-based program that teaches the skills needed to tackle the demands of caregiving and an ever-changing life. Caregivers are uplifted through various opportunities like coffee chat, art sessions, yoga, tai chi, and support groups such as grief, dementia, Parkinson's, and MS.
 - In November, David Hall, Director of Midland's Orphan Relief in Columbia, SC, shared the heart and soul of this organization as they fulfill basic needs and create hope for children who are neglected, abused, and/or abandoned. Their two primary initiatives are Just In Case clothing closets in Title One schools and Care Kits that provide two weeks of clothing, shoes, and toiletries. Volunteers can help through their dollars, time, and/or clothing donation.

- Connecting with other organizations affords the opportunity for an exchange of knowledge and potentially life-changing content, sharing of support options, and awareness of who is who in our local community is priceless. These organizations may offer exactly what someone needs at the exact time while allowing Catholic women to support and minister as the hands and feet of Christ to those served by these organizations.

Community Committee Activities – Service

Report Submitted by Vickie Zarnick

- A baby shower for Birthright of Columbia was hosted by CCCW in September with a parish wide invitation to women of the church. This event, with special guest Terry Hodaly, Executive Director of Birthright, allowed members to share with other women about Birthright as well as the CCCW ministry. A slide show looped on the television during the shower showcasing Birthright’s mission, values, activities, and client testimony. Thousands of items were donated through the deep generosity of the parish! The CCCW President and one of the Vice-Presidents delivered the items and were able to see firsthand where Birthright connects with pregnant women on their journey and where volunteers lend a caring hand and warm heart in support of these families.
- Guest speakers at regular CCCW meetings are not only interesting, informative, and provide and encourage volunteer opportunities, but they also help grow membership. This strategy was used for four of CCCW meetings this year. All parishioners were invited. The meeting specifics, the featured speakers, and their website were presented to the parish at large through announcements at masses and shared in printed and online weekly bulletins. Topics and organizations included Identify Theft and Scams, Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), Leeza’s Care Connection, and Midland’s Orphan Relief.
- A new process was created to distribute excess CCCW funds to non-profits or ministries. An electronic survey was used to gather members' suggestions on which organizations to consider as recipients. A detailed ballot describing all potential recipients, with links to their websites, was used for voting in October. For this fiscal year, members voted for funds to be given to the Corpus Christi Assistance Ministry food pantry, the Corpus Christi Life Teen high school youth ministry, and Samaritans Well, a transitional shelter for homeless women and their children.
- The Outreach Program expresses the CCCW’s concerns and sympathy to members of our parish who are going through hardship and/or struggling with health issues, either personally or with family members. CCCW members sign up for a month at a time to contact parishioners in need of support via a phone call, greeting card, etc. For 2025, Outreach included 81 greeting cards, 15 "Corpus Christi Catholic Women" monogrammed throw blankets, 5 mass intentions, and 1 in-person visit.
- Monthly meeting agendas are used to advertise Diocesan and community events via an agenda section for Key Dates. Links to websites and/or events are included in the agenda as well as in email distribution. Examples of events listed included the Diocesan Marriage Anniversary Mass, Belonging Women’s one-day Conference in Greenville, Ladies of Light one day retreat in Charleston, Lighthouse for Life 5K Run/Walk at Saluda Shoals to support human trafficking survivors, Birthright of Columbia Celebrating 45 Years of Life, Mission of Hope Rally (40 Days for Life) in Columbia, and the free showing of “The Slave in Your Backyard” at Riverland Hills Baptist Church about the local reality of human trafficking.

- The CCCW began a new tradition with establishing the annual Christmas Jar. Based on the book *Christmas Jars* by Jason F. Wright, money is collected throughout the year and given to someone in need. CCCW has a jar available at each monthly meeting where members may donate spare change or dollars as they would like. At the end of the year, a family or ministry in need is selected from the community and surprised with the donations to help make their Christmas a little more special or fulfill a need for their family or ministry. For 2025, Midlands Orphan Relief was selected as the recipient.
- The CCCW hosted the annual Giving Tree in November and December. This project is one of significant logistics from selecting recipients, organizing wish lists, writing tags, collecting gifts, and orchestrating wrapping and delivering presents across Lexington County. Parishioners were invited to take a tag from over 500 tags on the tree to purchase desired gifts for community members in need. The project supported 61 residents from the Lexington Medical Center Extended Care facility in Lexington, SC, that is the largest skilled nursing facility in the Carolinas, 6 families (30 individuals) from the Families Helping Families community outreach project in the Midlands, 3 families in the area consisting of 9 adults and 13 children, and 100 items for the Corpus Christi Assistance Ministry that provides food, household necessities, and utilities to community members in need.

Community Activity of Greatest Impact

- A baby shower for Birthright of Columbia was hosted by CCCW in September with a parish wide invitation to women of the church. This event, with special guest Terry Hodaly, Executive Director of Birthright, allowed members to share with other women about Birthright as well as the CCCW ministry.
- The invitation, “Blessings for Babies,” was published in weekly church bulletins for several weeks and handed out at the end of masses the week before by members of CCCW. The Parish Hall was decorated with baby shower themed decorations, including artist renderings of Jesus holding babies or children as center pieces on tables. Light refreshments were served for the drop-in format for ladies of the parish to get to know each other and learn more about Birthright of Columbia as well as the functions of the CCCW.
- A slide show looped on the television during the shower showcasing Birthright’s mission, values, activities, and client testimony.
- Thousands of items were donated through the deep generosity of the parish! These items were displayed on decorated tables and a photograph of items and the CCCW hosting members was posted in the Birthright Newsletter. A guest list was shared with Birthright who followed up with a thank you note to those who attended and donated items. The CCCW President and one of the Vice-Presidents delivered the items and were blessed to be able to see firsthand where Birthright connects with pregnant women on their journey and where volunteers lend a caring hand and warm heart in support of these families.

Family Committee Activities – Service

Report Submitted by Vickie Zarnick

- CCCW hosted an Easter Egg hunt for the children of the parish on Palm Sunday after mass. A snack and water were shared with attendees. A tremendous turnout of 110 children from

toddlers to 5th graders “found” the 2,500 stuffed eggs “hidden” on the grounds of the Church. The finders of the golden eggs earned a special prize!

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- The Outreach Program expresses the CCCW’s concerns and sympathy to members of our parish who are going through hardship and/or struggling with health issues, either personally or with family members. CCCW members sign up for a month to contact parishioners in need of support via a phone call, greeting card, etc. For those who have had surgery or endure significant medical treatment, a throw blanket monogrammed with “Corpus Christi Catholic Women” is given. For 2025, the Outreach activity included 81 greeting cards, 15 "Corpus Christi Catholic Women" monogrammed throw blankets, 5 mass intentions, and 1 in-person visit.
- The Diocese of Charleston desires for all diocesan organizations and parishes to be safe environments. The VIRTUS program, adopted by the Diocese and required of all Parish Ministries’ volunteers, includes training on methods of preventing, recognizing, responding to, and the reporting of sexual misconduct or abuse of minors or vulnerable adults. To aid in compliance of this mandate by our Diocese, an accountability process was established to offer training and monitor CCCW members and their status. CCCW members were provided detailed information about VIRTUS via a new Question and Answer document and the documents provided by the parish and Diocese. CCCW Officers arranged a group training session, led by the parish Director of Faith Formation (DFF), for interested members who volunteer for functions and opened the session up to other ministries of the parish. Several CCCW Officers assisted, provided computers, and shared snacks. The CCCW President worked closely with the DFF throughout the year using a shared Google spreadsheet to ensure members’ training information was recorded timely and accurately so the President could reference it before each activity and event. Members volunteering, but not yet trained, were contacted and informed about the Diocesan requirement including how to obtain training.

Family Activity of Greatest Impact

The CCCW Outreach Program expresses the CCCW's concerns and sympathy to members of our parish who are going through hardship and/or struggling with health issues, either personally or with family members. CCCW members sign up for a month at a time, to provide support by contacting parishioners who are sick, have had surgery or are enduring significant medical treatment, experienced a loss of a loved one, or other hardships.

The Outreach volunteer receives requests for outreach from CCCW members and other parish ministries, where she responds with a phone call, greeting card or other appropriate support. For those having surgery or significant medical treatment, a throw blanket monogrammed with "Corpus Christi Catholic Women" is given. For those losing an immediate family member, a card with a mass offering is sent. A CCCW "business" card is included with each greeting card and throw blanket to help parishioners learn more about CCCW and our mission.

In 2025, the Outreach Program activity included 81 greeting cards, 15 "Corpus Christi Catholic Women" monogrammed throw blankets, 5 mass intentions, and 1 in-person visit.

The Outreach report is given at every monthly CCCW meeting, where a prayer for all is offered by the membership.



St. Joseph Women's Society

St. Joseph Catholic Church, Columbia

Church Committee Activities – Spirituality

Report Submitted by Julie Rotureau and Elen Callahan

- A Lenten Retreat was hosted for the Ladies of our Parish, themed "God's Promises and Faith and Glory" on April 6, led by Sister Amelia Marie Cueva. Sister Amy is part of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. John the Baptist and serves as the Director of Religious Education at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Simpsonville, SC.
- On April 11, about 100 people were served at the Lenten Soup Supper for the parish, one in the series of Soup Suppers offered after Stations and Mass on Lenten Fridays. Our Affiliate joined forces with other parish ministries: the SJ Rosary Makers, SJ Senior Life Ministry and SJ Ladies Prayer Group to host this.
- May is the month of Our Mother. Following the 12:15 Mass, on Sunday, May 4, at the Recessional, we processed from the church building for a May Crowning. Led by Fr. O'Steen, we were joined by many parishioners, and continued to walk around to the Rose Garden (Columbarium) singing songs to Our Lady. During a brief prayer service, including

a Litany to our Lady. Her statue image was crowned by our Catholic Woman, Therese Petit Dionne, a very special privilege. Maria Carrero, past President, fashioned the beautiful crown of fresh flowers, which was used. We placed fresh flowers at the feet of Our Lady before concluding.

- The Reception for the Mass of Remembrance, in November, was a very special and meaningful annual evening for our Parish, and for the families of those St Joseph members who died in the last year. Although the entire parish is invited, formal invitations were sent by Monsignor Harris to those families who had lost a family member during the past year. Over 125 were in attendance. Our members, led by Stephanie McCabe and Cece Zimmerman, hosted a beautiful reception, in addition to preparing and serving beautiful and delicious dishes. We worked alongside the Knights of Columbus who manned the bar.
- One of our members, Therese Dionne, leads the group of women who sign up to rotate the weekly cleaning of the interior of the church building. This is completed every Friday, and includes straightening books, changing the Holy Water properly, dusting, and whatever needs attention.
- We have a group of women, led by Claire Wagner, who wash and press the altar linens (strict protocol). They see to the replacement of worn altar linens, some of which are made by one of the members who is an expert seamstress.
- In mid-December, we lent a helping hand to decorate our beautiful live Chrismon Tree. The decorations were made many years ago by our parishioners, most of whom are our members.
- Numerous members participate at our parish as Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers. Also, there are regular participants at weekly Adoration, and who work with the St. Vincent de Paul Pantry, serving the needy. Several members regularly assist Monsignor Harris at Funeral Masses. We have many members, too, who are intercessory Prayer Warriors for Birthright of Columbia, responding with specific prayers for requests for mothers-to-be who are struggling physically or emotionally with their pregnancies or other circumstances.

Church Activity of Greatest Impact

When our Affiliate hosts an opportunity for spiritual growth for the entire parish, our members are greatly impacted. Both the Lenten Retreat and our May Crowning are such opportunities. With one, the Retreat, parishioners actually register to join in, and, with the other, our parishioners just join in. We can see the graces from both Our Lady and Her Son at work in these opportunities, and our hearts are filled with joy.

Legislative Committee Activities – Spirituality

Report submitted by Julie Rotureau and Elen Callahan

We followed Legislative activity through the email promptings from the Diocese of Charleston. Our Legislative Chairwoman keeps us abreast of time sensitive issues.

Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact

The updates shared with our membership via Flocknote are appreciated.

Membership Committee Activities – Leadership

Report Submitted by Julie Rotureau and Maria Carrero

- We are fortunate to have a committee of 3 who support growing and sustaining our membership. We are notified by the Parish staff when a new family or individual member indicates interest in our Women’s Society. At this point, we include the interested woman in our Flocknote database to receive appropriate updates, and we send a formatted letter of welcome to her. She is invited to join us at our upcoming meetings, and to continue receiving information. The membership committee pays special attention at our meetings to greet and introduce visitors and foster their registration.
- Back in August, the Ministry Head for our Parish attended the Bishop’s Regional Ministry Meeting. She shared notes and important thoughts with our St. Joseph Ministry Leaders, who were to pass the information on in each organization. Our Spirituality Commission Chair, Elen Callahan, took our Bishop’s message on this year’s Via Fidelis theme: “The Faithful Way”, and one question in particular, “How will you catechize your members?” She created a monthly format for spiritual reading and prayer that is distributed to our membership now by way of our “Mary and Martha News” newsletter.
- Our December meeting was turned into a “Christmas Cheer” Party. We had quite a Christmas food gala from each of the homemade traditions and favorites brought by the members in attendance. Our gift exchange game can be quite competitive, and a delightful time was had by all. We’ve been so busy that we took this year off from including a fundraiser. Want to add a note that in this current year, we did deliver last year’s collected items in January to St. Eugene’s in Ashville, NC to provide relief for those so affected by Hurricane Helene. We’d collected shoes, hats and gloves.
- Several of our members and honorary members have gone to God over this past year: Sue Myers, Carolyn James, Francie Goodrich, Margaret White, Alice Abdalla and Mary Bultman Delay. Several members are grieving the loss of spouses Keith Giese (Shawn), Jerry Funderburk (Ann), and Deacon Malcolm Skipper (Gwen).

Membership Activity of Greatest Impact

The procedures that are in place for our Membership Committee have helped in the growth and health of our organization. Although we have lost membership as some have either moved to an “honorary” status or have died, we have also continued growth by adding new interested women. We strive to be welcoming, and to offer something of particular interest to the women in our parish through a variety of meaningful spiritual, service and leadership opportunities.

You, LORD, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light.

Psalm 28

Organization Committee Activities - Leadership

Report Submitted by Julie Rotureau and Maria Carrero

- We planned and held our “Annual Luncheon and Business Meeting” in January, 2025, offering a catered luncheon (at a per person cost). We honored our Catholic Woman of the Year, Therese Petit Dionne, and we presented Monsignor Harris with a check, a gift to the parish, from the funds raised by the Fall Sale. Cherilyn Washington, our Speaker, represented Lighthouse for Life, and we presented our pooled individual donations at the end of her talk. This being an “off cycle year” there were no installation ceremonies of officers.
- Prior to our 2025 State Convention, our History Committee completed our first digitized Scrapbook of our activities for 2024. The portable scrapbook has enabled us to share our activities at various sites, and is much easier to share than the hardbound scrapbooks of the past. Thank you to Regina Spell, Teresa Sowers, Nicole Christopher and Courtney King.
- In May, we hosted our sisters of the Columbia Deanery for the Spring Deanery Meeting. Several of our members crocheted special pocket prayer shawls which we used for table favors. Our Deanery Project identified the SJ St. Vincent de Paul group as the recipient of funds for their “Utilities” account. We also learned about the Seven Sisters Apostolate by way of a presentation from Ann Nerbun and Sue Myers (please pray for the repose of Sue’s soul. She recently went to Our Lord after being very ill). The choice of Speaker supported the 2025 SCCCW resolution to pray for our Priests.
- We elected new Officers in November, to be installed by Monsignor Harris, at the 2026 Annual Luncheon. We also elected our Catholic Woman of the Year, Beverly Black Belser. Elected in November, she will move forward to be among the group of women who will be considered for the Deanery Catholic Woman.
- The SJWS continues to have members serving on the Affiliate, Deanery and State levels, fulfilling the duties in various offices or commissions.

Organization Activity of Greatest Impact

Completion of our first digitized scrapbook has had great impact as we grow with the technology. A simple thumb drive, plugged into a computer, is all we need to use the historical scrapbook for public relation opportunities.

Public Relations Committee Activities – Leadership

Report Submitted by Julie Rotureau and Maria Carrero

- We enjoyed participating at the parish-wide “Ministries Matter” Fair on August 10. We had a strong presence, including an inviting information table displaying a looping video of our latest activities, prayer cards and rosaries. Elen Callahan, our Spirituality Chairwoman, headed the Committee. Nine of our members were involved over the course of the morning to greet and answer questions. We received information from twelve women interested to

join us. Participation strengthened comradery with both other ministries and among our volunteers.

- We continue to use the Flocknotes app to communicate with our membership and to women interested in joining our Affiliate. We send “blasts” as needs arise to get the word out fast. We also distribute our “Mary and Martha News” newsletter via Flocknotes. This year, we began distributing the meeting minutes to registered members prior to each of our monthly meeting, thus saving on time and paper. Everyone, in attendance or not to the upcoming meeting, gets the document.

Public Relations Activity of Greatest Impact

Participation in the “Ministries Matter” Fair, last August, provided solid information to the interested women of the parish who attended. We signed up a dozen women who wanted to be contacted. We noticed that our participation strengthened comradery with both other parish ministry members and among our volunteers there.

Community Committee Activities – Service

Report Submitted by Julie Rotureau and Teresa Sowers

- The “Share the Love” theme for our February 16 meeting included a collection of items for Catholic Charities Clean of Heart Ministry. We suggested a specific list of items. Also, we included this list in the parish bulletin so that parishioners in general could contribute. One of our members delivered the items to Clean of Heart.
- One of our Outreach Projects was to provide a supper for the Catholic student population at the University of South Carolina. On March 16 we delivered a prepared meal to the “USC Student’s Sunday Supper”, held after the Mass. In fact, there was enough food to offer leftovers after a second Mass. We joined forces with our SJ Youth Ministry to make this happen. The food was served at the St Thomas More Center. Of our allocated funds, we had a remaining amount and so we provided a Pizza Party for the members of our Youth Group.
- In rounding out a beautiful day at the conclusion of our May Crowning (see Church Committee report), we continued by moving from the Rose Garden to the meeting space, to have our May monthly meeting. This meeting is the usual time that we vote in our business meeting on how to distribute our “outreach funds”. At this meeting, we voted on a selection of recipients, and identified four (4) entities. Each received a check for \$ 800.00. The recipients were: The Therapy Place in Columbia; the Monsignor Harris’ Special Needs; the (2) St Clare’s Homes in our Diocese; and the Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem (also an international outreach for us). It is noteworthy that the gift to the Msgr. Harris Special Needs fund both included the parish school as recipient and also satisfied a response to the 2025 SCCCW resolution on Mental Health Awareness.
- On August 6, we hosted our Women4Women (Last Call Before Fall) event. This year’s theme was “Lights & Bites”, an evening of fellowship, finger foods and liquid refreshments and a mini silent auction. Maria Carrero, Past President headed our committee. Our members, and ladies from both our Parish and the Deanery Affiliates were invited and attended. All proceeds, surpassing the \$ 3,000 mark, were presented to Birthright of

Columbia. We requested that participants pay at the door with a \$ 25 gift card for Birthright in lieu of a monetary admissions fee. This provided many gift cards to Birthright, along with some cash donations and auction proceeds to be used for their promotion of their Parenting Video Series. So, during upcoming months, eligible Mothers-to-be can receive \$ 100 gift card for completing the series.

- Our outreach ministry called “Smile Kits” is a practice that reaches, about 20 members and other parishioners, monthly. Our members send cards and/or emails to other members to those not able to attend a meeting or recovering from illness, etc. We added a new recipient recently to our “Smile Kit” outreach ministry, when we learned about the 100th birthday of Mrs. Paula Gorgey. She is a former Altar Guild member (our structure prior to our being formed into the St. Joseph Women’s Society).

Community Activity of Greatest Impact

Our fundraising event, held in August, to benefit Birthright impacts our affiliate members and our community. Several of our members volunteer for Birthright weekly, and many members are Prayer Warriors for the intentions of the clients served by Birthright. This event, “Women4Women, shows our meaningful care for the women and the babies served by Birthright, and gives our members a night to socialize and celebrate as we gear up for another ending of summer.

Family Committee Activities – Service

Report Submitted by Julie Rotureau and Teresa Sowers

- Our “Food for the Bereaved” work is ongoing throughout each year. We have three groups of ladies who take turns providing this outreach ministry for the families of our parish. Funerals are followed by a lunch or refreshment reception, in Donor Hall of our Ministries Building. In cooperation with Monsignor and staff, we provide, in many cases, the meal itself. We also set up, serve, and clean up, in order for the families to have that quality time with extended family. If preferred, the meal is delivered to the home of a family member instead. We welcome new members, and Parishioners to join in with this work. During this year, one of our Group Leaders had to step back, and we were fortunate to have Co-Group Leaders step forward to take on this group.
- Just before Thanksgiving, we held our "From the Devine Kitchens" - Annual Fall Sale - what a hit thanks to the many hands and hearts of those who planned and organized, prepared so many foods, and distributed the online orders that we received. We had leadership from a strong Committee, led by Martha Becht and Teresa Sowers, and yet, we could not have orchestrated this without the help of our Parish staff member, Jamie Vickrey, who for every year since the onset of Covid, has manned the online ordering system! We raised close to \$ 4,500. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and the efforts touch many. It is fitting as a Family effort, as it supports any and all families of the parish...our customers are, for the most part, our parishioners, and we hope the offering of fairly priced premade casseroles, breads, desserts, etc., alleviate some holiday stress. Things come full circle from our hands to our fellow parishioners, because this is our biggest fundraiser, and it not only helps to

support some of our expenses, but it also is given right back to the Parish. It is an annual tradition at our Annual Luncheon/Meeting, in January, to present Monsignor Harris with a check for part of the proceeds to be used solely for the Parish. The bulk of the remaining funds are reserved for our Outreach Gifts which are determined at our May meeting.

- Masses were requested for our members and for immediate family members who died.

Family Activity of Greatest Impact

The Fall Sale, “From the Devine Kitchens”, is a power house for paying it forward. It’s as if each item made by our members causes actions of “good begetting good”. We fulfill a ministry, our parishioners receive a helping hand during busy seasons, our Parish receives funds to impact something important as deemed by our Pastor, and our Affiliate’s outreach efforts are funded. Those recipients, in turn, change that gift into further good.

International Committee Activities – Service

Report Submitted by Julie Rotureau and Teresa Sowers

- In October, we finalized our 2025 Box of Joy Project, shipping off 155 fully loaded boxes to Cross Catholic for Christmas to children in faraway countries! The Parish participated with monetary gifts, given in honor or memory of loved ones, to offset shipping costs. Our members participated by ordering from an organized list of kid friendly items. Everything was shipped to a committee member, and sorted. Some members made “pillowcase” style dresses for the girls. We ordered tee shirts for the boys. The boxes were filled by a team of members, and then were quality checked, prepared and then shipped. We provided a shipping pick up point at St. Joseph for Cross Catholic, and shared our pick-up point with the other Columbia Deanery Affiliates. The project was a huge success, and the results were enjoyed for all the participants.
- Several members participate in the parish rosary making ministry. At least annually, our Affiliate makes a monetary gift to help defray their cost of shipping and/or to replenish the guild’s supplies. We attribute this to our international outreach because this group provides rosaries not only locally, but also nationally and internationally. Parishioners and clergy know that rosaries are available for them to take when traveling out of the country.
- One of the recipients of our outreach funds, awarded in May, was the Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem. We gave \$800, via the Order of Malta, to save babies.

International Activity of Greatest Impact

The 2025 Box of Joy project definitely had the greatest impact on the international community that we could make. The project involved our membership and was open for the involvement of the entire parish. Dozens and dozens seized the opportunity to get involved. We have gradually increased the number of boxes sent over the past 3 years.



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

Church Committee Activities – Spirituality

Report Submitted by Yulaundra Heyward

- Members joined the KPC men in sponsoring items for Thanksgiving baskets for families in the community and school.
- All families in the parish celebrated the Feast Day of St. Martin de Porres International Day activities in November. Families attended Mass which was in English and Vietnamese with Mass reading in other Languages. After the Mass celebration all families shared food from different cultures that were represented (American, Africa/Nigeria, Viet Nam, Hispanic, Soul Food (Africa American)). It was a wonderful celebration and fellowship that included a variety of music, dances, and displays.
- Several members of the Rosary Altar Society attended the Deanery Retreat that was held at the Basilica at St. Peter’s Catholic Church in Columbia.
- Several RAS Members have membership with Church Women United (United) and attend the organization meetings. In the fall the organization celebrated Human Rights Day and held a World Day of Prayer.

Church Activity of Greatest Impact

International Day activities in November. Families attended Mass which was in English and Vietnamese with Mass reading in other Languages. After the Mass celebration all families shared food from different cultures that were represented. (American, Africa/Nigeria, Viet Nam, Hispanic, Soul Food (Africa American)). It was a wonderful celebration and fellowship that included a variety of music, dances, and displays.

Legislative Committee Activities – Spirituality

Report Submitted by Yulaundra Heyward

- Participated and attended the SC Catholic Women’s Day at the Capitol, met with legislators and was recognized by members of the House of Representatives.
- Shared information regarding voter registration, to include location of voting polls (dates and times).
- Encouraged members and parishioners to contact their legislators regarding the Catholic teachings and stance on Death Penalty, Abortion and Rite to Life.
- Provides information regarding praying for victims of abuse and Domestic Violence.
- Provided information and Pink Ribbons to parishioners in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact

Participated and attended the SC Catholic Women's Day at the Capitol, met with legislators and was recognized by members of the House of Representatives. As a follow up, encouraged members and parishioners to contact their legislators regarding the Catholic teachings and stance on Death Penalty, Abortion and Rite to Life.

Community Committee Activities – Service

Report Submitted by Yulaundra Heyward

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Family Committee Activities – Service

Report Submitted by Yulaundra Heyward

- A Rosary member chaired the Annual Parish Picnic in September at Weston Lake on Fort Jackson. The Parish Picnic is wonderful fellowship by families, friends, and the community. The Picnic follows the 11:30 a.m. Mass at Weston Lake. All parishioners were members and were actively involved in providing dishes, games, entertainment, and serving parishioners and guests.

- Several Members with their families participated in the 2025 Jubilee of Pilgrims of Hope where we walked to St. Peter’s Basilica. At the Basilica, we participated in prayer and silent reflections.
- Several members of the RAS and their families assisted in the organization of the End-of-Life Seminar. The seminar provided information to members of the church and guests on the importance of being prepared for what many choose not to talk about. The Seminar had several speakers from local funeral homes in the area. In addition, presentations by lawyers on preparing Wills and Trusts were a part of the program.

Family Activity of Greatest Impact

Several members of the RAS and their families assisted in the organization of the End-of-Life Seminar. The seminar provided information to members of the church and guests on the importance of being prepared for what many choose not to talk about. The Seminar had several speakers from local Funeral Homes in the area. In addition, presentations by lawyers on preparing Wills and Trusts were a part of the program.

International Committee Activities - Service
(Report not provided)

Organization Committee Activities - Leadership
(Report not provided)



Women in God’s Service (WinGs) *Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, Chapin*

Church Committee Activities – Spirituality *All Reports Submitted by Jackie Chalmers*

- Organizing and preparing refreshments, quarterly, for the hospitality table after Sunday morning Masses offering parishioners an opportunity to meet and socialize with fellow parishioners.
- Prepared Lenten Friday Meals (April 2025) for the church community before Stations of the Cross.
- Members sponsor and organize volunteers for First Friday Adoration.
- Members sponsor, organize, and lead 1st Saturday Rosary.
- Members decorate the church for Christmas and Easter.
- Members provide meals after funerals for families who have lost loved ones. There are several Funeral Committees within the WinGS membership.

- Members provide meals for sick parishioners or their family members through the Meal Train.
- Members have trained to be Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (the Body of Christ).
- Members will be training (February 2025) to be Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (the Precious Blood).
- Members volunteered a number of rosaries to be prayed in honor of Sister Angelita Vazzano (Catholic Charities).
- Members volunteer to sell OLL Christmas ornaments with proceeds going towards the WinGS budget to use toward service projects.

Church Activity of Greatest Impact

The hospitality table, after Sunday morning Masses, offers parishioners an opportunity to meet and socialize with one another. It is also a way to invite other ladies in the parish to WinGS and possibly become a member. Flyers that include WinGS' mission and service opportunities are readily available.

Legislative Committee Activities – Spirituality

- Members attended the 2025 SCCCW Convention.
- Members sponsored a gift basket, with Corpus Christi, for the convention.
- Members attended Mass, prayer services, and break out sessions at the convention.
- A monetary donation went toward the convention project.
- The WinGS' Treasurer has sold raffle tickets for the 2026 SCCCW Convention.
- WinGS will sponsor a gift basket, with Corpus Christi, for the 2026 convention.
- A monetary donation for the 2026 SCCCW Convention has been budgeted.
- WinGS board members are in the planning phase of hosting an annual deanery meeting, January 18, 2026, at OLL with lunch provided.
- Members will attend and sign up for various duties/committees.
- Members attended a deanery retreat at Saint Peter's Basilica on September 13th.
- Members attended Cursillo in October 2025 and have regular meet-ups and attend monthly Ultreya meetings.
- Members attended retreats at Mepkin Abbey.
- Members have kept informed about legislative issues at the SC State House.
- Members were informed about legislative issues at the SC State House.

Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact

The spirituality activity/project that meant the most to our affiliate was the Belonging Catholic Conference for Women held at Saint Joseph's in Greenville, South Carolina. Twice a year, Cursillo hosts a retreat weekend at Our Lady of the Hills. In October, 3 active WinGS members had the opportunity to experience this life changing event. It was a weekend spent in personal spiritual growth alongside other past and present Cursillistas. Cursillistas from past and present retreats meet weekly to encourage one another in their Catholic faith. They also attend monthly Ultreya meetings. This is a

time for all Cursillista groups to come together and share a meal, listen to keynote speakers, and fellowship in a unified group setting.

Membership Committee Activities – Leadership

- Membership drive. Many new members joined this year. Our affiliate has 54 members.
- 54 membership dues have been received.
- Affiliate/Deanery meetings attended by members.
- Membership promoted at OLL's Hospitality Table.
- White elephant Christmas party was held to encourage new members.
- Monthly email blast transmitting information to members with a monthly newsletter in the works.
- Summer meeting of affiliates board members to devise a new budget and plan for the year.
- A CWoY was selected to represent WinGS at the deanery level.
- A Membership Committee was selected by board members in December to select new board members for the fall 2026 - summer of 2027 term.

Membership Activity of Greatest Impact

Monthly email blast transmitting information to members with a monthly newsletter in the works.

Public Relations Committee Activities – Leadership

- Guest speakers from Catholic Charities and Seven Sisters Ministry.
- Members serve and attend the Columbia Deanery board and quarterly meetings.
- Name tags are provided at meetings. Brochures, flyers, applications, and new member forms on upcoming events are provided at sign in.
- A new Member Information Booklet was created by members which lists WinGS' Mission Statement, Officers, Ministry/Chairpersons' contact information, WinGS' Yearly Calendar, and Outreach Ministries.
- A monthly agenda is emailed to all members with the previous month's minutes and a treasurer's report along with the upcoming month's agenda.

Public Relations Activity of Greatest Impact

The leadership activity/project that meant the most to our affiliate was seeing our organization grow this past year so that we can be Jesus' hands and feet in our community. Our membership has grown. Each month, we have new ladies who've heard about WinGS and we've gained new members each month. We are going and growing.

Organization Committee Activities – Leadership

- WinGS Board Members meet monthly, before the monthly meeting to revisit the upcoming month's events, WinGS' budget, missions, and the previous month's meeting minutes.
- WinGS President attended an annual meeting with Father Dennis along with other ministry leaders to discuss future endeavors for each ministry's focus and goals.
- Canva was introduced to ministry leaders in order to revise and improve ministry signage
- WinGS board members consistently review the by-laws and constitution to ensure the board and its members follow protocol.
- WinGS members who volunteer at Catholic Charities are now required and are signed up to take a Virtue training course.
- Signage along with fliers for the WinGS ministry are displayed when hosting Hospitality Table.
- New and current members are offered WinGS publications at the sign in table before each meeting, and all members have received a copy of the "New Member Information" booklet.

The Organization Activity of Greatest Impact

Monthly board meetings with WinGS board members have proven to have the biggest impact on the WinGS ministry. Board members even met throughout the summer to revamp the budget, to secure insurance for the ministry, to create yearly calendar and secure upcoming speakers. With planning ahead, the ministry and the expectations for each meeting have proven to be much more organized with clear focus and set goals for the fall of 2025 – spring 2026 year. There has also been an increase in membership since last year.

Community Committee Activities – Service

- The first annual fall Craft Market to raise funds for WinGS' service funds was held September 20th. This allowed members to work together toward fulfilling WinGS Mission Statement to be servant leaders, to be models of love, and to be stewards addressing the needs of others.
- Members volunteer weekly at Clean of Heart (Catholic Charities). They wash and dry clothes for the homeless population in Columbia. Teresa Maybay from Clean of Heart was a guest speaker during our January 2025 meeting. Teresa shared information on the work they do at Clean of Hearts and spoke about volunteer opportunities.
- Members volunteer to peacefully pray at Birthright of Columbia twice a week.
- \$800.00 worth of gift cards was raised for the Homeless Outreach ministry of Columbia.
- The 3rd Wednesday of each month members pack toiletries/essential gift bags.
- Toiletries were donated to Restorative Justice. Shawn Roberson was a guest speaker at our January 2025 meeting. He shared information on how he works with newly released youth and older adults as they transition back into society. He discussed volunteering opportunities and the prayer needs they have.
- Members participate in OLL senior luncheon the third Tuesday of each month.

- Senior Outreach meets and plays bingo once a month with residents at Lowman Home in Chapin. Christmas stockings were prepared for Lowman Home residents during the Christmas season along with a musical sing along.

Community Activity of Greatest Impact

The first annual fall Craft Market to raise funds for WinGS' service funds was planned and executed with true servants' hearts. This fall fundraiser was a wonderful opportunity to bring OLL parishioners and the community together. Local vendors provided jewelry, fashion, unique crafts, and holiday flower arrangements and wreaths. One of the most popular booths was the homemade soup booth hosted by WinGS members. The craft market was such a success, preparations are already in the planning phase for next year on a larger scale with additional community vendors already showing interest. Many of this year's vendors have already committed to the 2nd Annual Craft Market this fall.

Family Committee Activities – Service

- Monthly rosary led by WinGS members with open attendance for OLL families/parishioners.
- A fall Craft Market was sponsored by WinGS to support WinGS' service funds. This allowed members to socialize and get to know one another with future causes and charitable endeavors in mind.
- Members volunteer weekly at Clean of Heart (Catholic Charities). They wash and dry clothes for the homeless population in Columbia. Teresa Maybay from Clean of Heart was a guest speaker during our January 2025 meeting. Teresa shared information on the work they do at Clean of Hearts and spoke about volunteer opportunities.
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Family Activity of Greatest Impact

The first annual fall Craft Market was sponsored by WinGS to support WinGS' service funds. This allowed members to socialize and get to know one another with future causes and charitable endeavors in mind. Our Lady of the Lake parishioners and community members came and

supported this event. There were local vendors that sold jewelry, fashion items, homemade crafts, and flower arrangements and wreaths. In addition, members of WinGS hosted a soup booth. Members made and sold homemade soups which turned out to be one of the most popular booths at the event. Preparations for the 2nd annual Craft Market are already in the planning stages with a bigger vision along with additional vendors.

International Committee Activities – Service

- WinGS participated in the Seafarers Ministry Christmas Shoebox program. WinGS prepared and donated 100 boxes this year for seafarers who are unable to leave their vessels for months.
- Boxes of Joy, a Catholic Ministry that partners with bishops, priests, religious and lay workers donate to help the poorest of the poor around the world. 54 boxes were packed and donated this November.

International Activity of Greatest Impact

It is very difficult to pick just one service activity/project that meant the most to our affiliate. During the Christmas season, we had so many service projects that our affiliate was part of. Our members are the most dedicated group of ladies with true servants' hearts. Their attitude during this season was, "What more can we do?" From 100 Seafarers' Boxes, 54 Boxes of Joy, \$800.00 worth of gift cards for the homeless, and Christmas stockings for Lowman Home residents, our community had many needs met. What a blessing our WinGS members are to our parish and to our community.

*"...shine like lights of the world
as you hold on to the word of life".
Phil. 2:15-16*



GREENVILLE DEANERY

Rita Brown, Deanery President

AFFILIATES

St. Anthony of Padua Women's Council

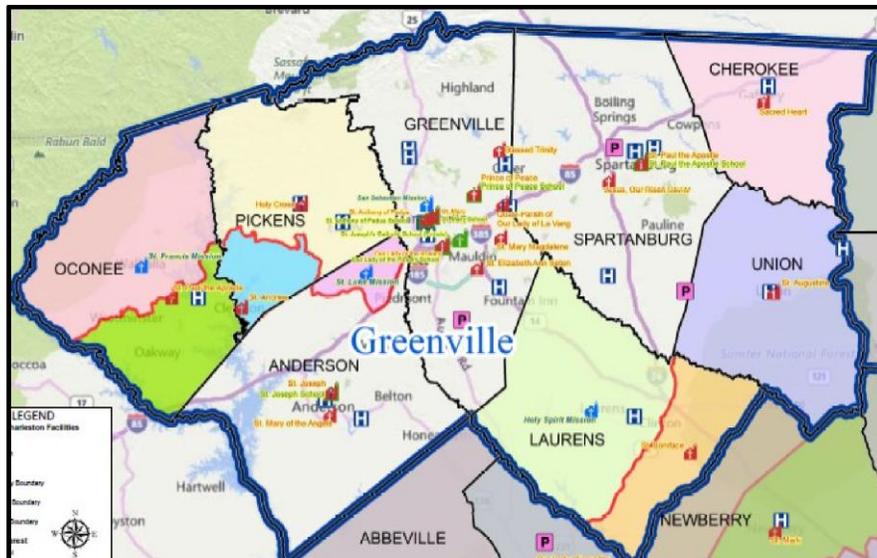
St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Greenville

Carol Moeller, President

St. Mary's Council of Catholic Women

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Greenville

Nancy Carrano, President



GREENVILLE DEANERY YEAR-END REPORT

Rita Brown, Deanery President

The Greenville Deanery is full of wonderful Catholic women who give generously of their time, talent and treasures. They are faithful stewards of the Church and do all for the Glory of God. We only have two affiliate members, St. Anthony's of Padua Women's Council and St. Mary's Council of Catholic Women. St. Anthony's has 41 members and St. Mary's has 124 members, plus there are 5 independent members.

In the sewing and knitting ministries at St. Mary's, which is open to all members of the deanery, we provided items to fill two baskets which we donated to Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Upstate, for their annual State Bowl Pep Rally fundraiser. They auctioned the two baskets, one being a Clemson Basket and one being a University of South Carolina themed basket. The baskets contained blankets; bibs; burp cloths; hats; mittens and so much more.

We invited all and any women's group from every parish in the deanery to our September meeting, along with the letters from our good Bishop encouraging Women's Council involvement, and a letter from our wonderful President of SCCCW, Jeannette Altenburg. Unfortunately, we did not have any outside attendees to attend that meeting and will attempt another try in the spring of 2026 to recruit more affiliates.

St. Mary's Council of Catholic Women Activities under leadership of President Lori Grant (1st half of the year); and later by President Nancy Carrano (2nd half of the year)

- Distributed Epiphany Home Blessing Kits after all masses.
- Held forth annual Momma Mia Spaghetti Supper after Saturday 5 pm mass.
- Before every membership meeting, the council prays the rosary together.
- Monthly meeting guest speaker Tami Kiser, from Heart Ridge Ministries, and Ashley Cure from Greenville County Sheriff's office on how they help juveniles involved in domestic violence and other crimes against children. Sewing ministry provides stuffed animal they give to the children.
- Members attended the Belonging Women's Conference at St. Joseph High School.
- Ladies attended the Catholic Women's Day at the Capital.
- Monthly meeting guest speaker, Teresa Gevaert spoke of her faith journey and her start of Incora, which is a company that developed an earring used to help track health information to track women's fertility.
- All Fridays in lent except Good Friday the Council women provided dinner to all attending praying the Stations of the Cross.
- May 10th, our Council celebrated 100 years of service to community and Church, with a dinner and speakers. SMCCW received a Proclamation from Mayor Knoxx for SMCCW Day on May 10th. Received Congratulatory letters from Bishop Jaque and Governor McMaster.
- June 21 In conjunction with other ministries at our parish we hosted a parish wide picnic after the Eucharistic procession on our campus for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi.

- Transition meeting held from old to new board members.
- Sewing Ministry meets the 3rd, 4th and sometimes 5th Tuesdays throughout the year.
- St. Anne's Stitchery (crocheting and knitting), meet the first Mondays of the months throughout the year.
- All year collect food for Catholic Charities, Our Lady's Food pantry.
- Held a Meet and Greet after all the masses at the end of August where we were blessed with new members.
- Began a Devotion by attending Five First Saturday's masses at OLR, followed by praying the Rosary.
- Membership meeting, guest speaker our new priest, Fr. Damask, How the Holy Spirit Guided me to the Priesthood.
- National Grandparents Day provided prayer cards at the entrances to the church.
- New member social with a workshop of Paint and Sip.
- Members participated and prayed during the 40 Days for Life.
- Mass offered for all Grandparents.
- Food drive for St. Rafka's after all masses.
- Fall Retreat – Hope that Does Not Disappoint.
- Membership meeting, guest speaker Sandi Smith, The Mission and Work of Augustine Literacy Project.
- Held our annual Bake Sale, Bazaar
- Participated in the Festival of Trees downtown Greenville.
- Participated in the Boxes of Joy and Seafarer boxes.

St. Anthony of Padua Women's Council is under the leadership of President Carol Moeller.

- January, St Anthony of Padua held a prayer breakfast for our parishioners. We cooked and served a hot breakfast. The program was titled "The Throne Room" and our guest speaker was Pastor Desimber Rose. We also had a Liturgical Dance by Juantoya Lane. Father Emerson collected prayer requests from those present.
- In February, our council raffled a Valentine basket after each mass. We donated to a parishioner's daughter who lost everything in a house fire.
- In March, our Spiritual Advisor, Deacon Steve Olson reflected on Lent, Easter and Pentecost. He encouraged us to know our faith, live our faith, and share our faith.
- International Project we donated money to Sr Columba Thadey, SFCC. She is the Coordinator for the Divine Mercy Center Home for the Elderly in Tanzania. The sisters make home visits to deliver food to the vulnerable and elderly in their community.
- Had a Women's Retreat titled "Morning of Reflection". This was presented by our Spirituality chairperson.
- Had our annual Hat Parade in May which raised over \$1000. Donated the proceeds to parish school to be used towards a scholarship for a student in need.
- Recognized men after each mass Father's Day weekend. Fr Emerson called all Father's, Godfather's and Grandfather's to come to the altar for a special blessing. Members from our Council gave each person a prayer card as they left the altar.
- We invited the new school principal, Brian Long to introduce him to our council and to offer our assistance.
- Served a BBQ lunch held for students and families at our school gym.

- The Spiritual committee laminated cards with Catholic Social Teaching and placed them in the church lobby and social hall.
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- A generic letter was shared that we could send to our representatives and congressmen with concerns regarding immigration process and treatment of illegal aliens.
- For Breast Cancer Awareness month, we wore pink ribbons and gave out pink ribbon pins to women after each mass.
- Participated in Trunk or Treat for CCD children.
- In keeping with Pope Francis’s Jubilee, WC walked together to statue of Mary on school grounds and prayed the Rosary.
- We served breakfast after White Coat mass with our Bishop.
- Marlene Grover and Cathy Kelly facilitated a Leadership Workshop at our regular meeting.
- One of our members published a memoir, “Awakened Faith” How a Grandmother’s Wisdom Made All the Difference. She had a book signing after 12pm mass. Author Shiko Clayton. Available on Amazon.
- Women’s Day of Recollection was held for all women in our parish. The theme was, The Gift of God’s Presence and was moderated by Sister Patricia Magee, OP.
- held our annual Holiday Bake Sale the weekend before Thanksgiving.
- Participated in Seafarer Boxes and Boxes of Joy
- Provided 5 boxes of food for family that has been identified in need. This includes turkey, ham, side dishes and dessert
- Provide food and DJ for dancing, for annual Christmas party after mass on the 20th.
- Throughout the year we serve lunch to bereaved families after funeral mass.
- Throughout the year we support our Food Pantry ministry with slightly used shoes, coats, hats and gloves.
- Throughout the year slightly used clothing is donated to Sans Sebastian.

GREENVILLE DEANERY YEAR-END REPORTS



St. Anthony of Padua Women’s Council

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Greenville

Church Committee Activities – Spirituality

Report Submitted by Jessie Bowens and Sandra Sheffer

- Held our annual Prayer Breakfast themed: “The Throne Room.” This event was filled with prayer, songs, liturgical dancing and featured published poet, December Rose.
- Under the leadership of our Church chairperson our meetings began with a meaningful reflection honoring the feast day of a saint, helping to ground our gatherings in faith and tradition. These reflections deepened our understanding of the saints and set a prayerful tone for our meetings.
- A Women’s Bible Study group was established and has been well attended, demonstrating a strong desire among our members to grow in Scripture and fellowship. The group has provided a welcoming space for discussion, prayer and shared faith journeys.
- One of our members gave a wonderful presentation themed ‘Loving and Forgiving’ that was written by her and was well attended by members and women of the parish.
- We were honored to host a Seder Supper, thoughtfully orchestrated by one of our members. This meaningful experience deepened our understanding of the Jewish roots of our faith and provided a powerful educational and spiritual opportunity for all who attended.
- Our council distributed St. Joseph Prayer Cards to the men of the parish on Father’s Day.
- In keeping with Pope Francis’ Jubilee Year, our club organized a pilgrimage to Mary’s statue on our campus where members gathered to pray the Rosary together. This pilgrimage was a beautiful expression of devotion and unity, offering a peaceful time of prayer and reflection. This has become a monthly event.
- On November 21st and 22nd our council hosted ‘A Women’s Day of Recollection for Advent’ where participants had the choice of either day. Both days were well attended, each with over 50 participants. Sr. Patricia McGee, OP traveled from Michigan to facilitate the event.

Church Activity of Greatest Impact

There are two:

- On November 21st and 22nd our council hosted ‘A Women’s Day of Recollection for Advent’ where participants had the choice of either day. Both days were well attended, each with over 50 participants. Sr. Patricia McGee, OP traveled from Michigan to facilitate the event.
- One of our members gave a wonderful presentation themed ‘Loving and Forgiving’ that was written by her and was well attended by council members and women of the parish

Legislative Committee Activities – Spirituality

Report Submitted by Mary Morris Williams

- Pope Francis’ Jubilee Year and the local pilgrimage site.
- Lenten observance and recharging spirituality.
- Publications from USCCB concerning Catholic Social Teaching and immigration.
- The Season of Creation in September.

Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact

One focus of interest supported by the Legislative Committee this year has been Catholic Social Teaching. This interest evolved over the year beginning in March 2025 when we discussed the dignity of the individual and concern for immigrants from a Catholic perspective. Members were encouraged to use the 5 Calls app to contact senators and representatives and promote the Catholic

viewpoint. In September, a handout was provided for the parish with the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching. In addition, a letter was provided for members to use as a template in writing to politicians. This effort was later supported by the USCCB's special pastoral letter on immigration in November 2025.

Membership Committee Activities – Leadership

Report Submitted by Debra Drennon

- Made notification of meetings and all planned events via announcements at Mass, parish bulletin, and on Flock Notes.
- Ordered name badges to be worn at all parish functions to gain recognition and spark interest in our council.
- Our council held two retreats and invited all women of the parish to attend.

Membership Activity of Greatest Impact

On November 21st and 22nd our council hosted 'A Women's Day of Recollection for Advent' where participants had the choice of either day. Both days were well attended, each with over 50 participants.

*“Do not fear the darkness.
Be the light that others follow through it.”
Padre Pio*

Organization Committee Activities - Leadership

Report Submitted by Debra Drennon

- A representative of Foster Care, Laura Combs, spoke to our club about the importance of fostering and adopting children.
- Ongoing research is being done on the history of St. Anthony of Padua Women's Council. One important fact that was discovered: In 1975, Thelma Williams, our oldest parishioner, was honored as the first African American SCCCW Woman of the Year. We celebrated her 100th birthday on October 25, 2025, with a grand party in our parish Social Hall.
- Marlene Grover attended our October meeting and presented some great ideas on taking on leadership positions, increasing membership, and staying relevant.
- Held our Annual Bake Sale.
- Ruffled a Valentines Gift Basket. The proceeds helped cover convention expenses.

Organization Activity of Greatest Impact

The celebration of life for Mrs. Thelma Williams, who turned 100 years old on October 25, 2025, who was the first African American SCCCW Woman of the Year in 1975 and is still an honorary member of St. Anthony of Padua Women's Council!

Public Relations Committee Activities – Leadership

Report Submitted by Debra Drennon

- One of our members created a Facebook page titled "St Anthony's of Padua Women's Council." She posts all our activities including meeting times, upcoming events and other historical facts such as saints' lives and other Catholic historical events.
- Our activities are posted on our parish website and our president's name and contact information is listed in our parish bulletin, on Flock Notes and on our TV screens in the church lobby.

Public Relations Activity of Greatest Impact

Our Facebook page has had the greatest impact on our members and the community because it is what is trending and is open to such a wide audience.

Community Committee Activities – Service

Report Submitted by Ruby Moore

- Monthly donations to the Food Pantry at St. Anthony Catholic Church are collected and delivered. During the winter, our donations include coats, gloves, and scarves. During the spring and summer months we collected and donated shoes, socks, toiletries, non-perishable food and women personal items.
- Feeding the vulnerable and needy during the holidays consists assisting with five family referrals from our parish administrator for families who are in need. The council creates five baskets, each one to feed a family of six. This includes paper products, turkey, ham, side items, beverages, dessert and candy.

Community Activity of Greatest Impact

Food, clothing and shelter are basic needs that everyone should have to survive. Our year-round monthly donations to the St. Anthony's food pantry had the greatest impact on the community. Many of those being served are homeless. The parish works as a community of helpers to provide help to those without basic needs for survival. We are proud to be a part of this critical mission.

Family Committee Activities - Service

(Report not provided)

International Committee Activities – Service

Report Submitted by Kathleen Merritt

- Provided educational information on social media (441 People) regarding the Catholic Church standing on solidarity with the bishops and faithful of Africa as they offer the world a profound witness of respect for human life and dignity amidst ongoing conflicts. Millions are

displaced from their homes, persecuted because of religion and ethnicity, violence, poverty and environmental crises.

- Human Trafficking Project: For World Day against Trafficking, We attended and pros the film 'The Slave in Your Backyard: The local Reality of Human Trafficking' .
- \$500.00 donation to the needs of the Sisters for Christian Community, an international community with committed members in all continents of the world. In Africa they are in South Africa, East Africa and West Africa. Sr Gertrude Bassegy was our presenter. Their biggest challenge is their efforts helping the elderly.

International Activity of Greatest Impact

Learning about the needs and being able to offer financial help (\$500.00) to the Sisters for Christian Community in Africa through Sr. Gertrude Bassegy meant the most to our affiliate. We embraced our diversity in the Church and was able to send direct aide to our parishioner's order in Africa. Although \$500.00 may not go far in America, it will help Sr. Gertrude's order to serve three countries in Africa.



St. Mary's Council of Catholic Women

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Greenville

Church Committee Activities – Spirituality

Report Submitted by Nina Obier

- The members of SMCCW pray the mysteries of the Rosary call and response before each monthly membership meeting.
- The members of SMCCW close each monthly membership meeting with the Angelus.
- Members of SMCCW will prepare Epiphany Home Blessing Packets and distribute them to the parishioners after each Mass the weekend of the Epiphany.
- A group of SMCCW members attended the Diocese of Charleston's Belonging Catholic Conference for Women on Saturday, February 22, 2025, held at St. Joseph's Catholic School in Greenville. The Belonging conference offered Mass, Confession, Adoration, a Keynote Speaker, and multiple workshops to choose from.
- Our affiliate provided volunteers to help with preparing and serving light suppers on each Friday of Lent 2025 after praying Stations of the Cross in the Church.
- Our membership provided presence at both the Spring and Fall 40 Days for Life campaigns, by praying for the unborn.
- We have a Bereavement Committee, which contacts the family of a council member when there is a death in the family. We have provided meals, Mass Cards, and donations to charities at the request of each council member who has had a loved one pass away during the year.
- 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 Catholic Woman of the Year at our 100-year celebration of the Council.

- For the second year in a row, the members of SMCCW initiated a Corpus Christi Procession on June 21st after the 5 pm mass. We worked with our clergy and other ministries of our parish to provide parishioners a beautiful procession which was followed by a Parish picnic enjoyed by 300 plus members of our parish.
- SMCCW held a Fall Women's Retreat on October 11, 2025 which began with a mass in St Mary's Catholic Church followed by our full program in Pazdan Hall at St. Mary's. The Fall Women's Retreat, HOPE THAT DOES NOT DISAPPOINT, featured a nationally known keynote speaker, author, musician, Maria Spears Mumaugh. Our program included 2 deep dive sessions. Reflection time with a live performance. Praying the Hopeful Mysteries. Concluded with a special prayer of Hope.
- During our November meeting on Veteran's Day we said a special prayer for our veterans.
- Several SMCCW members attended first Friday mass on December 5, followed by fellowship at a local coffee shop. This will be a monthly offering, first and foremost about devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, secondly an opportunity for continued fellowship.
- We have a couple of our SMCCW members serving as sponsors in the current OCIA class.

Church Activity of Greatest Impact

Our Fall Retreat on Saturday, October 11, 2025, which was attended by women from around the Upstate of varying ages and backgrounds. When choosing the retreat theme, our previous Spirituality chair suggested we coordinate with the Jubilee year, the year of hope. Immediately after choosing that direction we were drawn to Romans chapter 5: 1-5. Together with our current SMCCW president we identified a nationally known, locally living in Greenville, speaker, Maria Spears Mumaugh. She graciously agreed to not only be our only speaker she added in her singing that was the bridge to a deeper dive and meditation on Hope That Doesn't Disappoint, But What If It Does? We were blessed to begin the retreat with a mass from our priest Father Damask. Followed by time for fellowship. Besides her powerful sessions, we incorporated time to pray the Hopeful Mysteries, and to close with a pray of hope. So many members, their guests and women of the Upstate made a point to let us know how much they enjoyed the retreat. The topic, the flow, the speaker, the fellowship.

Legislative Committee Activities – Spirituality

Report Submitted by Trena Hardin Plavan

- Circulate information to our members monthly on issues concerning or relating to Freedom of Religion/Catholicism/Family and/or Life on the National, State, and Local levels to keep our membership aware and informed.
- Encourage our members to contact their representatives in the Local and State government on issues concerning or relating to Freedom of Religion/Catholicism/Family and/or Life.
- Encourage our members to attend Local and State legislative hearings where proposed legislation concerning or relating to Freedom of Religion/Catholicism/Family and/or Life are

being addressed. Members are encouraged to report back to our membership at our monthly meetings.

- Monitor pending legislation in the South Carolina legislature that concerns or relates to Freedom of Religion/Catholicism/Family and/or Life, including the following:
 - Senate Bill 243/House Bill 3011 (Parental Rights in Education Act). A bill that would recognize parents' ultimate responsibility to direct their child's upbringing, education, healthcare, and mental health.
 - Child Welfare Standards (Senate Bill 240/House Bill 3094). "Parental Rights to Affirm Biological Sex in Child Welfare and Placement Act." These bills mandate that courts and agencies consider a child's biological sex as a positive factor in child welfare proceedings and protect parents who encourage their child to align with their biological sex from accusations of abuse or neglect.
 - Child Custody House (Bill 3085). This bill proposes a rebuttable presumption that it is in the best interest of the child to have approximately equal parenting time with each parent, provided both are willing, able, and fit. It would also require courts to state findings of fact if an equal time-sharing schedule is not ordered and outlines requirements for modifying custody orders.
 - Divorce (House Bill 3114). This bill aims to allow the use of affidavits to corroborate evidence in certain uncontested divorce actions, streamlining the process when all issues except the grounds of divorce have been resolved.
 - House Bill 4498 (Energy Burden Crisis). A resolution to declare energy burden a crisis and call for action, which includes resources for weatherization and home repairs for families.
 - Unborn Child Protection Act/Human Life Protection Act (Senate Bill 323) – this bill would outlaw nearly all abortions from the moment of conception, making it a felony to provide or perform the procedure.
 - Reproductive Rights: Senate Bill 27 – this bill would codify access to abortion before fetal viability and under specific circumstances afterward. It would also guarantee access to contraceptives and assisted reproductive technologies like IVF. This legislation proposes comprehensive reproductive health education and would mandate insurance coverage.
 - Tax free baby food and diapers House Bill 3618. This bill would eliminate sales tax on baby food and diapers for children under 36 months.
 - Paid family leave expansion House Bill 3645. This bill would increase paid parental leave for eligible state employees. For those primarily responsible for childcare, it would increase leave from six to twelve weeks. For others, it would increase leave from two to four weeks.
 - Universal School Choice. The current focus of the South Carolina General Assembly is the Education Scholarship Trust Fund (ESTF) program, established by S. 62. The program is being implemented in phases with income restrictions and student caps in the initial years but aims to remove those restrictions in future years to achieve "universal" access.
 - SC students get help free meals at school (Senate Bill 425) Expands access to free school meals for eligible students and permanently bans "meal shaming."

Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact

A public hearing on the Unborn Child Protection Act/Human Life Protection Act (Senate Bill 323) was held on October 1, 2025. It lasted over eight hours and drew a large number of citizens and advocates to the statehouse. Some of our members attended the hearing and some spoke.

Organization Committee Activities – Leadership

Report Submitted by Lori Grant

Bylaw Revisions

- Standing rules for our council were updated regarding criteria for Honorary members.
- Our Board and membership approved Meeting rules to be used at board and membership meetings for them to run more efficiently.

Leadership

- We added a Public Relations position to our Board to create announcements for our bulletin and social media to share all our events with the parish and Greenville community.
- Our President created and published quarterly newsletters to the council to keep all members informed of upcoming events.
- Eight members represented our council at the SCCCW Annual Convention in Charleston, including Lib Reynolds, who was named SC Catholic Woman of the Year.
- At the end of our council year the Executive Board met to determine our end-of-year benevolent giving. Members have an opportunity to submit charities they would like our council to support. As an Executive Board we select the charities with the most votes. We were able to donate over \$6,000 to local charities due to the success of our events and generosity of our parishioners and council members. This is in addition to the In-Kind Donations sponsored by our council and distributions given throughout the year for parish activities.
- The President assembled a Planning Committee for our 100th Anniversary Celebration to plan and execute a celebration recognizing the history and work of our past members, celebrating the current council members and sharing plans for the future. Collaboration with the pastor, church office and several other ministries within our parish including Fidelis and the Young Adult Group made for a beautiful event.
- The Vice-President chaired a committee to plan our 2nd Annual Parish Picnic after the Corpus Christi Eucharistic Procession. Our council partnered with our parish Knights of Columbus council, Youth Ministry, Fidelis and Young Adult Ministry to plan and execute this successful event attended by over 300 parishioners.
- 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 gain approval of our calendar, guest speakers and the 3rd annual Corpus Christi Eucharistic Procession and Parish Picnic.
- We held monthly board meetings to plan the programs and projects of the Council.

- In August we held our annual Membership Drive after each Mass. Refreshments were served and Commission Chairs created presentation boards to showcase activities in their commission to prospective members.
- Committee and commission chairs held meetings to plan and guide projects with our Council President.
- Our Council President selected the 25th window from our church for the Christmas Ornament Fundraiser. The 2025 Ornament is Mary, Help of Christians. It is engraved as our 100th Anniversary commemorative ornament. We ordered 25 more ornaments this year since we sold out last year.
- We worked with our parish office using Flock Note as a conduit for parishioners to preorder ornaments and had over 125 pre-order sales, which was up from last year's pre-order of 100.
- Using Flock Note we have also reduced our inventory past ornaments from 42 to 8 ornaments.
- We collaborated with our parish school to create a 125th anniversary ornament for school and worked alongside the school with selling opportunities for both ornaments.
- We awarded a \$1000 Scholarship to a deserving young lady from our parish continuing her education. She and her parents were invited to 100th Anniversary Dinner, where she was presented with her scholarship.
- We hosted two Greenville Deanery Meetings at our church.
- An Enrich page was added to our meeting agendas, which includes websites, books, podcasts, etc.... to aide in each member's journey in faith.
- Our board and membership voted and approved an increase in giving to our annual clergy and religious sisters Christmas gifts.
- We collected food donations and delivered to the Poor Clare's Monastery. They currently have 14 sisters in residence at the Monastery in Travelers Rest.

Mentoring Programs

- Our Membership Chair sends a welcome note and calls all new members to ask if they have questions. The new member application is reviewed and if they expressed interest in helping in a particular area, the information is passed along to the Commission or Committee Chair for her to call the new member.
- Our President sends a welcome letter to all new members.
- A Paint and Sip Social was held to welcome new members. It was a lovely evening attended by new and longtime members.

Organization Activity of Greatest Impact

In 1925. St. Mary's Council of Catholic Women was formed with the support and pastoral leadership of Msgr. Andrew Gwynn. The year 2025 marks a century of service to our parish and greater Greenville community and our Board of Directors had the honor to plan, organize and celebrate the great works of the ladies who served before us and recognize the current work being done by our council. In May we hosted an elegant barbecue dinner in our parish's new Clinkscales Center, which was attended by over 130 parishioners, clergy and guests. Mrs. Pearlie Harris, who served as President from 2005-2007 was our Keynote Speaker. Before the speaker gave her presentation, a beautiful slideshow of memories, which was compiled by our Public Relations Chair played for guests to see. The Young Adult Group of our parish graciously helped

set up, serve our meal, and cleaned afterwards. The Fidelis young girls (middle and high school) group cut and served the cake and provided table service to all of our guests. The room was beautifully decorated with hydrangeas and memorabilia from years past. We received congratulatory letters from Bishop Jaque and Governor McMaster. A Proclamation from Greenville's Mayor Knoxville was given proclaiming May 10, 2025, a special day to recognize St. Mary's Council of Catholic Women for the service they provide our parish and community. Eleven Past Presidents and fourteen past Catholic Women of the Year in attendance were recognized and given corsages to wear by our Vice-President. During the celebration our 2025 Catholic Woman of the Year was awarded, our Scholarship winner announced, and our Pastor installed our 2025-2026 Executive Board. Our Pastor, Fr. Newman gave opening remarks and a blessing. Fr. Frei gave the closing prayer to end the evening.

In addition to the celebration dinner, we designed and sold commemorative T-shirts. The shirts bear a line drawing of Our Lady of Good Counsel, drawn by one of our council members. Finally, our 2025 Ornament commemorates our 100th anniversary. It took the effort of many ladies from our council to make all of these events successful. The enthusiasm from our members was felt by all. This truly was a special year for our council that has impacted not only our members but our parish and Greenville Community.

Public Relations Committee Activities – Leadership

Report Submitted by Jordan Johnson

The Organization Committee's work was communicated and promoted throughout the year, with Public Relations supporting visibility for the following activities:

- Consistent coordination of monthly Membership Meetings held on the second Tuesday, ensuring structured agendas, leadership updates, and committee reporting.
- Management of Board of Directors Meetings held on the first Tuesday, allowing officers and committee chairs to prepare monthly plans and review ongoing projects.
- Oversight of planning and logistics for the 100-Year Anniversary Celebration, including venue coordination, materials preparation, and event scheduling.
- Structural support and coordination for the 4th Annual Mama Mia Spaghetti Supper, a major fundraiser supporting SMCCW's year-end charitable giving.
- Organization of workflow and scheduling for the Annual Bake Sale and Bazaar, including volunteer coordination and donation planning.
- Support for preparation and distribution of the 100-Year Commemorative Ornament, including historical verification and presentation logistics.
- Maintenance of accurate council records, meeting minutes, attendance tracking, and documentation needed for continuity between outgoing and incoming chairs.
- Coordination of affiliate representation at the 94th SCCCW Convention, including attendance by eight members, six of whom serve on the State Board.
- Public Relations publicized these organized efforts to keep the parish informed and engaged.

Public Relations Activity of Greatest Impact

From a Public Relations standpoint, the most impactful organizational initiative was the 100-Year Anniversary Celebration. Its comprehensive planning structure allowed the event to run smoothly, supported extensive communication outreach, and provided a strong foundation for promoting the parish's century of Catholic service. The Organization Committee's preparation enabled Public Relations to showcase the event effectively and amplify parish-wide participation.

Membership Committee Activities – Leadership

Report Submitted by Marge Scieszka

- We held a Meet and Greet in August to welcome new members and visit with current members. Baked goods, coffee and tea were served. Folding boards with information about all of our committees were created and on display to inform parishioners about our works of service.
- We invited Father Damask, a new priest to our parish to speak at one of our meetings. He shared his journey in becoming a priest and we were able to share our work and goals.
- Membership forms are available at all meetings and functions. We are using more social media, e.g., Instagram, to attract younger members.
- More members were involved in the Membership Committee by offering to work on the Birthday Card Committee. A card is sent to each member on their birthday. Birthday card committee members sign up for a month. This year we selected religious cards to send.
- We have 123 members, 21 of which are new members as of August, 2025.

Membership Activity of Greatest Impact

I believe the Meet and Greet we have at the beginning of each year has a great impact on our members. For those of us who currently are members, it is a great coming together to “catch up” and enjoy fellowship. It is exciting to meet parishioners who may join, to learn about their spiritual journeys and plan how they will work with us when they join.

Community Committee Activities – Service

Report Submitted by Lisa Marlo Bethea

- Our Ladies Pantry (OLP): The pantry is a place that the homeless and people in need can come for food and clothing. With instructions and suggestions from the Pantry, kept a monthly calendar with suggested items to donate for each month. The calendar was adjusted and re-approved by OLP as to needs in July 2025 so that the needs of the homeless and needy that look to the Pantry for food and clothing can be met. At the end of each monthly meetings, all the food donated is gathered and taken to OLP. Keep a line of communication open so that the Pantry can reach out with extra needs or more specific needs during certain seasons or special situations. For example, our ladies donated dozens of bags of clothing at the request of OLP and Trader Joes donated 300 brown bags for the use of the Pantry.
- Closet Makeover: We performed a much-needed joint closet makeover project which stores materials for several groups within our church. The closet is located in Sacred Heart Hall.

The closet was in need of organization. With the help from one of our engineer parishioners, a detailed drawing of a new design that would include more shelving space was put together. With approval and donations from our members additional shelving was ordered, cleaned out the existing closet and set in place the new shelves to make it more efficient for all involved.

- Paint and Sip: This was a new member event. A total of 20 members participated with guidance and instruction. The group painted an Angel and the project was a success. Every member portrayed a different look for their special “Angel”.
- St. Rafka’s Parish Food Drive-September 20-21: This particular parish has people that are homeless in the surrounding area and a great deal of poverty among their parish members. Mare Kidd, the director, stays in constant communication with our committee on how to help their parish. Help has been provided many times on an as needed basis. With approval it was decided to host a food drive for the parish to better help and support those in need and have a larger supply of on hand food for them. The collection of three (3) SUVs full of food was donated putting them in a better position to help when those needs arise.
- Several members to include the Fidelis Group visited a Farm, pick blueberries and took the blueberries to Poor Clare’s Monastery.
- Mamma Mia Spaghetti Dinner held to support fellowship.
- November/Collection for Turkeys: OLP brought to our attention a need-turkeys for Thanksgiving. Within a 2-hour meeting, money was collected from our members to purchase 50 turkeys and delivered the next day.
- Giving Tree-Soteria House: December 6 and 7th (description of Soteria House). Soteria House is not only a roof over the heads of men and women transitioning back into society after incarceration. It is a place of dignity and calm where they are assured of meals, clothes, rides to and from work, a schedule with responsibilities. It is a place of reflection, of daily journaling, of reading, of sharing meals together. By the end of our 6–12-month program, Soteria House often becomes a first experience of home.
 - It is about feeling support when otherwise a person in this situation would be completely alone and might be tempted to revisit an unhealthy life situation, again.
 - It is a support system that some may not have experienced in their lives.
 - It is about hope!
 - Soteria House provided SMCCW with a list of needs for their residents.
 - 100 tags have been put together to hang on a Christmas Tree for our parishioners to choose and bring back.
 - The deliveries of these items will be December 15 and 22.
- Festival of Trees supported St. Francis of Greenville/Marriott. This year the theme for our tree was Joy. Many members helped to create ornaments and decorate the tree. Our theme of Joy promotes the reason we celebrate Christmas. The joyfulness that Christ is born!!! This activity fostered camaraderie and an appreciation for our faith
- St. Anne’s Stitchery:
 - Knitted / crochet items to support Seafarers, Boxes of Joy, and Big Brother; Big Sister Projects
 - 110 knitted / crochet items for adults
 - 85 knitted / crochet items for children
 - 30 knitted / crochet items for Christmas Bazaar
 - 150 pocket prayer shawls for Confirmation, First Communion, and OCIA

Community Activity of Greatest Impact

We are in general a group always eager to help. The activity that meant a tremendous amount was having the opportunity to host a food drive for another parish, St. Rafka's Parish. It was an honor to be of great help to a parish that is truly humble at heart and so thankful.

Family Committee Activities – Service

Report Submitted by Margaret Melvin

- Chair for the Annual Bake Sale & Bazaar.
- Brought to the attention of our members, the following Enrich links and Events:
 - Hallow app to assist with praying (a free 3-month trial)
 - The Chosen TV series, story of Jesus (free app)
 - Soul on Fire-movie based upon true story of John O'Leary
 - Formed 'Advent' collections
 - Charleston Diocese: Build a New Life after Catholic Divorce Faith Cafe, catholicgrandparentsassociation.org
 - EWTN.com/Advent
 - Vaticangift.com gifts blessed by Pope Leo

Family Activity of Greatest Impact

As a newcomer to SMCCW, the project that meant the most to me was chairing the BAKE SALE. It was a labor of love for me and it encouraged me to really get to know some of our members and for that I am grateful. Seeing the joy that it brings to our parishioners, especially the children was inspirational!

International Committee Activities - Service

Report Submitted by Courtney Plyler

- Invited membership to make a Lenten contribution to Cross Catholic's Water for Life Lenten Program.
- Participated in Cross Catholic Outreach Box of Joy program and collected twenty-eight Boxes of Joy as well as donated handmade hats made by St. Anne's Stitchery.
- Participated in Seafarers' Christmas at Sea program and collected thirty-nine (as of December 11, 2025) wrapped boxes of necessities for seafarers in the Port of Charleston, as well as donated handmade hats and neck warmers made by St. Anne's Stitchery.
- Invited membership to learn more about Dr. Tom Catena, a Catholic serving courageously for twenty-five years as the only full-time surgeon in the Nuba Mountains of war-torn Sudan. He spoke at St. Mary's Catholic Church on November 3, 2025 and he is a friend of our member, Susan Leong. He is also the focus of a documentary movie called "The Heart of Nuba" streaming on Prime.

- Invited membership to pray three Hail Mary's each day and ask our Holy Mother's help to eradicate Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence against women and children around the world.
- Invited members to pray for our endangered and persecuted brothers and sisters in Nigeria, and invited members to ask Blessed Cyprian Miachael Iwene Tansi, a Nigerian priest and monk, for his intercession

International Activity of Greatest Impact

This year, Dr. Tom Catena had the greatest impact on our members and the St. Mary's community. Hearing his story of being the only full-time surgeon in the war-torn Nuba Mountains of Sudan is both humbling and unsettling, revealing the immense weight that one person can shoulder in the face of overwhelming need. Dr. Catena's perseverance—operating with scarce supplies, treating injuries from bombings and everyday life alike, and serving as the sole lifeline for millions—illustrates his unwavering respect for the dignity of all human life, no matter how difficult the circumstances. Ultimately, Dr. Catena, with a strong Catholic faith to sustain him when exhaustion and uncertainty threaten to overwhelm, inspires deep respect for those who choose compassion over comfort in the most challenging places on earth.



***'But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him
who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.'***

1 Peter 2:9



MYRTLE BEACH DEANERY

Cathy Kelly, 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

St. Andrew Women's Club

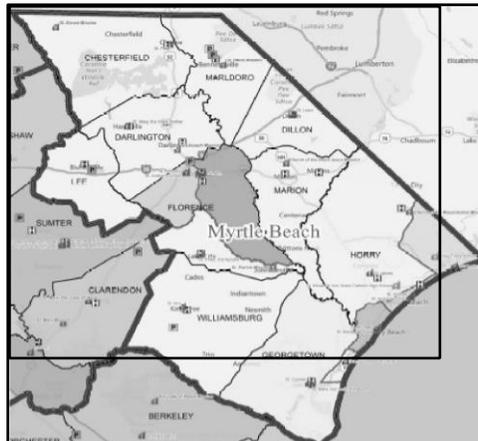
St. Andrew Catholic Church, Myrtle Beach

Cathy Kelly, President

St. James Ladies Guild

St. James the Younger Catholic Church, Conway

Karen Harvey, President





MYRTLE BEACH DEANERY YEAR-END REPORT

Cathy Kelly, Deanery President

Leadership

Our first Deanery Meeting occurred on Saturday, September 20, 2025 at St. James Parish Center. Changes to the Deanery Bylaws were approved by the members. Membership from Our Lady Star of the Sea has increased to 54 members

Spirituality

On October 15, 2025, the Myrtle Beach Deanery sponsored a pilgrimage to the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Charleston. 27 members from St. Andrew Women's Club, Our Lady Star of the Sea Ladies Guild and St. James Ladies Guild attended. We arrived early enough before Mass to recite the rosary as a group. Mass was celebrated by Father Gregory Wilson, Vicar General. Father acknowledged and thanked us for making the pilgrimage. He also shared that he had spent 3 years at Our Lady Star of the Sea. After Mass, we had time for adoration and confession. We completed our journey with lunch and we were home safely by 6:00 PM.

Service

Boxes of Joy were distributed on October 18-19, 2025 among the 3 parishes. 540 Boxes of Joy were collected and sent to Cross Catholic Outreach for distribution.

Our Lady Star of the Sea

- September: In September we welcomed Father Zimmerman, who was our guest speaker.
- We had our open enrollment for the Deanery membership.
- We had a bringer (items for donation) for Kind keeper animal shelter.
- Collected school supplies for Holy Trinity Catholic school.
- We collected clothing for the high school homeless along with school supplies as well.
- We presented a book of intention for our members.
- We attended the Deanery meeting at Saint James the Younger.
- The quilting group had a sewing session at Sea Haven shelter for children, introducing them to basic life skills. We also hosted a dinner for the children.
- October: Our guest speaker was Sister Marie.
- We have adopted seniors for the assisted living housing and send cards and letters. Members are encouraged to visit shut ins.
- Pilgrimage participation to the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist Church for the Mass and Holy Doors for plenary indulgences.
- We participated in Box of Joy, 300 boxes.

- We provided meals for Deacon Bob.
- November Our bringer was for the food pantry.
- Our guest speaker was Scot Dulebon from Welcome Home Veterans, a service that provides housing and helping with benefits for homeless veterans.
- The annual craft fair occurred.
- December. Our guest speaker is Cathy Kelly, the President of Myrtle Beach Deanery.
- Our bringer is for Julie's Kids, a nonprofit organization that works with DDS in caring for foster children in Horry County.
- We are having a Christ child baby gift collection at the church to provide baby items to Kingstree Felician Sisters and for Abigail's place, a store that is supported through Coastline Women's Center.

St. Andrew Women's Club

Spirituality

- Baby Bottles for Pro Life.
- Rosary Makers for distribution around the Globe.
- Pledge of Allegiance at the start of each Membership and Board Meetings.
- Knitters Groups for hospitals, hospice, and those in need

Service

- Missal Changes at Church
- Mass Greeters
- Bake Sale Fundraiser
- Scholarships for Grammar and High Schools
- Craft Fair
- Coastline Donations to Single Mothers
- Boxes of Joy sent to Countries for Poor Children
- Catholic Charities for those in need
- Craft Fair Fundraiser
- JOY School Snacks for Summer Programs
- Receptions for our Parish
- Military Support
- Donations to Felician Sisters
- Work at Senior Center

Leadership

- Membership Drive
- Bake Sale Fundraiser
- Registration paid for SCCCW Convention 4 members
- Monthly Membership Meeting
- Monthly Board Meeting



MYRTLE BEACH YEAR-END REPORTS

Our Lady Star of the Sea Ladies Guild

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

Church Committee Activities – Spirituality

All Reports Submitted by Anita LeVan

- Members volunteer to work daily in our gift shop at OLSS to assist visitors and parishioners in finding the perfect gifts for all ages. Monies raised went to the church and the Ladies Guild for donations to charities and scholarships to children of our parish. Our gift shop is the largest on the Grand Strand. We carry books in English and Spanish which includes Bibles (children, adult and family), Missals, daily prayers, meditation, religious novels, and other faith-based books. The store carries a variety of religious merchandise including prayer cards, Rosaries and accessories, seasonal items, crosses and medals, wall crucifixes, statues, and a host of other items. Proceeds contribute to our funds used to support local vetted charities and provide scholarships.
- Arrange monthly masses for deceased members of the Guild.
- Members are lectors, extraordinary ministers and sing in the choir.
- Members teach and attend bible study which meets monthly with the exception of the summer months.
- Pray a rosary prior to funeral masses for deceased members and then have a candle ceremony at the end of Mass.
- Gave each member a rosary and pray one decade at each meeting.
- Prayer Intention book is available at each meeting.
- Members participate in the semiannual three-day Light of the World spiritual retreat.
- Attended the January 18, 2025, Retreat. Nearly half of the participants at the were OLSS members.
- Attended Friday Adoration during Lent.
- Members promoted, attended and assisted with the March 23-25 Lenten Mission “Christ’s Presence in the Eucharist” with Dennis Lambert.
- Arranged a Dove Prayer Tree for OCIA participants which offers prayers for Confirmation candidates.
- Held a May Crowning ceremony outside the church entrance after our May Mass for deceased members of the Ladies Guild.
- Members joined other Deanery members in a Pilgrimage to the Basilica of St. John the Baptist on October 15, 2025 which included Mass.

Church Activity of Greatest Impact

Our Gift Shop continues to have the greatest impact on the community. Since we have a large congregation as well as a large number of visitors, there are numerous opportunities to evangelize with words of encouragement and religious gifts.

Legislative Committee Activities – Spirituality

- Current legislative issues and information sent from the SC Catholic Conference and SCCCW were discussed at each meeting.
- Members were encouraged to speak with their representatives about legislative issues.
- Right to Life rallies were attended and participation encouraged.
- Members were encouraged to vote, as it is a civic duty.

Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact

Speaking with members about voting, helping them get more active per their civic duties, and supporting the end of abortion had the greatest impact.

Membership Committee Activities – Leadership

- Membership in the Myrtle Beach Deanery is optional for OLSS Ladies Guild members. However, each year membership has increased.
- The membership roster identifies those that are Deanery members.
- A Welcome Table greets new members and guests at monthly meetings to introduce them to the group.
- Monthly members and other ladies from the parish are invited to meet informally at a local restaurant for breakfast after the 8:00am Mass on the third Friday of the month.
- New members are provided a packet with our Ladies Guild Directory, copy of the By-Laws, Meeting Calendar and ‘Bringers’, Roster. Soon after joining members receive a Name Badge.

Membership Activity of Greatest Impact

The work of our Welcome Committee has had the greatest impact on making new members feel welcomed.

Organization Committee Activities – Leadership

- Prior to monthly meetings, the board meets to plan for the regular meeting and attend to business. Additional meetings are held on an as needed basis.

- The Ladies Guild held monthly morning meetings from September through May following the 9:00 am memorial Mass for deceased members. Attendance now averages 75 ladies and guests per month. Light morning refreshments are provided before the meeting.
- Speakers are invited to monthly meetings to share their knowledge and motivate our members to live out our mission. The guest speaker is usually a representative from one of the charities we support. Speakers this year included representatives from A Father's Place, Franciscan 3rd Order, OLSS Outreach, Veterans Welcome Home, members of our clergy, and our Deanery President.
- Members are requested to bring items to be donated to various charities in need.
- Members receive communications about meetings and special requests via e-mail. An optional private Facebook group is available for those engaged in social media.
- The final meeting of the fiscal year, a more elaborate affair, is held in June. Over 200 people attended a special brunch and fashion show this year. Key charities are presented checks.

Organization Activity of Greatest Impact

The growing attendance, generosity and enthusiasm of our members results in an increasing level of financial and spiritual support for our members in need and the numerous charities we support.

Public Relations Committee Activities – Leadership

- Articles were published in North Myrtle Beach Times about the Gift Shop and other events.
- The Artisans By the Sea Fair is advertised on social media, with flyers distributed to local businesses, and announced on the North Myrtle Beach digital sign at a prominent corner of NMB.
- An updated OLSS Ladies Guild brochure was published and available in the church narthex and distributed to potential members.

Public Relations Activity of Greatest Impact

The community enthusiasm for the annual Artisan Craft Fair enables us to support a large number of charities. In addition to its reputation, the advertising brings in the huge crowds.

Community Committee Activities – Service

- The Ladies' Guild has worked tirelessly in helping our church, community, hospitals, hospice center, assisted living, local and international groups.
- The 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: the Felician sisters at Kingstree, McLeod Sea Coast Hospital, Loris McLeod Hospital maternity ward, Welcome Home Veterans Tiny Homes, and shelters in the area. Plus hats and scarfs were sent to Stitches of Support and donations shared with childhood cancer patients.

- Crafter and Quilter groups meet weekly throughout the year to make items that are sold at the annual three-day “Artisan by the Sea” event. The funds raised are donated to the church and are distributed to a variety of vetted charities that serve the community.
- A monthly collection for different groups in our community that are in need of items are collected at our meeting meetings. Some of our recipients were: Julies kids, Abigail’s Place, Kind Keeper Animal Shelter, Children’s Recovery Center, OLSS Outreach, Sea Haven House, Rape Crisis Center, The Family Justice Center, Kingstree and the Welcome Home Veterans’ tiny home project.
- Members collect aluminum can tops.
- A ‘Christ Baby Shower’ collects new baby/toddler clothes, toys, diapers, and other needs during Advent. They are distributed to Abigail’s Place and the Felician Sisters in Kingstree.
- A Jack Frost Luncheon was held in January. Proceeds were donated to Sea Haven for Youth.
- A Souper Bowl and Book sale was held in February. Proceeds were used to help defray the cost of the June Lunch so more members can attend.
- A Card Party was held in February. Proceeds were donated the Family Justice Center.
- During Lent, members volunteered to serve food and beverages, make desserts, and assist with clean up at the Fish Fry that raised money for the parish outreach program.
- Members organized, provided food, assisted in serving and clean up for a Retirement Party for our departing pastor, Rev. Raymond Leonard.
- Members organized, provided food, assisted in serving and clean up for a Welcome Party for our new pastor, Rev. John Zimmerman.
- A Charity Committee does a thorough vetting of the charities nominated by members. The funds raised from multiple fund-raising efforts are distributed at the end of the year at a Charity Reception.

Community Activity of Greatest Impact

The charity reception held to distribute the charity checks to the various non-profit organizations became our most impressive activity. Through the numerous volunteer efforts of our members and supporters, we distributed over \$20,000 to over 20 charities. Many of the charities were able to network with each other at the luncheon and establish working relationships.

International Committee Activities – Service

- Continued supporting the school in Kambia Village, Kenya. After dedicating the Library, funds were raised to purchase books.
- Helped raise fund to supply the children of Kambia Village with track suits which his boosted their morale and confidence.
- Participated in the annual SCCCW/NCCW Boxes of Joy project with 300 filled boxes.

International Activity of Greatest Impact

By becoming aware of the impoverished village of Kambai in Kenya we are helping over 300 children build a better future. The status of their school has gone up to number 9 in the county.

Family Committee Activities – Service

- The Senior Care Committee visits honorary members, collects and distributes small gifts, writes letters and offers prayers. They provided pen pals for individuals at assisted living resident centers such as River Park, New Haven, and Legacy. Holy Communion was taken to residents. Music, games, candy bags for bingo prizes were provided.
- The Sunshine Committee sends cards of condolences, get well, and thinking of you throughout the year to members.
- In 2025 nine scholarships were awarded to students from our parish. A committee reviews applications and makes the recommendations.
- Members prepare home cooked meals for the residents of Sea Haven for Youth every other month.
- The September ‘bringer’ was for students in North Myrtle Beach High School (assorted clothing and hygiene products) and school supplies for Holy Trinity School.
- Monetary were donations made to high school seniors for families in need at Christmas.

Family Activity of Greatest Impact

Being able to support families in their efforts to provide a quality education for their children, often at a Catholic school, will benefit all



St. Andrew Women’s Club

St. Andrew Catholic Church, Myrtle Beach

Church Committee Activities – Spirituality

All Reports Submitted by Debra Christensen

- Rosary Club making rosaries for distribution.
- Knitters Club making infant and elderly shawls, blankets, etc. for distribution.
- Membership Drive in August.
- Membership Tea event in September.

- October start giving out Baby Bottles for Pro-Life.
- Boxes of Joy for poor children around the world starts in October – boxes are passed out at the club meetings and at mass doors.
- Bake Sale Fundraiser every November baked by women’s club members and sold after each mass on the weekend – 2 full days.
- November St. Andrew’s Craft Fair.
- Christmas Luncheon with approx. 45 members attending – This year it was held at Pine Lakes Country Club – A table was set up for donations to Coastline Women’s Center for single mothers - We call it our “Baby Shower for Baby Jesus”.
- February filling of Valentine Bags for seniors with miscellaneous items and goodies which get delivered to the Senior Center in Myrtle Beach.
- Promoting devotion to St. Joseph in March through the making and selling of St. Joseph’s Bread.
- March announcement for Catholic Woman of the Year. In April is the Celebration for the Catholic Woman of the Year - Last year it was held at Pine Lakes Country Club.
- In May supply Julie’s Kids with school snacks and supplies for summer.
- Supply Catholic Charities with donations.
- Mass Greeters at every door for all masses.
- June is Pot Luck Evening before dismissing for summer.
- Collection of bottle caps all year long.
- Collection of glasses for Lion’s Club.
- Donating items for Senior Center Bingo’s which our Senior Committee runs monthly.
- Running receptions for our parish.
- Scholarships for Grammer & High Schools.
- Military Support.
- Donations to Felician Sisters.

Church Activity of Greatest Impact

Our Senior Center work profoundly supports our Seniors by giving them a sense of community, belonging, well-being, and emotional support. They feel valued and connected. By creating a support system, they now have a community engaged in their daily lives. Help with daily activities and emotional support is essential for an individual’s well-being. This reflects in our commitment to serve with love, dignity and respect, either with activities, monthly birthday parties, social events, or simply just sitting, talking, and listening.

Legislative Committee Activities – Spirituality

- Flag Salute prior to each meeting
- Attendance at National Religious Freedom Day events
- Rosary prayed for Freedom of Religion monthly

Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact

There are several meets during the year in Market Commons in Myrtle Beach for praying the Rosary. A Freedom of Religion event was just held on January 17 at St. Andrew's Community Life Center. These things not only impact our members, but passer-by display of pride and emotion is evident and seemingly comes right from the heart. It is highly emotional for those with family members lost, or currently serving, and as it is to all of us as we all know someone who fall into those categories, the emotion is real.

Membership Committee Activities – Leadership

- Membership Drive Starts in August.
- September Membership Tea invites all women of the parish to attend.
- New Members are given a mentor to help understand things, and it brings out in them a shining light of new ideas.
- Our Membership Application is on St. Andrew's Website.
- Registration paid for SCCCW Convention for 4 members.
- Monthly Membership Meeting's and events.
- Bi-Monthly Board Meetings.

Membership Activity of Greatest Impact

The Membership Drive is not just to increase numbers. It is a journey that fosters spiritual growth, strengthens community bonds, and helps amplify our missions reach. It provides individuals with a sense of belonging and purpose. It deepens their faith, sharing experiences and personal and spiritual development, and learning from one another to grow in faith. It brings people with different backgrounds together and creates friendships. It means more hands for service, more voices for positive change, and more resources to support charitable initiatives. Each new member brings a new perspective that enrich our club. It allows everyone to live out their faith in ways that make a tangible difference in the world. It touches our own life's in many ways as well as the lives of others.

Organization Committee Activities – Leadership

- Invite speakers to meetings.
- Attend and host Deanery Meetings.
- Attending the SCCCW Convention.
- Nomination of Catholic Woman of the Year.
- Updated by-laws.

Organization Activity of Greatest Impact

Members like to be informed. Most of them being seniors themselves, or having a family member that needs senior care or information, it becomes important to our members to be up on the times and know what is happening and available in our community. Of course, we can look almost anything up on the internet these days, but some of our members do not

own computers or are aware of how to do that, so having a speaker in person offering information allows them to learn and to know what their options are medically and publicly such as bus transfers to doctor's, etc. Also, a speaker offering a spiritual forum, is very gratifying and helps us on our mission to serve our Lord and Savior.

Public Relations Committee Activities – Leadership

- The St. Andrew Women's Club members serve 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 are advertised in the parish bulletin as well as the parish website.

Public Relations Activity of Greatest Impact

Those serving as greeters find so 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. People coming in sometimes have questions that we are more than happy to help with, as well as there are times they ask about the Women's Club because we all wear our badges proudly.

Community Committee Activities – Service

- Several of our members volunteer their time at the Church Office.
- Collection of change in Baby Bottles for the Grand Strand Citizens for Life.
- Can tops for the American Cancer Society.
- Collecting toiletries and other items for Catholic Charities.
- Bake Sale fundraising allows donations to many causes.
- Coastline Women's Center gets needed help through our Baby Shower for Jesus items collected at our Christmas Luncheon.
- Senior Centers get donations and time from our club to establish companionship, awareness, and a sense of caring.

Community Activity of Greatest Impact

Contribution of donations to many organizations, ALL of which are important and leave a lasting impact on our members, however, the feeling of seeing the amount of beautifully wrapped gifts at December's Christmas Luncheon for the Coastline Woman with Infants was amazing. The generosity and caring were so obvious. When you think of an infant in need, it brings out a special piece of the heart in a person, and seemingly given the name we call it "Baby Shower for Baby Jesus", which makes it even more special.

Family Committee Activities – Service

- Prayer Requests sent to the Club President to put out to the women in the club to pray for our members and their families, fellow club members, or a member of our parish.
- A signature book is located in the church in which to write your prayer request in and it will be remembered during masses.

Family Activity of Greatest Impact

The prayer request chain is very helpful to club members for their distressed state during a very difficult time. The feeling that many are praying for your loved one's gives you a sense of calm and of not being alone during what could be a very emotional and tiring time.

International Committee Activities – Service

- Boxes of Joy (Deanery) go around the world to poor children that would otherwise not get a gift for Christmas.
- Rosary Makers send's rosaries to Poland and to the Ukraine.
- Sister Deepa of St. Andrew's continues her work on a foundation for Widows and Orphans and is currently raising funds to build an Orphanage in India.

International Activity of Greatest Impact

To know that the hard work of our Rosary Makers and sending those rosaries around the world to support prayer to our Blessed Mother and to God is a very rewarding display of love, caring and fellowship that our club takes great pride in.



St. James Ladies Guild

St. James the Younger Catholic Church, Conway

(Report not submitted)



*“Words that do not give the light of Christ increase the darkness.”
Mother Teresa of Calcutta.*



ROCK HILL DEANERY

Gwendolyn Finley, Deanery President

AFFILIATES

All Saints Women's Organization

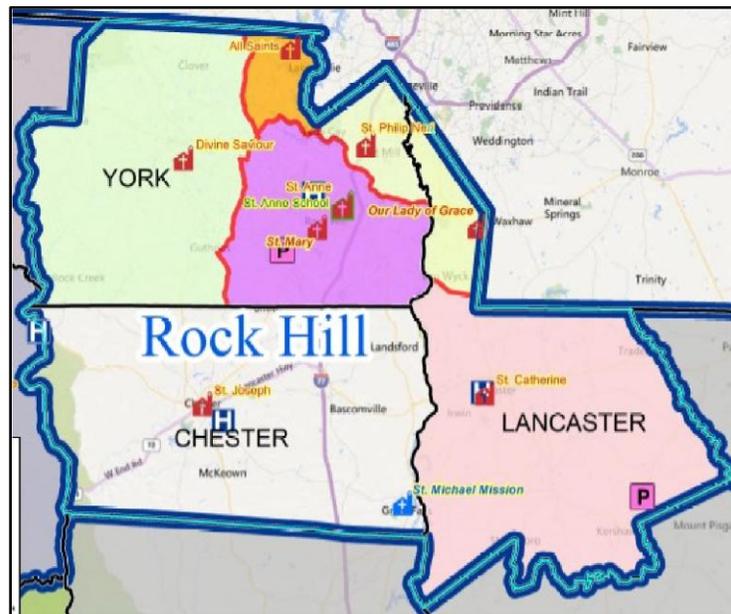
All Saints Catholic Church, Lake Wylie

Christine Sloan, President

St. Mary Rosary & Confraternity Society

St. Mary Catholic Church, Rock Hill

Gwendolyn Finley, President





ROCK HILL DEANERY YEAR-END REPORT

Gwendolyn Finley, President

The Rock Hill Deanery was composed of two affiliates, All Saints Women's Organization and St. Mary Rosary & Confraternity Society. It had 52 affiliate members and 4 SCCCW Individual Members. Two members served on the SCCCW Board of Directors, one as SCCCW President and one as a Vice President of the SCCCW.

The Rock Hill Deanery focused on getting the Deanery together and working on the vision, and getting to know our Sisters in the Council. It is hoped that more churches would get involved. Since attendance was minimum at meetings, being transparent to those that do attend was paramount. All were trying together.

The Deanery participated in the Annual Craft Fair at All Saints Catholic Church on November 30. Appreciation was expressed to all who made this event a success. Both affiliates continued to work to the best of their ability to keep our Lord and Savior in the forefront. Both had members who continued to be Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Eucharist. Members also participated with Legion of Mary Rosary on Sunday from 9:30 – 9:45 a.m. and assisted with repast meals for the families of deceased members.

All Saints Women's Organization members:

- Participated in the Boxes of Joy project.
- Prayed the Las Posadas Novena for 9 days.
- Supported the Feed the Flock Ministry, which took care of shut-in individuals.
- Attended the Eucharistic Dialogue II Conference.
- Sent supplies to hurricane Helene victims in North Carolina.
- This affiliate did so much good in the community and throughout the county.

St. Mary Rosary & Confraternity Society members:

- Continued to support vacation bible school for a week.
- Attended meetings with AARP.
- Attended the Freedom Walk in which Father Ed Wahl and 3 African American women were inducted.
- Made a monetary donation to the pastoral staff.
- Attended Mass at All Saints to support the installation of their officers.

- Raised over \$4,000 from the Volunteer Dinner that help provide new cassocks for the acolytes.

Lastly, I would like to thank SCCCW again for honoring me as 2024 SCCCW Catholic Woman of the Year. My daily prayer was “Lord, order my steps and bridle my tongue”. He is my way maker.



ROCK HILL DEANERY YEAR-END REPORTS

All Saints Women's Organization
All Saints Catholic Church, Lake Wylie
(Reports not provided)



St. Mary Rosary and Confraternity Society
St. Mary Catholic Church, Rock Hill

Church and Legislative Committee Activity – Spirituality

All Reports Submitted by Gwendolyn Finley

- We have a member that designs Bible studies for different parishes.
- Several members have attended retreats for women for personal growth and spirituality. One attended a weeklong silent retreat.
- Several members attend programs at the Oratory, City of Rock Hill, Disciples of Missions, Missionary Cenacle Apostolate, Kenneth Monroe Transformation Center, & Clinton College.
- Several attend Friday Masses.
- One member has a collection of crosses & crucifixes that shared within the parishes with inspirational descriptions & other Christian organizations.
- Several members attend weekly rosary before Mass.

Church and Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact

(Report not provided)

Membership, Organization and PR Community Activity – Leadership

- We had several members attend the SCCCW Conference.
- Several of our members are greeters, lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and assist with religious education of our youth.
- We have one that does tutor adults and children regarding Catholic Faith.

- We also have a member that is custodian for the local chapter of Missionary cenacle Apostolate communicating with both regional and local monthly meeting for first Friday lunches.
- We also have members that is on the Pastoral Council Advisory Board.
- Participate in various church, community & local college on advisory boards.

Community, Family and International Committee Activities – Service

- Several members donated bake good, covered dishes & items to church groups, soup kitchen, and outreach ministries.
- Several members made individual monetary donations to outreach ministry, soup kitchen, and shelters.
- Affiliates made desserts for the Sisters of Charity, Family Fun Festival and Feed the Flock freezer.
- Apple pies were made where the affiliated was able to donate to 4 charities \$500 each.
- Affiliates donated Box of Joy & back to school supplies. Donated to vacation bible school.
- Toiletries were donated to the soup kitchen as well as underwear.
- We have members that also volunteer with outreach ministry on Tuesday & Thursday for 3 ½ hours each week,
- A member crocheted over 200 hats to be distributed to various groups in need of them.
- Several affiliates are planning to assist with the upcoming Christmas dinner for the meals on wheels, sick & shut-in and homeless.
- Several members have donated gift cards to restaurant to assist with meals for shut-in, household chores & cooking meals.
- Serves at church functions, celebrations & feeding bereaved families.

Community, Family and International Activity of Greatest Impact
(Report not provided)



**“let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds and
glorify your Father in heaven.”**
Matt 5:16 Sermon on the Mount

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