

# COMMISSION YEAR-END REPORTS BOOK

*of the*

**SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN**



**GOOD WORKS**

*Completed During the*  
**2024 CALENDAR YEAR**



*Distributed at the 2025 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 2024 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 2024 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)

# 2024 SCCCW COMMISSION and COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Spirituality Commission Ch.- Kimberly Jones-White

*Church Committee Ch.—Debra Drennon*

*Legislation Committee Ch.—Gwendolyn Finley*

Leadership Commission Ch. – Marlene Grover

*Organization Committee Ch.—Marlene Grover*

*Membership Committee Ch.—Cathy Kelly*

*Public Relations Committee Ch.—Marlene Grover*

Service Commission Ch. - Yvonne Pygatt

*Community Mary Ann Bell*

*Family – Etta Harrison*

*International – Louise Riley*

## 2024 YEAR-END REPORTS

### SCCCW SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION YEAR-END REPORT

(Report not provided.)

#### **Church Committee**

(Report submitted by Debra Drennon.)

The Spirituality Commission reinforced faith and supported service to the Church and to the world through discipleship and spiritual growth and encouraged legislative advocacy at the local, state, and national levels, guided by Catholic social teaching.

The Church Committee aimed to create a community that was educated and dynamic. Catholic women called to discipleship and holiness responded with personal witness and service to the Church and to the world. This work reinforced faith and assisted in meaningful ecumenical dialogue. It offered the means to enhance public and private prayer, promoted sound liturgical practice that was sensitive to the cultural diversity of the church, and provided resources for spiritual nourishment and development of the faith community.

Throughout the year, the women of the SCCCW dedicated themselves to sharing their faith and working in exceptional ways. Activities included:

- An international Rosary featuring five languages was said.
- Support of youth by sponsoring a Cake Walk.
- Prayer and financial support of seminarians.
- Rosary for abortion victims during Respect Life Month Retreat that focused on Women of the Old Testament.
- Financial support for a youth conference.
- Support for Birthright.
- Sunday Supper for USC Catholic students.
- Collection of wintry weather items for Hurricane Helene victims.
- A Day of Reflection sponsored by the Office of Ethnic Ministries.
- Confirmation ceremony that included Vietnamese students.
- Study of the Laudato Si Encyclical by Pope Francis that speaks of care of God's creations.
- Handmade Rosaries for overseas distribution.

#### **Legislation Committee**

(Not provided.)



## **SCCCW LEADERSHIP COMMISSION YEAR-END REPORT**

*Report submitted by Marlene Grover.*

**Leadership Commission Chair** collaborated with her committees to strengthen the organization and its member teams, to boost the organization, and to empower women!

- Affiliates held Board transition meetings in the summer. They identified activities and projects for the year.
- Affiliates updated Bylaws and Standing Rules, which needed to be done annually. Job Descriptions for officers, Commissions and Committees were updated to clarify the responsibilities. Financial records were reviewed.
- Affiliates awarded scholarships to deserving, graduating young women from their parishes who were continuing their education.
- An Affiliate honored Catholic Women of the Year at Mass and at a special Luncheon.
- An Affiliate raised funds by sponsoring an Italian Dinner for those wanting to attend the SCCCW Convention. The attendees experienced *Spirituality, Leadership, Service*.
- Affiliates supported SCCCW and NCCW. Members served as officers on ALL levels of Council. However, a greater understanding needs to be explained on Council levels.

**The Membership Committee** strove to grow membership by promoting SCCCW and other levels of Council, such as the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW), its Province (POA), Deaneries, Affiliates, and the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWU).

- Affiliates held yearly Membership Drives and held monthly Board Meetings.

- Affiliates hosted socials, Welcome Teas, Wine and Cheese parties, “Bubbles and Brunch” parties, monthly “Lunch Bunch” groups and movie groups to increase membership.
- An Agenda, Minutes and Treasurers Report were emailed to members before each meeting. Name Tags were provided along with Membership Packets which included copies of the Affiliate Roster, Mission Statement, Bylaws and Standing Rules, meeting dates, Ministry Brochures, Prayer to Our Lady of Good Council, a copy of “What does Council do for me?”, levels of Council flyers, and an acronym list. Also, some included Member Surveys to allow the Membership Committee to know which committee new/old members were interested in. (Women want to feel part of an organization.)
- Membership brochures, flyers and posters were put in the Church foyer, Parish Life Center and Church office.
- Membership forms and sign-up sheets were available at all events! One affiliate put a QR code for members to pay dues.
- Communication was by email, phone, Telephone Tree, snail mail, and Flocknote. Monthly and/or quarterly newsletters were sent, which included a registration form in every newsletter.
- Members from one Affiliate approached other women at parish events and after Mass for a Face-To Face invitation to join them. Individual/direct contact fostered successful recruiting efforts.
- An Affiliate compiled a booklet on “Beyond Hello”, which highlights the process of inviting, welcoming and retaining members. It includes a section on Mentoring. This document was shared with SCCCW, the Province of Atlanta, and NCCW.
- Speakers at monthly meetings such as religious men or women and representatives from various outside organizations shared their faith journey at meetings.
- Affiliates participated in Ministry Fairs and Fellowship Sundays that provided one-on-one communication to potential members, answered questions, and to invited women to join.
- Members served on various committees of their Church.
- Birthday, “Get Well”, and “Thinking of You” cards were sent to bring members together on a human level. They called members who could not make a meeting to let them know they were missed.
- Members not only attend affiliate meetings, but attended Deanery meetings and NCCW Conventions.
- Women on all levels of Council were encouraged to keep membership packets in their car or purse.

**The Public Relations Committee** promoted SCCCW within and outside of the diocese and sought ways to increase visibility and profess value. Select accomplishments of SCCCW Affiliates in public relations were:

- A Social Media Chair was appointed to update and manage a website to promote their organization. They used Facebook, Instagram posts to highlight Holy Days, which was another way of bringing interest to the church and its Affiliate. They prepared eye catching, colorful flyers that brought attention to their events by using CANVA and other internet programs to invite people to meetings and upcoming happenings.
- Information was shared in other church bulletins in their deaneries, on a church website, and by ads in the *SCCCW Convention Book*. Photos and information were sent to the South Carolina Living Magazine advertising what an Affiliate had done.



- PR was used to promote activities to outside groups and news outlets. Scrapbooks were displayed at meetings and events.
- Affiliates made sure their events were well publicized. Think creatively!



## SCCCW SERVICE COMMISSION YEAR-END REPORT

### **Family, Community, and International Committees**

*(Report submitted by Yvonne Pygatt, Service Commission Chair.)*

The Service Commission, chaired by Yvonne Pygatt, consisted of three commission committees: Community, chaired by Mary Ann Bell, Family chaired by Etta Harrison, International, chaired by Louise Riley.

The Women of SCCCW continued to develop unique and innovative ways to provide services to the church and community. Service activities that were the focus for the year, along with directives from the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW), were shared with the Board and Affiliates. Recommended initiatives from NCCW included sharing information regarding Domestic Violence, Human Trafficking, Walking with Moms in Need, and Boxes of Joy. A local initiative was participation in the Seafarers Box program. SCCCW members continued to develop unique and innovative ways to provide activities that related to Family, International, and Community needs. Outstanding services provided by Council women, while allowing prayer to be their guide, follow.

- The Beaufort Deanery collected over 1,000 toys for the St. Francis Center, provided more than six hundred Boxes of Joy, raised more than \$2,000 for Family Promise Ministry, donated blankets and donations to Veterans and treats for Troops, and held two drives to help the Military and the victims of Hurricane Helene.
- In the Myrtle Beach Deanery, the women made over 150 hats to be distributed to children, collected 76 Boxes of Joy, and donated \$500 to “Be Your Own Miracle”, which provided low-cost service based on spiritual healing.
- The women of the Greenville Deanery held collections of food for St. Rafka’s food pantry and Catholic Charities, collected 29 Boxes of Joy, collected 130 Boxes for the Seafarer program, and collected coats and other winter items for Catholic Charities Clothing Closet.
- The women of the Charleston Deanery held the annual Tea fundraiser during which 3 school graduates were given monetary gifts to celebrate their achievements and continued their 20+ year support of the efforts of Ms. Bing, a woman of the community that fosters disabled children, and provided literature and education on Breast Cancer and Domestic Violence to parishioners.
- The women in the Columbia Deanery:
  - Organized weekly sales to help families in crisis,
  - Donated to Catholic Charities,
  - Held a baby shower for Birthright,

- Organized and sponsored the annual Christmas Giving Tree to help families in need and invited speakers to meetings to educate and provide awareness of volunteer opportunities in the community.
- Collected nonperishable food and other items at every meeting to support the Assistance Ministry of the parish.
- Packed Boxes of Joy.
- Served as Chair of the annual Church Picnic,
- Provided snacks and lunch for the Youth Group,
- Served snacks after each Sunday Mass on Sunday.
- Served as Lectors.
- Volunteered at the school and served on the Advisory Board for the school.
- The Women of the Rock Hill Deanery provided Boxes of Joy, participated in the Feed the Flock Ministry, sent supplies to Hurricane Helene victims. Some members attended the Freedom Walk in which Father Ed Wahl and three African American Women were inducted.
- Some International Services included providing Boxes of Joy and Seafarers Boxes and distributing prayer cards featuring Josephine Bakhita, Patron Saint of Sudan whose Feast Day was February 8.
- A presentation was made on how to recognize and offer services to women who may have been victims of Human Trafficking. An organization that provided shelter for victims of Human Trafficking was supported.

This is just a sampling of wonderful services and works provided by the Women of SCCCW, and with God's grace they will continue to serve and pray for those in need.

***"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**

*by Fr. Robert Lebel  
Theme song WYD 2002 Toronto*

# **2024 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*

# BEAUFORT DEANERY

*Linda Clark, Beaufort Deanery President*

## AFFILIATES

Women of St. Anthony

St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Walterboro

*Carol Ferrari, President*

St. Gregory the Great Council of Catholic Women

St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church, Bluffton

**Nancy Kuykendall, President**

Women of St. Francis

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

*Rose Miriello, President*

Women of St. James the Greater

St. James the Greater Catholic Church, Walterboro,

*Davetta Greene, President*



# BEAUFORT DEANERY YEAR-END REPORT

*Linda Clark, Deanery President*

The Beaufort Deanery was comprised of four parish affiliations, St. Anthony's and St. James the Greater in Walterboro, St. Francis by the Sea on Hilton Head Island, and St. Gregory the Great in Bluffton. There were 407 paid members and 2 SCCCW Individual Members.

- A Pre-Organizational Meeting of all current officers and commission chairs was held at the beginning of the term. All officers and outgoing chairs were present, and a great discovery of members and talents were discussed. After meeting with all new prospects face to face another organizational meeting was scheduled prior to our first board meeting. All officers and chairpersons were invited from the four affiliations. A folder with their job description, list of possible projects and roster was distributed. An ice breaker exercise was conducted which assisted this president in getting to know their strengths and interests.
- Instructions were sent to all officers, commission and committee members concerning what was to be included in their "Transition Folder" that was to be given to the next member that would hold their position.
- Sr. Pam Smith consented to remain the Spiritual Advisor.
- Meetings were held with two affiliations that had dropped out several years ago. The group voted to consider the proposal and to wait until next year to discuss it again.
- Updates were sent to SCCCW President and Province Director.
- The SCCCW theme, *Be the Light*, was adopted to be in union with the State Council.
- The theme, meetings dates, locations and times were finalized. Programs and speakers were scheduled for meetings.
- Communication was sent by Flocknote, emails, bulletins, and phone calls.
- Beaufort Deanery mirrored participation in some of the State Commission projects and continued to promote awareness of Prevention of Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence.
- The deanery assisted the Pregnancy Center of the Lowcountry with gifts at Christmas and donations of diapers, formula, and other necessary items during the year.
- Family Promise, a home that can take care of 5 homeless families with children, benefited from donations.
- Another meeting was held in August which commenced with Mass celebrated by Father Rafael Ghattas. A meeting followed with reports from all the affiliates. It was obvious that many members did not understand how the deanery was connected to the National level or any of the other levels. The same question always came up, what is a Deanery and why do we need a Deanery or State council? A program was created to address this with handouts and illustrations of all the rings of the council. This topic was further discussed at all gatherings.
- The winter meeting was held and members grew closer to understanding the connection to one another and the organization. Spirituality, Leadership and Service commissions were active in numerous ways.
- Items for the Treat the Troops Military Christmas Package program were collected. Monetary gifts were also donated to help pay the postage as these gifts were sent all over the world.
- Over 500 Boxes of Joy were collected, including monetary donations.
- Tickets were sold to the Italian Heritage Festival where a portion of the proceeds was returned to benefit John Paul II Catholic High School. A scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 was granted to the high school.

- Spirituality was woven throughout everything that was done in the deanery. Meetings started and ended with more than just a prayer.
- Emphasis was made on expanding the prayer life of members- married, single, mothers, sisters, aunts, and sisters-in-Christ.
- A traveling prayer bowl for prayer intentions of members visited the affiliations. All prayed together for the intentions of all every day.
- Prayer cards of our Lady were handed out. Updated information was shared about the Mary's Garden project.
- Discussion and education about NCCW month in October was shared with all and for the first time ever, a donation of \$100 was given to NCCW.
- A beautiful invitation to join CCW was placed in the bulletins with an informative quarter-page outlining the benefits of joining. It became obvious that this deanery was amazing in helping with local, community, and state projects, and with assessing the needs of such to develop a plan to improve or assist a charity.
- Seeds were planted to expand deanery projects to global needs by partnering with NCCW and Catholic Relief Services.
- Members were encouraged to sign up for notifications from the SC Catholic Conference.
- Members were urged to attend the Catholic Woman's Day at the state capital.
- Deanery members continued to be involved and dedicated to numerous organizations such as St. Francis Center, Mercy Mission, various nursing homes, raising funds for Catholic Education, and helping the less fortunate in any way possible.
- It takes a village, and it was a beautiful one that supported this president and made her feel welcome in her new state...Blessed beyond words.

## **BEAUFORT DEANERY**

### **AFFILIATE YEAR-END REPORTS**



### ***St. Anthony's Catholic Women's Club***

*All Reports Submitted by Carol Farrari*

#### **Church Committee Activities - Spirituality**

- All parishioners were invited to join in an International Rosary on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Booklets with prayers in English, Spanish, Tagalog, and Swahili were available. Prayers were also said in Mandarin.
- Mary's Way of the Cross was organized outside at a set of crosses in the church yard.
- Mass intentions for Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Grandparents' Day were sponsored to honor and remember parents and grandparents.

- Eight out of ten members served as lectors, servers, or Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. One was the organist and one was the sacristan for the parish. Several served in multiple capacities.
- First Communion recipients were gifted with a children's Bible and rosary. Confirmands were
- gifted with a special Confirmation cross and bracelet.

#### Church Activity of Greatest Impact

The International Rosary was well attended and apparently made the Filipino and the Kenyan participants feel welcomed in the parish. Several have volunteered to get involved in liturgical activity and many have assisted with decorating the church for Christmas as a result.

#### **Legislative Committee Activities – *Spirituality***

- One member was the head of the Voting and Registration Office for Colleton County and oversaw all elections and all processes before, during, and after elections.
- One member served as a Poll Clerk for a primary and the Presidential Election.

Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact  
(Not provided.)

#### **Organization Committee Activities - *Leadership***

- The birthday of each member was celebrated at the respective monthly Club meeting.
- The Club had a Christmas Party hosted by Sue Stokes at her home and attendees exchanged Secret Santa gifts.

#### Organization Activity of Greatest Impact

The camaraderie at the Christmas party was most enjoyable.

#### **Community Committee Activities - *Service***

- A donation was made to JP II School (instead of selling Italian Festival tickets).
- A donation was made to Treat the Troops for postage.
- Ten Boxes of Joy were filled.
- Christmas cards for residents of three nursing homes were signed and over 300 cards were delivered.
- As a Christmas gift, a picnic table with umbrella and four chairs were donated to Magnolia Nursing Home for their patio.
- As a Christmas gift, an outdoor fan to be used near garden plots and a gift card to replenish supplies for the coffee cart (previously donated) were donated to Pruitt Health Walterboro.
- As a Christmas gift, 21 blankets were given to the Veterans Victory House in Walterboro and clothing such as t-shirts, sweatpants, and pajamas were given to four needy patients.

### Community Activity of Greatest Impact

The Christmas gifts were given to the nursing home residents. This was a community effort that had been on-going in the parish for over thirty years. In two weeks, over \$1000 was collected, which put smiles on the faces of nursing home residents.

### **International Committee Activities - Service**

This year, when the Club sponsored the International Rosary on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, Spanish speakers, Filipino Tagalog speakers, and Kenyan Swahili speakers were invited to say a decade of the Rosary in their native language. Pamphlets were produced with the Rosary prayers in four languages. Several prayers were also said in Mandarin.

### International Activity of Greatest Impact

It was observed that after celebrating the International Rosary, the members from Kenya and the Philippines moved from seats at the back of the church to the middle, a sign that they felt more included. Also, several members of both groups volunteered to become lectors at Mass. Most were all teachers in schools here in Waltherboro. Club members were delighted that they have been made to feel more welcome.



## ***St. Gregory the Great Council of Catholic Women***

*All Reports Submitted by Nancy Kuykendall*

### **Church Committee Activities - Spirituality**

- Council members served as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Eucharist Adorers, Religious Education teachers, lectors, ushers, greeters, welcome ministries, and singers in various choirs for Mass and funerals.
- Council members were part of various Bible studies, including Walking with Purpose. They participated in Days of Reflection, Our Lady Queen of Peace Prayer Cenacle, Divine Mercy and Miraculous Medals Devotions, and Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP).
- Members helped with activities for Youth Ministry, Vacation Bible Camp, and Saint Gregory the Great Catholic School.
- The Council baked and ran the Cake Walk for the Youth Group's Fun Night
- Council members participated in Stations of the Cross through Mary's Eyes, Stations of the Cross for Victims of Human Trafficking, and Stations of the Cross to combat racism.
- A Council guest speaker was from the Flame of Love Rosary.
- The parish manager, Chris Trott, spoke to the Council about "What is going on at Saint Gregory the Great".
- Members participated in the Living Rosary of the school.



- Several members were affiliated as Associates with the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodious, helping them and supporting their projects. Five went to the Mother House in Danville, Pennsylvania to help with projects.
- The Council “adopted” a seminarian! Colin Doering was from the parish. Many watched him grow up. Members were encouraged to remember him with cards and words of encouragement.
- The Council provided a reception to celebrate the Pastor’s 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination and a reception to honor the Director of Music when she retired.
- In a program sponsored by the Council, the Deacons explained their education and role in the church.
- A Prayer Bowl was present at each meeting.

#### Church Activity of Greatest Impact- *Spirituality*

A Council member won a Prayer Bowl as a door prize at the 2024 Convention. The idea to have a prayer bowl at each meeting developed. At each event, members wrote a prayer requests on a slip of paper and put them in the special bowl. Everyone was asked to say one Hail Mary each day for the intentions written in the bowl. Members felt that this created a prayer community and connection for each woman. Members were there for each other.

#### **Legislative Committee Activities – *Spirituality***

- Several members attend SCCCW Legislative Day at the Capitol.
- Members were reminded to use the [sccatholicconference.org](http://sccatholicconference.org) website to keep up with what was happening in state government.
- Members were reminded of our SCCCW resolution to promote praying the Rosary and First Saturday Devotion.

#### Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact – *Spirituality*

SCCCW Legislative Day at the Capitol had a great impact on those who attended. The group met with Catholic legislators and the Lieutenant Governor, saw a session of the House, toured the State House, and had lunch with Michael Acquilano who brought them up to date on bills that uphold Catholic values.

#### **Organization Committee Activities – *Leadership***

The Organization Committee:

- Updated and published new membership handbooks.
- Updated and passed out new information for Core Group notebooks.
- Made permanent nametags for meetings for all members. Assigned a member to keep them in order and distribute them to members attending each meeting.
- Put the dates of our meetings on the Church Calendar, and secured the rooms needed.
- Created Flocknote messages to members.

- Created a survey for members about what activities they would like to have the following year, tabulated results, and presented results to the June Core Group meeting for planning.

#### Organization Activity of Greatest Impact

Permanent printed nametags for all members made a big difference! Nametags were printed in large font so that names could be read easily. They had plastic holders with a magnetic fastener and were collected after each meeting so nametags would not have to be bought any more! Members had a real feeling of belonging!

### **Membership Committee Activities – Leadership**

The Membership Committee:

- Sent messages through Flocknote to inform members of meetings or other important items.
- Called members who had not paid dues for this year, reminded them of meetings, and encouraged them to attend a meeting
- Published and distributed to all a Membership Booklet with a save the date section, officer listings, prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel, history of the affiliate, affiliations, volunteer opportunities, mission statement, vision, Core Group directory, explanation of the commission system, “What does Council do for me”, a list of materials available for affiliates from NCCW and SCCCW, By-laws of the SGGCCW, and a flow chart for the Council of Catholic Women.
- Sponsored a complimentary Welcoming Wine and Cheese in September as a kickoff for the year. The starting time was at 5:30 p.m. so working women could join.
- Sent a personal welcome note and prayer card to all new members.

#### Membership Activity of Greatest Impact

- The complimentary Welcoming Wine and Cheese event was a great hit! Close to one hundred women attended and found out about the programming for this year. Each Core Group Member talked about the activity or program that was her responsibility. 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.
- Jack Rabbit spoke about SGG’s role in Family Promise, a non-profit that shelters homeless families. Many members were not aware of this program in Beaufort County. Family Promise was selected as the primary focus of the Council for charity for the year. The director of Family Promise spoke about how much the help from the Council meant to the organization. Jack mentioned that the mini bus that Family Promise used to transport clients to jobs, students to school, or children to childcare needed repair. Someone suggested that if all donated \$20, the bus could be fixed. In a few weeks \$4,500 were donated and the bus was back on the road!

### **Public Relations Committee Activities - Leadership**

- A brochure was produced and placed on a Welcoming Table outside of each Mass. It included the mission statement, Council activities, dues, who to contact, affiliations, a picture of Our

Lady of Good Council, and the Beatitudes for Women. Each woman who stopped by the Welcoming Table before Mass was given the brochure and asked about getting connected with the church and council.

- Bulletin announcements were placed in the church bulletin 2-3 weeks before an event. Council meetings were open to all women of the parish as this is a way for them to be informed.
- SGGCCW placed, as it had done in the past, an ad in the SCCCW Convention Book.

#### Public Relations Activity of Greatest Impact

The brochure about The Saint Gregory the Great Council of Catholic Women was a vehicle for introducing the Affiliate to women who were new to the parish. It included the mission, events typically held, 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**

- Over 250 toys and articles of clothing were purchased by members for children of the clients of the Pregnancy Center as part of the Angel Tree program. Employees of the Pregnancy Center came to the Council Christmas Luncheon and were told about how the center worked with a client from the first inquiry.
- Rose Ewing spoke at a Council meeting about Hopeful Horizons, an organization that advocated for children and domestic violence victims and had a rape crisis center.
- Jack Rabbit spoke at a Council meeting about Family Promise, a non-profit organization that sheltered homeless families, and what Council members could do to help with meal prep, overnight stays, and urgently needed repairs for their minibus. Council members pledged and with the proceeds from Make It Bake It Grow It, \$4,500 were delivered! The minibus is back on the road!
- Over 1000 toys were collected for the Saint Francis Center. Members helped Sr. Canice to display the toys and helped with distribution. Grandparents were invited to come and choose toys for their children for Christmas. For some individuals, it was the first time they could give their grandchild a Christmas gift!
- Two hundred and fifty two Boxes of Joy were sent to Cross Catholic Outreach. The church continued to be a drop-off location.
- Tickets to the Italian Heritage Festival were sold. Part of the purchase price was returned to the Council and donated to the John Paul II Scholarship Fund.
- Members
  - participated in Walk for Water,
  - participated in Saint Vincent DePaul Society, helping people in need,
  - provided meals and overnight stays for Family Promise,
  - prayed the Stations of the Cross for overcoming racism,
  - prayed the Stations of the Cross for human trafficking victims, gave out prayer cards featuring Sister Josephine Bakhita, and heard from Sheila Roemeling from Fresh Start Healing Heart, a organization that supported women rescued from human trafficking.
  - volunteered at Mercy Missions, run by the Sisters of Charity,
  - volunteered at Heaven's Treasures thrift shop with proceeds given for scholarships at JPPII,
  - volunteered at Saint Francis Center food pantry and thrift shop, and

- collected snacks for Treat the Troops.
- Members of Catholics for the Common Good provided Thanksgiving meals, sang Christmas carols at a senior living home, sponsored an ecumenical pot luck with several different faith communities attending, and walked in the Martin Luther King Day parade.

### Community Activity of Greatest

The meeting on Human Trafficking was difficult but inspiring. The Stations of the Cross for Human Trafficking combined the life of Sister Josephine Bakhita and the present day concerns. It was very impactful! The speaker, Sheila Roemeling, provided information about Human Trafficking in Beaufort County, especially in the I-95 corridor. Many aspects of Human Trafficking were presented such as what to look for, what to do if one suspects it is going on, and a description of the people most vulnerable to being trafficked. Sheila runs Fresh Start Healing Heart which is an organization that supports people who were rescued or want to leave the trafficked lifestyle.

### **Family Committee Activities- Service**

- John McCarthy presented information on a new building being planned for JP II Catholic Junior High and High School. Two former SGG Catholic School students spoke on how attending JP II had strengthened their faith.
- Bake goods were solicited and a Cake Walk was run for the Welcome Back youth group event.
- Suggested items were collected for Treat the Troops.
- Toys were collected and assistance was provided in distributing them at the Saint Francis Center.
- Some members volunteered at Bible Camp.
- Meals were distributed at Mercy Mission.
- Meals were made for Family Promise.
- Contributions were made to Food Pantries at Mercy Mission and Saint Francis Center.
- Members provided hospitality after funerals for the family and friends. A lunch was offered with homemade dishes.
- Some members were part of the Respect Life group.
- The Catholic Woman of the year was introduced to the parish the first Sunday in May. After her bio was read, she crowned Mary in our May Crowning.
- Several members volunteered at Saint Gregory the Great Catholic School.

### Family Activity of Greatest Impact

School families were especially important to the SGGCCW. Members helped as substitute teachers, homework helpers after school everyday, aftercare playground helpers, listened to and helped emerging readers, sat with classes during Mass, supported the fund raising Gala, adopted a student by helping to pay tuition, and bought uniforms. The school chorus sang at Christmas luncheon of the Council, which was part of the Christmas program that many attended and enjoyed.

### **International Committee Activities – Service**

- A lunch reception was provided for Father Dan Maurer who was visiting from Vladivostok, Russia. Accompanying him were Mother Stella and Sister Joann. Information on the restoration of the Catholic Church in Russia was presented. Donations were accepted to help with the mission in Russia.
- Two hundred and fifty two Boxes of Joy were sent to Cross Catholic Outreach for children in Haiti and Central America. Saint Gregory was a drop off point for other churches in the area.
- Members participated in the local Walk for Water to bring clean water to countries where it was desperately needed. Girls in those countries would no longer had to walk many hours a day to get polluted water, thus they could attend school!

#### International Activity of Greatest Impact

A presentation by Father Dan Maurer from Vladivostok, Russia on how suppressed religion was in Russia during the Soviet era was the activity of the greatest impact. Many Catholics fled the country or were killed. The Catholic church in Vladivostok had been taken over by the government and was used as a warehouse. When it was returned it had to be completely renovated. The Sisters from the tiny order of Mary Mother of God Mission Society from the United States secured and renovated apartments for their convent. At least two generations of Russians had grown up without a church. The people who came back were old. The Sisters have been working on bringing children and younger people into the church. They gave many Rachel's retreats since the main method of birth control was abortion under the Soviets. Having religious freedom in the US is a blessing.



### ***Women of St. Francis***

*All Reports Submitted by Rosa Miriello*

### **Church Committee Activities – Spirituality**

- A group met at 7:50 a.m. for devotional prayer on the first Saturday of every month prior to the First Saturday Devotion Mass.
- A Parish Patriotic Rosary event was hosted by the Women of St. Francis on July 4.
- Fr. Ray led a Eucharistic Procession on the Feast of Christ the King during the Holy hour at 3:00 p.m.
- A group met for prayers and fellowship in the garden with attendees after the Feast of St. Clare, Mass. Sister Pamela Smith, SS.C.M., Ph.D. was the guest speaker.
- A Rosary for victims of abortion was held outdoors by the Stations of the Cross after the 8:30 a.m. Mass as a concluding event for Respect Life Month.
- Mass and Stations of the Cross were held on the Feast of the Holy Innocents,

- An Advent Day of Reflection with guest speaker Kim Micheal Polote was held. First Saturday Devotions were held before the 8:30 a.m. Mass followed by a continental breakfast and two discussion sessions with Ms. Polote. She was lively, energetic, and riveting in her presentations.

#### Church Activity of Greatest Impact

The most impactful event was the Advent Day of Reflection. The day began with 8:30 a.m. Mass followed by a continental breakfast. Ms. Kim M. Polote spoke on multiple topics starting at 9:30 a.m. and concluding at 12:00 p.m. She was energetic, engaging, and insightful. She concluded the event by letting each attendee pick a fresh flower from the bouquet she brought and by taking a group picture. It was a very emotional and rewarding time for those who were present and it will be remembered in connection with the warm feelings all experienced.

#### **Legislative Committee Activities - *Spirituality***

- The Respect Life Committee participated in the Baby Bottle Blessings campaign and raised \$16,000, an increase from the initial campaign held last year. Brochures about the *Respect Life* campaign were handed out to parishioners for educational purposes.
- Life Chain was held in front of Beaufort City Hall from 2:30-3:30 p.m. with silent prayers to end abortion.

#### Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact

The Respect Life Committee involved the whole parish in the Baby Bottle Blessings campaign. It was the most rewarding activity. Seeing everyone take a baby bottle home and bring it back filled with money was heart warming. Money parishioners donated helped the Pregnancy Crisis Center.

#### **Membership Committee Activities – *Leadership***

- Members participated in the Parish Ministry Fair for the purpose of informing parishioners about the WOSF and recruiting new members.
- The Women of St. Francis was the featured organization on Fellowship Sunday which provided an opportunity to recruit and share information about WOSF, the Beaufort Deanery, SCCCW, and NCCW.
- Registration was advertised in the church bulletin, through Flocknote, and on the WOSF webpage to alert members and potential members of the upcoming registration. As of this writing there are 218 registered members.
- Two welcome coffees, one in October and another in March, were held for reaching new members. Board and ministry chairs explained their roles in the WOSF. Refreshments were served while attendees mingled and enjoyed icebreaker games.

#### Membership Activity of Greatest Impact

The greatest impact to our affiliate was the Parish Ministry Fair. The posters, informational materials, and a beautiful new table covering with the WOSF logo prominently displayed attracted

a lot of attention. Many compliments were received. WOSF members successfully highlighted work and recruited new members. Attendees were amazed at how many ministries the WOSF had and the impact they had on the church and community.

### **Organization Committee Activities – Leadership**

- The Scholarship Committee convened to restructure the process of awarding the scholarships to St. Francis by the Sea School students. The school principal and committee members met to revise the entry form, the instructions for the application, and the criteria for awarding the scholarship. The goal for 2025 was set at \$12,000.
- The Catholic Woman of the Year Committee convened to collect names and recommendations for a prospective winner. The restructuring of how a candidate would be picked was discussed and several changes were proposed. The committee would reconvene the following year to discuss permanent changes. Sandra Merritt was chosen as the Catholic Woman of the Year.
- The WOSF Board voted on a Bylaws Committee and charged it with proposing necessary changes in the WOSF Bylaws prior to the end of the term. The committee met in February to begin reviewing and proposing revisions to the Bylaws.

#### **Organization Activity of Greatest Impact**

Scholarship Committee was by far the most rewarding committee on which to serve. To read the applications and then decide on the most deserving students was a rewarding challenge.

### **Public Relations Committee Activities – Leadership**

- The Leadership Committee Chair shared Beaufort Deanery meeting minutes and information from the SCCCW and NCCW with WOSF members.
- Monthly general meetings were held.
- Monthly Board Meetings were held. Commission Chairs and Ministry Chairs were invited.
- The Recording & Corresponding Secretary distributed monthly information such as minutes of meeting, and updates the WOSF webpage through weekly Flocknote to members.
- The Secretary sent out group-wide text messages to all WOSF members to recruit needed volunteers or to remind members of an important happening. This practiced, established this year, was successful in recruiting volunteers.

#### **Public Relations Activity of Greatest Impact**

Text messages were sent on special occasions. This practice began for the first time and was helpful in last minute recruiting of volunteers. When the Elderly Care Committee held a bingo day at the center, volunteers were recruited by sending out a text message one or two days prior to the event. From 10 to 12 ladies were recruited where previously there would have been only two or three. This was a great way to communicate instantly with a target population.

## **Community Committee Activities - Service**

The Elderly Outreach Ministry provided monthly birthday celebrations with cake and ice cream for the residents. Bingo was hosted on Wednesday and small prizes were awarded to winners. A new game program called “Getting to know you: A stroll Down Memory Lane” was introduced with refreshments of lemonade and cookies. A text message requesting volunteers was sent two days prior to an event at the center: 6 to 12 individuals volunteered. That was almost one volunteer per patient.

- The Collection Ministry held two large donation drives with the whole parish for the Military during November and December. Throughout the year collections were made at monthly general meetings. A blanket collection for the Military was held this past spring. Operation Morale Support picked up collections and delivered or mailed them to the different military bases. This year a collection was held for the needy in North Carolina who suffered great loss from Hurricane Helene.
- The Annual Fashion Show featuring Chico fashions and Luncheon was held on December 3. Over 400 people attended and participated in a variety of fundraising activities. A total of \$40,000 was raised. Over 36 area business sponsors and 120 donors generous supporters of the event were there.

### **Community Activity of Greatest Impact**

The Elderly Outreach Ministry did wonderful things over the last three years. It brought joy to the elderly who were nursing home residents. The ministry offered birthday celebrations, bingo, a stroll down memory lane, Christmas party, and fun and excitement to a group of elderly people who desperately needed to be recognized and remembered. It was rewarding to see one who never smiled begin to break into a wide grin. This activity had a huge, positive impact on both WOSF members and the elderly in the nursing home.

## **Family Committee Activities- Service**

- A Christmas Party with was held for approximately 116 Family Faith Formation (SFFF) students and their parents. Desserts and goodies were served while waiting for Santa to arrive. Santa gave small presents and posed for pictures with the children and their parents.
- WOSF partnered with a second grade class and collaborated with the second grade class-mothers at St. Francis by the Sea Catholic School in providing mentoring, book reading, and simple cooking demonstrations.
- A parish fundraiser called Soup for Scholarships was held on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. Parishioners purchased tickets to the event. Funds in the amount of \$12,000 was raised for scholarships to be given to 12 lucky St. Francis students.

### **Family Activity of Greatest Impact**

The Students of Family Faith Formation (SFFF) program had a significant impact. Parents and children of the SFFF program were invited to a Christmas celebration sponsored by the WOSF. There were music, games, sweets for everyone, and a slide show of past activities. An awards



ceremony was held to highlight achievements of the children. The much awaited arrival of Santa brought joy and excitement to the festivities. Individual and family pictures with Santa sitting in his big chair were highlights of the day and put all in the Christmas spirit.

### **International Committee Activities - Service**

- WOSF adopted 20 orphanages in Venezuela. The sewing ministry provided dresses, blankets, hygiene napkin kits, and hats all sewn by our members. Collections were made for shoes, toiletries, sheets, medicines, and canned goods. Items were shipped directly to the contact person in Venezuela, who distributed them directly to the orphanages in need. The William F. Pentis award was presented to WOSM two years ago for its unbelievable effort producing and distributing items to an international community in desperate need. In 2023, an Honorable Mention was given for the work. The ministry made 360 bandanas for the Boxes of Joy.
- The Boxes of Joy program, coordinated by Cross Catholic Outreach and recommended by the NCCW, was adopted as an international service initiative. A goal of 360 Christmas gift shoeboxes for impoverished children in Latin America was reached.

#### **International Activity of Greatest Impact**

The Council participated in the Box of Joy program for the second year. Efforts from the previous year were surpassed. The goal was to fill 300 shoeboxes with appropriate toys, school supplies, and other welcomed gifts for impoverished children in Latin America. By advertising the event via posters, flyers, and the church bulletin, the entire parish became involved. A stand was set up in front of the church one weekend after Masses where parishioners could purchase a box for \$20. Response was overwhelming. Soon 360 boxes had been sold. The boxes were filled with stuffed animals, crayons, colorful drinking cup w/straw, tennis ball, stickers, writing pad, toothpaste, toothbrush, jump rope, sunglasses, candy, a bandana, and a Christmas note. The Sewing Ministry made over 360 colorful bandanas to include in the boxes. Cross Catholic Outreach not only received the filled boxes but also received a donation of \$3,240 that was collected for the project.



### ***Women of St. James the Greater***

*(No Reports were provided.)*

# CHARLESTON DEANERY

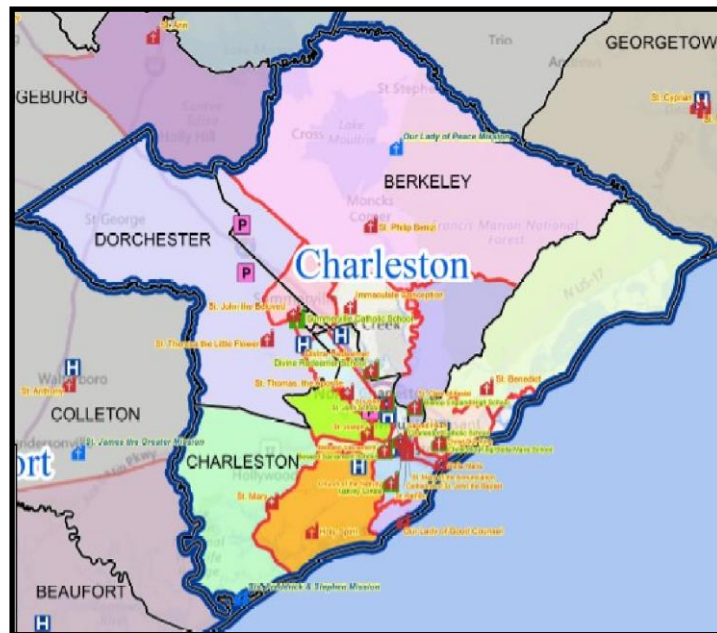
*Marcella Holmes, Deanery President*

## AFFILIATES

St. Patrick Women's Guild  
St. Patrick Catholic Church, Charleston  
*Angelica Colwell, President*

Our Lady of Good Counsel Women's Guild  
Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Folly Beach  
*Theresa Gasser*

Church of the Nativity Ladies Guild  
Church of the Nativity, Charleston  
*Jackquelin Doscher*



# CHARLESTON DEANERY YEAR-END REPORT

*Marcella Homes, President*

*(Not provided.)*

The Charleston Deanery consisted of three affiliates. There were 164 affiliate members and 13 SCCCW Individual Members. Four members served on the SCCCW Board of Directors.

## CHARLESTON DEANEY AFFILIATE YEAR-END REPORTS



### *St. Patrick Women's Guild*

#### **Church Committee Activities – Spirituality**

*Report Submitted by Beverly Buford and Marcella Holmes*

The women of the Guild:

- Assisted at Mass serving as lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, altar servers, and choir members.
- Served on the Bereavement Committee providing a meal for a family after each funeral.
- Served the First Holy communicates and their families breakfast after Mass.
- Led the Stations of the Cross and provided soup and cornbread afterwards to fellowship.
- Participated in the decorating the church during the Advent season.
- Participated in a two-day Parish Ministry Fair to recruit new members.

Church Activity of Greatest Impact  
*(Not submitted.)*

#### **Legislative Committee Activities – Spirituality**

*Report Submitted by Norma Davis and Patricia Mack*

- Many members of the Guild and the parish are members of the Charleston Area Justice Ministry (CAJM). Areas that were addressed by CAJM in the communities included environmental justice, affordable housing, policing, education, and transportation.
- There was collaboration with League of Women Voters.
- Voter registration drives were held throughout the communities.

- Candidates in various districts were supported.
- The St. Claire Home was supported.
- Current bills addressed in SC Legislative Sessions were communicated to members.
- Information from the Southern Poverty Law Center was shared with the membership by one member.
- Some members served as poll Monitors.

### Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact

A parish wide presentation on domestic violence and human trafficking was well received by the community. Purple ribbons were also provided to recognize and support the fight against domestic violence.

Membership, Organization, and Public Relations - *Leadership* and  
Community and International Committee Activities – *Service*  
(Not provided.)

### **Family Committee Activities - Service**

*Report Submitted by Deborah Joseph*

The Family Committee:

- Supported education by payment of registration fees for elementary students attending summer camp with the SC State University 1890 Research and Extension Program.
- Contributed to the funding of band supplies for students of the Burke High School Band which helped purchase backpacks to match their uniforms.
- Contributed to the school supply drive for students living in Awendaw, SC.
- Supported families through donations to the St. Patrick Church “Blessing Box”, which helped church members and members of the community with nonperishable food items.
- Supported Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Drives in the Charleston area.
- Contributed to the “Socks and Blankets Drive” for patients at the MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children’s Hospital, Charleston.
- Donated to the Hurricane Helene Relief Fund for victims in Western NC, sponsored by St. Patrick Church.
- Supported the church through member participation weekly as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and in the music ministry.
- Contributed to the Annual Tea. The funds collected supported programs for the Guild.

### Family Activity of Greatest Impact

The Family Committee activity that had the greatest impact on the affiliate was the Annual Tea where contributions were made to the Guild. This financial support enabled the affiliate to fund various programs for the year that impacted families and communities throughout the county and more.



# ***Our Lady of Good Counsel Ladies Guild***

*(Reports not provided.)*

*Our Lady of Good Counsel Ladies Guild is a new affiliate of the SCCCW. Welcome! SCCCW members look forward to learning more about the good works of the Ladies Guild in the future.*



## ***Church of the Nativity Ladies Guild***

### **Church Committee Activities – Spirituality**

*Report submitted by Jacquilin Doshier*

The Church Committee:

- Provided prayers and gifts for the students receiving First Communion, Confirmation, and those being Baptized.
- Adopted two seminarians. Cards and stipends were provided to them. Regular updates were provided to the Guild members on the progress of the seminarian as well as updates on the state of vocations as related to the Catholic Community.
- Provided prayers, gifts, and a reception for those becoming new members of the Catholic Church.
- Encouraged participation in the Fifth Sunday Rosary with the Knights of Columbus.
- Sponsored a Prayer Shawl ministry that meets monthly.
- Had the first annual retreat in October for members of the Guild and the women of the parish.

#### **Church Activity of Greatest Impact**

The activity that meant the most was a Retreat with Sister Donna who spoke about the Women of the Old Testament and their roles in the Bible. It was highly informative and brought together guild and parish members for great discussion.

### **Legislative Committee Activities – Spirituality**

*Report submitted by Christine Lewis and Joanne Gottschall*

The Legislative Committee:

- Provided regular updates to members about the state current affairs as related to the church community, presidential candidates, voting flyers, and monthly pertinent legislative news, and pro-life issues.
- Encouraged participation in the spring and fall 40 Days for Life 12-hour Prayer Vigil Campaigns outside of an abortion clinic.
- Encouraged participation in Respect Life Sunday by praying the Rosary.
- Held a Respect Life Everything Baby drive and collected diapers, wipes, toiletries, books, and such which were donated to Lowcountry Pregnancy Center and Birthright of Charleston.

- Encouraged participation in the Annual Lowcountry Walk for Life at Wannamaker Park.
- Attended the Annual Lowcountry Pregnancy Center fundraiser Respect Life Banquet and sponsored a table for 10.
- Organized the Baby Bottles Campaign for Nativity Parish. Handed out bottles at Mass with proceeds going to St Clare's home in Charleston.

#### Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact

The activity with the most significant impact from our Legislative Community, besides the presidential vote this year, was the baby bottle monetary collections. Baby bottles were distributed to parishioners after Masses for three weekends at Nativity and Our Lady of Good Council Churches. Baby bottles were collected at the following Mass: \$10,000 was collected and matched! All proceeds were presented to the St. Clare project chair and a representative from the Diocesan Family Office to support the opening of a St. Clare's home in Charleston. This project was coordinated with the Knights of Columbus.

### **Membership Committee Activities - Leadership**

*Report submitted by Jackqulin Doscher*

The Membership Committee:

- Hosted an annual Membership Luncheon and invited all women of the parish. The luncheon was for the purpose of promoting the values of belonging to the Nativity Ladies Guild.
- Placed membership brochures, fliers, and posters in the church foyer and Parish Life Center to encourage membership.
- Gave membership packets containing copies of by-laws, commissions, the calendar, and membership directory to old and new members at the first meeting of the year.
- Provided memorial Masses for deceased members of the Guild.
- Presented the Nativity Ladies Guild Jo Dennis Woman of the Year Award.

#### Membership Activity of Greatest Impact

The decision was made to "lighten things up" a bit at the Membership Luncheon. The theme for the past 2 years was "Let Your Light Shine" from Matthew 5:16. All who attended were welcomed. There was pray, a wonderful meal, and social time. The various ministries, upcoming plans for the year, and opportunities for involvement within the Guild were presented. Attendees were invited join and get involved. "This Little Light of Mine" by Bruce Springsteen was sung. The luncheon was informative and fun. Several new members joined. The Guild is growing and letting "our" light shine!

### **Organization Committee Activities – Leadership**

*Report submitted by Jackqulin Doscher*

The Organization Committee:

- Completed the annual review of the Bylaws.

- Arranged for an Audit Committee to review the financial records in July or August for the previous fiscal year of the Nativity Ladies Guild.
- Reviewed commissions and committees and aligned their structure with that of SCCCW.

#### Organization Activity of Greatest Impact

The structure of the commissions used were reviewed and re-aligned to mimic the SCCCW commission structure. The responsibilities of each commission chair and its committee chairs were defined.

### **Public Relations Committee Activities - Leadership**

*Report submitted by Jackqulin Doscher*

- Information about upcoming meetings, events, and activities was included in the parish bulletin.
- Information about the Guild's activities was relayed to the membership, parish, outside groups, and news outlets.
- Announcements were created, fliers were designed, newsletters were published, meeting notes were preserved, and surveys were carried out.

#### Public Relations Activity of Greatest Impact

The activity of greatest impact was the distribution of news releases to other parishes and Catholic Radio about the annual Birthday Party for Jesus and the creche display.

### **Community Committee Activities - Service**

*Report submitted by Jackqulin Dosher and Lisa Horner*

- The sewing group made Baptismal garments. Father presented a handmade remembrance to each child baptized at Nativity Church. The group also made bibs, burp cloths, and other items for pro-family centers.
- Members volunteered and provided food donations to the James Island Outreach center. From September through December, 95 pounds of canned goods were donated.
- A birthday party for Baby Jesus was begun after the Pauline Bookstore closed, as such a party was held there. This is open to all families of the parish and beyond.
- A yearly creche display was organized, like the one at Mepkin Abbey where members of the parish loaned their creches or other special items they put out at Christmas for display. This was held the first weekend in December and was open to the public and all members of the parish.
- Books appropriate for ages birth to 5 years were collected at the Christmas Party and donated to the Charleston County First Steps Program. Books were distributed to those in need in the community.
- Blue Christmas Service of Remembrance, begun three years ago, took place on December 21st, the longest day of the year. This service was offered to comfort and support those grieving the loss of a loved one. The activity began with prayers and reflections and was followed by a

reception. The church was opened for private prayer. The Nativity Ladies Guild and the Nativity Bereavement Committee jointly sponsored this event.

- A giving tree, begun 2 years ago, celebrated Catholic Schools Week and was open to the parish for the month of January. The Tree contained envelopes that identified needed classroom and educational items requested by the teachers and their costs.
- An oyster roast and chili cookoff were promoted.
- A Catechist Brunch and an Anointing of the Sick Reception were held.
- Grocery gift cards were collected from the parish families during Lent and given to community outreach centers such as the Neighborhood House, Johns Island Outreach, and James Island Outreach.
- Lenten community meatless meals were provided and Stations of the Cross were promoted.

#### Community Activity of Greatest Impact

The second annual Baby Jesus Birthday Party was held in December. The community was invited to come share birthday cake and fellowship. Participants dressed as Nativity scene characters and posed for pictures in a stable manger scene. There were crafts and coloring pages for the children and families and a visit from St Nicholas. It was a joyful event.

### **Family Committee Activities - Service**

*Report submitted by Christine Lewis*

- A Nativity School calendar page with membership information was purchased.
- Volunteers staffed a booth at the Nativity School Carnival.
- Coffee and donuts were provided on one Sunday each month to promote parish fellowship.
- The Sunshine Ministry sent get well, sympathy, thinking of you, and holiday cards to members and parishioners of the church.
- Mrs. Claus Workshop with ornament making was held for the children of the parish.
- An annual Easter Egg Hunt with refreshments was held for the children of the Parish.
- A scholarship was awarded to two 8<sup>th</sup> grade Nativity students who plan to attend Bishop England High School.

#### Family Activity of Greatest Impact

The one project that had the greatest impact on Guild members and shut-ins of the parish was the Thanksgiving gift bags and cards. A list of shut-ins was shown to members which provided awareness of these who were homebound and in need prayers, cards, and visits. A Chex and M&M Mix was made. A decorated mason jar for each shut in was filled with the mix. The Guild collaborated with the parish School Religion teacher, who had her students make handmade cards for the shut-ins. The mason jar, a small candle, homemade ornament, and card were included a gift bag. Guild members signed up to deliver gift bags. What joy a small visit and gift made to shut-ins. Expressions of thanks, especially for the students who made cards, were given as well as thank you notes sent. This project gave members a purpose to serve others.



## **International Committee Activities - Service**

*Report submitted by Christine Lewis*

Members supported through prayers and monetary donations the college campus ministry FOCUS. Students working with FOCUS witnessed to other college student and performed service to those in the US and internationally. The daughter of the Nativity School Principal was the contact.

### **International Activity of Greatest Impact**

The support given to FOCUS through prayers and monetary donations was the activity of greatest impact.



**Jesus spoke to them, saying**

*“I am the light of the of the world.  
who ever follows me will not walk in darkness,  
but will have the light of life.”*

***John 8:12.***

# COLUMBIA DEANERY

*Deanery President, Lori Long*

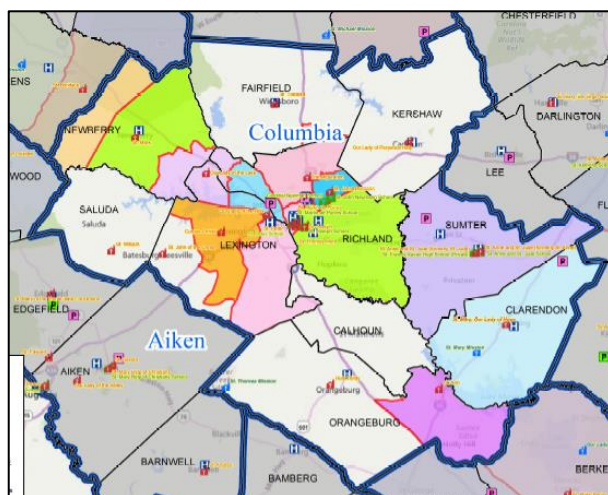
## AFFILIATES

Corpus Christi Catholic Women's Group  
Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Lexington  
*Vicki Zarnick, President*

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

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

Women in God's Service (WinGs)  
Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, Chapin  
**Jackie Chalmers, President**



# COLUMBIA DEANERY 2024 YEAR-END REPORT

By Lori Long, President

The Columbia Deanery had 4 active affiliates, 10 SCCCW Individual Members, and no individual deanery members. The total number of Deanery affiliate members was 163. Affiliates included Corpus Christi Catholic Women (CCCW) with 18 members, St. Joseph Women's Society (SJWS) with 84 members, Rosary Altar Society St. Martin de Porres (RAS) with 47 members, and Women in God's Service from Our Lady of the Lake (WinGs) with 24 members. Six members serve on the SCCCW Board of Directors.

The Columbia Deanery officers were Gwen Skipper, Past President; Lori Long, President; Maria Carrero, Vice President; Delores Gillard, Secretary; Cheryll Stetar, Treasurer; Mary Sue Barnum, Parliamentarian; Juanita Henry Spirituality Chair; Martha Becht, Leadership Chair; and Arlene Frederick, Service Chair.

- The Columbia Deanery hosted the SCCCW 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention in Columbia. The theme selected by the SCCCW president was "Women of Faith Working for Peace and Justice." Together with Convention Co-chairs Juanita Henry from St. Martin de Porres Rosary Altar Society and Mary Sue Barnum from St. Joseph Women's Society with members of all four affiliates planned, collaborated, and worked together to make the experience of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Convention memorable, informative, and enjoyable for all.
- New officers for the Columbia Deanery were inducted at the Convention with promise from the exiting officers for full support and assistance. This truly has been the case as the Deanery affiliates grew in support of their members and each other.
- The affiliates met for deanery wide meetings three times a year as stated in the Deanery Bylaws. Meetings were hosted by affiliates on a rotating basis. The hosting affiliate provided lunch and selected an outreach project for all affiliates to support with monetary and/or physical commodities requested by the outreach ministry or organization.
- The Deanery Project for the Winter Annual Meeting, hosted by St. Joseph Altar Society, was Light House for Life, whose mission was to fight to eradicate human trafficking by educating the community and empowering survivors. A powerful presentation was made during the meeting to inform the members of the need for support and prayer for these victims. The Deanery Catholic Women of the Year was announced and all affiliate CWOYs were celebrated.
- The Summer Deanery Meeting was hosted by Women in God's Service (WinGs) with the project being Clean of Hearts. Catholic Charities provided showers, laundry services, and clothing to the needy population in Columbia. At this meeting, members donated specific items requested by Clean of Hearts such as soap, new undergarments, personal care items, and monetary donations.. This meeting was the first meeting for new officers installed at the SCCCW Convention. A focus of the meeting was the theme presented by President Beverly Stricklin, "Getting to Know our sisters in the Deanery." President Stricklin had stepped down due to illness and VP Lori Long stated that this theme would be supported throughout the year. Past President Gwen Skipper offered steady support during this transition.
- Corpus Christi Catholic Women (CCCW) hosted the fall deanery meeting. The guest speaker was Dr. Timothy Little who presented his ministry of helping to provide Catholic Homes for disabled and unhoused young adults in India. His talk entitled "*To India with Jesus*" was

informative and touching as he showed pictures of young men and women in homes supported by the Catholic Brothers and Sisters in parts of India. He asked for prayers. Some members offered monetary donations that Dr. Little later used for coats and sweaters for young adults. The project for this meeting was St. Clare's Home in Greenville, a maternity home for expectant mothers, who chose life and needed shelter, safety, and security. St. Clare's Home provided housing and educational to those mothers in need. The total monetary donation for this project was almost \$400. The hard work and dedication of Past President Gwen Skipper and officers during her term were recognized.

- At each Deanery meetings each affiliate President was encouraged to share events, ideas, and activities of their group since the previous meetings. Affiliate leaders invited the other affiliates to their events, and it became more frequent that other affiliate members attend the events.
- At each meeting, the Spirituality Commission Chair Juanita Henry shared a devotional that set the tone for members to be in a sharing and supportive mindset for the meeting and in the upcoming weeks and months.
- Deanery Leadership and Service Commission Chairs shared information from SCCCW Commission Chairs and sources that helped the affiliates in their efforts to promote the initiatives of the SCCCW Commission Chairs, and supported the President, Spiritual Advisor and Bishop Jacques Fabre-Jeune.

## **COLUMBIA DEANERY**

### **2024 AFFILIATE YEAR-END REPORTS**



### ***Corpus Christi Catholic Women's Group***

*All Reports Submitted by Bernadette M. Stellabotte*

#### **Church Activities - Spirituality**

- CCCW collaborated with the Leaders of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Teens to honor the parishioners, their families, and sponsors with a light meal after the completion of their having received the Sacraments. Each recipient of the Sacraments was given a spiritual gift from the CCCW.
- CCCW provided a spiritual gift to children after their reception of the Sacrament of First Holy Communion.
- The Corpus Christi Parish High School Life Teen youth group journeyed to Duluth, Georgia on July 26-28 to participate in the Steubenville Youth National Catholic Conference. This conference was designed to bring high school age students into a life-changing experience with

Christ. Proceeds from the annual ParTea Lunch provided financial support for youth to attend the Conference. The Parish Hall was transformed into a beautiful setting with ten elaborate and unique tablescapes. Guests enjoyed an entertaining and thought-provoking guest speaker while partaking in a delicious meal prepared and served by members. The event promoted fellowship and fun for the women of the parish and their guests. The proceeds supported the spiritual growth of our youth through the Youth National Catholic Conference.

- An outreach program supported parish members who were going through hardship or struggling with personal or family health issues. Prayers were offered by the membership. Parishioners in need were contacted. Each month, a different member was responsible for offering care, concern, or sympathy via a phone call, greeting card, or Mass card.
- Members were invited at the beginning of each council meeting to submit written prayer requests or to email prayer requests to the secretary who posted the prayer requests for the membership. The secretary verbally shared the prayer requests with members during the monthly meetings. The group prayed the Hail Mary together as a response to the requests.

#### Church Activity of Greatest Impact

The Corpus Christi Parish High School Life Teen youth group journeyed to Duluth, Georgia on July 26-28 to participate in the Steubenville Youth National Catholic Conference. The conference was designed to bring high school age students into a life-changing experience with Christ. The CCCW members provided financial support for expenses of the youth attending the Conference with proceeds from the annual ParTea Lunch. The parish hall was transformed into a beautiful setting. Ten elaborate and unique tablescapes were set for guests who enjoyed the presentation an entertaining and thought-provoking guest speaker, while partaking of delicious food prepared and served by members. This event promoted fellowship and fun for the women of the parish and their guest with the proceeds supporting the spiritual growth of youth through the Youth National Catholic Conference.

#### **Membership Committee Activities - Leadership**

- An authentic Italian Dinner for parish members and their guests was held to raise money to help pay the cost for CCCW members to attend the 2024 SCCCW Convention. Two thousand dollars were raised. The dinner was complete with appetizers, salad, wine, traditional Italian entrees, desserts, and decorations that made guests feel that they were in the heart of a small Italian villa. Parishioners enjoyed the fellowship while CCCW members and parish youth served them. The support of the SCCCW Convention was announced. CCCW members were able to experience spirituality, service, and leadership growth firsthand at the convention!
- CCCW set up and decorated a table for the parish-wide Ministries Drive Weekend. Members spent time greeting parishioners after each Mass and offering information about the CCCW. The many activities that the CCCW sponsored and participated in that supported the Corpus Christi Catholic Church Parish, its many ministries, and the community at large were presented.

### Membership Activity of Greatest Impact

CCCW members who attended the 2024 SCCCW Convention had their expenses supported by money raised at an annual authentic Italian Dinner event. A dinner for parish members and their guests was complete with appetizers, salad, wine, traditional Italian entrees, desserts, and decorations that made guests feel that they were in the heart of a small Italian villa. At the dinner, parishioners enjoyed the fellowship while CCCW members and parish youth served the guests. This annual event was a large undertaking for the CCCW committee but had a tremendous turnout. Funds in the amount of \$2,000 were generated to help financially support CCCW members who were given an opportunity to grow in spirituality, service, and leadership at the SCCCW convention!

### **Organization Activities – Leadership**

- The CCCW Executive Board and volunteers designed and printed a new *Member's Handbook* for distribution to new members and parishioners considering joining the CCCW. The beautiful new *Member's Handbook* included the CCCW mission statement and information about monthly meetings. It also listed all the many current activities and committees of the CCCW and included a brief description of the SCCCW, the Columbia Deanery structure, and websites.
- The first meeting of the CCCW after the summer break featured a wine and cheese reception and social for the purpose of inviting ladies in the parish and new members interested in learning more about the CCCW. The response was great. There were over 40 ladies at the event. The current members made all new and prospective members feel welcome. The Knights of Columbus, dressed in tuxedos, served the wine along with good cheer and laughter.
- At the CCCW November monthly meeting, deanery members made a presentation and welcomed open discussion about the benefits of remaining an affiliate of the Columbia Deanery. A vote was taken and the membership voted to remain as an affiliate of SCCCW.
- CCCW hosted the fall deanery meeting.

### Organization Activity of Greatest Impact

The first meeting of the CCCW after the summer break featured a wine and cheese reception and social for the purpose of inviting new members and ladies interested in learning more about the CCCW organization. The response was great. There were over 40 ladies at this event. The current members made all new and prospective members feel welcome. The Knights of Columbus, dressed in tuxedos, served the wine along with good cheer and laughter.

### **Community Activities – Service**

- CCCW held a bake sale after each Mass on a Sunday in regular time. Proceeds were given to the Assistant Ministry of the church. This Ministry assisted many in the community each month by paying for utilities, food, and needed personal care items.
- CCCW held a bake sale where parishioners donated money and baked goods. All donations went directly to support South Carolina families who had lost homes or had homes damaged by Hurricane Helene. The CCCW rounded out the donated funds. A total donation of \$2,000 was given to the Diocese for hurricane relief.

- CCCW held a baby shower for Birthright of Columbia at one monthly meeting. Monetary donations and material donations of baby clothes, diapers, bibs, and other baby essentials from members were made.
- The annual Christmas Giving Tree, organized and sponsored by CCCW, allowed the parish to support individuals in need in the community by providing clothing, toys, essential services, and direct support. The following were supported: four families in great need that included four moms, seventeen children, and two young adults; Children residing at the Nancy K. Perry Children's Shelter that provided a safe place for Lexington County children who suffered abuse, neglect, and/or abandonment; The Families Helping Families Christmas project that assisted twenty-five Lexington county residents consisting of entire families with children, adults with special needs or senior citizens; Fifty residents at the Lexington Medical Center Extended Care facility who had little to no family support; and, Corpus Christi Assistance Ministry for items in high demand or not covered by food stamps.
- At several monthly meetings, speakers were invited to inform, educate and provide awareness of services and volunteer opportunities in the community. Invited guest speakers were the Executive Director of Birthright of Columbia and representatives from the Lighthouse for Life and Sex Trafficking.
- Non-perishable food items, paper goods, laundry detergent and other items were collected for the Parish Assistance Ministry at every meeting. The meeting agenda included a friendly reminder to members. The Ministry assisted many in the community each month.

#### Community Activity of Greatest Impact

The annual Christmas Giving Tree, organized and sponsored by the CCCW, allowed the parish to support individuals in need by providing clothing, toys, essential services, and direct support. Five areas were supported: four families in great need that included four moms, seventeen children, and two young adults; Children residing at the Nancy K. Perry Children's Shelter that provided safe place for Lexington County children who had suffered abuse, neglect, and/or abandonment; The Families Helping Families Christmas project that assisted twenty-five Lexington county residents consisting of entire families with children, adults with special needs, and/or senior citizens; Fifty residents at the Lexington Medical Center Extended Care facility who had little to no family support; and, Corpus Christi Assistance Ministry for items in high demand or not covered by food stamps.

#### **Family Activities – Service**

- CCCW sponsored and organized a parish-wide traditional Easter Egg Hunt held on Easter Sunday on the parish grounds. CCCW members accepted individually wrapped candy donations from parishioners and spent a day stuffing plastic egg to hide in the field behind the parish hall. Over one thousand candy filled eggs were found by children of all ages from parish families.
- During each monthly meeting throughout the year, a jar called the Christmas Jar was placed on the sign-in table in which members could place donations that would be used to support a family or families in need. Seven hundred dollars were collected and given to a mother and her four children in December who had moved to the Lexington area to escape a very abusive marriage around 3 years earlier. Unfortunately, the father quit contributing to the financial

needs of the family after the divorce. After being homeless for about 3 months, the family moved into an apartment located in a high criminal area. The mother was diagnosed with health issues which required a hospital stay, multiple tests, and expensive prescriptions. With such hardships, the family income could not meet all the basic needs of the family. The gift from the CCCW to the family was met with humble gratitude.

#### Family Activity of Greatest Impact

The act of providing \$700 to a mother with four children who had moved to the Lexington area to escape a very abusive marriage around 3 years earlier was the activity that had the greatest impact. The husband quit supporting the family after the divorce. The mother was diagnosed with health issues. With such hardships, the family income could not meet all the basic needs of the family. The gift from the CCCW to the family was met with humble gratitude and thankfulness.



## ***St. Joseph Women's Society***

### **Church Committee Activities - Spirituality**

*Report Submitted by Julie Rotureau and Beverly Stricklin*

- SJWS planned a parish-wide farewell for Father Will Frei who was moved to St Mary's Parish in Greenville. The event was held after each Mass over the weekend of January 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.
- With an early Ash Wednesday, the Lenten Retreat was scheduled for February 18. Sister Mary Cecile, who is now in New York, led a virtual retreat entitled Embracing God's Love and Living by His Wisdom. A light lunch was served beforehand. Attendees were provided an opportunity to bring or drop off items for the Catholic Charities Clean of Heart program. Thirty two ladies of the parish attended.
- During Lent, SJWS joined forces with the Rosary Makers Group and served a Lenten Soup Supper to parishioners. As a tradition, parish ministries took turns hosting a Lenten Soup Supper.
- On May 5, the SJWS joyously attended the 12:15 pm Mass in community and then processed from the church building to the Rose Garden, led by Monsignor Harris. Marian songs were sung and prayers were prayed. The SJWS Catholic Woman of the Year, Mary Bettin, crowned a statue of the Blessed Mother. All members of the parish were invited. Approximately 100 attended. A light lunch was provided and a brief business meeting followed.
- On July 31, a baby shower to support Birthright called Women4Women was held. The usual Tea Room Luncheon was changed to this. Approximately 45 women attended. Thirty one hundred and fifty dollars were give collectively in checks, cash, and gift cards. Birthright used the gift cards as an incentive gift for clients who completed certain maternity training programs.



- In August, a baby shower was sponsored by SJWS, that gave parishioners an opportunity to drop off baby items in the narthex of the church over a 9 day period, spanning two weekends. Generous parishioners donated a carload of brand-new baby items!
- Funds were provided to cover the costs of books and study needs for Jerry White, a parishioner in the Deaconate program,
- St. Joseph Church celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary over the weekend of September 13-15. An Anniversary Mass was held on the 15<sup>th</sup>, followed by a parish wide picnic. Some SJWS members volunteered to assist with the set-up, serving, and the clean-up.
- In November, SJWS members partnered with fellow parishioners through the Devine Kitchens fall sale and planned a pay-it-forward event of cooking and selling casseroles, baked goods, canned items, and crafts. A significant amount of the proceeds was presented to the Pastor at the Annual Meeting and Luncheon in January. More than \$5,200 was raised, which exceeded all prior sales. These funds also enabled the Women's Society to commit to other Outreach Projects, including supporting Sunday Suppers for the USC Catholic student community.
- Items were collected at the December meeting for the children affected by Hurricane Helene. This meeting was a social event called Spread a Little Christmas Cheer. Attendance swelled over that of the previous year due to the popular "White Elephant" Christmas gift exchange which generated a couple of hours of laughter and socializing. Approximately 30 pairs of shoes for children and approximately 4 boxes of mittens, gloves, scarves and hats were collected. Items were delivered to St. Eugene's Catholic Church in Asheville, NC, Dec 10. The ladies of St. Eugene Church were filling 700 tags for Christmas gifts and definitely planed to use every single thing sent.
- In addition to bereavement work to support families throughout the year with gatherings after a Funeral Mass, the committee used gifted funds from families to provide for a new Cope (purchase pending), a new Paten, and an ice chest for reception use. Monsignor Harris was presented with a check for \$1,500 to offset the expenses of Bereavement.
- Members cleaned the church weekly and washed and pressed the altar linens. One member, a skilled seamstress, made replacements of certain altar linens.
- Several members participated in the parish Rosary Makers Ministry. Made annually, a monetary gift was given to help defray the cost of shipping and/or replenishing their supplies.
- As is tradition, a very tall Chrismon Tree was decorated. The Chrismon ornaments were made by the members years back. A beautiful hand made tree skirt depicting the nativity scene, made by Claire Wagner, one of the oldest and dearest members, was used.
- The Spiritual Commission Chair led the opening and closing prayers at every meeting and gathering.
- SJWS members served the parish as Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Eucharist, participated in Adoration and Bereavement work, and assisted Monsignor at Funeral Masses. One member served as Sacristan for daily Masses.

#### Church Activity of Greatest Impact

The project undertaken in December to aid those affected by Hurricane Helene was the most far reaching and season-sensitive project, next to the Box of Joy (see Service) project. The Christmas party was enjoyable but the focus was on the children. Items were gifted to the St. Eugene Church Parish in the Asheville, NC, whose ladies worked to fill 700 gift tags for recipients by Christmas. The SJWS donations of mittens, hats, gloves, scarfs, and shoes were well received and needed.

## **Legislative Committee Activities – Spirituality**

- Members followed legislative activity by reviewing emails from the SC Catholic Conference of the Diocese of Charleston. The Legislative Committee Chair, Gwen Skipper, kept the membership aware of time sensitive issues and information that came from the SCCCW and the church office.
- Members participated in the Annual State House Rally and attended one Legislative session. Both were held in Columbia.

### **Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact**

Keeping valuable information in front of the Membership was the activity of greatest impact. The Legislative information from the Diocese and SJWS Legislative Chair was disseminated quickly to members via Flocknote. Information was easily shared online, by internet links, and narrative information.

## **Membership Committee Activities - Leadership**

*Report Submitted by Julie Rotureau and Maria Carrero*

- Every opportunity was taken to keep members and other interested individuals informed by issuing a (almost) monthly newsletter, the *Mary and Martha News*. Included was a welcome letter from SJWS President, a calendar of events, bereavement information that included Mass dates and prayer intentions, deanery news, and other articles submitted by members.
- A promotional type brochure about the affiliate was given to new parishioners and made available at events and meetings. The brochure included a registration form that could be used to join.
- A registration form was included in every issue of the newsletter, *Mary and Martha News*.
- Instant email or text communication with members was made possible by Flocknote.
- The Membership Committee received information about new parishioners who were specifically interested in the SJWS. A lead committee member sent a personalized invitation to interested Catholic woman to join us at an upcoming meeting. The email and phone information of prospective members were entered in the Flocknote database which allowed the prospective member to receive current information.
- Women on the Membership Committee consistently approached Catholic women at parish events or after Mass and extended a face-to-face invitation to join SJWS.
- An updated printed Directory was provided to all members.

### **Membership Activity of Greatest Impact**

The most consistent effort of the Membership Committee was the recruitment of new parishioners who were interest to joining SJWS. Individual and direct contact fostered successful recruiting efforts.

*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*

- A Directory for the membership was printed and published that included the name of each member, her mailing address, phone number(s) and email address. Also included was a calendar of planned events, Bylaws, the current officers, committees, and responsibilities of Commission Chairs.
- Committee listings were reviewed, updated, published, and posted on the parish website. The names of each Committee Chair and her contact information was provided.
- A current membership list was maintained in the Flocknote database. This list was used to send out anything from a text reminder, a note of bereavement, deadline reminders, to a full issue of the newsletter, *Mary and Martha News*.
- Members who were willing to accept leadership positions in the SCCCW, in the Columbia Deanery, and Convention Planning Committees under the direction of deanery leaders were supported.
- A Telephone Committee was used.
- An inventory of linens and other items stored in our large closed located at the Parish Ministries and Administration Building was maintained.
- The SJWS Board met regularly. Following an agenda, recent events and activities were reviewed and plans were made for the next general meeting and other events.
- SJWS hosted the Columbia Deanery winter meeting on Sunday, February 25.
- The Columbia Deanery, hosted the March 2024 SCCCW Convention, in Columbia, SC. Many SJWS members served on various committees throughout the planning process and at the convention.

### **Organization Activity of Greatest Impact**

The importance of maintaining current data of the organization and having a Directory was realized. Members were kept informed, and the starting point for this was the Directory. It was a great tool for seeking out answers or just to checking on one another.

## **Public Relations Committee Activities - Leadership**

*Report Submitted by Julie Rotureau and Maria Carrero*

- Yearly, SJWS participated in the “Scrapbook” competition conducted at Convention. The History Committee digitized the scrapbook. The first edition was presented at the March 2024 Convention where an electronic showing was displayed.
- Communications via *Mary and Martha News* was the chief means of creating positive public relations. Information from the Deanery, SCCCW and NCCW was shared through the newsletter. This publication kept members informed of dates, deadlines, events, and opportunities.
- Periodically and prior to every deanery meeting, work was documented and a reported was given to the deanery president and the Pastor. The Affiliate Year-End Reports were published in SCCCW Commission Book. These reports were historical and used for reference.

- Invitations to events and other pertinent information were sent via Flocknote and submitted for inclusion in the parish bulletin. When possible, information was published on the social media platform of the parish.
- The Bereavement work of ministering to fellow Catholics and other Christians most in need of support was hopefully a visible living sign of the love of Christ.

#### Public Relations Activity of Greatest Impact

The one activity that had the most impact was the publishing of issues of the newsletter, *Mary and Martha News*. Each issue updated members on the current calendar, prayer requests, Mass intentions, newsworthy articles, educational articles, and documentation of events, and provided encouraging words from the SJWS President. The affiliate was quite large, yet many members were not active. The newsletter, *Mary and Martha News*, really helped to keep everyone up to date on the organization and activities.

#### **Community Committee Activities – Service**

- Many of members continued as Prayer Warriors for Birthright of Columbia. Specific prayer requests for mothers-to-be who were struggling physically or emotionally with their pregnancies or other circumstances were received by email.
- In July, a Women4Women Last Call Before Fall event was held in lieu of the traditional Tea Room Luncheon. Approximately 45 women attended. A total of \$3,150 was received in checks, cash, and gift cards. The gift cards were used as incentive gifts for clients who complete a maternity curriculum.
- In conjunction with Women4Women, a parish-wide baby shower was hosted over 9 days spanning two weekends. The narthex of the church was the collection point. The collection yielded for Birthright a carload of brand-new baby items!
- For the Box of Joy Project, funds were raised, parishioners were invited to make donations for toys, items for boxes were purchased, and 162 Boxes of Joy were filled and shipped. The Committee provided for the girls a pillowcase style dress made by members and parishioners and a t-shirt for the boys. In addition to donated items from members, funds donated by parishioners were used to purchase standardized items for the various age specific boxes and to pay for shipping. The parish was very generous in response to the invitation to donate shipping costs in honor of or in memory of loved ones. Our project continued to grow. Funds carried forward from 2023 paid for everything in 2024. Seed funds were held for 2025. The committee plans to continue participating and expand in size next year.
- Members volunteered for many community and church efforts such as Birthright of Columbia, Catholic Charities Clean of Heart program, Senior Life, and Bereavement.
- As traditional, donations for outreach programs were awarded to active groups in the area as funds permitted. Two were selected: \$750 was allocated for providing a Sunday Supper to the USC Catholic Student Community at St. Thomas More and \$450 was allocated for Jerry White, a parishioner soon to be ordained as a Permanent Deacon, to offset the cost of books and other related expenses.

## Community Activity of Greatest Impact

The most impactful activity was that of providing outreach to the community. The Sunday Supper allocation was in answer to a direct request for the St. Thomas More Parish for help. Their ministry to college age students had burst at the seams. The allocation of funds to support Jerry White, a friend studying for the Permanent Diaconate, was extremely important. Jerry White will be assigned as a deacon to the parish. SJWS was blessed and glad to provide support.

### **Family Committee Activities - Service**

*Report Submitted by Julie Rotureau and Teresa Sowers*

- Several members transported several elderly parishioners to Mass.
- Three groups of ladies participated in the Food for the Bereaved ministry and took turns providing for a reception of either a meal or refreshments following a funeral. Meals were held in Donor Hall of the Ministries Building. Meals involved setting up, serving, and cleaning up. The meal allowed families to have quality time with friends and extended families members following the funeral. If preferred, the meal was delivered to the home of a family member instead. It is hoped that a 4<sup>th</sup> group will evolve.
- As was traditional, Monsignor Harris celebrated on a day near All Souls Day a Memorial Mass for all deceased members of the parish, particularly those who had died during the past year. The Women's Society co-hosted with the Knights of Columbus a reception following the Mass. Bereaved families from the prior year were sent printed invitations. Parishioners were invited by way of the bulletin and by an invitation from Monsignor to all from the altar at Masses. The reception was coordinated by two SJWS members. The food was provided and prepared by SJWS members. The reception was enjoyed by all in attendance.
- SJWS requested that a Mass be said in memory of a member or member of her immediate family who died.
- SJWS took a turn on a Friday night in Lent hosting a Soup Supper following the Stations of the Cross. This activity supported families as it offered an opportunity to worship, to fellowship, to share a meal together, and to develop community. A collection was taken for a local soup kitchen. This was also listed as a Church Committee activity.
- On May 5, members joyously attended the 12:15 p.m. Mass in community and led by Monsignor Harris processed from the church to the Rose Garden for the May Crowning. Marian songs were sung and prayers prayed. Mary Bettin, the SJWS and Deanery CWOY crowned a statue of the Blessed Mother. Parishioners were invited via the church bulletin. Many attended. A light lunch for members and a brief business meeting followed.
- Approximately twenty of members participate in the Smile Kit outreach monthly. Cards and/or emails were sent to members unable to attend meetings or who were ill.

## Family Activity of Greatest Impact

Activities of the Bereavement Committee meant the most to the affiliate and parish. Families of the deceased were visibly affected by the actions from the committee and parish. In addition to serving the families at the height of their need for comfort, often the families returned their gratitude with a donation toward continued work. Use of these funds was restricted for outreach opportunities fully related to bereavement, thus providing a pay-it-forward trend that connected

families in a special way. Donated funds provided for the purchase of a Cope, a Paten, and a new rolling ice chest for use with receptions. Guidelines for use of the funds included the latitude to redirect or pay-it-forward for the bereaved in the parish. A stipend was given for each of the Masses said for a deceased member or for a deceased member in the immediate family of a member. In the spring, a sanctuary lamp was offered in memory of deceased members.

### **International Committee Activities - Service**

*Report Submitted by Julie Rotureau and Teresa Sowers*

- Through the participation and support of Our Lady's Rosary Makers, remote locations around the globe were reached. Rosaries were sent with parishioners making trips and pilgrimages with intent that they would be distributed. Rosaries gifted to SJWS were sent with Boxes of Joy. This ministry received funds for supplies and shipping.
- For the Boxes of Joy project, funds were raised, donations were made for shipping and for purchasing toys and contents for the boxes. An active committee oversaw the project. Some ladies gathered material and sewed sweet pillow case dresses for the little girls and purchased t-shirts for the little boys. Parishioners were invited to donate shipping funds in honor of or in memory of a loved ones. Generous donations spilled over to assist with the purchase of contents for the boxes in a big way! Each box contained a piece of clothing and surprises for good health and hygiene. By the end of the project, 162 Boxes of Joy, with standardized and appropriate age gifts, were dropped off to the destination point at SJC.

#### International Activity of Greatest Impact

The Boxes of Joy activity was the International Committee activity that meant the most. The impact was huge as it involved generosity from the SJWS, from the parish, and from Catholic Women across our Deanery, State and Nation. Boxes were filled with items that impacted many aspects of the daily lives of recipients and items were age appropriate. The children who received a box of joy experienced the joy of receiving just that one gift during Christmas that may have been a box sent from SJWS! This work made a difference.



## ***St. Martin de Porres Rosary Alter Society***

### **Church Committee Activities - Spirituality**

*Report Submitted by Delores Gilliard and Etta Harrison*

- The Rosary Alter Society members:
  - Decorated the church for Easter and Christmas.
  - Set up the Adoration Room for Lent.
  - Participated in and involved the church membership in the May Crowning of Mary.

- Set up displays for church activities during the year.
- Kept the altar and linens cleaned during the year.
- Participated in a church clean-up day twice a year.
- Maintained consistent contact with the sick/shut-ins by making phone calls, sending get well cards, making visitations, and sending text messages.
- Served as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Eucharist at Masses.
- Participated in a Miracle Eucharistic Exhibition that was held at the church.
- Maintained membership in Legion of Mary.
- Supported Church Women United with financial contributions.
- Served on the Parish Council and on the Liturgy Committee of the Parish Council.
- Served as Lectors for Masses when assigned.
- Provided spiritual readings and handouts at RAS meetings.
- Participated the Black Heritage workshop in February.
- Joined the KPC men in sponsoring items for Thanksgiving baskets for families in the community and school.
- Shared updates from NCCW to members at RAS meetings.
- Hosted a Day of Reflection sponsored by the Office of Ethnic Ministries.
- Hosted a Day of Prayer.
- Provided monthly webinars on praying the Rosary.
- Provided lunch for the Deanery Priests.
- Lead Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent.
- Provided a potluck dinner for the Eucharistic Retreat in December 2024.
- Attended the Lenten Bible Study.
- Participated in the Burning of the Mortgage Program and set up displays.
- Prepared and served lunch for a meeting of priests throughout the Diocese.
- Several members:
  - Participated in the Women's Choir on the first Sunday of each month.
  - Taught CCD classes.
  - Participated in a monthly Bible Study.
- A member:
  - Worked with students at the school on an art project and two submitted pieces of art to the St. Catherine Art Expo and Mass.
  - Was instrumental in setting up displays during Black History Month.
  - Participated with OCIA (formally RCIA) in support of candidates seeking to join the Catholic Church.
  - Hosted a combined confirmation ceremony with the Vietnamese community. Assisted by Father Michael and Father David, Bishop Jacques confirmed over thirty youth.

#### Church Activity of Greatest Impact

The most meaningful activity that took place in 2024 was the Confirmation of youth from St. Martin de Porres with youth from the Vietnamese community. The collaboration of volunteers from both communities ensured that Confirmation was successful and that the event was a memorable experience for youth, parents, and parishioners. It was truly an example of what Catholicism and multiculturalism means.

## **Legislative Committee Activities - Spirituality**

*Report Submitted by Yvonne Pygatt*

- Members disseminated non-partisan voter registration and voter education information within the church and local community.
- Members participated in phone banking prior to the presidential election and on the election day.
- A member served on the NCCW Legislative Advocacy Committee.
- A member participated in the Legislative Day at State Capitol. Information was shared during RAS meetings regarding Catholic Mobilization Service updates on death row executions. Members were encouraged to pray for those scheduled to be executed and their victims.

### **Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact**

Members participated in phone banking prior to the November 2024 election and on the day of the election. A member participated in the SC Catholics Woman's Day at the Capitol where an opportunity was provided to meet and share with state legislatures concerns of Catholics and Catholic Women.

## **Organization Committee Activities - Leadership**

*Report Submitted by Malorie Harrison*

- A yearly planning meeting was held.
- Regular affiliate meetings were held.
- A membership and information meeting for all the women of the church was organized.
- The RAS President served on the Liturgy Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Parish Council.
- Members served on SMDP School Board and on the SMDP School Alumni Foundation.
- Members served as CCW committee chairs at the deanery, state, and national levels.
- One member was president of an ecumenical group of Christian women called Church Women United.

### **Organization Activity of Greatest Impact**

The activity that had the most impact on our affiliate was the membership meeting. An invitation was extended to all the women of the church to attend a meet and greet social and information meeting. The event was held between the Masses on a Sunday in October in the cafeteria. Refreshments were served and information was shared about the RAS. Of those attending for the first time, several joined the RAS and became active participants in RAS events. One new member even traveled from out of town.

## **Community Committee Activities - Serce**

*Report Submitted by Cathy Chiles and Veronica Ramseur*

- Support was given to Birthright of Columbia.
- Donations were made to Catholic Charities, Church Women United, and to deanery projects



- Towels, bed linens, socks, and coats were donated to Providence Home for Men.
- Furniture, bedding, and clothing were donated to Family Shelter.
- Members participated in an Anti- Bullying Workshop and in American Education Week at W.A. Perry Middle School.
- Members tutored students :at two public schools.

#### Community Activity of Greatest Impact

Working with the students at W. A. Perry Middle School for Education Week had the greatest impact. One member was fluent in sign language. One member read a book to students while the other member signed.

### **Family Committee Activities – Service**

*Report Submitted by Delores Gilliard*

- RAS members, parishioners, and youth participated in Catholic workshops and webinars offered through the Diocese Catholic such as Ministries for CCD, retreats, Confirmation, and the youth conference.
- Parishioners, RAS members, youth, and the school celebrated Black History Month with presentations and displays.
- RAS members served as CCD teachers and encouraged students to participate in service-learning project throughout the community.
- RAS member provided snacks after each Sunday Mass for parishioners and families.
- The youth group met every Sunday and Thursday evening. RAS members provided lunch for the youth on Sunday afternoon. Snacks were provided on Thursday evenings for the youth.
- A RAS member chaired the annual Parish Picnic in September. It was a big hit. Members were actively involved in providing food dishes, games, entertainment, and serving parishioners and guests.
- RAS members donated to Daybreak, a Walking With Moms in Need project.
- Several RAS members worked as a committee to have a fundraiser for St. Martin de Porres School, a ministry of the church. It was a success. The event was a highlight for children, parents, and parishioners.
- RAS members participated on the St. Martin de Porres Catholic School Council and were instrumental in supporting other school activities that include chaperoning on field study trips, participating with the fall festival activities, helping with back to school bashes, and volunteering time to tutor students.
- RAS members served as classroom and after school volunteers, helping with academic assignments and teaching arts and crafts.
- Two RAS members served on the Board for the St. Martin de Porres Alumni Foundation.

#### Family Activity of Greatest Impact

The Parish Picnic meant the most because it brought the entire church together. Members from all Masses come together at one service. The youth, the elderly, and those in between enjoyed food, fun, and fellowship. Families from near and far reunited for this annual event. The RAS

played a vital role in the planning, implementation, and ensuring the success of the parish picnic.

### **International Committee Activities - Service**

*Report Submitted by Naomi Scipio and Sandra McDermott*

- The World Day of Prayer was observed.
- A donation was made to Catholic Charities through the Boxes of Joy Project.
- A RAS member provided financial assistance during the holidays to a Mexican family.
- Three RAS members volunteered to assist at the Columbia International festival on April 5 and 7.
- Two RAS members volunteered to assist at the SC Caribbean Festival June 5 through 8.

#### **International Activity of Greatest Impact**

The International activity that meant the most was participating in the Catholic Charities Boxes of Joy project for children around the world. The RAS, along with several members of the parish, filled thirty-eight boxes with toys and essential items. Completing the project was enjoyable because it provided an opportunity for members of the church to come together for a project that impacted the lives of children. Blessings were shared with others during difficult times. It was a joy to be able to bring happiness to children at Christmas time.



### ***Women in God's Service (WinGs)***

*All Reports Submitted by Jackie Chalmers*

### **Church Committee Activities – Spirituality**

Members:

- Organized and prepared refreshments quarterly for the hospitality table after Sunday morning Masses that offered parishioners an opportunity to meet and socialize.
- Started the planning process for preparing Lenten Friday Meals for the church community before Stations of the Cross.
- Sponsored and organize volunteers for the First Friday Adoration.
- Sponsored, organized, and led the first Saturday Rosary.
- Decorated the church for Christmas and Easter.
- Provided meals after funerals for families who lost loved ones.
- Provided meals for sick parishioners or their family members through a Meal Train.
- Were trained to be Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (the Body of Christ).
- Volunteered to pray Rosaries in honor of Sister Angelita Vazzano of Catholic Charities.
- Volunteered to sell OLL Christmas ornaments with proceeds earmarked for service projects.
- Participated in 40 Days for Life and spent time in prayer.
- Hosted the 2024 SCCCW Convention in Columbia.

- Staffed the registration table and sponsored a gift basket for the convention.
- Attended Mass, prayer services, and break out sessions at the convention.
- Donated \$400 to the SCCCW convention project.
- Hosted an annual meeting at OLL with lunch provided.
- Attended the Belonging Catholic Conference for Women sponsored by Heart Ridge Ministries and held at Saint Joseph's School in Greenville, SC. Members attended breakout sessions and a Mass said by Bishop Jacques Fabre-Jeune.
- Attended Cursillo and had regular meetups.
- Attended retreats at Mepkin Abbey.

#### Church Activity of Greatest Impact

The spirituality activity/project that meant the most to the affiliate was the Belonging Catholic Conference for Woman held at Saint Joseph's in Greenville. OLL had the largest group to attend the meeting. There were opportunities to grow in faith. Vendors provided Catholic apparel, jewelry, and home goods for purchase. Catholic organizations shared information about the different opportunities available across the state for woman. There were keynote speakers, breakout sessions, a wonderful lunch that gave women an opportunity to socialize and share their faith and music. Bishop Jacques Fabre-Jeune celebrated Mass.

### **Legislative Committee Activities - *Spirituality***

Members were informed about legislative issues at the SC State House.

Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact  
(Not provided.)

### **Membership Committee Activities – *Leadership***

- A membership drive was held and new members joined. The affiliate grew to forty-eight members.
- Members attended affiliate and deanery meetings.
- Membership was promoted at OLL's Hospitality Table.
- White elephant Christmas party was held to encourage/welcome new members.
- Monthly email blasts were sent transmitting information to members with a monthly newsletter in the works.
- A summer meeting of affiliate board members was held to devise a new budget and plan for the year.
- A CWOY was selected to represent WinGs at the deanery level.
- Deacon Greg Weigold presided at the initiation of new board members.

#### Membership Activity of Greatest Impact

Monthly email blasts transmitting information to members through a monthly newsletter was the most impactful activity. Membership increased. Each month, new ladies inquired about WinGs and a new member joined. WinGs is going and growing!

### **Public Relations Committee Activities – Leadership**

- WinGs and other deanery affiliates served as a host for the 2024 SCCCW Convention.

Public Relations Activity of Greatest Impact  
(Not provided.)

### **Organization Committee Activities – Leadership**

- Representatives from Catholic Charities and the Knights of Columbus spoke at meetings.
- Members served as officers of the Columbia Deanery.
- Name tags were provided at meetings. Brochures, flyers, applications, and new member forms were provided at the sign-in at events.
- A monthly agenda, minutes of the prior meeting, and a report from the treasurer were emailed to all members.

The Organization Activity of Greatest Impact

The leadership activity/project that meant the most to the affiliate was seeing the organization grow this past year. WinGs will continued to be Jesus' hands and feet in the community.

### **Community Committee Activities – Service**

- A fall fundraiser to support service efforts of WinGs was hosted at Boland House in Little Mountain, SC. Members socialized and got to know one another with future causes and charitable endeavors in mind.
- Diapers and wipes were donated to Birthright of Columbia.
- Paper goods and products were donated to We Care's Food Pantry.
- Members volunteered weekly at Clean of Heart at Catholic Charities. They washed and dried clothes for the homeless population in Columbia. Teresa Maybay from Clean of Heart was a guest speaker at a meeting. Teresa shared information on the work they do at Clean of Hearts and spoke about volunteer opportunities.
- Members volunteered to peacefully pray at Birthright of Columbia twice a week.
- The Walk for Life 5-K run/walk that supported Lighthouse for Life was promoted.
- WinGs members attended The Lighthouse for Life fundraising banquet and made donations.
- Funds for gift cards, totaling \$980 was raised for the Homeless Outreach ministry of Columbia.
- Members packed toiletries and essentials in gift bags on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Toiletries were donated to Restorative Justice.
- Members participated in OLL Senior Luncheon on the third Tuesday of each month
- Senior Outreach met and members played bingo once a month with residents at Lowman Home in Chapin.
- Thirty Christmas stockings were prepared for Lowman Home residents during the Christmas season. A musical sing along was held.

### Community Activity of Greatest Impact

Toiletries were donated to Restorative Justice. Plans were made for Shawn Roberson to speak at the January 2025 meeting.

### **Family Committee Activities – Service**

- Fifty blankets were donated to We Care for Kids and Families during the Christmas season.
- Members participated in OLL senior luncheon the third Tuesday of each month. This allowed senior adults time to socialize with parishioners and to build their faith.

Family Activity of Greatest Impact  
(Not provided.)

### **International Committee Activities – Service**

- WinGs participated in the Christmas at Sea gift box project. WinGs prepared and donated ninety-nine boxes this year for seafarers who were unable to leave their vessels for months.
- Boxes of Joy, a Cross Catholic Outreach ministry that partners with bishops, priests, religious and lay workers to help the poorest of the poor around the world, was adopted as a project. A packing party was held before the November monthly meeting. Sixty-six boxes were packed and donated.

### International Activity of Greatest Impact

The affiliate had many service projects during the Christmas season which made the selection of just one difficult. Members were a dedicated group of ladies whose motto during this season was, What More Can We Do? The following donations were made: fifty-five “We Care” blankets, 99 Seafarers’ Boxes, 66 Boxes of Joy, Birthright diapers/wipes donations, \$980.00 worth of gift cards for the homeless, and 30 Christmas stockings for Lowman Home residents. Many needs of the community were met. What a blessed group!

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

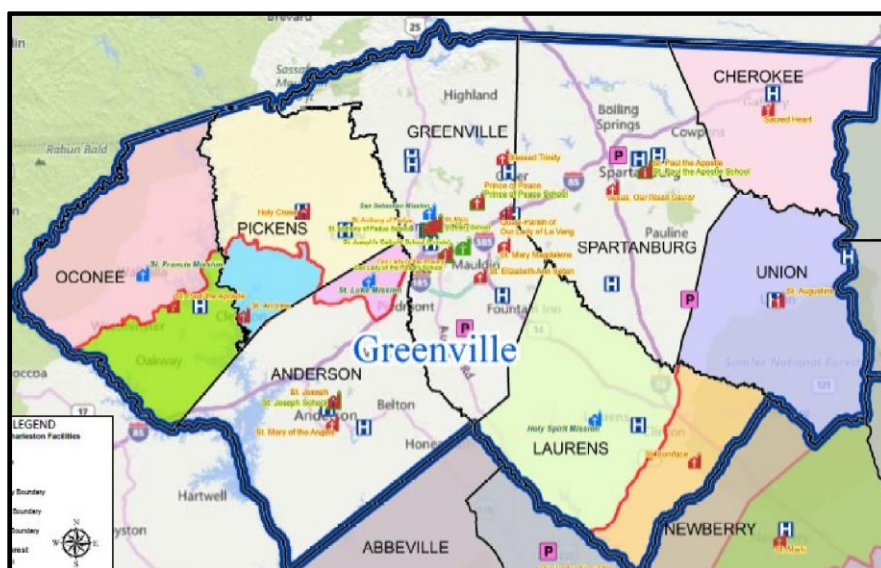
# GREENVILLE DEANERY

*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  
*Lori Grant, President*



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

# GREENVILLE DEANERY YEAR-END REPORT

Rita Brown, President

*Report By Debra Drennon (Jan.-June) and Rita Brown (July-Dec.)*

The Greenville Deanery was comprised of 173 members from two affiliated parish councils, 7 SCCCW Individual Members, and 8 Greenville Deanery Individual Members from five unaffiliated parishes. St. Anthony of Padua Women's Council had 52 members and St. Mary's Council of Catholic Women had 121 members. Eleven members served on the SCCCW Board of Directors. Activities of the Greenville Deanery follow.

On January 21, the winter meeting of the Greenville Deanery was held at St. Mary's Catholic Church. It was a planning meeting for the 2024 convention. Plans were finalized for convention ads, the Entertainment Basket, convention committees, and the purchase of gift cards.

On February 7, Lori Grant was presented as the Catholic Woman of the Year for the Greenville Deanery. Also, a slate of officers was announced and each nominee ran unopposed. Officers were installed at the convention.

On April 28, the Spring meeting of the Greenville Deanery was held at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church. There was a recap of convention events and awards.

- It was suggested that everyone sign up for the SC Catholic Conference Newsletter to be informed of legislative activities.
- The success of the Christmas at Sea project was acknowledged, and it was agreed that the program should be continued.
- A proposal was made and approved to host a Brunch and Bubbles on June 30<sup>th</sup> and to invite all Catholic women of the Greenville Deanery to be part of SCCCW.

On June 30, a Brunch and Bubbles event was held at St. Anthony of Padua Church. There were approximately forty women in attendance. Several women from parishes not affiliated with the deanery gave wonderful reports of activities of their women. The women of the Greenville Deanery participated in the Our Father Flash Events on January 20, March 15 at the Convention, May 11, August 24<sup>th</sup>, and September 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Fall October 13 meeting was postponed four times: The first time due to affiliate conflicts and three more times due to the devastation and power loss at homes and churches from Hurricane Helene. The Fall meeting was held at St. Mary's Church. St. Anthony of Padua had the parish picnic that same afternoon and attendance was low.

- Guest speakers from the Upstate Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America explained structure and purpose of the organization and the good that is offered the children in the area.
- International Chair Louise Riley provided updates on participation in the Christmas at Sea and Boxes of Joy projects.
- Church Committee Chair Srebrenka O'Steen invited all to a retreat at St. Mary's Church.
- Annette Burgess gave an update on legislative issues as elections were approaching.
- Lib Reynolds gave an update on the family concerns that the Diocese provided.

- Chair positions for Community and Membership were open to this date.

On November 15, some deanery members supported Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Upstate by attending their Pep Rally fundraiser Carolina vs. Clemson at the Embassy Suites on Verde Boulevard. All had fun.

Greenville Deanery participated in Bon Secour Festival of Trees. The assigned location was at the Marriot Court Yard downtown. Thanks go to Karen Priland and Alice Ramos for a beautiful tree.

## **Greenville Deanery AFFILIATE YEAR-END REPORTS**



### ***St. Anthony of Padua Women's Council***

#### **Church Committee Activities – Spirituality**

*Report Submitted by Carol Moeller and Mary Williams*

The Church Committee:

- Provided opening and closing prayers at each meeting as well as an aspect of spiritual life.
- Organized a committee to study Pope Francis's Laudato Si encyclical. Brochures were made available to parishioners on the principles of Laudato Si.
- Held a retreat for all women in the parish at the Monastery of St. Clare. A talk on the topic "Women of Faith" was presented by one of the Sisters.
- Participated in the St Anthony Church Ministry Fair, provided information about the council, and invited new members to join.
- Served food to bereaved families after funerals.
- Invited all women of the parish to join in the annual Hat Parade fundraiser.
- Prepared and served food at our annual Prayer Breakfast. A program was written by a member of the council and presented by members on the topic "The Woman at the Well."
- Served food to First Communion candidates and their families.
- Supported a Black History Program presented to the parish and written by a council member.

#### Church Activity of Greatest Impact

A committee studied the Laudato Si Encyclical by Pope Francis, examined possible actions and encouraged ways for members to be more environmentally responsible. Along with our Public



Relations representative, the committee developed announcements for the Church Bulletin to highlight one tip for ecological living. Attractive announcements were planned and were straightforward in presenting one tip at a time. The committee met for discussion and planning by zoom twice a month for six months. The committee also planned an Earth Day program at the parish school in which a film was presented to the entire student body. The committee visited each classroom to discuss some of the language of the environmental movement and to help students with a crossword project. The children were given seeds to take home and plant.

### **Legislative Committee Activities - Spirituality**

*Report Submitted by Carol Moeller and Mary Williams*

- Reports were given at meetings on various legislative measures.
- A group of 10 women attended the State House for Catholic Women's Day. They enjoyed an informative program and met with some legislators.

#### **Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact**

Members were kept informed of happenings by the chairperson as well as by use of Flocknote.

### **Membership Committee Activities— Leadership**

*Report Submitted by Debra Drennon and Carol Moeller*

The Membership Committee:

- Participated in church Ministry Fair.
- Provided one-on-one communication with women attendees at the fair, answered questions, and invited women to join.
- Hosted with the Greenville Deanery a Bubbles and Brunch for all parishes in the Greenville Deanery.
- Invited women in the parish to a retreat at the Monastery of St. Clare.

#### **Membership Activity of Greatest Impact**

The retreat at the Monastery had the greatest impact on those attending. The number was limited to 50 due to space constraints. The program, held in the chapel at the Monastery, was presented by Sister Bernadette on the topic "Women of Faith". Sister Bernie shared the history of the monastery and the meaning of the layout in the chapel. The Council provided box lunches. Attendees could walk the grounds and visit with one another. The Council donated \$500. Donations were also made by those who attended. The Sisters were able to replace a skylight that was leaking. Comments from attendees were positive with requests that another retreat be offered in the future.

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

## **Organization Committee Activities - Leadership**

*Report Submitted by Debra Drennon and Carol Moeller*

The Organization Committee:

- Distributed copies of the proposed SAPWC Bylaws to members for discussion and amended the Bylaws at a meeting.
- Provided a retreat at the Monastery of St Clare for women in the parish.
- Invited women of the parish to participate in the Hat Parade fundraiser.
- Ruffled a Valentine Basket to raise money for the SCCCW convention.
- Provided a basket for auction at the school gala. The money raised supported scholarships for children to attend St Anthony's school.
- Purchased an advertisement in the SCCCW Convention Book.
- Served lunch to those making their First Communion and their families.

### **Organization Activity of Greatest Impact**

The lunch provided for First Communicants and their families was a time for the council to show all ages the importance of acknowledging growth in the church. Appreciation was expressed to the CCD staff and the parents for their commitment to the classes. It was important to support Communicants and to rejoice in this step of their faith.

## **Public Relations Committee Activities – Leadership**

*Report Submitted by Carol Moeller*

All notices of upcoming meetings, presentations, or announcements were publicized in the Church Bulletin and on Flocknote.

Public Relations Activity of Greatest Impact  
(Not provided.)

## **Community Committee Activities - Service**

*Report Submitted by Carol Mueller and Jessie Bowens*

- Boxes of food were given to five families in the community. The boxes contained all items necessary for a Christmas dinner.
- Wintry weather clothing items were given to the St. Anthony Food Pantry for distribution to the homeless or needy.
- Clothing items were given to Safe Harbor, Sans Sebastian Catholic Church, and Step by Step.
- The Women's Council served food at the community picnic held on the church campus.
- An annual Prayer Breakfast and program were held for the parish. Breakfast was home made and served to those who attended.
- Back to school items were provided for children attending the parish school.
- The Annual Black History Program was held.

### Community Activity of Greatest Impact

The St. Anthony of Padua Parish is located in a poor area of Greenville. Most people who came to the Parish Food Pantry were homeless or were from nearby housing. The warm clothes offered them such as coats, hats, gloves, socks and shoes made a tremendous difference in their quality of life. This was relayed by those who received those items.

### **Family Committee Activities - Service**

*Report Submitted by Carol Moeller and Jessie Bowens*

- Boxes of food for five families were provided.
- Members served food at the Community Picnic at St Anthony of Padua Church.
- A fall bake sale was held.
- A Father's Day Breakfast was held.
- Repasts were held for families of deceased members of the parish after funerals.
- Food was served to the children who received their First Communion and to their families after the service.

### Family Activity of Greatest Impact

The prayer breakfast, an annual event at the parish, was well attended because of the home cooked breakfast served and especially for the program presented. One member wrote the program and others present it. This year the theme was "The Woman at the Well". The acting and props helped tell the story. Many of those attending praised the program presented.

### **International Committee Activities – Service**

*Report Submitted by Carol Moeller*

- The Council participated in the Christmas at Sea project at Christmas.
- Prayer cards were shared of the Patron Saint of Sudan, St Josephine Bakhita. Her feast day was February 8<sup>th</sup>. It was a day of prayer and awareness of Human Trafficking.

### International Activity of Greatest Impact

A program was presented to Council members that shared how women become victims of human trafficking. Because of the location of Greenville along the interstate between Atlanta and Charlotte, a high number of women are affected. A group went to lunch at a Greenville restaurant that was staffed by women formerly trafficked to show support those who are no longer victims of human trafficking.



# ***St. Mary's Council of Catholic Women***

## **Church Committee Activities – Spirituality**

*Report Submitted by Srebrenka O'Steen*

- The members of SMCCW prayed the Rosary as a group before each monthly membership meeting.
- The members of SMCCW closed each monthly membership meeting with a prayer.
- For the first time, members of SMCCW prepared Epiphany Home Blessing Packets and distributed 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, from which to choose. The Council also served as a vendor at this conference selling stained glass ornaments, notecards, and cookbooks.
- The affiliate provided volunteers with help in preparing and serving light suppers on each Friday of Lent following the Stations of the Cross devotion held in the church.
- Members were present at both the spring and fall 40 Days for Life campaigns and prayed for the unborn threatened by abortion.
- A Bereavement Committee member contacted the family of a council member when a family member passed. Meals were provided and Mass Cards prepared. A donation was made to a charity at the request of each council member who had a loved one pass away. Sadly, a long-time council member, Marie-Therese Isidore, 96, passed away this year.
- A Mother -Daughter Tea was planned and hosted in April and was attended by 80 Mothers and Daughters from St. Mary's as well from as other local parishes. The theme was "To Jesus through Mary: How Authentic Femininity, Christ and Our Blessed Mother Shape Our Vocations". Wife and mom Kathleen Billings and Dominican Sister Anna Sophia shared their vocation stories with attendees.
- The Catholic Woman of the Year Committee, which consisted of the three most recent CWOY recipients, received nominations from the membership, reviewed the criteria, selected a winner, obtained the award pin, and created a written report to present to the pastor for approval. The award was presented to Lib Reynolds at the Spring Luncheon.
- For the first time, the members of SMCCW initiated a Corpus Christi Procession on June 1st after the 5 pm Mass. In collaboration with clergy and other ministries of the parish, a beautiful procession was provided and was followed by the Parish Picnic. Over 300 parishioners attended.
- SMCCW held a Fall Women's Retreat on October 19 in Pazdan Hall at St. Mary's Catholic Church. The Fall Women's Retreat titled "Two Most Holy Hearts" featured two speakers and ended with a guided tour of St. Mary's Church.
- A Christmas Angel was awarded an Angel pin by our President at the Christmas Luncheon. Established in 1993, this award is presented to a council member who works quietly behind the scenes, showing love and concern for members, friends, and family members.
- Inspiring speakers at monthly membership meetings helped nourish spiritual life.
  - Legislative Affairs Specialist for SC Catholic Conference, Anna Kelly gave a Diocesan legislative update.
  - Deacon John Heuser, from St. Mary's Church spoke on the topic "St. Mary's Parish: A Look Back and a Glimpse of the Future."

- Father Frei shared his vocation story and his role at St Mary's Church.
- Mrs. Susan Leong spoke on how her faith played a role in her military service as a navy nurse.
- Lt. Governor Pamela Evette shared information about her faith.

### Church Activity of Greatest Impact

The SMCCW Fall Women's Retreat had the greatest impact on the members of SMCCW. The theme of the retreat originated from a St. Mary's parishioner and seminarian, Fr. Peter O'Steen, who was ordained to the priesthood in the Diocese of Charleston on the feast day of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

After discussions with the Church Committee, it was realized that the full name of the church was Saint Mary Our Lady of The Sacred Heart. The Title for the retreat developed: "The Two Most Holy Hearts". When talking about the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary is inseparable from Her Son's Sacred Heart. Two speakers were invited. The retreat opened with praying the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary. Dr. Joe Beauchemin, MA in theology, talked about the Biblical perspective of the Two Most Holy Hearts. The title of his talk was "The Intertwined Hearts Of Jesus and Mary in Sacred Scriptures." Chiara Braud, a wife, mother, and teacher, spoke on the two Holy Hearts throughout history and our relationship to the two Holy Hearts. The title of her talk was; "Uniting Our Hearts to the Two Holy Hearts." The Fall Women's Retreat also included the tour of Saint Mary's Church by Deacon John Heuser.

### **Legislative Committee Activities - Spirituality**

*Report Submitted by Susanne Wolfe*

- Information was sent to members from the South Carolina Catholic Conference that encouraged members to contact their legislatures on issues.
- Anna Kelly from the South Carolina Catholic Conference was a guest speaker at a membership meeting in January. She provided an update on issues the diocese was working on as well as invited us to attend the Catholic Women's Day at the Capital.
- On February 28 approximately fifty-five women from around the state attended Catholic Women's Day at the Capital. Eight St. Mary's council members were joined by two ladies from the deanery, including the Deanery President, Debra Drennon.
- Mary Nemeth, Major Gifts and Special Events Officer with the Bishop's Office at the Diocese, was the April guest speaker. She encouraged all to be vigilant and speak up for the Catholic faith. She talked about the importance of Catholic Schools and the need to support school choice. She shared plans for another St. Clare's Home in the state and how important it was to support life and to work to end human trafficking.
- The October meeting guest speaker was Susan Leong, a new council member who was the parish school nurse. She spoke of her military heritage. She served in the United States Navy as a nurse and where she met her husband. Her father was in the Airforce and instilled in his children the love of country as well as the love of God. She was very inspirational. She shared that her faith guided her in her career to serve others.

- The S.C. Lt. Governor, Pamela Evette, was the guest speaker at the November meeting. She shared information about her life as a public service and how it felt to be one of the four Catholic government officials. She also shared how her faith guided her decisions.

### Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact

SMCCW was honored and pleased to have the S.C. Lt. Governor Pamela Evette as the speaker at the November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. All meeting: 35 ladies were in attendance. about herself, her family, and how she Her grandparents immigrated to the grandmother instilled in her the us about serving as Lt. Governor and support of her family. Her daughter, who recently completed law school, joined her at the council meeting. She encouraged all to become involved in local communities and stand up for our faith and values. She also spoke of the importance of voting and ensuring that children and grandchildren were registered voters so that they could exercise their civic duty. Mrs. Evette is a member of Prince of Peace Church in Taylors and lives in Travelers Rest. Many council members left inspired.



seats were filled at the council The Lt. Governor shared information became involved in public service. United States from Poland, and her importance of service. She talked to how important it was to have the

### **Organization Committee Activities - Leadership**

*Report Submitted by Nancy Carrano*

#### **Bylaw Revisions**

- Council Bylaws and Standing Rules were updated.
- All job descriptions for officers, commissions and commission committees, standing and special committee were updated, approved, and compiled in a manual.
- The Parliamentarian created Standing Rules for Meetings to be used at board and membership meetings for them to run more efficiently. They were approved by the board and the membership.
- Criteria for the Visitation Award were developed to give it a more defined rubric for those nominating a member and evaluating a nominee.

#### **Leadership**

- A Board Transition Meeting was held during the summer to provide guidance to new board members assuming new leadership roles.
- The President met with the spiritual advisor and pastor, Fr. Newman, to gain approval of the calendar and guest speakers, and to propose two new events, the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Processional and Parish Picnic. Both events were designed to help grow the spirituality and sense of community among our members and parishioners.
- Monthly board meetings were held to plan the programs and projects of the Council.
- The board made the decision to increase membership dues after 10 plus years of them remaining the same.
- The Council President held meetings with Commission and Commission Committee chairs to plan and guide projects.

- The Council President selected Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal stained glass window from the church for the 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Ornament Fundraiser. An additional 50 ornaments were order this year and all but 5 sold.
- In addition to selling the 2024 ornament, an electronic form was created for people to view past ornaments in inventory with an option to purchase those as well. This helped reduce the inventory from 90 to 42 ornaments.
- The Council collaborated with the parish school to create a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary ornament for the council and a 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary ornament for our school next year. They will be sold together at a discount or individually at the regular price.
- A \$1000 Scholarship was awarded to a deserving young lady from the parish who was continuing her education. She was invited to Spring Luncheon where she was presented the award.
- Near the end of the fiscal year, the Executive Board met to determine the end of year benevolent giving recipients. Members had an opportunity to suggest charities for the council to support. Charities receiving the most votes from Executive Board members were selected. Over \$5,000 were donated to local charities due to the success of events and the generosity of parishioners and council members.
- SMCCW hosted two Greenville Deanery meetings on the campus of St. Mary's Church.
- SMCCW provided the clergy and religious sisters at St. Mary's with Christmas gifts.
- SMCCW collected and delivered food and monetary donations to the Poor Clare's Monastery. There are currently seventeen sisters in residence at the Monastery in Travelers Rest.

### **Mentoring Programs**

- A mentorship program was developed to help new members become integrated into the Council. The Membership Chair sent a welcome note to all new members and called to ask if there were questions. The new member application was reviewed and if one expressed interested in helping in a particular area, the information was passed along to the appropriate Commission or Committee Chair for her to contact the new member.
- A Bunco Night was held in September to welcome new members into the Council and help them become integrated into the group. It was well attended and enjoyed by all.

### **Organization Activity of Greatest Impact**

For the first time in over 20 years the parish held a Eucharistic Procession and Parish Picnic on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. The the SMCCW. Members and other clergy to ensure the committee was formed of council Columbus, and a Youth Director to and that the event would be well SMCCW members volunteered. Parishioners and the Knights of Columbus well supported the event. There was a beautiful, sacred procession after Mass with more than 300 parishioners participating. At the conclusion of the procession and benediction, parishioners enjoyed games and a delicious meal on the parish lawn. The pastor approved the request from the Council to repeat the event the following year.



event was suggested and planned by collaborated closely with the Pastor success of the event. A planning members, office staff, Knights of ensure that all details were covered attended and supported. Many

## **Public Relations Committee Activities - Leadership**

- The Membership form was updated. The form contained a QR code which took one to the Council webpage on the parish website. Members could access valuable information about the council.
- A Meet & Greet was held in August after all the Masses to recruit new members. Tri-fold presentation boards highlighted activities and events.
- Membership forms were available at all events. As a result, the member count increased to 127.
- The Council brochure was updated to include the new membership fee and commemorate 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council. The brochure was included in the Welcome Packet that was given by the parish to new parishioners.
- The webpage was updated regularly. More information was added that aided in recruiting potential members. Links were made to the new brochure, membership form, registration forms for current events, and the application form for the annual Scholarship.
  - Beautiful, colorful announcements for use in the parish weekly bulletin were produced using the CANVA program. The announcements served to encourage participation in Council events by the wider parish community of women and to recruit members. The announcements included invitations to meetings and to upcoming events.
- The Social Media Chair made Facebook and Instagram posts with photos about meetings and events. She also highlighted holy days and shared other church events as needed.
- Announcements were sent other parishes for inclusion in their bulletins to advertise events such as Fall Retreat and Mother Daughter Tea.
- Catholic Radio announced events to the community.
- The following publications and actions assured the successful organization and management of Council and its programs:
  - A Calendar of Events emailed to members and updated as needed throughout the year.
  - An Agenda of upcoming business meetings emailed to members prior to monthly business meetings.
  - Minutes of monthly business meetings and Treasurer's reports emailed to all members.
  - Printed membership directory provided to all members which contains all members contact information, a picture if provided, listing of all former Presidents, Catholic Woman of the Year, Visitation Award Recipients, Christmas Angels, and Nineties Club members. It also contained the Bylaws and Standing Rules, officers, organizational chart, and calendar of events for the year.
  - Reminders of events and meetings emailed to members as needed.
  - Quarterly newsletter from the Council President emailed to members.
  - Sign-up Genius emailed for volunteer requests and food sign-ups as needed with reminders when dates were near.

### **Public Relations Activity of Greatest Impact**

Creating eye-catching colorful announcements for inclusion in the parish bulletin to invite ladies from the parish to join council meetings and events had a positive impact on the council. Ladies came to monthly meetings or luncheons and joined our council as a result. Monthly spotlights on work done in different commissions was done. Thank you notes were provided to parishioners for



their support with events. As a result, feedback was received from men and women parishioners on the positive work done in the parish and community.

## **Membership Committee Activities– Leadership**

*Report Submitted by Marge Scieszka*

- At the 2024 SCCCW Convention the SMCCW was honored to earn the Ruth Schachte Perpetual Silver Punch Bowl Membership Award for a 49.4 % increase in membership. The bowl has been displayed at events this year to share the accomplishments of the council with others.
- A Mother Daughter Tea was held in April and the Ruth Schachte Bowl held the food table. Mothers and daughters parishes attended the event. The Council as well as the importance of attendees.
- A beautiful floral arrangement on from the parish and surrounding wonderful work of our State having affiliates was shared with
- The membership form was updated this year, giving it a fresh new look and adding a QR code as means for new and returning members to pay their dues. If scanned, the QR code will take one to the webpage on the church website, where one can learn more about the council, have access to important forms, and access Facebook page and Instagram handles.
- Membership dues were raised to \$20 to keep up with rising costs of supplies necessary to operate as a council.
- A Meet and Greet was held in August to welcome new members and visit with current members. Baked goods, coffee and tea were served. Display boards with information about all our committees were exhibited. Eight new members joined.
- Membership forms were available at all events and recruitment was ongoing. Twenty-three new members joined the council throughout the year.
- At each membership meeting, signup sheets were available for individuals to sign up to participate on committees and commissions. Members who indicated interest in a particular event or committee were contacted by the Committee Chairs to get new members involved and active in the council.
- A Welcome New member night was held successfully in September. Wine and hors d'oeuvres were served, and new and returning members enjoyed fellowship while playing Bunco.
- A Birthday Committee sent to each member a birthday card during her birthday month.
- Fr. Frei, a new priest to the parish, was invited to speak at the first meeting of the year. He shared his journey of becoming a priest. The Council shared its work and goals with him.



### **Membership Activity of Greatest Impact**

Over the past year ladies of the parish have been invited to membership meetings and events. The event that gained the most non-members this year was a Mother Daughter Tea that was hosted in April. The event was advertised within the parish as well as other parishes in the upstate. The response of ladies and their daughters to this lovely event was overwhelming. Twenty-three ladies who attended were not members of the council. That was 39% of the total adults in attendance!

Council members elegantly decorated the tables with flowers, teacups, and Marian images on each table. Tea was served guests by members and a lovely buffet of tea sandwiches, desserts and fruits was created by council volunteers was available. The buffet centerpiece was the beautiful Ruth Schachte Perpetual Silver Bowl filled with a lovely floral arrangement. The theme of the afternoon tea was *To Jesus through Mary – How Authentic Femininity, Christ, and Our Blessed Mother Shape our Vocations*. Kathleen Billings, author, speaker, wife, and mother spoke on her vocation as a wife and mother. Sr. Anna Sophia, Dominican Sister of St Cecilia & St. Mary's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher spoke on her calling to the religious life. The proceeds (\$780) from the Mother Daughter Tea ticket sales were donated to St. Clare's Home and Birthright.

### **Community Committee Activities - Service**

*Report Submitted by Lisa Marlo Bethea*

- The Sewing Ministry and St. Anne's Stitchery were subunits of the Community Committee.
  - The Sewing Ministry sewed beneficial items that were donated to local and international charitable organizations that distribute them to needy children and adults. Items sewn included fleece mittens, baby quilts, pillowcases, fleece blankets, and teddy bear stuffed animals.
  - The St. Anne's Stitchery knitted or crocheted a total of items 546 as itemized below. 410 hats of which 380 were chemo hats for the Neighborhood Cancer Connection, 15 baby/lap blankets, 73 scarves, 44 pocket crosses, 9 mittens, 3 headbands, 5 animal toys, and five neck cowl.
  - Sewn, knitted, and crocheted items were distributed to the following charities. Birthright of Greenville, A Child's Haven, Greenville Post Acute Care, Catholic Charities, St. Clare's Home, Pendleton Place, Boxes of Joy, Charleston Port Seafarers Society, Women's Cancer Center, Piedmont Women's Center, and Miracle Hill Ministries. Additionally, four huge bags of crocheted or knitted items were sent to Hurricane victims in North Carolina.
- Members volunteered at Our Lady's Pantry of Catholic Charities Upstate and the Catholic Clothing Closet, Mon-Thu each week from 9 a.m.- 1p.m., ranging from 2-6 volunteers per day. Clients were assisted with food selections and clothing selections. Members assisted with keeping the Clothing Closet organized.
- Throughout each month the Council collected feminine hygiene items and food items for Catholic Charities Our Lady's Food Pantry. A different item was collected at each monthly membership meeting.
- Food items and monetary gifts were given to The Poor Clares of Travelers Rest. There were 17 sisters in residence at the Monastery in 2024.
- After each Mass on January 6 and 7, Epiphany House Blessing Kits were distributed to parishioners. The kits contained a tri-fold brochure of the Epiphany House Blessing prayers and songs, blessed chalk, and a vial of Holy Water. Six hundred kits were distributed.
- A Mamma Mia Spaghetti dinner was held on February 10 for parishioners. One hundred and seventy one adults and children were served. Clergy and office staff were invited as guests.
- SMCCW members were invited to attend the Cabrini Movie at a local theater as a group on March 9. The movie was attended by seven of members.
- The first annual Mother-Daughter Tea was held on April 27. The theme was "Celebrating Authentic Femininity". Eighty ladies from St. Mary's and other parishes attended. Guests

enjoyed wonderful food, fellowship and inspiring talks from Sr. Anna Sophia and wife, mother and national speaker and author, Kathleen Billings.

- A Corpus Christi Procession was held after the 5 p.m. Mass on June 1 followed by a Parish Picnic. Over three hundred parishioners and their families attended both events.
- The council participated in the Bon Secours Festival of Trees in December. Council members decorated a Christmas tree at the Courtyard Marriot in downtown Greenville and the theme of the tree was “Peace.” Council members created doves using all sorts of media. The tree was interactive, meaning paper doves were left for passersby to add their sentiments of peace on the tree.
- Giving Tree for Generations Group A tree was set up during the Bake Sale on December 7 and 8. One hundred tags were prepared: sixty tags for specific needs and 40 Amazon tags. All but four tags were taken by our parishioners to be returned December 9 - December 20th.

#### Community Activity of Greatest Impact

In early September, the St Anne’s Stitchery received a request of 340 chemo hats from Greenville Junior League representative Lib Reynolds (also a SMCCW Board member). The project needed to be completed by mid-November as the Junior League was assembling gift bags for the Neighborhood Cancer Connection to provide each Cancer patient with a Christmas gift. The sewing ministry, stitchery ministry, and 11 volunteers collaborated to accomplish the goal by the target date. More hats were made than needed. Deacon John Heuser blessed all the hats before they were delivered to the Cancer patients.

#### **Family Committee Activities - Service**

*Report Submitted by Lib Reynolds*

- Using the Diocesan Office of Family Life Calendar, the Deanery Respect Life Committee Calendar, and word of mouth as a guide, a monthly calendar of Family Life Events and Activities was created. This calendar focused on local, regional, state, or web related offerings. Details, contact information, and costs were provided in all the events. The wide range of issues the Family Life Committee supported included youth, elderly, widowed, singles, married life, grieving, and the parish family. The calendar was updated monthly and distributed at the Council meetings. Finally, the Office Of Family Life Calendar website was featured on every updated calendar so members could explore for more information, add events to the state calendar, and share with anyone who may have missed a meeting.
- Annette Burgess was presented with The SMCCW Visitation Award at the Spring Luncheon for her extraordinary work. This pro-life award, established in 2022, honors a recipient who exhibited extraordinary service to others as exemplified in the actions of the Blessed Mother going in haste to serve her cousin Elizabeth. Annette researched, developed, and implemented the USCCB “Walking with Moms In Need” program in exhaustive detail. As a result, she created a notebook that lists all the resources available in our area for pregnant women as well as recruiting others to help with medical care, professional counseling, how to access material needs, and has an online presence to make the program easily accessible. This program has become the model and a resource for the deanery and is a resource used by St. Clare’s home in Greenville.

- In September, the Vice-Principal and religion teacher for the parish school spoke at a council meeting about a Middle School Bible Study that had been offered for girls the previous year. The Bible study was offered before school each week. As some council members supported the program the prior year, a request was made to support the Bible Study program again through prayer and monetary donations. Council members were so impressed by the program and the positive feedback shared by the Vice-Principal that over \$1,000 were donated to offset the cost of the Bible Study Kits.
- The Council supported the parish youth group, the school, and two new parish programs, Fidelis and Fraternus, through prayers and financial donations. Fidelis is a Catholic program for girls in the 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade teaching them to live out their Feminine Genius through teaching virtue, Bible Study, and mentorship. Some council members are Fidelis mentors. Fraternus is the male component of Fidelis, teaching the virtues rooted in Christ as the path to authentic manliness.
- A meeting was held to bring together the members of the Respect Life Committee to establish a renewed focus on this committee. The Respect Life Ministry held a kickoff meeting in February and announced new initiatives. These included but were not limited to Baby Bottle Boomerang for Birthright, a Rosary for Life on a routine basis, and the establishment of a Newsletter that will be added to St. Mary's website. With input of the pastor, the establishment of an on-campus memorial to the unborn was being explored. The ministry served as a conduit of Respect Life information and activities from the deanery to our council and parish.
- The National Eucharistic Renewal, Pilgrimage, and Congress was featured monthly ending in May of 2024. Recommending and providing books, websites, and videos that focused on the reality of Christ in the Eucharist was part of that initiative. Using material from the National Eucharistic Renewal website, members were given information on planning their own personal pilgrimage, attending the Congress in person, or following it online. In addition, members were encouraged to participate in the parish Eucharistic Procession on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. Members were informed that the year was considered the year of mission with the personal project of Walk With One as the featured outreach effort of the Congress. This outreach was designed to draw the fallen away back to the faith. Information on this project was provided to every member.

#### Family Activity of Greatest Impact

Based on feedback, focus on the National Eucharistic Renewal had the most effect to date. Feedback came from members who attended the Congress, members who asked to read the books that were made available, two members who said they sent books to their children after hearing about them at a Council meeting, and those who stated they watched the entire Congress on television because of hearing about it at the Council meetings. One member had her entire family watch it and they were amazed at the power of the speakers. Finally, non-members heard about it and watched the videos online of the speakers and were powerfully impacted sharing them with friends and bible studies as well. Council members and their families participated in the Eucharistic Procession on the church campus for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, which took place after the 5:00 p.m. Mass. Many were moved to tears during the sacred procession, and many said it brought back memories from childhood processions. It was a sacred and reverent event, and everyone surely knew that Jesus was present in our midst.

## **International Committee Activities - Service**

*Report Submitted by Courtney Plyler*

- Invited membership to make a Lenten contribution to Widows of Odisha or the Lenten program of Cross Catholic Outreach.
- Participated in the Cross Catholic outreach Boxes of Joy project. Collected 29 Boxes of Joy as well as donated handmade hats, angels, and hand warmers made by St. Anne's Stitchery.
- Participated in Seafarers' Christmas at Sea project by collecting 51 wrapped boxes of necessities for the seafarers and donated handmade neck warmers made by St. Anne's Stitchery.
- Decorated a Christmas Tree that was on display at a Greenville hotel. The theme of the tree was Peace. The chair of our Festival of Tree Committee wanted to promote peace in the community as well as around the world.

### **International Activity of Greatest Impact**

The Seafarers' Christmas at Sea project was chosen again because the men looked so happy to receive their boxes in photos from last year. Despite this being a hard year for many, the Service Commission was happy to participate in this project once again. One of our members commented about the men that "they are the forgotten, and we cannot let these seafarers be forgotten".



***'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

*Mary Houde Mann, Deanery President*



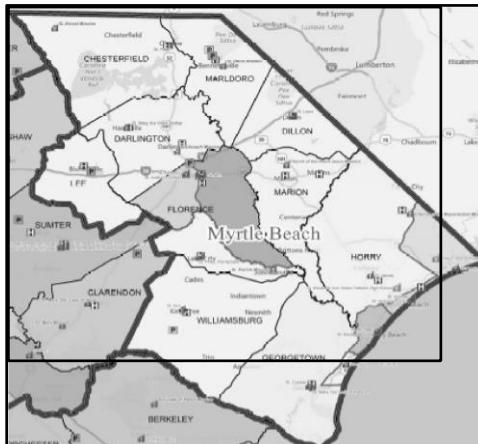
*Mary passed away in November 2024.  
May her soul rest in peace with our Lord.*

## 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 Bleakney, President*



# MYRTLE BEACH DEANERY YEAR-END REPORT

The Myrtle Beach Deanery consists of 3 affiliates totaling 175 affiliate members and 3 SCCCW Individual Members. Two members served on the SCCCW Board of Directors. One also served as the Province of Alanta Director and was on the NCCW Board of Directors. No report was received due to the death of Deanery President Mary Mann. Sincerest condolences are expressed to the family of Mary and to the Myrtle Beach Deanery membership.

## MYRTLE BEACH AFFILIATE YEAR-END REPORTS



### ***Our Lady Star of the Sea Ladies Guild***

*All Reports Submitted by Anita LeVan*

#### **Church Committee Activities – Spirituality**

The Church Committee and members:

- Volunteered to work daily in the OLSS gift shop to assist visitors and parishioners in finding the perfect gifts for all ages. Money raised went to the church and the Ladies Guild for donations to charities and scholarships to children of the parish. The gift shop was the largest on the Grand Strand. Books in English and Spanish were carried which included Bibles (children, adult, and family), Missals, daily prayers, meditation, religious novels, and other faith-based books. The store carried a variety of religious merchandise including prayer cards, rosaries and accessories, seasonal items, crosses, statues and medals, wall crucifixes, and a host of other items. The Facebook account was constantly updated.
- Hosted a Church Mission with Father Leo Patalinghug for three nights and assisted in selling cookbooks and merchandise for him.
- Participated in a Rosary devotion prior to a funeral and in the funeral Mass for each deceased member.
- Held monthly first Friday memorial Masses for deceased members.
- Participated in Bible study on the Psalms and the Gospel of Saint Luke.
- Participated in the Light of the World retreat, a three-day event.
- Provided each member with a rosary. Prayed a decade at each meeting.
- Implemented a prayer list book, which was signed by members before each meeting.
- Signed up for adoration during advent, and encouraged participation throughout the year.
- Provided each First Communicant with a Mass book and communion pin this year. There were 44 communicants.

- Provided a dove tree for the OCIA participants, which provided prayer and encouragement for continuing their journey as they come into the Catholic Church.
- Participated as Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at each Mass.
- Participated in the Eucharistic Revival Retreats at the parish and adoration through advent.

#### Church Activity of Greatest Impact

It was a pleasure and privilege to be a small part of the journey of OCIA candidates and First Communicants, to see adults and children receive their first communion, and to know that their journeys will continue with the prayers of the community and with an invitation to participate in activities.

The gift shop had a huge impact on visitors and residents as it reached far beyond the borders of the Grand Strand. Volunteers assisted in finding the perfect gift while talking with visitors and new residents about the church and community.

### **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 was 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 deanery was optional for OLSS Ladies Guild members. Even though the guild had 155 members, there were 46 deanery members. In 2024, the Myrtle Beach Deanery membership grew over 40%.
- Members received communications about meetings and special requests via e-mail. An optional private Facebook group was available for those who engaged in social media.
- A membership directory was published every two years. Deanery members were noted on the Roster.

#### Membership Activity of Greatest Impact

Effective promotion from Deanery members helped increase the number of Guild members who paid extra dues to join the Deanery.



### **Organization Committee Activities – Leadership**

- The Ladies Guild held monthly morning meetings from September through May following the 9:00 a.m. memorial Mass for deceased members. Meeting attendance ranged between 50 and 70 ladies. Often guests came. Prior to the business meeting, light breakfast refreshments were provided. After time for socializing, the meeting started with a prayer. A decade of the Rosary was said. At monthly meetings, there was a guest speaker, usually a representative from one of the charities supported by the Guild. Members brought donations based on the items most in need by that charity. A small donation was made which was in addition to donations made at the end of the fiscal year.
- The final meeting of the fiscal year, held in June, was more elaborate. Over two hundred people attended the event, the largest ever. A special brunch and a fashion show were held. Officers elected at the May meeting were installed. Key charities were presented with checks.
- The Sunshine Committee ensured that any member who suffered from illness, had a death in the family, or was affected by a special circumstance received a card or a Mass card. Members responded to requests for rides, meals, or other support for sisters in need. Prayers were always generously provided.
- Elected officers met prior to monthly meetings when a meeting was needed.

#### **Organization Activity of Greatest Impact**

Supporting sisters in need and being there to help them had the greatest impact.

### **Public Relations Committee Activities – Leadership**

- Brochures about the Ladies Guild and the SCCCW were available in the New Member Packet.
- Deanery business was addressed at monthly meetings and guests were encouraged to join.

#### **Public Relations Activity of Greatest Impact**

Being able to share examples of good works done by the SCCCW had the greatest impact.

### **Community Committee Activities – Service**

- The Ladies Guild worked tirelessly in helping the church, community, hospitals, hospice center, assisted living, local groups, and international groups.
- The prayer shawl ministry made the following items: hats, scarves, gloves, baby outfits, baby blankets, lap robes, fidget blankets, shawls, hand towels, wash cloths, pocket prayer squares and many other items. The items were distributed to the Felician Sisters at Kingtree, Abigail's Place in Swannanoa, NC (following the devastation from Hurricane Helene), McLeod Sea Coast and Loris Hospitals for homebound people, Welcome Home Veterans Tiny Homes, DSS foster care children, Senior Care assisted living facilities, Children's Recovery Center, the Family Justice Center of Georgetown, Horry Counties Outreach, and individuals who made personal requests.

- The Senior Care committee provided pen pals for assisted living residents at River Park, New Haven, and Legacy. Christmas Cards were sent to residents. Candy bags for bingo gifts and Holy Communion were taken to residents.
- A monthly collection was taken up for separate groups in the community that needed items. Recipients were Julie's 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.
- In January, a Jack Frost Luncheon was held which was opened to all the women of the church.
- In February, a card party was held. The proceeds were given to Camp Chemo, Mobile Meals, Sea Haven House, and The Rape Crisis Center. A Souper Bowl and book sale were held. Half of the proceeds were given to the Family Justice Center. Members participated in the Friday Lenten fish fry for the parish.
- In March, four members attend the State SCCCW Convention. The Lenten Fish Fry continued and members continued to pray for the OCIA class. Clothing and linens were donated to Kingstree Felician Center.
- In April members participated in the 3-day Light of the World Retreat for spiritual growth. A dinner was made for Sea Haven. A parish retreat was held with Father Leo Patalinghug from the 27<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>. Members assisted him in selling books and products.
- In May, a Mother's Day bake sale was held with proceeds given to North Strand Housing Center.
- A May crowning was held on May 3 after the 9 a.m. Masses. Charities were invited to the first Charity Gathering Breakfast on May 21. Checks were handed out and an opportunity for networking was available for local charities to introduce themselves to each other. The forty-four students who made their First Communion were provided Mass books and crosses. Parishioners were invited to donate to the Family Justice Center.
- In June, the year luncheon and fashion show from Chicos was held. The Gift Shop presented Father Ray with an annual donation from proceeds, which was over and above the \$16,000 he had received. Several children of the parish received scholarships to a Catholic school or college of choice.
- Time was spent in July and August regrouping with new officers and planning for another year.
- In September, a representative from Sea Haven house spoke about their cause. Money and snacks were donated. A fundraiser for Kambai Village track suits began.
- In October, Officer Vicks, from North Myrtle Beach Lance Corporal Community Services /Community Engagement, spoke about human trafficking in the Strand area. Gently used bras were collected for Cancer awareness month and the turtle repair project. The Boxes of Joy campaign was begun: 300 boxes were handed out.
- In November, the Annual Craft Fair was held and raised \$16,000 for the church. A trip to the Mepkin Abbey Creche festival allowed individuals from church organizations an opportunity to get to know each other. The annual card and letter campaign with the assisted living residents at Legacy and River Park was begun. Members were servers, cleaners, and drivers for the Thanksgiving Dinner for the parish: 240 meals were delivered.
- December was collection month. Julie's Kids was selected to receive Christmas gifts. The annual Christ baby shower kicked off providing new items for infants to 4T. Half of the items received were donated to Kingstree Felician Sister and the other half to Abigail's Place. Hats, gloves, scarves, and seventeen lap robes for wheelchairs were donated to various organizations.

- In addition to groups mentioned above, the following also received donations of money or items: Coastline Women's Center, Quilts of Valor, A Father's Place, Bold and Beautiful Wigs for Cancer, Hope Harbor House, and Children's Recovery Center.

#### Community Activity of Greatest Impact

Members supported, donated money, and volunteered for various organizations. Having representatives from all the organizations that received support and funds to meet with OLSS ladies for breakfast was the most impactful. Catholic women made an impact and difference in a multitude of ways.

### **International Committee Activities – Service**

The village of Kambai, Kenya, an impoverished community with bare means of survival, became a focus for this year. In January, a well was dedicated that the Guild helped in finance. The well allow children to receive clean water for the first time in the village. This project impacted eight hundred people. The OLSS and Myrtle Beach Deanery donated to each of the three hundred children in the village school shirts, a lollipop, bread, and soda. Monetary donations also helped to build a science center with countertops and Bunsen burners.

#### International Activity of Greatest Impact

By becoming aware of the impoverished village of Kambai and seeing the pictures of the children, the OLSS Ladies Guild was moved to help provide acts of kindness for village children to let them know that there were people in the world who cared. They now have a daily supply of clean water and can concentrate on their studies in place of searching for a water source.



## ***St. Andrew Women's Club***

*All Reports Submitted by Cathy Kelly*

### **Church Committee Activities – Spirituality**

The Church Committee:

- Made rosaries for overseas distribution.
- Provided weekly emails to members in support of the Convention Resolution of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.
- Attended the funeral Masses of community members.
- Made spiritual books available to Club members and promoted Bible studies.
- Knitters created prayer shawls and cloths for general distribution.
- Promoted the devotion to St. Joseph through the making and selling of bread.
- Hosted Mary Nemeth from the Charleston Diocese to share the message of the Bishop

### Church Activity of Greatest Impact

Mary Nemeth, Major Gifts and Special Events Officer at the Diocese for Charleston, was invited to speak at a meeting and share the message of the Bishop, to “Continue Work in Parishes”. She shared the quality work that was done by the many missions within the Diocese, the thoughts of the Bishop on the role that Women’s Clubs in the Church, and asked that members create a short video clip to share with the Bishop of members buzzing like bees, doing challenging work in the community.

### **Legislative Committee Activities – *Spirituality***

The Legislative Committee:

- Promoted attended the Catholic Women at the Capital Legislative Day where a member received a Proclamation of the Governor recognizing January 16<sup>th</sup> as National Religious Freedom Day for the past 10 years.
- Supported the Catholics for Freedom of Religion celebration honoring local Veterans with their Quilts of Valor.
- Participated in the Walk for Life.
- Participated in monthly prayer meetings.
- Participated in National Religious Freedom Day Events.

### Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact

The activity of greatest impact was the support of the celebration of the honored Veterans receiving their Quilts of Valor for their service to the Country. Members as well as all attendees were moved by the Ceremony and affected by the beauty of the handmade quilts. The Director for Catholics for Freedom of Religion was a SAW Club member. She coordinated this event and was assisted by Club members. Members attend the ceremony. Last year, one of the deacons was honored with the Quilt of Valor.

### **Membership Committee Activities – *Leadership***

The Membership Committee:

- Held a robust membership drive which produced at least twelve new members.
- Gave out handouts about the Women’s club after each Mass on the drive weekend.
- Held a welcome tea at the first meeting of the year for all new and potential members.
- Established and provided a New Member Package to all new members which includes a membership roster, Bylaws of the Club, and meeting dates.
- Established a mentorship program.
- Established a document called Beyond Hello.

### Membership Activity of Greatest Impact

To make all members feel valued and included, a mentor program was established for all new members. Existing members partnered with new members. Each new member was given a packet with the Club membership roster, the Bylaws, and meeting dates. A document called Beyond

Hello was created which highlighted the process of inviting, welcoming, and retaining new members through a welcome tea, a mentoring program, and continuous involvement. The document was shared on the state and national level as procedural for membership.

### **Organization Committee Activities – Leadership**

The Organization Committee:

- Held a Catholic Woman of the Year Mass and luncheon.
- Held an end of year dinner with the installation of the new Board of Directors.
- Supported the Myrtle Beach Deanery fundraising efforts.
- Hosted the Myrtle Beach Deanery Annual Retreat.

#### **Organization Activity of Greatest Impact**

The Catholic Woman of the Year award was an honor bestowed on a member who demonstrated the greatest impact on the Community during the year. The Women's Club established a committee to review activities of members and their impact on the community, select a recipient, and plan a celebration Mass and luncheon to honor the selected woman. This distinguished honor was celebrated by the Women's Club and the entire parish. Because of the influence of the current Catholic Woman of the Year, members volunteered to assist in the many organizations in which she was affiliated, especially the Myrtle Beach Lion's Club and Miracle League.

### **Public Relations Committee Activities – Leadership**

The Public Relations Committee:

- Established greeters for all Masses
- Provided volunteers to work in the parish office.
- Advertised all meetings and events in the weekly bulletin, on the Church website, and through Flocknote.

#### **Public Relations Activity of Greatest Impact**

Through the impact of the greeters, a new parishioner with a hearing loss joined the Women's Club. She looked for ways she could assist, especially to those who were hearing challenged. In her previous parish, among other things, she worked to educate others about individuals with hearing loss and their abilities. This led to an increase in awareness of individuals with special needs in the St. Andrew Catholic Community. The greeters shared how parishioners enjoyed being welcomed to Mass. Recently, a man in a wheelchair asked a greeter for a hug because he was having a difficult day. Now, she hugs him weekly.

### **Community Committee Activities - Service**

- Donations to St. Francis Inn, Catholics For Freedom of Religion, Grand Strand Citizen's for Life, and Mobile Meals were made.
- Rosary Makers contributed to providing 1 million rosaries sent to Africa.
- A food drive for the Horry County Council on Aging was conducted.

- Knitters provided a variety of hats, blankets mittens to the Catholic's for Freedom of Religion, the Doula Program, Julie's House (foster care), Catholic Charities, Hospice, and Horry County Council on Aging.
- Members prepared and delivered Valentine Bags with toiletries, playing cards, and note pads to Brookdale Senior Living Center in Conway and held a Baby Shower for the Coastline Women's Center.
- Baby bottles were filled with money for the Grand Strand Citizens for Life.
- Over \$2500 was raised throughout the year from St. Joseph's Bread, Bake Sale, and Fall Festival to make donations.
- Members attended the Lion's Club fundraiser in support of a community organization.
- A table was purchased at the fall festival in support of the Columbiettes.
- A household item drive was conducted for the Lutheran Services Carolinas organization which provided support to refugee resettlement.
- Members volunteered at the St. Andrew CC Parish Office.

#### Community Activity of Greatest Impact

The Women's Club, through a partnership with the Horry County Council on Aging, adopted two of the Senior Centers in the Myrtle Beach area. Club members worked directly with the Center Directors on various projects. Some of the projects included regular interaction with the attendees, arts and crafts, reading, and assisting with onsite programs that the Centers hosted. The impact on the seniors in the centers with was heartwarming. Club members found true purpose in these outings to the senior centers.

#### **Family Committee Activities - Service**

- Funeral Masses for parish members were attended.
- Assisted Living facilities were visited.
- Monthly Lunch Bunch gatherings were held to foster relationships.
- A variety of cards and messages were distributed to the St. Andrew CC community.
- The Catholics for Freedom of Religion essay contest was supported.
- The Scholarship Programs for both St. Andrew School and St. Ann Elizabeth Seton High School were supported.

#### Family Activity of Greatest Impact

Through the distribution of cards and messages to the St. Andrew community, the Women's Club fostered a relationship of friendship and understanding that resulted in the Club receiving a with a range of compliments and thank you notes from recipients. One of the recipients, a deacon, was really touched by the cards he received for his birthday.

#### **International Committee Activities - Service**

- A donation was made to Sister Deepa in India for her Light and Life Foundation.
- Rosaries made by members were donated to organizations overseas.

- A drive was conducted to gather items suitable for children to be included in the Boxes of Joy that were sent to Haiti, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and El Salvador.

### International Activity of Greatest Impact

Faithful Rosary Makers gathered every other week and created rosaries for distribution. Members contributed to the over one million rosaries that were sent to missions in Africa and the Philippines. The impact has been so great that the Rosary Makers leader, Harriett, received a beautiful thank you letter from a priest in Africa with pictures of the people learning to pray the Rosary.



## ***St. James Ladies Guild***

All reports provided by Karen Bleakney

### **Church Committee Activities – Spirituality**

- St. James Ladies Guild participated in presenting Masses, holy hours, chaplets, and said Rosaries for Sister Sara and the Sisters as a Spiritual Bouquet. All members participated. For the Sisters, one Holy Hour, sixteen Masses, one hundred and twelve Rosaries, and thirty-four Divine Mercy Chaplets were prayed. For Sister Sara, seventeen Masses, sixteen holy hours, one hundred Rosaries, and twenty-four Divine Mercy chaplets were offered.
- The Prayer Ministry of St. James Ladies Guild organized the monthly opening prayer to be led each month by a different member. This shared duty allows for active participation among our members in a faith sharing opportunity.
- The Ladies Guild prayed the Holy Rosary before each meeting. Members gathered in the Meditation Garden or the Church depending upon the weather. The mysteries were shared among the members as we prayed together.

A new Prayer Chain List for the Guild was created. New co-chairs and volunteers signed up for this ministry at the beginning of the year. A substantial number of members joined the Ladies Guild this past year and wanted to join this ministry. Rather than just inserting their names to the existing list, new guidelines and instructions were issued for members to follow when praying for the intentions of a parishioners.

### Church Activity of Greatest Impact

Two co-chairs and members volunteered to establish a prayer chain list. Volunteers were responsible for receiving the prayer requests and getting the prayer request started on the chain. Formal instructions were spelled out. The prayer list became more organized and easier to follow when names were put in alphabetical order. Prayer intentions could also be requested through the St. James Bulletin with names of co-chairs and their phone numbers listed. Examples of healing prayers were given to the members along with the list. When prayers were requested for a member

or her family, the Guild president notified the Sunshine Ministry so that a card could be sent on behalf of the Ladies Guild. This efficient update allowed members to be more organized in praying for others.

**Legislative Committee Activities - Spirituality**  
(Not provided.)

**Membership Committee Activities – Spirituality**

- New parishioners to St. James were asked if they were interested in the Ladies Guild. Office staff contacted the president if there was interest. The person was called, welcomed to the parish/Guild, and joyfully welcomed at the next meeting.
- The Annual New Parishioners Welcome Reception held by the Church was another opportunity to recruit new members to the Ladies Guild, as members mingled in a casual setting.

Membership Activity of Greatest Impact  
(Not provided.)

**Organization Committee Activities – Leadership**

- A Ministry Brochure was made listing all the activities and ministries of the Ladies Guild. Activities were described which helped members decide on an activity in which to participate.
- A new ministry was formed for knitting and crocheting blankets, hats, and shawls that would be donated.
- Members attend St. James Town Hall meetings and let the attendees know of the various activities the Ladies Guild provided for the parish in past months.
- Quarterly reports were sent to Father Oscar and the parish staff.
- Save the Date information was published in the bulletin to inform parishioners of the upcoming Ladies Guild events.
- Multiple events at St. James this year were done in cooperation and coordination with the Knights of Columbus chapter in the parish.

Organization Activity of Greatest Impact

The Guild decided that there was a need to provide to new members information about the various activities and ministries of the Guild. A printed format was recommended. Each ministry chair was asked to provide a brief description of the ministry and how it provided service to the community. A brochure was compiled, printed, and distributed in a welcome packet to a new member who joined the Guild. It was also available to current members so that they all could decide which ministry brought them Joy.

**Public Relations Committee Activities - Spirituality**

- Notifications of St. James Ladies Guild activities were shared in the bulletins of neighboring churches in the county.
- Photographs from events were shared on St. James' Facebook page and website.



### **Community Committee Activities – Service**

- A way of praying for the 2024 Confirmation class was devised by name matching a candidate with a Guild member. Each confirmand drew the picture of a dove and placed his/her name on it. A Guild member selected a dove and prayed for candidate daily by name until their Confirmation day. The youth of the parish were happy to meet with women of the church who were praying for them. The youths shared their projects on the Corporal Works of Mercy with the Guild members and invited them their Confirmation.
- Welcome to God's Family cards were sent to the newly baptized. The Ladies Guild congratulated the families of infants and let them know that members would be praying for the little ones.
- Members collaborated with the Knights of Columbus on the Day of the Rosary celebration at St. James. The people prayed the Holy Rosary together in October on the Feast day.
- The Guild members made over 150 hats that were distributed to children of the Diocese at the Knights of Columbus annual Coats for Kids event in December. After the children received their new coat from the Knights they could select a homemade knitted hat to keep them warm.
- A donation of \$500 was made to the Be Your Own Miracle project. This local business provided low cost mental health services based on spiritual healing. Funds were provided for those unable to pay for the service.
- Monthly visits to Anderson Oaks Assisted Living home were made. As part of a monthly outreach, the Ladies Guild visited with and entertained the residents with an additional BINGO day. Prizes of toiletries and special treats for the players were provided.

#### Community Activity of Greatest Impact

The newly created Knitting and Crocheting Ministry busily worked this fall making hats of assorted colors, sizes, and patterns. On December 2, all were laid out on tables for display. In amazement, over 150 colorful hats and ear wraps were made for children for all ages. Members helped the children select from the different hats. The parents and their children smiled with the number of selections available and posed for pictures.

### **Family Committee Activities – Service**

The Ladies Guild hosted Sundaes on a Saturday Ice Cream Social to involve families of all sizes and ages of the church community. Parishioners were invited after Mass to share fellowship and fun. The Guild shared information about the new memorial benches that were being replaced in the Meditation Garden.



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

### Family Activity of Greatest Impact

The process of replacing the benches within the Meditation Garden this year was one that involved many steps, from acknowledging that the previous ones were an eye sore and broken beyond repair, to the selection of a color that was in keeping with the church colors. Signs were placed around the church by the Guild showing how a bench could be purchased and dedicated to a loved one. Response was excellent. Five new benches were placed in the garden as the result of leadership by the Guild. A volunteer repaired the center fountain that was in disrepair. The benches and the now working fountain made the meditation garden an outdoor space for finding peace at St. James the Younger and for sitting and reflecting by Our Lady's statue within the garden.

### **International Committee Activities - Service**

- The Guild participated in the Cross Catholic Outreach Boxes of Joy program. Guild members assembled one hundred boxes and handed them out to the congregation after three Masses. Seventy-six boxes were returned on time and delivered to St. Andrews Church. The contents of twelve boxes turned in too late to send were donated to Catholic Charities, Anderson Oaks Assisted Living, Backpack Buddies, and Help4Kids as Christmas gifts.
- A child was supported through the Third World Country Through Outbound organization. In addition to an annual donation, extra money was sent for Christmas and birthday gifts.
- A donation to the diocese of Father Oscar in Garagoa, Columbia was made in honor of his Silver Jubilee for new vocations. Financial support for new priests and a cover for his Magnificat book were presented to Father Oscar from the Guild.

### International Activity of Greatest Impact

Father Oscar Borda, the pastor of St. James, was originally from Colombia. In honor of his 25 years of priesthood, the Ladies Guild presented him with a personal gift and a financial gift of \$500 to support the development and continuation of new priests in the church. He was delighted with the personalized gift as well as the support of vocations in his name.



*When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said  
"I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life".  
John 8:12*

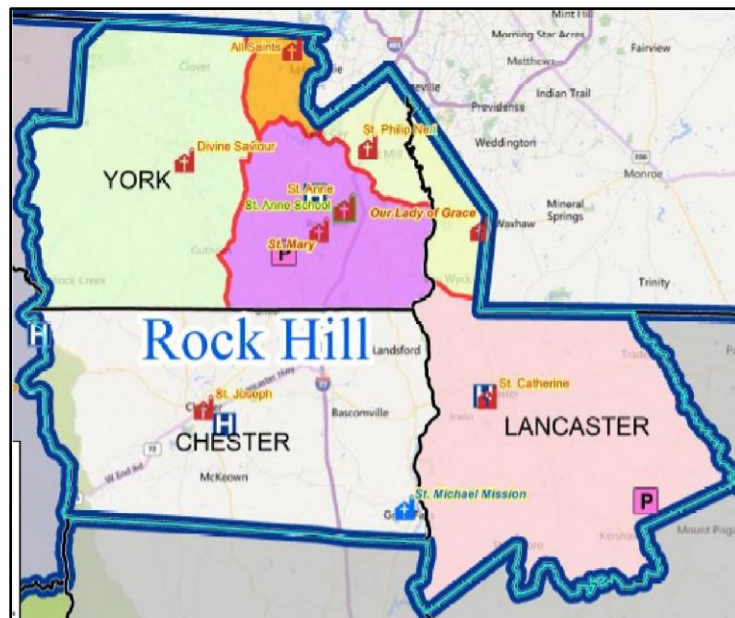
# ROCK HILL DEANERY

*Gwendolyn Finley, President*

## AFFILIATES

All Saints Women's Organization  
All Saints Catholic Church, Lake Wylie  
*Tena Bougar and Mary Streng, Co- Presidents*

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



# ROCK HILL DEANERY YEAR-END REPORT

By 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, 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

## AFFILIATE YEAR-END REPORTS



### *All Saints Women's Organization*

#### **Church Committee Activities - Spirituality**

*All Reports Submitted by Tina Bougor and Mary Streng, Co-Presidents*

- Prayer requests were recorded in a prayer book at each meeting.
- Money was donated to Rachel Day Soup Kitchen after a wind burst.
- One member made and donated rosaries to Missions all over the world: fifty rosaries to Faith Formation for First Holy Communion children, one hundred to a Convention in Oklahoma City, and approximately five hundred to the missions worldwide.
- A decade of the Rosary was recited at the conclusion of every meeting.
- Members served on the Parish Council, Finance Committee, Security Team, Legion of Mary, Feed the Flock, Marthas and Marys, as Lectors, as Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist, and helped organize the Women's Retreat.
- Members attended the Eucharistic Dialogue II Conference.
- Several members participated in the Bible in a Year and Catechism in a Year with Father Mike from Ascension Press.
- The Las Posadas Novena was prayed during the 9 days before Christmas in homes of members. There were 9 host homes and 98 participants..
- *The Daily Bible In Years* was followed by several members.
- One member participated in the *Yearly March for Life* in Washington, DC.
- Members attended the Diaconate Installation Ceremony of Brother Charles Tupa at St. Philip Neri.

#### Church Activity of Greatest Impact

Over five hundred handmade rosaries were sent to Missions all over the world, one hundred were donated to Cross Catholic Outreach at the NCCW Convention, and others were sent to Holy Cross Family Services for distribution.

#### **Legislative and Membership Committee Activities - Spirituality**

(Not provided.)

#### **Organization Committee Activities – Leadership**

- Speakers were invited to monthly meetings to educate members about services and volunteer opportunities in the community. Meetings began with fellowship time.

- Master Gardener Linda Schifferle offered insights in gardening.
- A representative from the York County Center for Aging was an invited speaker.
- A representative from the church Safety Team was an invited speaker.
- A speaker from Seniors Health Care explained the notebook program.
- Our group made cash donations to the local Food Bank, Clover Area Assistance Center.
- Five collections of food, clothing, and blankets were made for the Hurricane Relief victims in North Carolina.
- Members participated in the Parish Ministries Fair on October 5 and 6<sup>th</sup>. Three new members signed up.
- Reminders of monthly ASWO meetings and themes were published in the bulletin.
- Tena Bougor sent out handmade birthday cards to members.
- Tena Bougor hosted a Christmas party. Each one of the twenty-five members in attendance brought a wrapped gift for White Elephant gift exchange. It was fun.
- Members helped set up storage for Walking with Moms in Need.
- Members served on SCCCW Convention Committees.
- Members attended SCCCW & NCCW Conventions.

Organization Activity of Greatest Impact and  
Public Relations Committee Activities - Spirituality  
 (Not provided.)

### **Community Committee Activities - Service**

- A vote of the membership determined the charities that would receive funds from the Craft Fair.
- OSWO continued to be a drop-off center for Boxes of Joy and packed the boxes for shipping.
- Parishioners donated 189 Boxes of Joy. Boxes along with donated funds were sent directly to Cross Catholic Outreach.
- Members:
  - Donated crafts and staffed the Deanery table. Profit went to the Deanery.
  - Administered the Feed the Flock Ministry. Members made and donated meals to shut-ins, the infirmed, widowed, and elderly. Meal delivery was scheduled while the Holy Eucharist was taken to them. The Body and Soul were fed!
  - Provided rides for women in need staying at Her Place, a shelter for women that OSWO helped establish. One member made over thirty Hospice visits a month. The member also donated blood.
  - Provided food and desserts for funeral repasts.
  - Participated in the Parish Family Festival where one hundred children had the best time painting rocks.
  - Served on the Parish Safety Team. It received a \$500 donation from ASWO.
  - Volunteered at Sweet Retreat, the parish thrift store.
  - Participated in the Parish Family Festival and staffed a Rock Painting booth.
- A team of members and non-members made 165 apple pies. The proceeds from the sale of pies helped support organizations in need in the community.
- One member was a counselor for Sidewalk Advocates for Life and participated in marches.
- A member volunteered for an organization which helped underprivileged students by reading to them after school, thus the world was improved through education, attention, and kindness.

- Several members toured the residence at Mira Via. ASWO gave a \$500 donation.
- Many of activities were supported by funds raised at the Valentine's Day and Mother's Day bake sales.
- Church members donated school supplies. Eighty backpacks were filled and donated to the local school district.
- ASWO supported the new Palmetto Maternity Home in York.
- A gift basket was made and donated for the Oratory Valentine raffle that benefited the Oratory in Rock Hill.
- Candy for Trick or Treat was sent to a hurricane ravaged area so the children in the shelter could enjoy a Trick or Treat experience.

### Community Activity of Greatest Impact

The donation of 50 Birthday Cake-in-a-Pan Boxed Kits and one hundred Christmas Cake-in-a-Pan Boxed Kits had the greatest impact. Members assembled fifty birthday kits and one hundred Christmas kits. Each had all the ingredients for making a cake without adding eggs or oil. Kits contained a cake pan with lid, one box of cake mix of any flavor, one can of soda of any kind, and one can of frosting, of any flavor. The birthday kits contained candles & a balloon. A Christmas ornament was included in the Christmas kits.

### Family and International Committee Activities - Service (Not provided.)



## ***St. Mary Rosary and Confraternity Society***

*All Report Submitted by Gwendolyn Finley*

### **Church Committee Activities - Spirituality**

- Several members
  - served as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Eucharist,
  - served as Lectors,
  - participated in a biweekly bible study group,
  - served on the Pastoral Council, and
  - participated the Rosary devotion held before Mass each week.
- Christmas gifts were donated to the Priest and both Deacons.
- Poinsettias were taken to two members that had been confined in their homes for a long time but continued to support the Society by sending cards and prayer requests to members.
- Repast meals were served at the church to families after funerals.
- Vacation Bible School was supported financially and by preparing meals.

## Church Activity of Greatest Impact

The activity that had the greatest impact was being the voice and ears for the parishioners on the Pastoral Council.

### **Legislative Committee Activities - *Spirituality***

Several members attended a meeting at the Rock Hill City Council meeting on Race Equality Proclamation.

Legislative Activity of Greatest Impact and  
**Membership Committee Activities - *Leadership***  
(Not provided.)

### **Organization Committee Activities – *Leadership***

- Moderator Rev. Dr. Terrence Chisolm attended monthly meetings and provided spiritual advice.
- A speaker from AARP provided education and fellowship at a monthly meeting. Lunch was served and members made donations to support a family.
- The Society:
  - Participated in the church Vendor Fair. A beautiful Christmas scene donated by Christina was raffled.
  - Co-hosted a fundraiser for the Volunteer Dinner for parishioners and raised about \$2000.00. It was an evening of jazz!
- The Society president met with an FBI agent and related things back to the church family asking to pray for the state and country. The congregation prayed the Hail Mary.
- News events were submitted about families to the church for inclusion in the church bulletin.

Organization Activity of Greatest Impact and  
**Public Relations Committee Activities - *Spirituality***  
(Not provided.)

### **Community Committee Activities - *Service***

- Boxes of Joy were donated to All Saints.
- A Dinner for Race, Reconciliation, and Diversity was hosted for over fifty people.
- The Society President:
  - Served on the Executive Committee of the State NAACP.
  - Served as chair of the Red Cross Disaster Relief Team.
  - Attended the Founder's Day program for Kappa Alpha Chapter in Rock Hill on the Winthrop University campus.
- Several members:
  - Attended the National Day of Peace at Oakland Presbyterian Church.
  - Attended a talk on Muslim and Islam.



- Attended the Freedom Walk in which three African American Woman were inducted on the Freedom Walk. Ann Williamson gave a brief history of Father Edward Wahl of the Oratory.
- Attended the Central City Optimist Club Senior Banquet and enjoyed fellowship.
- Supported the Rock Hill NAACP and Western York NAACP in their Freedom Fund Banquet.
- Attended several activities at Clinton College on various community concerns.
- Members:
  - Attended a Habitat for Humanity Community Breakfast.
  - Donated refreshments to workers on Election Day.
  - Attended a service honoring veterans at Glencairn Gardens.
  - Participated in the Craft Fair at All Saints.
  - Participated in Voters Engagement in Columbia on the USC Capstone campus.
- A fundraiser was co-hosted to raise money for new vestments for altar servers: \$2,000 was raised.
- A Blingo Bingo fundraiser was held for the SMRCS: \$1,000 was raised. Winning beautiful Parkland jewelry was fun!
- One member served on the Foster Care Board of York & Lancaster Counties, that increased awareness of the needs of foster care.

#### Community Activity of Greatest Impact

Dinner for the community on Race & Reconciliation & Diversity was the activity of the greatest impact.

#### Family and International Committee Activities – Service

(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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