

# **South Carolina Council of Catholic Women**

## **2017 Commission Reports**

### **Spirituality**

*Church*

*Legislative*

### **Leadership**

*Organization*

### **Service**

*Community*

*Family*

*International*

# Table of Contents

<b>Commission System Description</b> .....	3
<b>Beaufort Deanery</b> .....	4
Holy Family Catholic Church – Holy Family Ladies Guild.....	5
St. Anthony’s Catholic Church - St. Anthony’s Catholic Women’s Club.....	6
St. Francis Catholic Church – Women of St. Francis .....	9
St. Gregory Catholic Church – Women of St. Gregory the Great .....	13
St. Peters Catholic Church - Women’s Council of St. Peter’s Parish.....	16
<b>Charleston Deanery</b> .....	19
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church – Blessed Sacrament Women’s Guild .....	20
St. John the Beloved Catholic Church – St. John the Beloved Women’s Guild .....	21
St. Patrick Catholic Church – St. Patrick Women’s Guild .....	24
<b>Columbia Deanery</b> .....	26
Corpus Christi Catholic Church – Corpus Christi Catholic Women’s Group .....	27
St. Joseph Catholic Church – St Joseph Women’s Society .....	29
St. Martin de Pores Catholic Church – St. Martin de Porres Rosary Altar Society.....	32
<b>Greenville Deanery</b> .....	36
St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church - St. Anthony of Padua Women’s Council.....	37
St. Mary’s Catholic Church – St. Mary’s Council of Catholic Women .....	39
<b>Myrtle Beach Deanery</b> .....	41
Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church – Our Lady Star of the Sea Ladies Guild.....	42
St Andrew Catholic Church – St. Andrew Women’s Club .....	44
St. James Catholic Church – St. James Ladies Guild .....	47
<b>Rock Hill Deanery</b> .....	49
All Saints Catholic Church – All Saints Women’s Organization .....	50
St. Catherine of Sienna Catholic Church – St. Catherine of Sienna Ladies Guild .....	51
St. Mary Catholic Church – St. Mary’s Rosary & Confraternity Society .....	52

## **SCCCW Commission System**

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

### ***Spirituality Commission***

**Church:** Its aim is 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.

**Legislation:** It 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***

**Organization:** It 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.

### ***Service Commission***

**Family:** Its aim is 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.

**Community:** It 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.

**International:** It 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.

# **Beaufort Deanery**

*Holy Family Catholic Church,  
Hilton Head Island*

*St. Anthony Catholic Church,  
Walterboro*

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

*St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church,  
Bluffton*

*St. James the Greater Catholic Church,  
Walterboro*

*St. Peter Catholic Church,  
Beaufort*

***Holy Family Catholic Church***  
***Holy Family Ladies Guild***

**Spirituality/Church Activities**

- Prayed for parishioners who are suffering from loss or illness on a regular basis from prayer requests send via emails and those listed in the church bulletin
- Participated in Bible Study led by Deacon John de Wolfe each Thursday morning throughout the year

**Spirituality/Legislative Activities**

- Encouraged participation in local Right to Life events

**Leadership/Organization Activities**

- Prepared Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets and wrapped gift donations
- Supported Annual Italian-American Club of Hilton Head Festival
- Participated in fundraisers for Pregnancy Center and Clinic of the Lowcountry
- Raised funds for John Paul II School

**Service/Community Special Project**

Members collected items such as chocolates, snacks, and individual drinks for “Treat the Troops” Christmas packages, which are then shipped to troops stationed away from home all around the world. (The items filled a 3-row Buick SUV.) Letters of appreciation to military service members were also written and included with the packages, and monetary donations were collected to offset the shipping costs.

**Service/Family Special Project**

Members obtained 150 tickets from the Italian-American Club of Hilton Head for its annual festival in an arrangement where the guild would receive \$4 of every ticket sold. They sold all tickets and will receive \$600, which they will use toward the Scholarship Fund for John Paul II School.

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

**Spirituality/Church Activities**

- Church cleaning on a monthly basis
- Organize schedules for and participate as Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, and Altar Servers, and several members serve in multiple roles
- Members participate in church choir and one serves as church organist
- Operate a gift shop to provide religious items to parishioners
- Take photos of parish events for club scrapbook and weekly parish bulletin
- Prepared the altar and decorations for Christmas and Easter seasons
- Presented monetary gifts to the priest and church secretary
- Purchased altar flowers through collections from parishioners in memory of and in honor of church family members for Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Grandparent's Day
- Hosted First Communion reception and presented crucifixes to First Communicants
- Assisted in the reception following the Diocesan Confirmation Mass with fruit trays and presented St. Anthony's Confirmandi with crucifixes
- Installed the floor and curtains in the parish Cry Room and purchased kid-friendly chairs and supplies
- Made donations from the Club's treasury for the church's sound system and parking lot
- Purchased two candle lighters to replace the broken ones
- Led Mary's Way of the Cross during Lent and served soup and bread followed by the Stations of the Cross
- Organized the Living Rosary on October 17

**Spirituality/Church Special Project**

Members organized and facilitated the Living Rosary in honor of Our Lady on October 17, 2018. The Living Rosary included prayers said in five languages: English, Spanish, Tamil (Indian), Mandarin (Taiwan), and Tagalog (Filipino). The Women's Club hosted a reception in Trinity Hall afterward with refreshments. This was the Club's second time bringing families of different traditions together to say the Rosary. After each Hail Mary was recited, a glow stick was lit to physically represent each prayer offered. Although attendance was less than last year, it was still one of the few occasions outside the context of Mass where St. Anthony's parishioners, both English and Spanish speaking, got together and prayed.

**Spirituality/Legislative Activities**

- Several members were active in the election process as poll workers, where they verified voter credentials, issued ballots to voters, maintained accountability of voting equipment and ballots, and ensured all applicable laws were followed in the precincts
- Anti-domestic violence flyers and postcards from Hopeful Horizons were set at the entrance to the church to raise awareness and provide information to those who may need it

### **Spirituality/Legislative Project**

Several members participated in the 2018 SC mid-term general election, which had historic voter participation. They attended training classes and then worked 13 or more hours on Election Day. Prior to and on Election Day, they verified and processed voters, activated personal ballots, complied with election laws and procedures, and provided general assistance to voters when requested.

### **Leadership/Organization Activities**

- Three members attended the 2018 SCCCW Convention in Charleston and helped with registration and the marketplace. Members are involved in the 2019 SCCCW Convention Committee and have sold ads and memorials. Members also attended Beaufort Deanery Meetings.
- Members mentor members, encouraging active participation in the club, church, and community
- The Bylaws were reviewed, new officers were elected in May and installed in July.
- We promote Women's Club activities by speaking at Masses, encouraging participation and support.
- President and Secretary attend monthly Parish Council Meetings.
- Members provided support to St. James the Greater Women's Club to join in the Beaufort Deanery events and attend the SCCCW Convention in 2018 for the first time.
- Birthday cards and greeting cards were sent to the members.
- Members supported deanery-wide projects such as Treat the Troops and Italian Festival ticket sales.

### **Leadership/Organization Project**

Three members participated in the 2018 SCCCW Convention and connected with members of St. James the Greater Women's Club. One member continued to work with the St. James community and help/assist them in staying connected to the Deanery and SCCCW. Both our club and St. James the Greater are relatively small affiliates compared to other parishes in the Beaufort Deanery. Thus, it was a great experience to sit together and enjoy conversations with the four first-timers from St. James the Greater throughout the Convention.

### **Service/Community Activities**

- Assisted in fundraising efforts for Relay for Life, the proceeds for which go to the American Cancer Society
- Sponsored the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Day Community Dinner in our church's Trinity Hall

### **Service/Community Special Project**

Members were actively involved in the coordination and facilitation of the Empty Bowls Project for the community. Members serve hosting, setting up, preparing and serving food, selling tickets, and cleaning up. Each year, members look forward to working with others to support this worthy cause for the community. This was the ninth year. Throughout the year, local artists and volunteers handcraft each bowl. Guests who purchased the \$10 ticket may pick up one bowl and use it to enjoy a variety of more than 30 soup samples. Five churches in the community participated in the event this November. It was held in Trinity Hall, and both lunch and dinner were served. The proceeds are distributed among the five local church food banks.

### **Service/Family Activities**

- Hosted monthly Parish Friendship Breakfast in October
- Sold flowers in memory of and in honor of church family members for Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Grandparent's Day
- Purchased supplies for Religious Education and provided two lunches for the parish's Vacation Bible School
- Supported the parish fundraising efforts by helping with the International Taste of St. Anthony's and the Lenten Fish Fry

### **Service/Family Special Project**

Following last year, members asked the local nursing home about a gift the staff believed to be the most beneficial to the community. The TV in their recreation room was very small, and most of the elderly residents could not watch programs on the small screen. The Women's Club organized a parish-wide fundraiser for a replacement and was able to purchase a 65" flat TV, wall mount, and cable. We also asked parishioners to sign Christmas cards, all of which were donated by club members, so that each resident received an individual card signed by one or more parishioners, including children. This card-signing activity really brought the parishioners together and closer to the local community.

### **Service/International Activities**

- Hosted the Living Rosary in October, which was prayed in five languages

### **Service/International Special Project**

Members assisted in the first International Taste of St. Anthony by offering a cultural dish including Italian, Mandarin, French Canadian, Filipino, etc., setting up, and decorating. This not only allowed parishioners to share each other's foods, but also made people outside of the parish aware of the multicultural background of the church.



## ***St. Francis by the Sea Catholic Church*** ***Women of St. Francis***

### **Spirituality/Church Activities**

- Members attended Mary's Way of the Cross as seen through the eyes of Mary during the Lenten Season, a parish renewal weekend retreat entitled "Christ Renews His Parish," and the 2-day Marian Eucharistic Conference in Greenville, SC, where they enjoyed various topics and came back renewed in their faith and anticipating next year's conference.
- Members hosted an Advent Day of Reflection entitled "Preparation and Waiting," which was conducted by Deacon Vernon Dobelmann.
- At funerals for members and/or their families, members continue to pray the Rosary.
- After Mass, members hosted the First Communion reception for the class and their families.
- Rosary makers made Rosaries for First Communion and RCIA candidates and chaplets for the Confirmandi. They are also making rosaries for attendees at the 2019 SCCCW Convention in Hilton Head.

### **Spirituality/Church Special Project**

The event that had the most impact on our members was the Advent Day of Reflection entitled "Preparation and Waiting" by Deacon Vernon Dobelmann. Forty-seven people—members and parishioners—attended the enlightening and spiritual retreat where Deacon Dobelmann recounted some of the major challenges he faced/faces on his journey on earth. The retreat touched on reflections of our faith, liturgy and prayer, and faith in action. Participants left with real hope on their respective journeys in life. The retreat was so enthusiastically received that requests were made to the committee chairs to consider hosting another retreat during the Lenten season.

### **Spirituality/Legislative Activities**

- "Forty Days for Life" poster and prayer cards were made available at the general membership meeting and at the Parish Ministry Fair for participation in a peaceful prayer vigil at the abortion clinic in Savannah, GA.
- Prayers were requested for a positive outcome to the Planned Parenthood lawsuit against the SC Department of Human Services over withdrawing Medicaid funding.
- The Legislative Committee gave out information on the "40 Days for Life," and white crosses representing one million abortions that have taken place were placed near the St. Francis fountain, which served as a memorial and reminder about the aborted babies. At the end of the 40 days, it was reported that 7 babies were saved, including 3 on the last Friday. Prayers were requested for continued graces and sources of aid for the women and their families.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at St. Francis School participated in the Spiritual Adoption Program with members, as well as other appropriate Respect for Life projects.

- Updates were given to members on the state and federal funding for Planned Parenthood and medical services with the exception of abortion. Petitions to reverse Roe v. Wade were given to members to sign and sent to Senator Paul Rand.
- Theresa Lacey from Hopeful Horizons presented a program to members on human trafficking and domestic violence.
- Prayers were offered on January 22, the actual date of the US Supreme Court decision of Roe v. Wade.

### **Spirituality/Legislative Special Project**

The legislative activity that had the most impact on members was the prayer vigil that took place outside the abortion clinic in Savannah, GA. Members witnessed women planning abortions walking out of the Savannah Medical Center (where abortions are performed) and going across the street to the Care Center that supports expectant mothers. Prayer is powerful, and the participating members are seeing the number of babies being saved through the fruits of their labor and dedication to the Pro-Life Movement.

### **Leadership/Organization Activities**

- The Organization Chair serves as mentor and advisor to the President, offers guidance on all procedures pertaining to the smooth operation of the organization, serves as a liaison between the Women of St. Francis and the Parish Council, and serves as the Parish Ecumenical Representative to the Diocese.
- A workshop was presented to the board of the Women of St. Francis.
- A member serves as parliamentarian and advises on the proper rules, usage, and procedures pertaining to the organization.
- The President oversees the smooth operation and management of the organization.

### **Leadership/Organization Special Project**

The workshop was held for the Board to introduce new Board members to the organizational structure and its relationship to the state and national level. Its purpose was to educate each member on the work they would be doing in the field of their various assignments. An organizational chart was presented an explanation given on the entire NCCW, SCCCW, Deanery, and affiliate structure. The affiliate's role within the Beaufort Deanery was discussed. The three commissions were also explained in detail. Descriptions of each respective office and a copy of the projected budget for the year were given out, as well. Projected goals were then discussed, finalized, and put in place for the coming year.

### **Service/Community Activities**

- Birthday parties for senior residents of the Life Care Center in Hilton Head were given.
- An introduction packet and invitation to join the Women of St. Francis was mailed to all the women of the parish. To date, 42 new members have joined since the August mail out.

- Members helped plan the Lowcountry Community Dinner for Catholic Education for all four Catholic schools in the Beaufort Deanery, which was held at St. Francis by the Sea Family Center. The women made centerpieces and decorated the gym for the event.
- Member continue to collect and send phones, batteries, and chargers to the “Cell Phones for Soldiers” project.
- Member are choir members, cantors, Eucharistic Ministers, pro-life activists, and volunteer at St. Francis Thrift Shop.
- A \$500 donation was made to provide pizza for the “Pizza with the Principal” program at St. Francis School.
- Donations were made to “Operation Morale Support,” which supports our military.
- A banner was purchased in support of the athletic department of St. Francis School, which will be placed on a gym wall and for which sponsorship will be renewed yearly.
- A successful luncheon and fashion show fundraiser was held, the profits from which go to support our ministry, the parish, St. Francis School, the community, and our international projects.
- A \$500 donation was made to the Osprey Village Building Fund to construct a house and empower individuals who have developmental disabilities and allow them to have affordable housing in an inclusive community of their choice.
- Members purchased two color printers for the technology needs of St. Francis School and donated a table of 10 tickets for the St. Francis Catholic School Gala.
- Mass cards are sent for deceased members as well as sympathy cards for family members and get well cards for members. Appreciation cards were sent to our priests and deacons in honor of Clergy Day.
- Members serve on the Board of the Bluffton/Hilton Head Church Women United, which is an ecumenical organization of 10 different churches in the area that holds three yearly celebrations: World Day of Prayer (“All God’s Creation is Very Good”), May Friendship Day (“Reaching for Wholeness: In Gratitude for God’s Presence”), and World Community Day (“Sharing Gifts at the Table”).

### **Service/Community Project**

Operation Morale Support is part of a local effort to provide “welcome home packages” for marines and sailors returning to Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station. A member representative is notified by Family Readiness Officers as to when the service men and women will return. Items requested for the packages, which members collect, include toiletries, candy and snacks, packaged meals, greeting cards, games, blankets, feminine hygiene items, coffee, etc. Thank you notes to the men and women in uniform are also always included with the items delivered. Members collected enough items to fill 75 bags in the conservative amount of \$1,500 as reported to our representative. Prayer cards for rosaries for the military were also distributed to all members.

### **Service/Family Activities**

- Beach toys, blankets, and gas cards were donated to Family Promise, which assists homeless families.

- A Soup for Scholarships fundraiser was held and three \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to three individual students at St. Francis School.
- Members sold tickets after all Masses and at Fellowship Sunday for the Parish Picnic, as well as worked at the check-in table during the picnic.

### **Service/Family Project**

Family Promise is the only shelter program in the county that serves homeless children and their families. Families sleep in a network of more than a dozen local host congregations where volunteers provide meals. The program does not provide only a temporary fix but works to secure employment, medical care, childcare, school placement, and ultimately affordable housing so as to maintain lasting independence. Members donated 25 cans of sunscreen, 7 cans of bug spray, and \$750 in gas cards to help with transportation to/from work and school. Members also made and donated 32 large and 4 small blankets, which allows the children to bring something familiar and comforting with them when they move from one location to another.

### **Service/International Activities**

- Members donated \$1,800 to the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur for their missionary work and uniforms for their students in Africa. Members also collected used stamps for the Sister.
- Members supported a missionary from our parish with funding for FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students).
- Members sponsored the “Dollars for Diapers” project for the Mustard Seed Program in Kingston, Jamaica.

### **Service/International Project**

Mustard Seed Communities began in 1978 as a home for abandoned children in Kingston, Jamaica. Today, it provides loving and lifelong care to more than 600 residents, including those with developmental and physical disabilities, teen mothers in crisis, and those affected with HIV/AIDS. Consequently, it has a constant need for disposable diapers of all sizes. At each general meeting, a “Change of Life” jar is passed among the members for donations, which was collected (and supplemented by additional funds) and used to purchase diapers.

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

### **Spirituality/Church Activities**

- Christ Renews His Parish, an effective spiritual renewal process, has been very popular with our members. It entails a weekend retreat and follow-up sessions.
- Many members participate in Adoration by spending an hour with the Lord each week in our Adoration Chapel.
- Members provide two Stations of the Cross experiences—Mary’s Way of the Cross during Lent and the Divine Mercy Way of the Cross during October—both of which were followed by refreshments and fellowship.
- The first weekend in May, our parish has its May Crowning. At this Mass, the new Women of St. Gregory the Great’s Catholic Woman of the Year is announced and puts a crown of flowers on a statue of the Blessed Mother.
- Sister Pamela Smith led our Day of Reflection again this year. It is held during Lent and is a great boost to our Lenten Journey.
- Many members have joined the Associates of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius.
- Fifty-five members traveled to Charleston to visit three historic churches, attend Mass at the Cathedral, and have lunch with the ladies of St. Patrick’s. It was a wonderful experience and has encouraged the members to plan another trip for next year.

### **Spirituality/Church Special Project**

Our bus trip to Charleston was an amazing experience for the 55 women who participated. The first stop was at St. Mary of the Annunciation Church, which was established in 1789, is the oldest Catholic Church in the southeastern US, and is considered the mother church of Catholicism in the Carolinas and Georgia. Our former pastor, Father Greg West, is the pastor and was our guide to the amazing property. The next stop was the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, which opened in 1854. We attended Mass there, and then our guide explained the history of the church and took us downstairs to the lower church and tombs of past Bishops. The third stop was St. Patrick Catholic Church, which was designed by Patrick Keely, who also designed the Cathedral. This African-American Church has a rich history in Charleston, which was shared by our guides, Joan Mack and Barbara Birds. The ladies of St. Patrick prepared a delicious lunch for us, and it was a treat to meet and have such fellowship with these amazing ladies.

### **Leadership/Organization Activities**

- We joined Flocknote, a way of sending texts or emails to members through the parish-wide network of Flocknote.
- Save-the-date papers are used at each meeting, which lists all activities for the members.
- Church bulletins always have write-ups of our coming events.
- We also offer an online registration form for those who didn’t get one at the meeting.

## **Leadership/Organization Project**

In the fall of 2018, St. Gregory began using Flocknote as its way to communicate with parishioners. It is able to send out messages about Mass schedules, school closings, special events, etc., and parishioners can join/cancel at any time. The Women of St. Gregory joined as a sub-group of the parish. Names, email addresses, and cell phone numbers were added, and now all announcements go out at once from the parish and not a member's personal computer. Messages may be written on a personal computer, but they are sent through Flocknote. Member can reply, and sub-groups within our membership can be created. We no longer have to delete people off our email list when they move; they cancel it themselves. This program has been a great step forward in safe communications.

## **Service/Community Activities**

- Members continue to help Family Promise, a nonprofit that shelters homeless families, by making meals, staying overnight, and serving on the Board of Directors.
- Several members help residents of a nursing home play bingo and also provide snacks and prizes during the month of April.
- We participated in Treat the Troops by providing snacks and small gifts for the boxes going to our deployed service members.
- The parish-wide Giving Tree provided 705 gifts for children through Bluffton Self Help and the St. Francis Center.
- Members help the St. Francis Center by working in the Thrift Shop, setting up for the big Christmas Sale, packing food boxes for distribution at Thanksgiving and for migrant workers, collecting shoes for migrant workers, and assisting the Santa Day at the Center. This year, with toys from the Giving Tree, members set up a Grandparent's Toy Store at the Center. Grandparents could come and choose a coat and toys to give their grandchildren—some had never been able to give their grandchildren a gift before.
- The Pregnancy Center of the Lowcountry received more than 129 Christmas gifts for the children of its clients. Members brought their gifts to the Christmas Luncheon, where we were able to meet a mother and son who were clients and collect \$495 for the center.

## **Service/Community Special Project**

Members help the St. Francis Center by working in the Thrift Shop, setting up for the big Christmas Sale, packing food boxes for distribution at Thanksgiving and for migrant workers, collecting shoes for migrant workers, and assisting the Santa Day at the Center. This year, with toys from the Giving Tree, members set up a Grandparent's Toy Store at the Center. Grandparents could come and choose a coat and toys to give their grandchildren—some had never been able to give their grandchildren a gift before. Working with the St. Francis Center has given our members a wonderful opportunity to help on Saint Helena Island.

### **Service/Family Activities**

- Members make and serve lunch and provide hospitality to family and friends after a funeral.
- Members volunteer in St. Gregory the Great School in the office, media center, classrooms, and afterschool care.
- Members heard Matthew Kelly's presentation "Living Everyday with Passion and Purpose"
- A parishioner shared the story of her husband who accomplished great things while fighting a debilitating disease. He completed his "bucket list," which included meeting Ted Williams, Bing Crosby, and the Pope. It was a wonderful story of hope, faith, and resiliency.
- Game Day was an opportunity to invite three friends for a light lunch and an afternoon of bridge, canasta, mahjong, etc., which raised \$1,000 for our new parish life center.
- "Make It, Bake It, Grow It" was a fund event where members brought items from one of the three categories for a silent auction, which raised more than \$1,000 for the new parish life center kitchen.
- The Hospitality Committee provided refreshments for First Communion, Confirmation, and parish meetings, as well as signing/presenting cards for all the First Communicants.

### **Service/Family Special Project**

The Parish Life Center at St. Gregory the Great is a much-needed building on our campus! Our small St. Andrew Hall is several miles away and at the site of our old church. The parish has for many years needed a place to gather, having sporting activities, offer funeral hospitality, hold receptions, and have more meeting space. Now under construction, the women became concerned that there was not enough money for the kind of kitchen that would be necessary. The Women of St. Gregory the Great have dedicated all fundraising toward the Parish Life Center kitchen. One event, "Make It, Bake It, Grow It," raised \$1,000 for the kitchen.

### **Service/International Activities**

- 181 Boxes of Joy were collected to be sent to Cross Catholic Outreach and then shipped to Central American countries for children who may not have received a gift for Christmas. The children at St. Gregory the Great School and members of the Youth Group were also given a box to fill this year.

### **Service/International Special Project**

The Cross Catholic Outreach *Boxes of Joy* is a wonderful Advent event at St. Gregory the Great School and Youth Group. It was just that! The students were so excited thinking that they could make another child happy at Christmas. They brought back their boxes so happy with the contents, and they were impressed with the large stack of boxes on tables in the hallway. Cross Catholic Outreach provided a list of appropriate gift items along with the boxes and even rubber bands to secure them. This project was a wonderful way for a child to learn how to be the hands and feet of Jesus!

***St. Peter Catholic Church***  
***Women's Council of St. Peter's Parish***

**Spirituality/Church Activities**

- Faith formation—Women's Scripture Study programs weekly
- Prayer services—"Breath of God" from NCCW and Mary's Stations of the Cross during Lent
- Day of reflection—Sister Pamela Smith spoke on "Who is the Holy Spirit?"
- Book club—books with a spiritual theme are discussed with meetings monthly throughout the year
- Prayer journaling—a presentation based on the book *Praying with a Pen* by Mary Beth Weisenburger
- Movie night—a spiritual-themed movie was shown
- Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children and Rosary at the historic church
- Public Square Rosary—praying for the unborn
- Individual retreats to Mepkin Abbey and Ignatius House
- Life Chain—annual community event supporting the rights of the unborn

**Spirituality/Church Special Project**

There has been a parish-wide emphasis on faith formation in 2018. Women's Scripture Study programs were offered such as "Wisdom" by Jeff Cavins and others throughout the year. The programs were presented weekly with attendance ranging from 12-20 participants. These studies bring together women from our parish—new and longstanding members of varying ages who seek further knowledge of our beautiful faith.

**Spirituality/Legislative Activities**

- Information cards for Hopeful Horizons, the local domestic violence and child abuse facility, were placed in the narthex of the church.

**Leadership/Organization Activities**

- Updated mission statement and bylaws
- 2018 SCCCW Convention attended by five members
- Awarded two scholarships (one was donated) to deserving female graduates
- Reorganized our affiliate to align more with SCCCW with a new name and new focus
- Attended SCCCW Board Meetings



## **Leadership/Organization Project**

On October 23, 2018, the Women of St. Peter's Parish met to discuss our participation as an affiliate of SCCCW. It was felt that there existed a lack of understanding of and commitment to Council. There have also been changes made to the mission of St. Peter's by our new pastor that affected our previous way of functioning as a women's group. After extensive discussion, it was decided that a "makeover" was needed. We determined that the formal activities such as bereavement meals, book club, etc., would continue as stand-alone women's activities in which most of us take part. The faith-building activities and service opportunities previously promoted by the Women of St. Peter's Parish are now being offered by our parish's faith formation director and service council. Change seemed appropriate at this time and so a new group was formed as the affiliate of SCCCW called Women's Council of St. Peter's Parish. After meeting with our pastor, it was approved. An invitation to join this newly reformed group was sent to all women on our contact list along with an explanation. Dues were collected from those who joined in accordance with established guidelines. In January 2019, bylaws will be updated at our first formal meeting. Meetings and activities will focus on deanery, state, and national initiatives and unite our affiliate in service, spirituality, and leadership with the women of the Council.

## **Service/Community Activities**

- Forum on Aging—speakers included a hospice provider, community aging representative, and an audiologist
- Personal care products were collected for Family Promise
- Volunteers helped Family Promise with setting up, providing food, and other duties for families during their stay at the local host church (quarterly) and helped St. Francis Center with a variety of seasonal projects, the thrift shop, and food distribution
- Donations were made to St. Francis Center
- Prison ministry—weekly visits by trained volunteers to female inmates to share the faith

## **Service/Community Special Project**

The St. Francis Center has a special place in our community-at-large and in the hearts of our parishioners, especially the women. Over the past year, we have given our "time, talent, and treasure" by volunteering and donating to a variety of projects. For example, we give them clothes leftover from our summer clothing sale, assist in their jewelry sale, help in the thrift store, participate in seasonal activities, and our parish tithes thousands of dollars each year in support of their outreach. In addition, the need for a food bank arose due to the closing of Our Lady's Pantry that had been supported by Catholic Charities and located on St. Peter's property. The Sisters of the St. Francis Center stepped up and took on this challenge. The Sisters have also graciously hosted meetings and spiritual gatherings for the women of our parish and the deanery.

### **Service/Family Activities**

- Get well notes—personally written by our members for those listed on the parish prayer list
- Hospitality provided for Confirmation, Holy Communion, Senior Graduates receptions, parish-wide studies, RCIA, and middle school youth group
- Bereavement meals—teams (12) of women rotate turns to serve a meal to the family and friends of the deceased either at the church or delivered to the home
- Participation in parish-wide events such as the annual Parish Picnic, the Summer Sale, and the Fall Bazaar
- Homebound Parishioners—help with grocery shopping and other errands
- Assisted Living Facilities—providing the Eucharist and saying the rosary weekly
- Advent Tea—multi-generational Sunday afternoon gathering of the young and young-at-heart to share recipes and conversation

### **Service/Family Special Project**

For years, we have had many members who take the Eucharist to parishioners who were homebound due to short-term illness or long-term disability. This gift has now been extended to a growing number of parishioners (47) in 8 assisted living facilities on a weekly basis by 30 Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, many of whom are members. Once this door was opened in these facilities, we extended our presence by praying the rosary monthly. In addition, having been blessed with an extra priest, every Tuesday and Thursday, Father Chris says Mass at a different facility. It is our pleasure to assist him as proclaimers, sacristans to help set up the altar, and to sit among the residents for companionship and support. With a growing aging population and with the bonds that are being developed, this is providing to be a growing much-appreciated ministry.

### **Service/International Activities**

- Members read and discussed the book *Seed of South Sudan, Memoir of a “Lost Boy” Refugee* by Majok Marier and Estelle Ford-Williamson, a member of our group. Later in the year, some members also attended a talk given by Majok on the continuing struggle of the people of South Sudan.

### **Service/International Special Project**

Each December, our Book Club selects books for the next year’s reading list. Little did we know that we would choose a book that provided an education about the struggle of refugees seeking to save their own lives and that was co-authored by one of our members, who was a former international reporter, and one of the young people who made it out—one of the “Lost Boys of Sudan.” It was a story of persistence and courage. As a follow-up several months later, the “Lost Boy” co-author came to Hilton Head to speak, and several members met him and listened to his talk.

# **Charleston Deanery**

*Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church,  
Charleston*

*St. John the Beloved Catholic Church,  
Summerville*

*St. Patrick Catholic Church,  
Charleston*

***Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church***  
***Blessed Sacrament Women's Guild***

**Spirituality/Church Activities**

- Members first hosted coffee and donuts on Sundays after the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Then, we went to hosting a coffee and donuts Sunday every other month.

**Leadership/Organization Activities**

- Members donated funds to the Knights of Columbus for new tables, which were used when we hosted the Deanery luncheon.
- As a fundraiser, members held its annual Pie Sale around Thanksgiving.

**Service/Community Activities**

- At the start of the school year, members collected school items and back packs and donated them to Catholic Charities. Some members also helped fill the back packs at the local Catholic Charities office.
- Members hosted a successful Craft Fair along with Women of the Word, who served delicious food for lunch. Funds raised will go to a service project.

***St. John the Beloved Catholic Church***  
***St. John the Beloved Women's Guild***

**Spirituality/Church Activities**

- The Prayer Shawl Ministry continually donates shawls to those in need of comfort, whether from personal loss or physical or mental illness. Approximately 15 shawls are crocheted/knitted each month by this core group of members. Hats for cancer patients are donated to local hospitals, and baby blankets are given to the Dorchester Pregnancy Center.
- The Women's Club provides approximately 18 different crock pots of soup, bread, and drinks on two Fridays in Lent before reading the Stations of the Cross (Mary's Way) before the congregation. About 85 parishioners join us during this time of preparation for Good Friday. This year, we not only participated in making the soup, we were in charge of scheduling our church groups to provide the suppers. We were also there to help the groups set up and provide direction.
- Each December, members of the club travel together as a group and attend the Mepkin Abbey Crèche Festival following up with lunch at a local seafood house.
- Members are involved in church and other local ministries such as ushers, greeters, lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, altar servers, Hospitality Team, Special Events Team, Outreach Cooking Team, Bereavement Team, Angel Tree, and St. Vincent de Paul.

**Spirituality/Legislative Activities**

- During the 2017 SCCCW Convention, Father Fabio handed out bracelets made by women who were caught up in human trafficking. The club received two of them. Each month, the bracelets are passed along to a different member as a reminder to pray for those women, men, and children who have suffered from the abuse of trafficking.

**Leadership/Organization Activities**

- The St. John the Beloved Women's Club Facebook page continues to grow with the addition of videos!
- Twelve members attended the Charleston Deanery Annual Luncheon and Meeting in January at St. John in North Charleston.
- Our Woman of the Year was selected as the Charleston Deanery Catholic Woman of the Year.
- Our Reach Out Committee is going strong and we have added members throughout the year. Its purpose is to reach out to new members and make sure they feel welcomed. It also reaches out to members who don't join us on a regular basis due to health, age, or other circumstances. A handout was created to explain our different ministries and includes basic helpful info about the club. A member of the committee sits with new members to answer any questions they may have during or after the meetings, and we received an award for this endeavor at the 2018 SCCCW Convention.

- Fifteen members attended the 2018 SCCCW Convention in Charleston. Members were in charge of convention registration and door prizes and made fabric tissue holders for the banquet table favors.
- Annual spring and fall bake and craft sales were held as fundraisers.
- Members participated in the parish Festival Ministries to draw attention to the group and provide information to others on who they were and what they do.
- Members continue to create a scrapbook of its activities and history of the club.
- The “Popcorn and a Movie” ministry that we began last year is continuing, where once a month a movie that has a redeeming theme is shown and is followed up with comments from the group. We furnish popcorn and drinks and consider these inspiring movies “mini retreats” for our women.
- One member has taken the responsibility of publishing the *Charleston Deanery News*. Information is submitted from clubs, our Spiritual Advisor, our Deanery President, and other interested parties. She then formats it into a newsletter, which is published three times a year.

### **Service/Community Activities**

- The club held its annual Valentine Bingo and Luncheon on February 13 at Pine Ridge Elderly Housing for approximately 63 adults and provided food, drinks, and desserts. After lunch, members played bingo with the residents and distributed prizes, such as deodorants, soaps, dishwashing liquid, kitchen towels, washcloths, toilet paper, paper towels, etc.
- Desserts were provided for one day of Christian Unity Week in January when the parish hosted the guest speaker from another community church.
- Clothing and linens were donated to Second Chance of Summerville, a charitable organization the profits from which are donated to Summerville Meals on Wheels and other local charities. Members also volunteer at the store.
- Members distribute thousands of dollars during the year to support needy and worthwhile causes such as Catholic Relief Services, DuBose Middle School Food Pantry, SCCCW projects, Catholic school scholarship fund, ARK in Summerville, Lowcountry Pregnancy Center, Meals on Wheels, Knights of Columbus, and St. Vincent de Paul, to name a few.

### **Service/Family Activities**

- Food is collected each month and donated to DuBose Middle School to feed children and families who are not able to feed themselves over the weekend, as well as gift cards for food purchases.
- The Book Club meets in the church hall once a month to discuss current reads.

### **Service/International Activities**

- Samaritan's Purse project, Operation Christmas Child, received 20 shoe boxes from members filled with items that are distributed to children around the world.
- We partnered with Deacon Paul Rosenbaum to provide gift boxes for seafarers who are in the Charleston port during the holidays for the second year. We filled and wrapped 127 gift boxes to help brighten their days away from home during the holidays. It was the largest donation from any organization to date.
- A child from UNBOUND is supported by donations from our ladies each month and sent an additional \$100 at Christmas. Estefania is now about to finish university—from a child in desperate need to a university graduate!

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

### **Spirituality/Church Activities**

- During Lent, we hosted a Seder Meal to educate our parishioners on the plight of the Hebrew people as they journeyed out of Egypt to the Promised Land following the book *Come to the Table, a Passover Seder for Parish Life*. We had a total of 35 people in attendance. Father Henry as the lead narrator with a panel of six participants with 2 children participating.
- Members prepared breakfast for five First Holy Communicants and their families after Mass. A total of 60 people were served.
- We hosted Vacation Bible School with a theme of "Parachute with the Angels." Five children attended, and our activities consisted of making rosaries, reciting the rosary, making angels, making colored stain glass, and watching a movie. Each day began and ended with a prayer. The children learned music and a script and performed it the final day. Father Henry blessed the rosaries each child made, and each child was presented with a certificate.
- Members planned and oversaw the collection of school supplies for Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach on Johns Island. We involved the entire parish, and we were able to supply 115 students and 51 households with needed items.
- Members prepared dinner at St. Joseph Church for 110 Home Works of America volunteers (including some from our Guild and the Knights of Peter Claver).
- In September, we sponsored a retreat at Mepkin Abbey with the theme "Feast of the Guardian Angels: Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael and Spiritual Warfare." Our narrator was Sister Kathy Adamski. It was the feast day of the three archangels, and we reflected on 3 questions: When have you felt particularly favored by God or when did God grant you a special blessing? How did you feel about being so blessed? And, as Mary did, did you feel perhaps unworthy to receive such a gift from God? It was a great day for fellowshiping with our brothers and sisters.

### **Spirituality/Legislative Activities**

- Members provide information on issues that affect us on the local, state, and national level, encouraging members to contact their legislative person for action.
- Members encourage others to vote in all elections and provide materials for registration, change of address, name change, absentee ballots, etc.
- Members support organizations that promote justice, such as Charleston Area Justice Ministry (CAJM), which consists of 31 congregations who identify injustice practices in the community, research it, and offer ways to resolve it. Some of the positive outcomes thus far include more pre-k slots available in public schools for 4-year-olds, decreases in school suspensions by using Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support (PBIS), and wage theft recovery, to name a few.
- Members promote knowing and encouraging the use of Social Justice practices identified by our faith. As a faith community and as an organization, we are obligated to ensure that justice issues are addressed continuously.



### **Leadership/Organization Activities**

- Members facilitated the process to select the St. Patrick Women's Guild Catholic Woman of the Year.
- The Leadership Commission hosted a table at the Women's Guild Annual Tea, which is the major, annual fundraiser for the guild. It raises substantial funds for scholarships, feeding the homeless, and other guild projects.
- Compiled a Guild Handbook and provided them to new members. They included state, deanery, and affiliate bylaws, a current roster of members with contact information, Our Lady of Good Counsel prayer, guild calendar, and blank membership form for recruitment. Updated guild rosters and handbooks are also provided to existing members.
- Participated with Our Lady of Guadalupe Junior Daughters Angel Tree, providing Christmas gifts for five families from My Sister's House, an organization lending aid to victims of domestic violence.

### **Service/Community Activities**

- Echo House at St. John's Center—Every fourth Friday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., members prepared and served hot lunches for 10 to 20 seniors in the North Charleston community at St. John Catholic Church Center. Members played bingo and pokeno, sing gospel songs, and talk about current events. Every Christmas, members have a social, invite the Bishop, and give each senior a gift bag full of goodies.
- Mrs. Bing Foster Care Program—Mrs. Bing is a foster mother to special needs children and adults. Members donated 3 containers of household products such as washing powder, bleach, dish washing liquid, Lysol, etc. We do this each year and also donated Christmas Cheer Baskets, which contained food items such as stuffing, a frozen chicken, rice, flour, corn bread mix, string beans, pancake mix, syrup, and cranberries. We gave a total of 6 bags and also presented her with a check for \$200.

### **Service/International Activities**

- People in Africa are flocking to the Church and embracing the Gospel message. The Church is growing very quickly, but too often there are not enough local resources to support people on their faith journey. As a result, St. Patrick Women's Guild International Commission supported the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa with a donation of \$200, which will help train youth leaders connect with and guide young people across the country.

# **Columbia Deanery**

*Corpus Christi Catholic Church,  
Lexington*

*St. Joseph Catholic Church,  
Columbia*

*St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church,  
Columbia*

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

**Spirituality/Church Activities**

- Members provided financial support and acquired one of the new Stations of the Cross for the church.
- Members hosted a pizza and ice cream reception for the members of the Confirmation class and their parents.
- Members sponsored a reception for the Lenten Mission held at Corpus Christi in March.
- Members hosted a reception for the First Communion class and their families, and also hosted one for the RCIA group and their families after the Easter Mass.
- Members contributed \$700 to help purchase choir robes for our Youth Choir Ministry.
- Members hosted a reception at the church after Christmas Caroling in December.

**Spirituality/Legislative Activities**

- We hosted a seminar on human trafficking given by State Attorney General Alan Wilson. We invited the entire parish and the community. We also recorded this event on DVD so the information can be shared.
- A donation was given to The Light House for Life, which is an organization that supports individuals recovering from being a victim of human trafficking.

**Leadership/Organization Activities**

- Members hosted the January Columbia Deanery Meeting and Luncheon.
- We received the Ruth Schachte Membership Award for the most new members.
- Several members continue to support and assume leadership positions in coordinating other retreats for Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP), which is now renamed Welcome.
- Members serve as greeters for Masses at the parish.
- Members hosted a wine and cheese reception for all women in the parish for the initial fall meeting. As a result, membership increased substantially, and 70 women attended this meeting.
- We invited Angell Lowe to speak at a meeting about her project for her Girl Scout Gold Award, which we supported.
- Members held a Tea & Fashion Show for the parish and community, and the funds raised were used to support the many CCCW projects.
- We invited Otis Rawl (President and CEO of the Greater Lexington Visitor Center) to be a guest speaker and talk about all the upcoming changes in Lexington.
- We nominated JoDee Doua for the Corpus Christi Catholic Woman (CCCW) Catholic Woman of the Year.

### **Service/Community Activities**

- Plastic bags are collected at monthly meetings and sent to Missions Lexington, to be used to bag food, healthcare items, and clothes for the needy of Lexington County.
- CCCW hosted a baby shower for Birthright, providing diapers, healthcare items, clothing, and monetary donations to support pregnant women.
- Two bake sales were held to raise funds for various CCCW projects.
- Members provided gifts and donations for children in the cancer units at the local hospitals.

### **Service/Family Activities**

- Parish Outreach—members offer prayers for illness and/or special intentions through emails or special announcements.
- Baby blankets embroidered with CCCW are sent with a card to new mothers in the parish. Blankets are also provided for those suffering with extended illnesses, and meals are delivered as needed.
- Hospitality Basket—CCCW provides items in the women’s restroom of the church and replenishes them as needed. The basket contains diapers, wipes, women’s sanitary items, tissues, and lotion.
- An Easter Egg Hunt was held for the children of the parish.
- CCCW coordinates the parish Giving Tree. Approximately 900 gifts were donated and distributed to needy individuals in the community.
- An Italian dinner was sponsored by CCCW. Funds were raised and used to support CCCW members’ attendance at the 2018 SCCCW Convention.

***St. Joseph Catholic Church***  
***St. Joseph Women's Society***

**Spirituality/Church Activities**

- Weekly cleaning of the church and washing/ironing of linens used during Mass
- Decorating the church/gym at Easter and Christmas
- Decorating the parish Chrismon Tree with more than 500 Chrismon cross-stitched ornaments
- Yearly All Souls Memorial Mass/Reception in honor of those who died within the last year—Members invite families of the deceased to attend the Mass and reception, and the reception is hosted by the members in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus.
- Participate in the Rosary for the Unborn monthly
- Provide food after a funeral for the family who just lost a loved one
- Hosted a simple, meatless soup meal after Stations of the Cross and Mass one Friday in Lent, where more than 110 parishioners were served with 12 crock pots of meatless soups
- Helped 2 seminarians with monetary donations
- Day of Recollection—participated in this retreat sponsored by the Senior Life Ministry
- Attended the Advent Vesper services

**Spirituality/Church Special Project**

The event that has the most impact on our members and parishioners is the Annual All Souls' Memorial Mass and Reception. Those who have lost a loved one within the past year are sent a formal invitation to attend Mass where their loved one is remembered. A formal reception is held after the Mass where members of the St. Joseph Women's Society have prepared all the food and serve as hostesses. This night helps those who are grieving know that we have not forgotten their loved ones, and it helps the grieving process. Members have said that a feeling of sadness—and yet joy—knowing you had a part in this wonderful evening stays with you for a while afterwards.

**Spirituality/Legislative Activities**

- Kept members informed on legislative issues at the SC State House
- Called and/or sent postcards to Legislators on how to vote on certain issues
- Contributed and delivered lunch to the Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands training session
- Information was given and a donation made to Lighthouse for Life, a human trafficking assistance program that was able to reach out to more than 20 victims of human trafficking this year and serve them in a variety of ways
- A members spoke about attending the Center of Spirituality and Human Trafficking Seminar

### **Leadership/Organization Activities**

- Several members attended the 2018 SCCCW Convention, the 2018 NCCW Convention in Pittsburgh, PA, and two attended the 2018 Savannah CCW Convention in Richmond Hill, GA.
- Received a Scrapbook Award at the 2018 SCCCW Convention
- Purchased and wrapped gifts given to children from the parish Giving Tree
- Purchased sneakers/socks for Catholic Charities to distribute to the homeless
- Published a monthly newsletter to keep our members informed on what is happening, upcoming events, projects, and other information
- Members conducted the annual “From the Devine Kitchens” food/craft sale the weekend before Thanksgiving. Members made 114 casseroles and soups as well as 160 cakes, pies, cookies, and other desserts. More than \$4,000 was raised that will be used within the community and church.
- Published a supplement to the St. Joseph Women’s Society directory, which includes a yearly calendar, member and honorary member contact information, listing of past presidents and deceased members, and the bylaws

### **Service/Community Activities**

- Tea Room Luncheon for Birthright—Members sponsored the event where all proceeds received went directly to Birthright (\$2,300). Parishioners also donated diapers, clothes, blankets, wipes, etc., during a 10-day period, which the member brought to the luncheon and donated to Birthright.
- Bedrolls for the Homeless—Members participated in this community-wide project. Plastic bags are cut into strips, which are then daisy-chained and crocheted into a pallet (bedroll) to be given to the homeless. It takes approximately 600 plastic bags to complete one 3’ x 6’ bedroll. We made and donated 3 bedrolls to Catholic Charities to distribute to their clients.
- Snack Pack Program—During the school year, members fill bags with food donated by the Palmetto Project for children who are in need of nourishment on the weekends. Members fill approximately 160 bags every other week, which is distributed to three different schools. Last year, members packed approx. 3,100 bags which equates to approximately 300 volunteer hours.
- Made a contribution to support Family Honor and its programs
- Supported Lighthouse for Life, which provides education and support for victims of human trafficking
- Several members provide many volunteer hours and donations to Catholic Charities Clean of Heart Ministry.

### **Service/Community Special Project**

Our Birthright project involved two events—the Tea Room Luncheon and the collection of items for Birthright. The Women’s Society prepared all the food, and we hold a luncheon inviting people to attend and ask for a monetary donation. All proceeds raised from this luncheon go directly to Birthright. Items for Birthright are collected for 10 days—the weekend before the Tea Room Luncheon to the weekend afterward—from the parish as well as members of the Women’s Society. This event raised more than \$2,300 and 2 van loads of items for Birthright. Blankets hand-crocheted by members were also donated to Birthright.

### **Service/Family Activities**

- Participate in parish Giving Tree at Christmas providing clothing and toys to a child in need
- Raised \$1,000 for the Parish Youth Program by selling Belk Charity Day Sale tickets, the funds for which help youth attend activities, meetings, and conferences within and outside the parish
- Volunteer on the Senior Life Board, which sponsors trips, lunch & learn sessions, retreats, and an annual luncheon
- Donated funds to St. Vincent de Paul Society to help feed those in need
- Prepared and served meals after funerals to bereaved family members
- Contributed to NCCW Vocation Purse, which helps alleviate the debt of women who are discerning a religious vocation

### **Service/International Activities**

- Sponsor a child through Project San Pedro
- Donated money to ship out-of-date religious education materials to a parish mission in Ibandan, Nigeria, for Father Martin

***St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church***  
***St. Martin de Porres Rosary Altar Society***

**Spirituality/Church Activities**

- Decorated the church for Easter and Christmas
- Keep the altar linens clean and participated in church clean up
- Lead and recite the Rosary once a month as an organization
- Members sing in the Women's Choir one Sunday each month and serve on the Parish Council with the Rosary Altar Society (RAS) represented on the Liturgy Committee.
- Provide spiritual readings and handouts at RAS meetings
- Serve as lectors for all masses when assigned
- May Crowning
- Set up displays for church activities
- Provided new cassocks for altar servers
- Recitation of the Rosary at wakes upon request

**Spirituality/Church Special Project**

The Women's Choir was formed as a result of a RAS retreat held many years ago. Many of the members make up the choir, which allows us to come together for praise and worship. Over the years, the pastor and church members have expressed an endearing appreciation for the music we share and that it enhances the spirituality of those attending Mass. The choir strives to provide music that supports the liturgy. Members also attend musical workshops to improve their vocal skills.

**Spirituality/Legislative Activities**

- Participated in Breast Cancer Walk for Life, had an information table set up regarding Breast Cancer and the importance of being tested, and handed out pink ribbons in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- Provided a monetary donation to Church Women United
- Participated in voter registration drives within our neighborhoods, worked at the polls, served as poll watchers, assisted in a phone bank reminding registered voters to vote, and handed out information regarding the election ballot, how to use the voting machines, and poll locations
- Human Trafficking—Publicized information in the parish bulletin; shared information with members on issues, concerns, and resources available to educate teens and suspected victims on human trafficking; provided information with the parish youth counselor to share with members of the Youth Group; distributed a flyer with contact numbers, which was provided by the Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary National Office
- Members attended the Black Heritage Festival each year.
- One member is actively involved in NCCW, serving on the Resolutions Committee and previously serving on the Nominating Committee. She shares information and updates monthly, not only with the RAS but also the Columbia Deanery and the SCCCW Board.



### **Spirituality/Legislative Project**

One legislative activity that meant the most to our affiliate was the sharing of information regarding human trafficking, not only with the parish, but more importantly, with the youth group in the church. In addition, being made aware of legislative issues so we can act accordingly, understanding and carrying out the mission of NCCW, and adhering to resolutions passed during convention have been impactful to our members, too.

### **Leadership/Organization Activities**

- Annual RAS Executive Board Retreat
- Served as officers of the Columbia Deanery, and hosted and participated in Deanery meetings and projects
- Participated in SCCCW activities; attended the 2018 SCCCW Convention; served on the SCCCW Board of Directors
- Member spotlighted on NCCW magazine
- Served on NCCW Nominating Committee and represented at NCCW Convention

### **Leadership/Organization Project**

The activity that had the most impact on our affiliate and community was having one of our members featured on the cover of the NCCW magazine, *Catholic Woman*. This national exposure brought honor and positive attention to the hard working members of our affiliate. We greatly appreciate the representation by Yvonne Pygatt. Her story in the magazine highlighted the spirituality and dedicated service of all Catholic women.

### **Service/Community Activities**

- Mother-Daughter/Sister-Sister Luncheon
- Right-to-Life Walk
- Soup Kitchen Ministry
- Birthright of Columbia
- Catholic Charities donations
- Senior Savvy Group Community Action Group
- Home Works of SC
- Provided Thanksgiving dinners to local senior living facility
- Donated items to St. Martin de Porres School for auction
- Organized and donated health kits for the homeless
- Provided hats, gloves, and socks for the homeless
- Donation to SCCCW Convention Project
- Donated and packed Thanksgiving baskets with Knights of Peter Claver

### **Service/Community Special Project**

“Give us today our daily bread.” (Matthew 6:11) This is the mission of the Soup Kitchen Ministry. St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church is one of the few places in the City of Columbia where the homeless can receive a meal every Sunday. This program has truly become a community outreach program. The church has established collaborations with other Catholic churches and community organizations. This past year, we have focused on providing other needed items in addition to a meal. Several times a year, we gave the homeless health kits, socks, hats, and gloves as needed for the season. The RAS is responsible for the Soup Kitchen on the second Sunday of each month. Members shop, prepare the food, and serve those who come for assistance—youth, the elderly, and the disabled. These persons are delighted to offer prayer and expressions of appreciation for the time and commitment of the ladies that share in this ministry. Before closing the kitchen, bags of food are left for those who may stop by the church for something to eat during the week. A pleasant smile and mutual respect for all God’s children is apparent, and a sense of joy is derived from serving our fellow man.

### **Service/Family Activities**

- After-Mass fellowship
- Servers for repasts
- Black Catholics Heritage Celebration
- Celebration for dads, grads, and retirees
- Donations to St. Martin de Porres School staff and students
- Home visits to the sick and shut-ins
- Transport elderly members to medical appointments and church services
- Support of Vacation Bible School and CCD
- Create displays for family activities
- Church picnic
- St. Martin de Porres School art and writing activity and display
- Provided refreshments and gifts to First Communicants

### **Service/Family Special Project**

Our favorite family activity is the annual church picnic, and our members are very involved in this event. Families who may attend different Masses come together to attend the same Mass, share a meal, and fellowship with one another. Families provide food representing the various cultures that make up the parish. Everyone looks forward to this event that brings the whole church together.

### **Service/International Activities**

- World Day of Prayer
- Donated health kits to Church Women United
- Feast Day of St. Martin de Porres celebration
- Cinco de Mayo celebration
- Black Heritage Conference
- Soul Fest Juneteenth
- Donation to Catholic Charities

### **Service/International Special Project**

The favorite international activity that the RAS participated in is the bi-annual Juneteenth Soul Fest, a community-wide event sponsored by St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church. It is a huge outdoor festival involving the entire church and neighboring community. The RAS has a booth at the festival and is involved in all aspects of the festival. Several members serve on the Planning Committee. The community is engaged and exposed to a wonderful display of diverse cultures expressed through a variety of food vendors, live entertainment, handmade apparel, jewelry, and artwork, all of which represents several continents.

# **Greenville Deanery**

*St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church,  
Greenville*

*St. Mary's Catholic Church,  
Greenville*

***St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church***  
***St. Anthony of Padua Women's Council***

**Spirituality/Church Activities**

- 2018 Prayer Breakfast—This year featured a guest speaker, songstress and humorist, Sister Kathleen Adamski, who both entertained and advised. The theme was “Secret Place.”
- We continue to serve prepare and serve meals to the bereaved after funeral Masses, especially for the four members we lost this year.
- We head our annual Father's Day Breakfast in June for the men of the parish.
- Deacon Steve, our Spiritual Advisor, leads us in prayer at the beginning and end of each meeting. We now ask our Holy Mother to intercede for us and hear our healing prayers for Deacon Steve as he undergoes treatment for cancer.
- Our attendance in the Living Waters Bible Study and St. Anthony University classes are resources used to educate, strengthen, and deepen our faith.
- Our members are lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, choir members, and CCD teachers.
- Members help regularly with cleaning the sanctuary.
- We celebrated Clergy Sunday on October 14 by giving each clergy a card.

**Spirituality/Legislative Activities**

- We informed our members of the SC voters registration deadline and provided the link to register in a notice on the parish's Servants Heart website.

**Leadership/Organization Activities**

- Bon Secours Health System sponsored a workshop on issues surrounding human trafficking. The speakers were from the health field, law enforcement, and the media. Each emphasized the need to dispel the myths that human trafficking is an issue of sex trafficking only. It includes addiction and forced labor. Two of our members participated in the August conference and came away informed about the problem faced in the health care industry.
- 10 members attended the 2018 SCCCW Convention in Charleston, SC
- One member attended the 2018 NCCW Convention in Pittsburgh, PA
- Participated in and shared information from the Deanery.
- Participated in several Black Congress Workshops at Furman University
- Attended the Native American Catholic Heritage Celebration at Springbreak Retreat
- Supported and participated in the Native American History of St. Kateri Day Celebration

### **Service/Community Activities**

- Period Project for Homeless Girls and Women in the Upstate—The mission of this project is to educate, bring awareness of, and end the stigma of menstruation in our society. We purchased, assembled, and delivered more than 125 packs of personal hygiene products.
- Donated 25 purses filled with personal items to Serenity House, which is a transitional house and treatment center for pregnant women and young mothers of preschool children.

### **Service/Family Activities**

- Christmas Dinner Boxes—Five families were chosen to receive a complete dinner for Christmas. We purchased 10-pound turkeys, dressing, cranberry sauce, white and sweet potatoes, rice, gravy, and rolls. Each family received 2 beautifully decorated boxes.
- The Women's Council prepared food and worked serving the line for the annual parish picnic.
- We paid tribute to African-American leaders by attending and participating in a play written by our now deceased Ruby King. The play was well received and was repeated at our Juneteenth Celebration.
- Annual Bake Sale and Bazaar—We sold baked goods and advent wreaths.

### **Service/International Activities**

- Shoes 4 Water—We collected shoes (new, used, all types and kinds, men's, women's, and children's) for a nonprofit charity that takes them to Kenyan Villages where they are sold, and the proceeds from which are used to purchase water well drilling equipment and filtration supplies.
- Christmas at Sea, Seafarer Ministry at the Charleston Port—Our members collected, purchased, and assembled boxes of personal products for the men and women who crew the cargo ships. With the help of our CCD classes, we assembled 40 boxes.

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

**Spirituality/Church Activities**

- Members open each meeting with a recitation of the rosary. They also begin each meeting with prayer.
- Sewing Ministry meets twice a month to continue to work on making pillowcases, which are delivered to children at GHS Children's Hospital. We are also making clothing out of pillowcases and hope to deliver them to children at an orphanage in Haiti, which will be delivered by members of St. Anthony of Padua on their mission trip.
- Stations of the Cross parish-sponsored meals were prepared and served by members of the Council. Members spend time in fellowship and networking. Between 60-100 people attend.
- A Meet & Greet was held after each Mass in August so parish women could come and hear about Council and see some of our projects. Commission Chairs tri-folds that highlighted their projects with information on how ladies could participate. We acquired several new members during this event.
- A retreat was held at the Monastery of St. Clare Retreat House, and Sister Margie Hosch, OSF, was the speaker and her topic was "How to talk to Jesus and how to understand His reply." It began with Mass and lunch was provided. There were 17 ladies in attendance.
- Several members visited the Holy Angeles Facility in Belmont, NC, which is operated under the Sisters of Mercy and provides care and opportunities for those living with intellectual developmental disabilities and delicate medical conditions.
- Members attended a retreat held at Blessed Trinity Catholic Church in Greer. There are currently three individual members from this parish in the Greenville Deanery and SCCCW. We shared information on forming an affiliate of SCCCW, which was well received.

**Spirituality/Church Special Project**

The Board decided to decorate a Christmas Tree at the St. Francis Festival of Trees in memory of Eileen Lee, a long-time member who recently passed away. We were assigned a tree at the located in the lobby of the Embassy Suites Hotel, downtown Greenville. The tree was decorated with ornaments that Eileen had donated to the Council, which was a complete set of ornaments produced by the Council of different stained-glass windows of our parish. (The Council had been creating these ornaments since 2000.) Other members donated their stained-glass ornaments and other gold decorations to fill out the tree. After the tree was completed, our local Channel 7 News interviewed our president and highlighted our tree on the news. In her interview, she explained about Eileen's long-time membership and how our Council thought this was a great way to honor Eileen. It was truly a beautiful tree, which many members were excited about. The tree was left in the lobby until December 31 for all to see.

### **Spirituality/Legislative Activities**

- The Legislative Chair provided members with instructions on finding their respective legislators, information on different legislative issues, opportunities to meet candidates and learn about their views, reminders to register to vote, instructions on voting absentee, as well as links to polling locations, directions, and sample ballots.
- Members were given the opportunity to participate in free premieres of three political movies: *Death of a Nation*, *Bleeding Blue*, and *Gosnell Movie*.

### **Service/Community Activities**

- In April, Council organized a St. Mary's Night at the Greenville Drive, Greenville's minor league baseball team. The Council sold 100 tickets. The game was exciting; the weather was great; and everyone enjoyed the event. St. Mary's was recognized by the stadium announcer.
- Members provided and served a dinner of barbeque, salads, and desserts to 40 Home Works volunteers who arrived in Greenville to repair the homes of the poor and elderly.
- The food pantry manager of Our Lady's Pantry, a ministry of Catholic Charities, spoke to our group and informed us about the operation and the need for shopping buddies and volunteers to sort the food. The Council continues to support this ministry.
- In February, members hosted a star party for the young boys in the Generations Group Facility, which provides help for sexually abused boys. (Each Friday, Generations has a star party for boys who earn attendance based on their behavior throughout the week.) In November, members were to host another party. Like previously, members collected school supplies and prizes and planned the dinner. Although the party was canceled, members have scheduled another party for later. In addition to the parties, members donated 30 Christmas gift bags filled with clothes and other wished-for items for the boys for Christmas.
- Members collected Christmas and greeting cards, which are sent to St. Jude Home for Children (a nonprofit safe haven for abused, abandoned, and neglected children), who then recycle (i.e., attaching the front of the cards to new backs) and sell the cards.
- Members contribute to the community through the following ministries: Senior Companions, hospital volunteers, Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity, Birthright, Junior League, Calvary Home for Children, poll workers, hospice workers, Guardian Ad Litem, etc.

### **Service/International Activities**

- The Sewing Ministry has expanded to make dresses and pants out of pillowcases for children at an orphanage in Haiti, which will be delivered by members of St. Anthony of Padua on their mission trip.
- For the second year, members collected personal care items in boxes for the Christmas-at-Sea Program. Filled and wrapped boxes were collected for several months. More than 160 boxes were collected by members and delivered to Charleston in time for Christmas. The boxes went to men and women seafarers who are far away from home while working on the many cargo and container ships that call at the Port of Charleston.



# **Myrtle Beach Deanery**

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

*St. Andrew Catholic Church,  
Myrtle Beach*

*St. James the Younger Catholic Church,  
Conway*

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

### **Spirituality/Church Activities**

- Two officers are active members of the core group for the Diocesan MAP Project.
- Guild members held an information booth at a church ministries fair in the spring and served coffee and donuts to parishioners.
- As a group, members attend Mass and Adoration on the First Friday.
- Members staff and manage the parish gift shop, which serves as an excellent medium to reach visitors and parishioners in an ecumenical way by providing religious articles and “conversation” to those entering the shop. The profits from the shop are for the guild and the church to support its many nonprofit ministries.
- Members conducted a May Crowning ceremony with the full participation of the priests and parishioners.
- Fifty purificators for the church were made by members.
- Members welcomed the church’s new pastor, Father Ray Leonard.
- The Guild began participating with candles in the Funeral Masses of deceased members.
- Members held a breakfast for First Communion participants and their families.
- Information of the Legion of Mary is shared at each of the meetings.
- The Guild has taken on the responsibility of the parish library, which serves the whole parish with books on spiritual and Church information.
- Many members actively participate in Mass service ministries as Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers.

### **Spirituality/Legislative Activities**

- Members attended the March for Life this past year.

### **Leadership/Organization Activities**

- Meetings had speakers on various topics such as a flag-folding ceremony by the Veteran’s Auxiliary, Camp Kemo, Wigs for Cancer, personal safety by a police officer, and the SCCCW Myrtle Beach Deanery.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month is a “Newcomer Breakfast,” where both seasoned and new members share about guild activities and enjoy each other’s’ company. A buddy system has begun where a current member is paired with a new member for 3 months to guide them through our many ministries and activities.
- The Guild hosted the SCCCW Myrtle Beach Deanery Meeting; several members attended the 2018 SCCCW Convention, one of whom was nominated as Catholic Woman of the Year.
- Members supported the Parish Lenten Fish Fry by making desserts.
- Scholarships were given to Holy Trinity School and St. Elizabeth Seton High School.
- Quilters in our group take applications for veterans who will receive a Quilt of Valor made for them by the ladies.

### **Leadership/Organization Project**

The Guild directory is updated every three months to keep it current. A complete revision occurs every two years upon the election of new officers. Meetings are held on the first Friday of the month, beginning with Mass, Adoration, light refreshments, speakers, and the meeting. Newsletters are sent to members each month and e-blasts are available for important, time-sensitive information. The bulletin communicates meetings and special events.

### **Service/Community Activities**

- Card Party—The proceeds go to Mobile Meals of North Myrtle Beach.
- Palm Sunday Bake Sale—The proceeds go to Mercy Hospice.
- The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to serve the community with lap robes, chemo sleeves, seat belt pads, stillborn baby blankets, baby hats and blankets, prayer squares, beds for animals in the No Kill Shelter, and knitted support blankets for children rescued from abusive situations.
- Members support Summit Place, a local assisted living/nursing facility with Masses, rosaries, and activities each month to the delight of the residents.
- A fundraiser is held every spring to support the Family Justice Center of Georgetown and Horry Counties, which aids victims of domestic violence.

### **Service/Family Activities**

- Funeral luncheons were held until Hurricane Florence. They had to be suspended until further notice as we accommodate the Holy Trinity students.
- Guild members collect supplies throughout the year and prom dresses tuxedos in the spring for Teen Angels, an organization supporting homeless high school students.
- 

### **Service/Family Special Project**

Due to the damage caused by Hurricane Florence to Holy Trinity School, the students and staff have been moved to the Parish Center. There are 85 students, grades 1-8, and staff members, which need to have an uninterrupted program of teaching. The Guild and all parish ministries are supporting this move and have adjusted schedules and activities to accommodate this ongoing situation.

### **Service/International Special Project**

UNBOUND—Since 2009, the Ladies Guild has sponsored/sponsors a girl, Emerta, from Honduras.

***St. Andrew Catholic Church***  
***St. Andrew Women's Club***

**Spirituality/Church Activities**

- Members sponsored and hosted the Myrtle Beach Deanery Retreat, “Feminine Genius in Missionary Discipleship,” which was led by Kathy Schmugge, Director of Family Life for the Diocese.
- Members attended the Matthew Kelly presentation, “Passion with a Purpose,” in Beaufort, SC.
- A pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of South Carolina/Our Lady of Joyful Hope in Kingstree, SC, was taken.
- The Women's Club manages the parish gift shop and donated \$7,000 back to the church. In 2018, a credit card machine was installed to increase the sale of religious items.
- Members raised more than \$6,000 to purchase 3 sets of candles and votives for the church.
- Rosary makers made more than 1,500 rosaries for distribution in the US and abroad.
- Members participate in parish ministries as lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, choir members, Bible Study, office help, etc.
- Member attend Holy Hours on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month to pray for the success of the school.

**Spirituality/Church Special Project**

We recognize the symbolism of light and the general usage of candles in religious practice. Christians adapted the use of lit candles during Mass, liturgical processions, evening prayer ceremonies, funeral processions, and to show reverence to the Blessed Sacrament. In our Catholic tradition, in early times as well as today, light has a special significance—Christ. The usage of votive candles today is a practice in many churches. The symbolism reminds us that prayer is a “coming into” the light of Christ, allowing our souls to be filled with His light, and letting that light burn in our souls. The St. Andrew Women's Club pledged to help our church by purchasing three additional tables of votive candles. Fundraising was done, and through additional money raised from the parish gift shop, which the Women's Club manages, more than \$6,000 was used in this endeavor of peace, prayer, enlightenment, and light!

**Spirituality/Legislative Activities**

- Members encouraged voter registration and participation in primary and general elections.
- In October, baby bottles were distributed to members, who filled them with change during the month. Funds collected were donated to the local Right to Life organization.
- Members participated in Catholics for Freedom of Religion, which hosted monthly rosaries at Warbird Park, conducted monthly meetings with speakers, and marched in the “Military Appreciation Day” parade.

### **Spirituality/Legislative Project**

Catholics for Freedom of Religion—Is sponsored by one of the Women’s Club members and others in the club. The subject of religious freedom is presented to people from all over the Deanery monthly at St. Andrew’s Community Life Center. The meetings consist of informative material, current happenings in the country, and often guest speakers. Also, once a month, individuals are invited to come together outside at Warbird Park near Market Commons and the ocean to pray the rosary as a group. This year, members participated in the “Military Appreciation Day” parade at Market Commons. Once a year, the Catholics for Freedom of Religion Group gives a scholarship to a qualified elementary student in the area who has written a speech on religious freedom and what it means to him/her. This is an excellent way to encourage the youth to be good citizens and to be informed!

### **Leadership/Organization Activities**

- Speakers are offered at most monthly meetings to promote fellowship and provide education opportunities and knowledge on how members can help the community. Also, a SCCCW representative is on the agenda each month to pass along information on Council.
- Members hosted the Myrtle Beach Deanery Meeting, where the film on human trafficking that was purchased at the NCCW Convention was shown. Members also attended the 2018 SCCCW Convention in Charleston, SC, and one member attended the NCCW Convention in Pittsburgh, PA.
- The Woman of the Year was announced at a Mass at church and then the club held its annual luncheon at a local restaurant.
- A board meeting was held to plan the new year, offer training, and instruct officers in the WIN (Welcome, Informed, Needed) concept for retaining members, running meetings, and mentoring. A monthly newsletter was proposed and has been in operation since August 2018. A telephone tree and emails are also used for communication.
- The Women’s Club held a membership drive by distributing brochures at all Masses, talking with prospective members, having announcements made from the pulpit, and advertising. A membership contest, “Be a Friend Bring a Friend,” was promoted. Fourteen new members joined from this effort.

### **Leadership/Organization Project**

A special board meeting was held in July by the new President to plan the new year to train new officers and instruct them in the WIN (Welcome, Informed, Needed) concept for retaining members, running meetings, and mentoring. A monthly newsletter was proposed and has been in operation since August 2018, and a telephone tree and emails are also used, both of which have helped communication. A membership drive was held, where members distributed brochures after all Masses and talked with prospective members. Father Morgan made announcements from the pulpit, and lots of advertising was done. A membership contest was held called “Be a Friend Bring a Friend” where the names of members who bring a new member are entered for a \$50 gift certificate, which has been a great incentive.

### **Service/Community Activities**

- Members attended and helped host the Myrtle Beach Deanery Card Party, which raised funds for various community organizations.
- Donations of food, cleaning supplies, and money were given to those affected by Hurricane Florence.
- At the November meeting, members donated shoeboxes filled with toys, toiletries, etc., for Help For Kids.
- Members participated in the parish Holiday Bazaar by setting up a booth and selling religious items, homemade scarves, baked goods, etc. Unsold items were donated to Catholic Charities.
- After the December Christmas Party, member donated layette items and diapers, which were given to Catholic Charities.

### **Service/Community Special Project**

Hurricane Florence was a powerful hurricane that stalled near/on the Carolinas in September 2018 and caused more than \$17.9 billion in damage, primarily due to resultant freshwater flooding. The elementary school at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Holy Trinity, is no longer able to run daily programs because of major flooding in the school and chapel. School is now being held in the OLSS community building, which is filled to capacity. Several churches in the Myrtle Beach Deanery also suffered damage to their property and lost income from being closed. The Women's Club donated money, food, cleaning supplies, adult and children's clothing, diapers, and support to Catholic Charities and other organizations aiding victims of Hurricane Florence, and will continue to do so throughout this long recovery stage. Let us not forget those in need who continue to suffer from this storm!

### **Service/Family Activities**

- Members hosted a going away reception for a seminarian, Pedro Silva.
- The Women's Club donated more than 60 Valentines bags of goodies to Eagle Crest Assisted Living Nursing Home in Myrtle Beach.
- Members help with monthly hospitality at St. Andrew School, reading to the children, and working in the onsite library garden.
- A book and bake sale was carried out, and proceeds were given to St. Andrew School and other club projects.
- A member coordinated a very successful parish-wide sweater and coat drive for the poor in the Kingstree Community. It took two full van loads to deliver the items.

### **Service/Family Special Project**

The Women's Club adopted the Felician Sisters and their center in Kingstree, SC, as its sister church to help and support the needs of the community. Members have donated food, cereal, Valentine candy and clothes. This year, members sponsored a very successful parish-wide drive for sweaters and coats, which were collected in the gift shop, brought to Kingstree, and distributed by the Sisters.

***St. James the Younger Catholic Church***  
***St. James Ladies Guild***

**Spirituality/Church Activities**

- Several members attended a spiritual retreat held at St. Andrew's Catholic Church.
- A Day of Recollection was held in April with one member as a guest speaker on the topic, "Faith Leads to Adventure."
- In May, a crowning of the Blessed Mother was held in the Meditation Garden, where one of the members crowned the Blessed Mother.
- Members serve on the Bereavement Committee that helps parishioners dealing with the loss of a loved one.
- When requested, members serve lunch on behalf of the family of a deceased parishioner after the funeral.
- Help was provided at receptions honoring the anniversaries of the ordinations of the Parish Pastor, Father Timothy Lijewski (25<sup>th</sup>) and the Parochial Vicar, Father Timothy Akanson (30<sup>th</sup>).
- Members honored a fellow member who was instrumental in creating the parish Meditation Garden with the planting of a crepe myrtle tree and installation of an engraving stone.
- Members teach CCD classes, serve as Eucharistic Ministers, and volunteer in the church office.

**Leadership/Organization Activities**

- One member volunteers to maintain the membership list and keep it up to date. Another member informs the group of new parish members who want to join in one of the ministries.
- An advertisement is placed in the church bulletin for new members who want to join.
- The Ladies Guild sold 70 Christmas wreaths as a fundraiser.
- An end-of-the-year celebration and Christmas party was held for members.

**Service/Community Activities**

- Members donated funds to the following organizations: Help 4 Kids/Backpack Buddies (food, snack items, clothing, school supplies for children in need), Georgetown Justice Center (money for domestic violence victims), and Special Olympics (money for the program).
- One member coordinates volunteers to cook and serve meals at Shepherd's Table.
- Members organized a rummage sale, and any items not sold were donated to Goodwill and Fostering Hope for Children in Conway, clothing was distributed to the homeless through Christ Methodist Church in Conway and the Salvation Army, eye glasses were given to a local library, blankets were delivered to the Humane Society, shoes went to developing countries, and socks went to men in Ghana.

### **Service/Family Activities**

- Members prepared an Italian Feast and served 125 people.
- In May, members celebrated the Feast Day of St. James the Younger and made meals and desserts for the community picnic.
- Members host two bake sales during Easter and Christmas, which are hugely supported by the parishioners.

### **Service/International Activities**

- UNBOUND—Members sponsor a young man named Louis Felipe from Colombia for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year.
- Members donated a stipend for an Adoration Chapel in Ghana in Father Timothy Akanson's name.



# **Rock Hill Deanery**

*All Saints Catholic Church,  
Lake Wylie*

*St. Catherine of Sienna Catholic Church,  
Lancaster*

*St. Mary Catholic Church,  
Rock Hill*

***All Saints Catholic Church***  
***All Saints Women's Organization***

**Spirituality/Church Activities**

- Members hosted a poor man's dinner on Ash Wednesday for all parishioners and then led the Stations of the Cross.
- Members supplied dinner for those attending Awaken Our Hearts, a Faith on Fire workshop.

**Spirituality/Legislative Activities**

- In support of the parish youth group, members hosted a Cyber Security Night.

**Leadership/Organization Activities**

- An apple pie sale was held and funds raised from the 100 pies baked went toward the Oratory Endowment Fund.

**Service/Community Activities**

- Members worked all summer to furnish school supplies to 100 children in the community.
- A community yard sale was held with the proceeds going to Catholic Charities Hurricane Relief.
- A Baby Shower of Joyful Hope was held to obtain items for and celebrate the opening of St. Clare's Home for ladies who "choose life."

**Service/Family Activities**

- Members paid for a CD of camp activities of all children attending Catholic Camp to share with their families.
- Members participated in and supported the parish's Vacation Bible School.
- All year long, members make gifts and furnish supplies for the annual St. Nick Shop for children to shop for gifts for friends and family. It's an adult-free zone, staffed by members, where everything is priced at \$2 or less.

**Service/International Activities**

- Lily Pad Haven, an organization that helps combat human trafficking, held a training session to volunteers who will aid those rescued with everything from cooking lessons to arts and crafts.
- Members participated in the Box of Joy Project.

***St. Catherine of Sienna Catholic Church***  
***St. Catherine Ladies Guild***

**Spirituality/Church Activities**

- Members sustain a parish prayer tree.
- A women's Bible Study on the Eucharist was organized.
- Members offered two women's retreats for parishioners: "Women on Whose Shoulders," and "Women through the Centuries."
- A pilgrimage for members to St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Charleston, SC, was organized.

**Leadership/Organization Activities**

- Members organized the following fundraisers: auction, St. Patrick's Day Dinner, and yard sale.
- A \$500 college scholarship was given to a parishioner.

**Service/Community Activities**

- Members donated to the parish and the following local charities: Women's Enrichment Center, Hope of Lancaster, Christian Services, Sisters of the Humility of Mary, and Missionaries of the Poor.
- Members hosted a Christmas luncheon for clients and their families at the Women's Enrichment Center.

**Service/Family Activities**

- Members provided funeral receptions for grieving families after Masses of Christian Burial.
- Meals for families of sick and infirmed parishioners were provided.
- Refreshments were provided for the First Communicants and their families.

***St. Mary Catholic Church***  
***St. Mary Rosary & Confraternity Society***

**Spirituality/Church Activities**

- In every month with a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, members serve as Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers.
- Members decorated the church for Christmas.
- The visiting Fall Revivalist and parish clergy members were taken to lunch.

**Leadership/Organization Activities**

- Members hosted an orientation session for new members.
- Members hosted the Fall Rock Hill Deanery Meeting.
- A financial contribution was made to St. Mary's Emergency Fund.

**Service/Community Activities**

- Personal hygiene items were collected for local domestic violence shelters.
- Items were donated to St. Mary's food pantry and soup kitchen.

**Service/Family Activities**

- Members served as hostesses for meals after Funeral Masses.
- Members visited shut-in members and gifted Christmas poinsettias.

**Service/International Activities**

- Members donated items for Boxes of Joy.