

Messenger

PBDCCW Newsletter

February - April 2015



**PALM BEACH DIOCESAN COUNCIL
OF CATHOLIC WOMEN
2014 - 2015**

**SPIRITUAL ADVISOR
REV. CLEM HAMMERSCHMITT**

**PRESIDENT
DOLORES HUGHES
954-421-8584
ST. JUDE**

**VICE PRESIDENT
PATTI AMANN
561-622-5851
ST. PATRICK**

**RECORDING SECRETARY
MARGE LAVIOLA
561-734-1972
ST. MARK**

**TREASURER
ANN BEHAR
561-603-2426
QUEEN OF THE APOSTLES**

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
MARCI STEPHENS**

**PARLIAMENTARIAN
LAURIE ULSETH**

**HISTORIAN
MADONNA BARASHKE**

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
MYRNA WONG**

**BISHOP OF PALM BEACH
MOST REV. GERALD M. BARBARITO
CATHEDRAL OF ST. IGNATIUS**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Spring 2015

**PALM BEACH DIOCESAN
Dolores Hughes
President**

One in Christ: To Jesus Through Mary

When I chose this theme for my term in office, this president was reminded that we are all one in the body of Christ; that we received Jesus through His Blessed Mother; and that we will, through her intercession, return to Him and praise Him forever in the company of His Father. It was continually reinforced to me the power of the Holy Spirit as the love between the Father and the Son. As Romans 5:4 reminds us, "hope does not disappoint, because the Love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." Sometimes, even as a cradle Catholic, I felt during my term I was experiencing aspects of my Catholic Faith for the first time. But why was that so?... Because I have had the unique privilege and honor of working side by side with thousands of women who truly are The Voice of the Catholic Woman: in your efforts to end poverty and homelessness; in your raising awareness of Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence; in your hands-on food drives to address hunger; in your selfless outpouring of your time, talents and treasure at your affiliation and diocesan events; yes and even in your silence as you prayed...mostly in these moments of

meditation... did you truly display the Voice of the Catholic Women ! This president realizes that “parting is such sweet sorrow” although she uses that term “sorrow” loosely as no one knew sorrow like Our Blessed Mother Mary whose Seven Sorrows I often contemplate since Mater Dolorosa is my name sake ! So I express to you my profound thank you for your tireless efforts; and truly urge you, under the continued guidance of our Bishop and Spiritual Advisors, to continue NCCW’s original 95 year old mission to support, empower and educate each other in Spirituality , Leadership and Service and continue to be The Voice of the Catholic Women in whatever we do!

In God’s Grace

**TREASURER
Ann Behar
Treasurer’s Message**

All checks sent to the PBDCCW Treasurer must be made payable to PBDCCW. Please attach a Treasurer’s Action Report form, indicating how the funds should be distributed. All receipts are requested so books can be closed for audit.

+++++

May the Lord use you today to do His work in the lives that surround you. May today be all you need it to be. May the peace of God and the freshness of the Holy Spirit rest in your thoughts, rule in your dreams tonight, and conquer all your fears. May God manifest himself today in ways you have never experienced before. May your joys be fulfilled, your dreams be closer, and your prayers be answered. I pray that faith enters a new height for you; I pray that your territory is enlarged. I pray for peace, healing, health, happiness, prosperity, joy, true and undying love for God.

DEANERY REPORTS

**CENTRAL DEANERY
Ann Kopp, President**

HAPPY 95TH BIRTHDAY NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

Central Deanery has worked diligently to make this a successful council year. All Council Sisters helped in many ways with their time, talent and skills.

This President has attended NCCW Convention, FCCW Conference, PBDCCW Meetings, Northern, Southern Deanery Meetings and Installations, PBDCCW CEG’s, Development Day, Take a Sister to Lunch, Inspirations Fashion Show, and Women of Faith/Women of Action, and will be attending in May, the 2015 PBDCCW Convention.

In addition this President visited St. Francis of Assisi and Mary Immaculate, seeking to add new affiliation and both Parish priests showed interest in the Council of Catholic Women. Contact will continue with all inactive affiliations.

This president continues communication with our council affiliations via email, telephone calls, visits, attending meetings and participating in various fund-raisers.

Our service projects for this year were Christmas cards sent to service men and women, and to the incarcerated men and women in Florida prisons. “Caps of Love” was a great success within Central Deanery Affiliations.

Leadership continues to assist affiliations with “Leadership” communications coming from the National Council of Catholic Women.

Spirituality is thankful for our new “Prayer Line,” this helps to circulate prayer requests via Email to all affiliations and to the PBDCCW prayer line.

Central Deanery is happy to have St. Mary of Pahokee, Council of Catholic Women join us. We now have ten active affiliations.

As this year winds down, this president wants to thank Father Dominic, members of the Board, and council sisters, for your hard work, support, and dedication to Central Deanery.

They that hope in the Lord will renew their strength, they will soar as with eagles’ wings, they will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint.” Isaiah 41:31

NORTHERN DEANERY

Barbara Lutton, President

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as the Northern Deanery president for these past two years. I am grateful to have met so many inspiring and knowledgeable women of faith. It is truly a humbling experience to represent the women of this organization.

To the ladies of Northern Deanery I say thank you for all you do. Over these past two years I have been blessed with a great board and the best affiliation presidents in the PBDCCW! This will always be a treasured time in my life.

To borrow the motto from my affiliation (St. Bernadette) – there are no strangers in the Council of Catholic Women but rather friends we have yet to meet.

Remember to be kind to one another, care for one another and love one another.

SOUTHERN DEANERY

Joanne Lewis, President

As I start my Presidency, I realize how much our Deanery has done in the past and that I have a quite a job to equal what all previous Presidents have accomplished.

Southern Deanery had several changes starting the year with a new Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice President. However we had four successful meetings and had full participation in the convention survey, Remembrance Tree Ceremony scroll, nominating committee for PBDCCW, and the baskets for Inspirations.

We provided each of our Palm Beach Diocesan Seminarians with \$75 at Christmas for their personal use. We have been very active with the Seminary and help with the Catholic eighth graders’ day which they spend with the Seminarians. We are still trying to arrange a day for the CCD classes to do the same.

The individual Churches have been very active also. Ascension CCW hosted a Confirmation Reception for the 9th grade Confirmation class. They also served lunch to approximately 120 people at the Caring Kitchen in February.

St. Lucy held a Baby Jesus shower in December and collected monies and gifts for St. Mary Parish in Pahokee. They held a membership drive in January and gained five new members.

Holy Spirit worked this year to help Holy Ground Shelter in Riviera Beach with many needed items. They also sent each of the PB Seminarians a \$45 gift card.

St. Matthew CCW has a monthly bake sale, of which St. Ann's Place receives 25 percent one month, and St. Matthew's St. Vincent de Paul Society receives 25 percent of the profits of two sales. Hugs For The Homeless netted \$2633.95.

St. Joan of Arc is blessed with about 150 members. They have supported many functions of PBDCCW, had a beach Mass and breakfast, held their annual Fashion Show/Pot Luck dinner, held an Annual Auction, and a Christmas Luncheon at the Delray Beach Club.

St. Jude held a pot luck supper while preparing their annual Christmas Giving Tree, collected tons of Caps of Love, and held a baby shower for Birthline/Lifeline. They involved the Youth by having them sort through the Caps for extra papers and attachments that needed to be discarded.

All the Parishes held successful meetings during the year, many fundraising events and learned from various speakers. Many of our CCW members teach CCD classes.

Our Spring General Meeting was held at St. Matthew Church on March 21st. Fr. Kevin Nelson, our Spiritual Advisor celebrated Mass and Dolores Hughes, Palm Beach Diocesan President installed our officers for the upcoming term, 2015-2017.

I am looking forward to the Fall, and I do need your prayers to guide me. Hopefully we can increase our membership and bring back to the fold at least one of the six unaffiliated churches in our Deanery.

STANDING COMMITTEES

SPIRITUALITY

Lois Pujol

We are always interested in increasing our relationship with God. As I mentioned in my last report a good way of increasing this relationship is by going on a weekend retreat. I had been on many retreats before, and they were beautiful experiences. Well, I decided to go on one at Our Lady of Florida Retreat Center in March. What an experience! The theme was the Beatitudes. The week end was fantastic.

Of course books were recommended and I purchased them. The one I am reading now is "Jesus – A Pilgrimage", by James Martin, SJ. You experience the stories in the Gospel in a completely different way. He makes you feel that you are there. It is a must read book.

I also found out that there is a Day of Prayer the first Monday of each month at Our Lady of Florida. That seems to be a good idea if you have only a day available. I plan to go in May. Maybe I'll see you there.

There are retreats and days of prayer throughout the year. Just go to "Our Lady of Florida". Check it out.

This is my last report. My sisters I enjoyed sharing with you. Hope you have a great summer. God Bless

SERVICE

Teresa Cecil

2015 CATHOLIC SOCIAL MINISTRY GATHERING

“Go forth and Encounter Christ in the Heart of the World “that was the message of the 2015 CSMG. Place your work, ministry, and advocacy for social justice at the center of your service life.

Let’s learn from the poor, they have much to teach us, in their difficulties they know the suffering of Christ. We need to let ourselves be evangelized by them. “We are called to find Christ in them, to lend our voices to their cause, but also to be their friends, to listen to them, to speak for them, and to embrace the mysterious wisdom which God wishes to share with us through them “ (Pope Francis).

All the talks and workshops conveyed that message. Following are examples of some of the talks:

-Martina Liebsch from Caritas is responsible for developing and managing the global antipoverty campaign that seeks to end global hunger by 2025. In her talk she said “Hunger is the result of poor distribution of food. To have food is a human right. Women are responsible for 78% of agriculture in the world, give women resources to increase yield. Food has sacred nature is immoral to tossed food to control price.”

-Sylvester Brown is the Director of “The Sweet Potato Project”. In St Louis, at-risk youths are taught entrepreneurial skills by growing sweet potato in vacant lots. After harvest the potatoes

are made into cookies. The youth are responsible for the advertising, sales, etc.

To end conflict between black and white races, Sylvester, an African American, is an advocate of developing African Americans communities with their own leaders “communities within communities”. His motto is “Give people power to control their own destinies”.

- CRS shares the good news that in a village in Ethiopia, after building terraces in the parched soil to hold water, women are planting crops with great success and are able to feed their family.

I also attended the following workshops:

1 - Restorative Justice: Healing and transformation of persons, families, and communities.

Pope Francis warned against a criminal justice system fixated in retribution and punishment. He reminded us that God is in everyone’s life; even if the life of a person has been a disaster, destroyed by vices, drugs, etc.

In this workshop we had 2 presenters:

a - Fr. Jim O’Shea talked about his ReConnect industries, a project in Brooklyn, NY, where juvenile delinquents in and out of institutions find stability and purpose in their lives by working in their own café, bakery, and a graphic shop under his guidance.

b - Abelardo Verdugo of Los Angeles, CA, shared his personal story of living as a child with heroine addicted parents and joining the gangs to obtain “affection” and the sense of ”belonging” that he lacked at home. He was, many times, in and out of Juvenile Detention for selling drugs. He made lots of money in those sales. He landed in prison after

he turned 18 where, with time on his hands, started reading the Bible and attending the services of a visiting priest. This changed his life and, upon release, he joined HOMEBOY INDUSTRIES where he is an Associate Executive Director. HOMEBOY INDUSTRIES was founded by Fr. Gregory Boyle where they provide hope, training, and support to former gang members previously incarcerated.

Justice can only be restored with education and job opportunities available to ex-cons that have already paid their debts.

2 - Mercy and the use of Death Penalty

Two mothers, one the mother of a young man on death row and wrongfully convicted, and the other of a daughter that was brutally murdered, agree that the death penalty is the wrong way to obtain justice. An alternative is restorative justice which seeks to repair harm and restore relationships.

3 - Returning Citizens

Returning citizens is the new term use to replace the term ex-con. St. Vincent de Paul and the Campaign for Human Development hope to reduce the barriers that returning citizens run into when re-entering society. With their help several returning citizens share their stories of success and how they are organizing to advocate for justice.

4 - Pope Francis' Vision for addressing climate change

Pope Francis has called us to be faithful stewards of God's creation and of one another. Sr. Illia Delio, Haub, Director of Catholic Studies, Georgetown University, and Dan Misleh, discussed this challenge.

Owning too many possessions taxes the

environment. Say "yes" to frugality and temperance and "no" to the insatiable eye ("I buy therefore I am"). We tend to possess. "Don't live without possessions but live without possessing." Recognize that everything in creation is a gift.

We are at the doorstep of an ecological crisis, especially as it relates to climate change. Refusal to protect God's creation is a sin.

Stay tuned for the first ever Papal Encyclical on Ecology. Following are some of the key messages:

- This is not new teaching; Genesis is at least 3,400 years older than Earth Day. Neither is the issue new; scientists, policymakers, and faith leaders (including the U.S. Bishops) have been talking about climate change for decades.

- We are caretakers of God's creation, it's not our creation. The encyclical is first and foremost a pastoral letter, not a scientific, economic, or policy statement.

- Our environmental sins impact all of Creation but they fall most heavily on the poor and vulnerable. Solutions are possible and we will achieve them if we work together and let ourselves be guided by Gospel values.

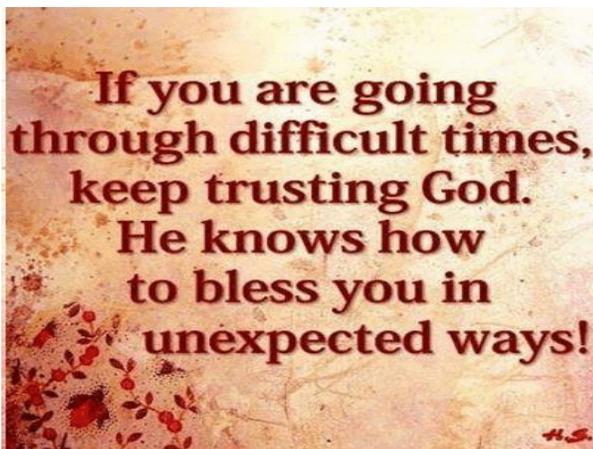
On the last day of the gathering we visited congressmen at Capitol Hill and advocated for the four issues supported by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB):

1. Protect poor and vulnerable people in the federal budget. Reduce unnecessary military spending.
2. Child nutrition reauthorization.
3. Finishing the job on comprehensive immigration reform.

4. Israel-Palestine conflict (support US leadership for peace). 1

The Masses, meditation services, and choirs were uplifting and magnificent. The meals and the hotel service were excellent. The opportunity to network with hundreds of Catholic students and members of other organizations and advocate for social justice was "priceless".

Thank you for the opportunity to attend this valuable gathering.



SAVE AND SHARE THESE DATES

MAY 2015

- 3 Marian Festival/Bishop Barbarito
Emmanuel Parish Delray Beach
- 11 Seminarian Luncheon 11:00 A.M.
St. Matthew Lake Worth
- 15-16 PBDCCW 30th Convention
Doubletree Hotel
Palm Beach Gardens

AUGUST 2015

- 1 CEG's
St. Matthew Lake Worth



Please refer to the PBDCCW website:
www.PBDCCW.org for the following:

PALM BEACH DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF
CATHOLIC WOMEN CALENDAR OF EVENTS
2015
"One in Christ ~ To Jesus Through Mary"
DIOCESAN AND DEANERY NEWSLETTERS

PBDCCW PRAYER LINE

UPCOMING EVENTS

AFFILIATION NEWS

Webmaster: Doreen Recco
dar554@aol.com

Website will be updated as needed.....

From the desk of Jean Vassallo @
javass516aol.com
