



ST. MARY'S COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

Spirituality, Leadership, Service

**E-Newsletter
Christmas 2017 Special Edition**

Vol. 9, Issue 6

A LOOK BACK ...

JUNE

Members of the **Sewing Ministry** delivered over 100 pillowcases to the patients at the Greenville Children's Hospital.

JULY

Members provided a dinner for the **Home Works** volunteers who arrived in Greenville to repair the homes of the poor and the elderly.

AUGUST

We sponsored a **Meet and Greet** after the Masses one weekend and displayed our scrapbooks and posters of our service to the church and community. This was an opportunity to explain our work and invite women of the parish to join us on our mission to serve.

SEPTEMBER

Members traveled to Dallas, Texas to attend the **97th Annual Convention of the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW)**. More than 600 women and 45 priests gathered together to celebrate. NCCW's mission is to act through its members to support, empower and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. Its programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society today.

Members prayed at the Grove Road Women's Abortion Clinic on Tuesdays during the **40 Days for Life Fall Campaign**, September 27—November 5. Those that could not make it to the site were asked to pray the rosary at home.

Mr. Steve Wood, host of the Faith & Family radio broadcasts, was our speaker for the **September Meeting**. His topic was, "What Every Catholic Needs to Know about Grace and Justification".

The **Fall meeting of the Greenville Deanery Council of Catholic Women** was hosted by the SMCCW members on September 17. Women from Upstate Catholic parishes who do not have an organized Council attended and many joined as Individual Members. The goal is to educate and assist these women in organizing a Council at their parish under the guidelines of the South Carolina Council of Catholic Women (SCCCW). The Greenville Deanery is the only deanery in the state with just 2 affiliate councils. The Greenville Deanery Spiritual Advisor is Deacon Joe Sanfilippo

A **Star Party** was sponsored by our members for the boys at the **Generations Group** facility in Fountain Inn. They have been providing help for sexually abused boys since 1991 and are the only program of their kind in SC. Generations offers a Star Party each Friday. All boys who have earned this party, based on their behavior through the week, get to attend. Our members provided a spaghetti dinner, games and prizes.

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS!

OCTOBER

The topic of the Monthly Meeting was, **“Fatima—100 Years”**. Member Alice Ramos gave a presentation on her recent trip to Fatima and passed out booklets on the story of the apparitions.

The Women’s Council sponsored a **Blood Drive** on October 22nd in the Baum Center on St. Mary’s campus. Clemson or Gamecock t-shirts were given to those who participated.

NOVEMBER

Fr. Jim Nero, Director of Spiritual Care at Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital, and Adrian Duckett, Chaplain, spoke about the need for **Spiritual care volunteers** at our November 14th meeting. Mrs. Dena Rapp, President and Founder of the Rivers of Justice program, presented a powerful presentation on the **Human Trafficking of Children**. The organization exists to promote awareness of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking through prevention, education and empowerment of others to end the commercial sexual exploitation of our children. Trafficker Recruiting Techniques and Trafficker Avoidance Techniques were discussed. **If you see something suspicious, REPORT!** Visit www.riversofjustice.org.

Members provided some of the food needed to the **Pickens County Disabilities and Special Needs Center** for the 300 Consumers to have their Annual Thanksgiving Dinner.

Our second oldest member, **Ruth O’Rourke**, celebrated her **98th birthday** on November 22nd. She is our **longest member**, joining in 1941, and has held all officer positions, the Catholic Woman of the Year in 1973, and the Christmas Angel in 2001.



DECEMBER

Our **Annual Christmas Bake Sale and Ornament Sale** took place on Dec. 2nd and 3rd. We had another successful sale and also sold the 2017 Christmas Window Ornament, “The Epiphany”. Fr. Longenecker’s new book, “The Mystery of the Magi”, was available for purchase and it was the perfect companion to the ornament.

Members were asked to remember the 5 Upstate **Seminarians** by sending them a Christmas card with a note of support as they continue their religious journey.

The **Annual Christmas Luncheon** was held on December 12th at the Green Valley Country Club. St. Mary’s priests were invited to enjoy a celebration dinner with the members to thank them for their service as priests. President Rita Brown announced her “Christmas Angel”, which cannot be revealed as of this writing. Gently used coats, gloves, hats and scarves were collected for the needy. Gift bags for the boys at the Generations Group facility were collected at the luncheon for delivery by Angie Finazzo.

The members of the **Sewing Ministry** once again gathered on December 13th to deliver 100 more pillowcases to the patients at the Greenville Children’s Hospital.

Our **oldest member**, Alma Furman, will celebrate her **99th birthday** on January 18th. She has been a member since 1957, the Catholic Woman of the Year in 1992, and the Treasurer. Cards may be sent to her at 1573 Skeet Club Road, Apartment #115, High Point, NC 27265. Alma traveled to Greenville in May to attend our Spring Luncheon.



ADDITIONALLY, our members participate in the Bible Study groups, Altar Guild, Adult Choir, Respect Life Group, Prayer Chain Ministry and Sr. Fellowship. They also serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, knit hats for cancer patients and serve as Offertory Counters.

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**SISTERS IN FAITH WHO SHARE THE GOSPEL,
WHO SERVE THE PARISH, COMMUNITY AND WORLD;
AND WHO MOLD STRONG CATHOLIC WOMEN!**