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Little Ways of Love

*New Jersey State Council
Columbiettes*



*Echo
Spring Edition 2020*





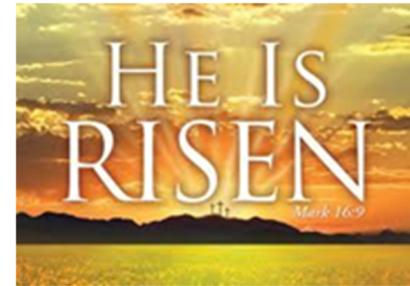
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New Jersey State Council Columbiettes
Message from State President



Happy Easter!!

I hope this message finds you all safe and sound. We are currently all facing a time of uncertainty with the COVID-19 Pandemic. I never thought I would see the day the world was working from home, social distancing, wear masks and gloves in public and attending mass online. Though it has become our lives and I am proud to say we are surviving!! We spent our Lenten Season and Easter Sunday praying from home and visiting family via online social meetings. I loved seeing all the Facebook posts of families that got dressed up for Easter Sunday even though they were not leaving their homes. People made Easter joyous during a very solemn time.

Due to COVID-19, the NJ Columbiette State Board of Officers has made the decision to extend deadlines, allow email acceptance of submissions, and adjustments to requirements for awards. Annual officer elections may also be conducted via online social meetings or email. Information has been and will continue to be passed on to Auxiliary and Chapter Presidents to share with everyone. We are adjusting to the times and want to see our order thrive during a tough time. WE ARE COLUMBIETTE STRONG!!



The big question on everyone’s mind is the status of the 2020 Annual NJ Columbiette Convention. As of right now we have asked that membership interested in attending convention to submit their paperwork with payment to the Convention Committee. No checks will be cashed until we confirm convention will proceed as planned. Understand there are many factors that need to be considered and it is too early to make a decision on the status of the 2020 convention. Please know “As soon as I know, you will know!”

As we head toward May I would like to wish all Mothers, Grandmothers, Godmothers, Aunts and Honorary Mothers a very Happy Mother’s Day! Stay safe, stay happy, pray often and know I am thinking and praying for you every day!! With the guidance of St. Therese may our little acts of kindness create great love.

Elena McFarland
State President



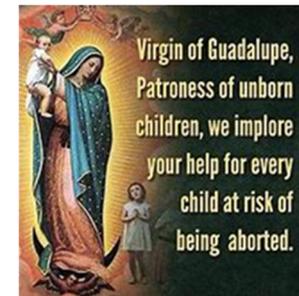
"The loveliest masterpiece of the heart of God is the heart of a mother."
- St. Thérèse of Lisieux



SOS— need your help!
Hail Mary Campaign for Salvation of Souls

Thank you to everyone who supported the One Million Hail Marys Campaign petitioning our Blessed Mother to intercede in obtaining the salvation of souls. Our goal has been reached but we will continue to accept Hail Marys at: hailmarysforsos@gmail.com until May 31st at which time all Hail Marys prayed will be dedicated to Our Lady. The final tally will be posted on the website at: www.donboscocolumbiettes.weebly.com.

Our next Hail Mary Campaign will be **Save Unborn Babies—SUB!** This will begin on September 8, 2020 (Our Blessed Mother’s birthday) and end on May 31, 2021. Please support our campaign! A dedicated e-mail address: hailmarysforSUB@gmail.com will be set up to receive tallies from anyone at anytime. Please ask family members, friends, neighbors, church groups, etc. to pray Hail Marys to help in obtaining this goal.





Immediate Past State President—Victoria Bird

In the last few weeks, we have all been adjusting to living in a world that is under attack by an invisible enemy – COVID19 virus. As we all follow the guidelines set out by the CDC and we keep our faith strong and pray the rosary daily, we will all come through this crisis stronger.

May the Holy Family bless each of you and your families.

As a reminder if you held a First Degree since July 2019 and have not sent in the Welcome Seed form to me, please do so. Since July 2019, I have sent out 119 Welcome Seed letters and packets. Hopefully, I will be sending out many more in the months ahead.

I want to wish all my Sister Columbiettes a safe and healthy Spring!



Vicki Bird
Immediate Past State President



A Message from our Prestigious Past State Presidents

Our Wish For You

May God grant you always
A sunbeam to warm you,
A moonbeam to charm you,
A sheltering angel so
nothing can harm you,
Laughter to cheer you,
and whenever you pray, Heaven
to hear you. We sincerely hope
that all our Sister Columbiettes
are staying safe and healthy. We
thank those who are employed
on the front lines especially those
that are nurses . Many families
are thankful for them as they've

spent the final moments with
their loved ones.
Although we are experiencing a
few bumps in our live we are
blessed because the birds are
singing, flowers blooming, trees
budding. Grass turning green – all
a sign of hope. Stay home – stay
healthy! Remember it is better to
be six feet apart than six feet un-
der.
Sandy Bohinski, Ann Graziano,
Susan Kadar, Barbara Lasek,
Barbara Ann Lucarelli, Anna
Misajet, Lorraine Noger, Lisa Rob-
erts.

State Treasurer—Donna Lewandowski

My Dear Sister Columbiettes,

At this time of uncertainty, I hope you all are well and staying home and safe.

For those that are considered essential workers, please be safe. I ask, at this time we all pray for each other a simple prayer....

Dear heavenly Father,

Keep those who are essential safe and well and those home with their families too.

Please give those that are home alone a little ray of your infinite happiness today, for they are the ones most vulnerable. We know you are all healing and knowing but we still have our weakness too. Thank you for the sunshine and rain, thank you for the food and the pain, thank you for the heat and the cold.

For we are alive and will be stronger together. Amen.

Until we can see each other again.....God Bless.

Donna Lewandowski
NJS Treasurer





State Secretary—Frances Corcione

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

It has been a privilege to be the New Jersey State Secretary I hope that each of your Auxiliaries had a rewarding year.

I wish you all a very Safe and happy spring

Little Ways of Love

Sincerely,

Frances Corcione

State Financial Secretary—Kathleen Donahue

What a year this has been! When the ball dropped at midnight on New Year's, we all looked forward to a bright new year. One filled with hope and the promise of a better tomorrow.

Just a few short months later, our world was turned upside down. Now we talk to our family and friends on the phone or online. We only go out when necessary. We take every precaution to keep ourselves and our families safe.

But there will be a brighter future ahead. This too shall pass. Pray to God and Our Lady for their protection. They will answer our intercessions. I look forward to the day when we can all get together again. In the meantime, I say a rosary everyday that all of you and your families remain safe and well.

May God bless you.

Kathy Donahue



State Advocate—Cathe Nicholson

I hope you had a wonderful holiday seasons. It is such a great time to get together with the family and make wonderful memories and relive the old ones as well. Who knew we wouldn't be able to do the same with Easter this year. What a crazy time we are living in now!

I would like to welcome our Sister Columbiettes from St. Ann's and Prince of Peace. I know you were full steam ahead when you were instituted and I have a feeling, even virtually and during social-distancing, you will make things happen. Just as all our Sister Columbiettes I am sure are doing.

Whether near (6 feet apart) or far, please know you are all in my thoughts and prayers during this very unprecedented time in our lives. To all our members who are Essential workers, THANK YOU for all you are doing and will keep doing!!

I want to wish all of you a very Happy Mother's Day!

God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers
~Rudyard Kipling

Looking forward to hopefully seeing many of you in June at our annual convention.

Please stay well and healthy. Many prayers coming to all who read this and your loved ones.

Cathe Nicholson





Angel Pins

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all auxiliaries ANGEL LADIES who took pins to display at their meetings and functions.

If they SEE the pins, they will BUY the pins!

KEEP THOSE CHECKS COMING.

From Your Angel Lady,



Backpack Ministry

Happy Easter to all!!!

It's time to start organizing for our backpack donations!

Just a few reminders:

- Please don't make the bags too heavy.
- Please only donate new items and new backpacks.
- Please keep track of how many bags you are donating.
- If you can put your back packs in boxes or large bags, that would be great!

Thanks for your generosity!

Christina Mariani



Badges & Jewelry



The Columbiette name badges are still available. The cost is \$9.00 for the pin back and \$10 for the magnet back. They come in white with blue lettering, blue with white lettering, white with red lettering and red with white lettering. The badges are not just for officers, any Columbiette can wear one so everyone knows your name and where you are from. Contact me at 732-826-3881 or e-mail me at columbietteskathy@yahoo.com if you wish to place an order.

We have an assortment of Columbiette jewelry items for purchase. There are a number of pins, necklace, bracelet, watch, charm and key rings with the Columbiette logo.

You will be getting a new travel card for 2020. Do you need a new case for it? Is yours split in two or being held together with tape? If it is, it's time to treat yourself to a new one.

If you would like a Columbiette bag as featured at the 2019 convention, they are for sale.

Kathy Donahue
Chairperson

Recruitment and Retention

Please don't forget to recruit on a regular basis. Our growth and prosperity are in your hands!



Ronald McDonald House—Tab Tops



Pull for the House.



Shoebox/Bag Ministry

Thanks to everyone for your incredible generosity this past year with the many toiletries that were collected for donation to the five Dioceses throughout New Jersey. We were able to help so many individuals who are in need with this program.

As you are collecting again this year, I just have a few reminders!

- Please place your items in Ziploc bags and place the bags into boxes. This makes it so much easier for transporting back to the Dioceses.
- Please write the total number of bags in each box somewhere on the box. This helps us to divide things evenly among all five groups.
- Please check in with one of us when dropping off your items and give us your total amount of bags. This information is important to have for our report during the Business Sessions for the Delegates.
- Big items such as shampoo, conditioner, soap are also welcome.
- Most importantly, if you can't lift your boxes when you bring them in, neither can we!!

Memorial Fund, Greeting Card and Business Card Enclosure Program

Thank you to everyone who has requested cards and business card enclosures. Almost 300 cards have been requested as of this writing.

All monies collected will be donated to our Seminarians and Postulants in June at convention.

I can make up a card for any occasion: Thank You, Get Well, Congratulations, Thinking of You, Sympathy, whatever your need may be. You can provide me with the verse that you want written on the card, or I will write a custom message from you.



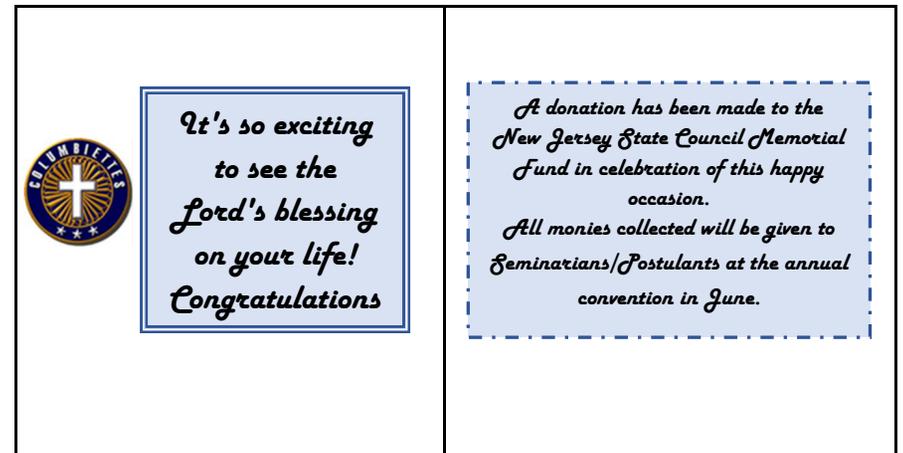
All I need to create a card is your request via email, phone or mail. Your request should include who the card is being sent to (along with their address if it is not in the State Columbiette directory), who it is from, and what kind of card you want. I will mail the completed card within 48 hours of your request using your return address or I can deliver it to you for your special occasion. The suggested donation is \$5.00 per card but any amount is gratefully accepted. You can request the cards today and pay for them tomorrow, I keep track of all requests and payments.

Memorial Fund Card Enclosures are also available. Like the Greeting Cards, the Card Enclosures may be ordered for any occasion. These are a business card size printed on both sides and can be inserted into your own store-bought greeting card. The suggested donation is \$5.00 per enclosure card.

I look forward to fulfilling all your orders.

Please contact me if you have any questions about how the program works or if you would like to see a sample. I'd love to hear from you.

Kathy Jessen





T-Shirts/Logo Wear

Columbiette Logo Wear

When the COVID-19 quarantine ends we will all be so excited to get back to our regular meetings and share in our wonderful sisterhood in-person! We will certainly be sick of our pajamas and sweatpants by then and you will want to look and feel your best. So now is the perfect time to check out the **Columbiette Logo Wear** page on the NJ State Council Columbiettes website

<https://www.njcolumbiettes.com/logo-wear>.

Embroid Me of Raritan has been a wonderful and generous partner of the Columbiette organization for many years. They are a small local business that could certainly benefit from our continued support at this time. When you order through the website you can have your logo wear delivered directly to your home for a contact free transaction.

You can also reach out to me directly with any questions through email at mia.columbiettes@gmail.com or you may call me on my cell at 908-727-8900.

Wishing you continued safety and many blessings.

Mia

Mia Sena, Chairlady



Vocations—Pennies from Heaven

Please remember to keep saving those pennies, this will enhance our Vocation program and we may then be able to give our Seminarian/Postulants a large check to help them in their studies.

The Pennies check is due on or before June 1st, one check please and payable to New Jersey State Council Columbiettes. All amounts big and small are acceptable. If you want to send it earlier than the due date, that would be great. See you at Convention, when you will see the gifts given out on Saturday morning to the Seminarian/Postulants.

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS – REMEMBER TO SEND IN YOUR SELECTION OF SEMINARIAN/POSTULANT TO ME BY April 15 or earlier if possible.

Thank again.

Lorraine Noger, Chairlady





Convention Reminder



Ahoy Sister Columbiettes,

*Come Sail Away to the NJ State Columbiette Convention
June 26-28, 2020.*

*Boarding begins at 3 pm at the
Embassy Suites Hotel in Piscataway, NJ.*

*Reserve your space early for smooth sailing.
Raffle ticket pre-orders,
Boosters and Journal Ads are being accepted.*

*We look forward to seeing you on the Lido Deck for some fun.
If you have any questions contact us
at njscc.conv.comm@gmail.com.*

*BON VOYAGE,
The Convention Committee*



Baptismal Letter Remembrance

While we are all sheltering in place, the birth of new children and the receiving of Holy Baptism brings us an opportunity to renew our faith in God's blessings through the miracle of life. If you would like to share in this celebration of faith with your families and loved ones, please consider requesting a **Baptismal Remembrance**. This program is free of charge to all Columbiettes. The Remembrance includes a customized certificate, a letter from State President Elena McFarland, and a beautiful crib medal that is delivered by the US Postal Service. You can also request a Baptismal Remembrance even if the baptism occurred in the distant past. Many families enjoy having this keepsake long after the blessed day. The Baptismal Remembrance can also be customized to celebrate an adult initiation into Catholicism. Many adult recipients use the crib medal as a Christmas ornament, or you can request to only send a certificate and letter.

The Baptismal Remembrance program runs all year and requests can be emailed to me at mia.columbiettes@gmail.com.

With the guidance of St. Therese, may our little acts of kindness shine with great love.

Mia

Mia Sena, Chairlady



News from our State Chapters

South East Chapter

South East Chapter
Lois Ann Smith, Publicity

HAPPY SPRING! But more importantly – HEALTHY SPRING! Praying everyone is Sheltering in place and when needed for outings to purchase necessities that you are wearing masks and gloves and keeping a social distance as directed by the CDC!

November 21st brought our Chapter together to celebrate Christmas and hold our Annual Tricky Tray which supports our many ministries and activities. This year’s event was once again hosted by Our Lady of Victory Auxiliary and was attended by more than ever! The baskets donated by the Auxiliaries were fantastic and there were so many door prizes! A great opportunity to get together for some special camaraderie and share a delicious meal arranged by Nancy Fallon and Committee. Thank you Nancy, et al!

Our February 20th meeting at Vincent T Lombardi was the site of our Annual Charity Selection,

Major Degree Honoree and, since our Seminarian, Deacon Gilbert Starcher will be ordained a priest in June, a new Seminarian or Postulant. So, there was a lot of nominations, voting and those paper ballots ran rapid!

Our South East Chapter Charity selected for 2021 is Sienna Smith. Sienna is eleven (11) years old battling a very rare and aggressive brain cancer. She is currently undergoing treatment at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and is a brave and optimistic young lady. She is the friend of one of our St Bernadette Columbiettes granddaughters known personally by members of three (3) of our auxiliaries. Please keep Sienna in your prayers.

Father Sean Winters, associated with Prison Ministry and a priest known to many Sister Columbiettes by his traveling to many parishes in the Diocese of Metuchen to assist at many services and sacraments, was selected our South East Chapter Major Degree Honoree.



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South East Chapter

Our March Evening of Recollection scheduled for Thursday, March 19th at St Anthony of Padua Church was cancelled due to the coronavirus. Our Chapter Chaplain Father William Smith had prepared a beautiful homily on St Joseph since March 19^h is the Feast Day of St Joseph. An event to look forward to.

March 29th was to be our First and Major Degree hosted by South Amboy Columbiettes also cancelled.

Sisters In Service, an event sponsored by Our Lady of Victory Columbiettes and one that many in the Chapter attend and look forward to, will have to wait until next year.

At our April 16th meeting we were to host our Annual Right to Life (BirthRight) Baby Shower with donations going to Life Choices in Metuchen. I, for one, and many others have many donations which will make their way there at a later date. Immediate Past President Diane Kulbacki had scheduled the Nominating Committee Meeting immediately following at St Bar-

tholomew's and this, too, will be rescheduled. Possibly we will receive word as to how to proceed in the event that rescheduling is not possible.

The New Jersey State Council Columbiette Annual Retreat at San Alfonso is not being held this year but a reminder to all who usually attend, would have liked to attend or are interested in attending in the future that the Retreat House will be depending totally upon donations this year since no retreats may be scheduled at this time and even when there are retreatants attending they still need donations to fund their facility. Much like our parishes who may not be receiving the donations they normally would on a regular basis and the organizations who usually support our parishes are not able to hold their activities for those huge donations.

As of this writing our Annual May Crowning and Memorial Mass – an extremely spiritual evening - at Father Carey Council is something for us to look forward to.



South East Chapter

June 18th will hopefully find us at Our Lady of Peace Parish Center for our Annual Election of Officers.

Then, there is our anticipation of our Annual Convention at the Embassy Suites in Piscataway.

Email updates from our Chapter President, Kathy Donahue, normally are reminders about upcoming events, requests for prayers for Sister Columbiettes, Brother Knights or their families but have departed from the normal at the time of this pandemic. Now we are being notified of cancellations, prayer requests for Sister Columbiettes, Brother Knights and their families who have Corvid 19 or have passed as a result of this very contagious and frequently deadly virus. Coronavirus survivors are now in the news giving all hope. And, prayerfully when this nightmare is over people will not only get together to celebrate life but consider taking safety precautions forever! If nothing else it has made us very aware of how keeping social distances, washing hands properly and using hand sanitizers and masks along with gloves can make our world a much healthier place.

On behalf of your South East Chapter Sister Columbiettes we wish you ALL a Very Happy, Spiritual, Healthy Easter and Spring!

God bless us all!



Southern Chapter

The Southern Chapter kicked off their year with a Tricky Tray at our November meeting. We all had a ton of fun and enjoyed all the great holiday gifts. We planned out the remainder of our meeting and fun activities we wanted to do. Very obviously, with COVID-19 putting us on a lockdown, we suspended our meetings until such a time it is deemed safe for us to meet in large groups.

While this dismayed us because we aren't able to see other, we find our strength in God and pray to him to protect everyone during this unprecedented time.

We hope when we get to meet again, we will all have a deeper appreciation for each other's company.

We send our thought and prayers to all workers on the front lines of this battle!

We pray for better times and God's love.

-Dana Zagorski
Chapter Secretary



Midwest Chapter

Our Mid West Chapters officers were installed in September by our new State President Elena McFarland. It was held at St Mary Church in Alpha.

President-Bev Redondo	Past President- Mia Sena
Vice-President- Margaret Connelly	Treasurer- Barbara Rymer
Secretary- Judy Leone	Financial Sec- Fran Corsione
Sentinel- Erica Ruffer	

In November we held a Major Degree at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Union. We welcomed 21 new members.

In February we voted on a 10 week club as our fundraiser.

Our meeting was held at St Joseph's church in Millstone Valley.

We all brought baby items to donate to the Sisters of St Joseph's Neighborhood Center in Camden. We were excited to hear the news that we had won \$200 from the Supreme Raffle.

know everyone was very upset and saddened not to be able to attend mass on the holiest day of the year; Easter. I miss my singing in the choir and seeing my priests and parishoners.

Sadly we will not be having a meeting in April or June because of the dreadful Corona Virus. But we have been able to conduct elections by email and happy that all of our officers will all be staying on for another year. Our charity for this year will be Gavin Ruffer, son of our Sentinel who has a rare disease called MECP2 Duplication Syndrome. Our postulant Sister Anna Palka is our choice for another year.

I pray that everyone stays safe and healthy! Hopefully we will be able to see everyone again and be together in June.

Bev Redondo
President Mid West Chapter



South West Chapter

South West Chapter began this calendar year with numerous activities and events in the planning.

In January, we welcomed the Prince of Peace Auxiliary in Englishtown to our Columbiette Organization and to our Chapter. The Exemplification Ceremonies and Installation of Officers were held on January 12th. South West Chapter now can tout eight auxiliaries in its ranks.

At our February meeting, Sister Antonelle Chunka, our Chapter's Charity designee and founder of the Catholic Women's Prison Ministry, addressed our group. Sister lead us in an exercise on "what the mind sees" which opened our eyes to see our inner selves. It was an interesting as well as a spirit lifting experience.

Then, with the spread of COVID-19 and the State mandates on mitigation, we cancelled our First and Major Degree Ceremonies as well as our meeting scheduled for April 16th. All Auxiliaries cancelled their meetings and planned events. With the health and safety of all being our top priority, we will hold Exemplifications this fall. They will be in honor of Vincent Tavormina, NJ State Deputy of the Knights of Columbus.

Presently, we are preparing nominations and elections of Officers for Year 2020-2021. All communications and voting are being done electronically or by telephone. Installation of Officers will be held in September.



South West Chapter

South West Chapter looks forward to our NJ State Convention in June, God willing. Our auxiliaries are preparing their donations to Catholic Charities and the Ronald McDonnell House. We also look forward to honoring our Chapter's Charity Fund recipient, Sister Antonelle, and our Vocational Funding recipient, Sister Elena Pearce. Sister Elena is a novice with the Sisters of Christian Charity in Mendham, NJ, and the daughter of our Chapter's Treasurer, Evelyn Pearce.

On a personal note, I wish to thank our Chapter Board of Officers for all their assistance to me this year. I congratulate our Auxiliaries for all the good works and charitable fund-raising events they hosted. Though challenged with "stay at home mandates", they were able to achieve many successes. From making blankets for our military's canine partners in the Mid-East, to sewing and distributing face masks nationwide, to hosting a fun filled event for friends with special needs, to raising charitable funds by holiday giftwrapping at a mall, to flower sales, and to Tricky Trays, our Auxiliaries were intent on and successful at helping others. I am proud to be their President.

South West Chapter wishes all our members a blessed and healthy summer.

-Carol Bohinski, President



Western Chapter

Since the last ECHO Newsletter, Western Chapter has had two meetings. Our first was our annual Christmas Party and Tricky Tray hosted by Bishop Navagh Auxiliary. We had a lot of fun and enjoyed a wonderful feast prepared by our sisters. Our second meeting was hosted by St. Anthony's and was also preceded by a wonderful dinner. Our sisters are all such wonderful cooks.

These past few months have been a challenge for all of us. We have lost several of our sisters to long term illnesses and also COVID-19. Others have been ill with COVID and non-COVID illnesses. They all remain in our prayers. Additionally, we are praying for our sisters and their family members that are nurses, doctors, first responders, essential workers, those working the supply chain to get us our needed items, and our sick sisters and family members. While we all maintaining our social distances and staying at home, our sisters are making masks, caring for family members, teaching our children and grandchildren, checking in on our sisters that may be home alone, and doing other things to further the charitable endeavors of our individual Auxiliaries.

As we continue to navigate our new normal, we will be looking to hold our next meeting virtually. It will be good to be able to get together again, even if it is virtually.

With all our hearts, we pray that everyone remains healthy and that we will be able to see you all soon.

Lucie Cohn
Western Chapter President



News from our State Auxiliaries

Bishop Navagh

On Sunday, December 8th some of the Columbiettes helped serve breakfast at the annual Holy Spirit School's Santa Breakfast. We sold many Angel Pins that morning. We continued with our Pajama & Book Program. In February we visited the Little Sisters of the Poor Home in Totowa to play Bingo. For some of our newer Sister Columbiettes it was their first time and they had a blast helping the residents with the bingo cards. Every resident left with a small token (some left with more than one prize!) We also supplied treats to eat as well. It was very rewarding to see the residents truly enjoy such a great afternoon. They can't wait until we return next year! We welcome four (4) new ladies into our Auxiliary. Our membership is growing stronger with each membership drive we hold. Marybeth Doyle my Vice President & Membership chair does a fantastic job recruiting. On February 23rd we held our Annual Altar Server Appreciation Day. We have over 110 people which included the servers, parents,

brothers and sisters, grandmothers and grandfathers! Sister Ellen Brynes of St. Joseph's Church and Father David of Holy Spirit Church also attended this day. Each altar server was given a small gift from our auxiliary and a certificate of appreciation was given out. Everyone enjoyed pizza, snacks, water, candy and ice cream. The altar servers participated in Bible Jeopardy. A fun time was had by all. During the month of March – we collected many bags of food and gift cards for our Adopt-A-Family. Their Easter meal was complete with turkey, ham with all the fixin's. Enough food was collected and they plenty of left over cans, etc. With the uncertainty of the state right now – we are hoping to have our May Crowning, Holy Spirit scholarship essay, town parade, Holy Spirit carnival and the NJ State Convention – only time will tell. Bishop Navagh wishes all of our Sister Columbiettes – to Bell Well – Stay Safe during this time! Here's to a Happy Spring and a relaxing summer! Till next time God is Good!



Don Bosco—Newton

The Don Bosco Columbiettes #7784 began their 2020-2021 year just after Labor Day. Each month the Auxiliary collects donations for various organizations. In September, The Saint Mother Teresa Food Pantry at St. Joseph's Church in Newton was selected to receive our donations. We asked for children's juice boxes and snacks. The Sisters collected over 160 individual snacks and more than 182 juice boxes, which weigh more than eighty pounds.

On September 8th we started another mission to say one million Hail Mary's. By late March 2020 we DID reach our goal of saying 1,000,000 Hail Mary's!! Thank you to all Auxiliaries that helped us reach our goal.

Earlier in August, the Columbiettes volunteered to help the Knights of Columbus at their food booth during the New Jersey State Fair. This year twenty-four sisters worked more than 513 hours at the Fair! That is seventy-three, seven-hour workdays!!!

In October, we were very pleased to celebrate the presidency of our State President Vicki Bird, and our President Miriam Montagne. The celebrations were enjoyed by all that attended. During October we gathered items for Father John's Animal Rescue. The food and toys were well received when I brought them to the center.

In November, the Sisters were the hostess for the Migrant Ministry Dinner, where more than 20 people came to enjoy a warm meal and friendship after an evening Mass. The Columbiettes worked with the Knights of Columbus to make wreathes for the Christmas season. This year 70 wreathes were made. Our monthly donations, of personal care products went to the Good Shepherd Church in Andover.

In December, the sisters collected white socks for residents in 4 local nursing homes. The Columbiettes gathered on a sunny Saturday



Don Bosco—Newton

and went to the four nursing homes, delivering the socks as well as holiday cheer by singing for the residents. It was hard to tell who had more fun; the residents or the Columbiettes.

In February, the Columbiettes collected Character Band-Aids for the Children in Morristown Hospital Cancer Department. We have been fortunate to be able to put our donation request in our church bulletin, and many parishioners have been very generous in donating goods. One member gave us one hundred dollars for me to buy as many band-aids as I could. We collected one hundred eighty-four boxes of Character Band-aids, which resulted in a grand total of 5,566 band-aids.

To celebrate Valentine's Day the Columbiettes gathered gloves, hats, socks, and scarves to be sent to Sister Mary Ann from SOLT who has a Mission School in North Dakota. A Knight agreed to pay the postage of our very large and fully packed boxes to Sister Mary Ann. The children were very happy to be able to go out in the cold -20-degree weather with their warm gloves, and hats.

Our March meeting was held, and we collected over one hundred eighty dollars of gift cards for the local food kitchen, Manna House. They would use the cards to purchase food for the daily meals they prepare. A busy month was starting, with two fund raisers, a St. Patrick's parade, First and Major Degree, and then the virus known as COVID 19 comes to NJ and everything comes to a halt. One bright light is that our one million Hail Mary's was achieved by the end of March. Like all the Auxiliaries in the State, we are patiently waiting for the time we can come together, we have so much more to do 2

Please stay well, stay home and appreciate the time we have with our families.

God Bless,
Pam Raynor—President Don Bosco Columbiettes #7784



Don Bosco—Newton



Hopewell

Upon reading a post on Facebook from Columbiette Nancy Lee about making face masks for people to stay safe during this trying time.

So I asked how I could help, with that being said I ventured out to Nancy's amazing home and sewing shop. Nancy is amazingly talented and giving. So the adventure begins, Nancy sewed endless hours. A few others and myself people helped put the masks together. Phyllis and Maria—to name a few also put the masks together and sewed many hours.

I made deliveries leaving them on porches and in mailboxes. I believe Nancy, Phyllis, Maria and myself have made almost 600 masks.

We had an awesome time during this very uncertain time knowing we were helping many people. Nancy has distributed to: Dr. offices, nursing homes, group homes, stores, and many families without charge

Many have made donations to offset things like shipping and elastic.

We are grateful to have been able to help each other and many others.

God has really blessed us.

I trust in you—Amen!

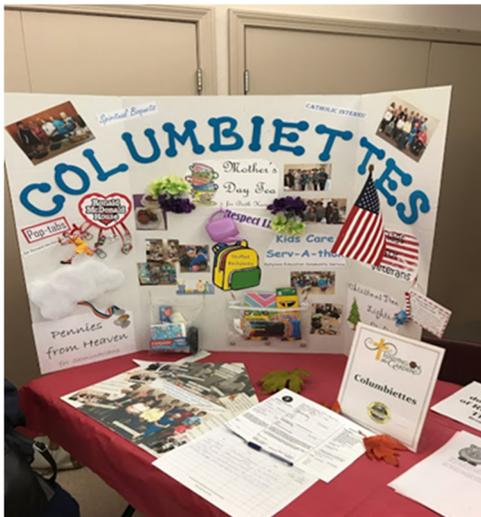


General Judson Kilpatrick

Hello Sisters from General Judson Kilpatrick in Vernon, NJ.

I sincerely hope this finds you safe and healthy in these unprecedented times. We all miss being able to hold meetings and events which were planned, and mostly we miss being with family and friends including our Sister Columbiettes.

We began the new Columbiette year with our parish Stewardship Fair. Linda Stengel made a beautiful board which captured all we do for our Church and Community. We installed 10 new members at our First Degree Ceremony on November 3rd, which was followed by a presentation by Pampered Chef to kick off a fundraiser. As this was also retention month, we were Blessed to have 4 members join us who cannot join us regularly, including Pat McGannon who was visiting from Florida! Thank you, Janet Tussey for facilitating a fun and memorable day for all!!



General Judson Kilpatrick

We celebrated Christmas together at St. Francis DeSales Church which included providing crafts for the children at our annual Parish Christmas Tree Lighting on December 6th and attending our parish Christmas Party on December 14th. January and February were busy planning for Major Degree and events which we have postponed to Fall 2020 including a Baked Potato fundraiser and 'Baby Shower' for Birth Haven which we will now hold in October as part of our Parish 'Spiritual Adoption' program.

GJK is saddened by the loss of two of our members Joan Stellingwerf and Jackie Reich, both of whom are greatly missed by our whole community. We will hold graveside services to place Columbiette Markers as soon as it is safe to gather. God Bless these sister Columbiettes and their families.

Stay Safe, Safe Healthy, and continue to Pray,
Betsy Roos



Millstone Valley

We proudly celebrated the 16 year anniversary of our Auxiliary with a special Mass on January 19th followed by a delicious brunch at the Stoney Brook Grille. Thanks to Donna Delucia who organized! We were busy this winter helping out with a couple Parish activities. We helped our fellow Knights of Columbus members at their Annual Pasta Dinner in January. We set-up, decorated and cooked many pounds of pasta to feed over 200 guests! The Pasta Dinner is a big hit each year and raises money for the youth of our Parish.

For the 2nd year in a row, we joined efforts with the Knights of Columbus and the Paul Gubitosi Charitable Fund to collect food and personal care items for the Feeding Hands Food Pantry in Somerset County. The St. Joseph's parishioners supported our efforts by donating over 2600 items, exceeding last year's numbers and our goal! Thanks to Rachelle Hanna who organized a collection of 134 items from our CCD students as well.

We were honored to host the Mid West chapter meeting in February. We collected baby items to donate to the Sisters of St. Joseph's (SSJ) Neighborhood Center in Camden. This new center offers much needed assistance to their community including classes, a prayer group and food pantry. In addition, our Auxiliary donated money to help them purchase shelving materials. This is a charity that is near and dear to our hearts since a previous member of our Auxiliary, Sister Colleen Gibson along with her fellow Sisters of St. Joseph's opened this center. Check out their website: <https://www.ssjnc.org>.

We are organizing a Parish-wide effort to say a decade of the rosary before Saturday evening mass. We hope to start this as soon as public masses resume. Several of our members are busy at home making rosary beads to have available for parishioners that join us those nights. We will also continue our tradition of presenting the First Communicants with rosary beads and prayer cards.



Millstone Valley

This year there will be 49 young boys and girls who will receive First Communion in our Parish. We are grateful to our Auxiliary members who are catechists and help prepare these children to receive their Sacraments.

While we have not been able to meet in-person since our early March meeting, we continue to help others. Some of our sister Columbiettes have been making cards, sewing masks or scrub hats and crocheting lap blankets and shawls to give to assisted living centers and local hospital workers. One Columbiette made 50 "prayer pockets" (plastic canvas with our Columbiette blue and white colors) in which the "Prayer for Protection in Time of Pandemic" was inserted. They were given to an area hospital to distribute to patients. Another Columbiette decided to cheer up her neighbors by anonymously leaving Easter plants on their front steps. Finally, many have been reaching out to fellow parishioners to check on their health and safety. We are looking forward to the day when we can all be together again and choose our favorite charities to which to donate our fundraising monies! God's blessings to everyone for good health during these challenging times.





Our Lady of Peace—North Brunswick

The Annual Our Lady of Peace Christmas Family Festival was held on Saturday December 14, 2019. The Santa's Workshop table was sponsored and manned by our Columbiettes who assisted the children with arts and crafts. The event is always a success and the children always enjoy making their handmade crafts.



The Our Lady of Peace Columbiette Flower Committee directed the 2019 Church Flower Decorating Program. This Christmas Season was the 4th year our parish community has honored their loved ones with donations designating each flower arrangement as a remembrance.



We also adorned two Christmas trees in the Narthex with Angel cut-outs with the names of the loved ones. The Columbiettes donated a new Nativity Set to the Church for our parishioners to enjoy.



Our Lady of Peace—North Brunswick

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The Our Lady of Peace Columbiettes # 11378 started off the New Year with our annual Holiday Social on January 17, 2020. This annual event was attended by 45 of our sisters. We all shared in a fun filled night. Showstoppers Plus provided games and activities for all sisters to participate in. We all look forward to these social gatherings to enjoy each other's company.





Our Lady of Peace—North Brunswick

The Columbiettes were active supporters for “The Special Bowl” held January 26, 2020. This unique event is in honor of our friends with Special Needs and their families. There was fun, games, dancing, entertainment and a talent show for everyone to join in. The event was held the Our Lady of Peace Parish Center in North Brunswick. Food, snacks and beverages were donated by various local restaurants and businesses. Our sister Columbiettes served the food and joined in the fun with our special friends and families. A fun day was had by all.



Our Lady of Peace—North Brunswick

The 1st Our Lady of Peace Annual Fish Dinner for 2020 was held on March 6. The Columbiettes supported the event by assisting with the preparation of the parish center, food and desserts. We also assisted the night of the event by collecting tickets, taking food orders and serving food and preparing takeout orders.

The Our Lady of Peace Columbiettes had several events planned for the spring that were either postponed or cancelled as a result of the current Coronavirus Pandemic. The Our Lady of Peace North Brunswick Columbiettes pray that all our fellow sisters and their families stay well and healthy during this time. May God bless and protect us and may our Faith continue to help us through the very difficult time we are experiencing.

Our Lady of Victory

The OLV Columbiettes hope that you are well during this unprecedented time. We at OLV began 2020 with our charitable efforts in January with our Bakeless Cake Sale. In May, we plan on sending out our 5-week Club Raffle with any monies collected to benefit this year's Charity.

We also recently made a monetary donation to St. Joseph's Nursing Home in Woodbridge which was particularly hard hit with the COVID-19 virus. The monies we donated were in an effort to defray some of the costs to the facility.

In Closing, we pray for the safety and well-being of each and every one of our Sister Columbiettes and their loved ones. With our combined faith, we know that better times are ahead and we look forward to when we can all be together to continue the work that is the foundation of the Columbiettes. Be Safe, Be Well and God Bless.

Liza Palestrini , Secretary





St. James

The year 2020 began with many plans and scheduled events. Unfortunately, most were cancelled due to COVID-19 mitigation. On February 16th, together with our Brother Knights, we held our Annual Corporate Communion Mass at St. James Church in Jamesburg. This was followed with a continental breakfast. Also, in February, we selected our Monroe Township High School Senior to honor at the High School's 25th Annual Awards Night. We assisted our Brother Knights with table setting and dessert baking for two of their famous Friday Lenten Dinners. All following were cancelled. Our plans for March, April, and May were cancelled. We hope to reschedule to later dates an Angel Pin Sale, a "Coin Drop for Vocations" to support seminarians, postulants, and novices as well as our "Showers of Love for Baby" to support Catholic Charities' Right to Life. Although, we could not honor our Blessed Mother with our traditional May Crowning ceremony, our members recited the Hail Mary three times each day in May. On Memorial Day, we plan to march with our Brother Knights in the Jamesburg Parade to honor those who made the ultimate sac-

rifice to our country. We will award our chosen Good Student and Humanitarian honorees, host our annual members' Pot Luck Supper, give gifts to our Parishes' First Communicants, and donate funds to help those affected with childhood illness once State mandates are lifted. Throughout the year, donations of used greeting cards and cancelled stamps were collected. We sent the cards to St Jude's Ranch in Nevada, which cares for abandoned and neglected children. Our package weighed 15 pounds. Cancelled postage stamps were donated to the Sisters of the Holy Cross Ministry with the Poor in Ohio. Our package weighed 8 pounds. We also collected back packs, school supplies, personal items and tab tops for the State Convention. Our members continue to pray the "Hail Mary" every day at 8:00 PM. We pray our Blessed Mother will intercede to enlighten our world's scientists and doctors with a cure to this devastating virus. To all our Sisters, from St. James Columbiettes, "Best wishes for a healthy, happy, peaceful, and safe summer full of sun shine. We look forward to being with you at Columbiette events in the near future."



Parsippany

Sister Columbiettes,

We in Parsippany are thinking of all our Sister Columbiettes with love in our hearts and prayers on our lips during this difficult time. As with all of us so many planned events cancelled or delayed, but our spirits remain in place.

Parsippany had a quiet toast in January for our 65th Anniversary, our planned celebration had to be cancelled and we may be able to celebrate later in the year. We were so very pleased to receive congratulations from our Supreme President and acknowledgment from so many. Thank you.

In February we were able to have our annual "From the Heart" meeting, when each member chose a charity to which we gave a donation of \$100.00. We made total donations to the charities that totaled over \$4,000.00. What a beautiful evening of giving and we thank God that we were blessed with a treasury that allowed us to be so charitable. After that meeting – we were all "confined to quarters" so our scheduled Baby shower was also cancelled. We continue saving for the Shoe Box ministry, Backpacks, Tab collection, and coupons for the military. Our Cakeless Cake sale was able to move forward via old fashioned letters and mailings. We use the donations to assist any 1st Communicant from one of our three Parsippany churches. And of course, we participate in the Hail Mary Campaign on an ongoing basis.

This year the Seminarian was chosen by Parsippany and we continue to save for Pennies from Heaven. When we do get to our next meeting, our arms will be filled with so much but we will drop it all to give hugs to our Sisters.

Please know that we wish everyone a safe and healthy year ahead.

Fran Veit





Santa Maria

Our Columbiettes sisterhood returned to make breakfast at the Ronald McDonald house in Camden, NJ . President Anne DeFeo is shown setting out the food, and below is Stephanie Aaron receiving a Thank you hug from a patient while Josephine Nast looks on.

We also visited a local nursing home with treats and projects. We held an evening of "Meet and Greet" to increase our membership roles. We also participated in the Right to Life in Washington, DC and the Mount Holly annual St. Patrick's parade.

With the quarantine in place, we offer our prayers to one and all.

Joanne Daywalt

SACRED HEART CHURCH

Mount Holly, NJ

Anne DeFeo

President

Joelle Wentz



Santa Maria



Anne DeFeo and Susan Klersey explain the activity as the residents get ready to participate.





Santa Maria



Rose Gorton is happy to have her resident complete her task. A sampling of the treats offered.



Santa Maria



NURSING HOME

Betty White and Joelle Wentz shares completed projects and they are all smiles.





St. David the King

Before everything came to a standstill in mid-March, 2020, St. David the King Columbiettes were extremely busy planning many activities to raise funds for our numerous charities for the spring months, which of course are being postponed...But we did manage to get many projects accomplished.....

We started out in September with a first time huge Mum sale at our parish, chaired by Ann Hannon which delighted our Pastor, Fr. Tim and the parishioners and netted \$1400.00 for our charities.

Our December meeting was in a wonderful restaurant, followed by a plethora of appetizers and terrific dinners, with everyone enjoying the Christmas spirit and even a visit from Santa Claus. We all donated to a fun "Pound Gift" raffle netting us \$145.00, which was earmarked for the postulants.

Of course, many of us participated in the January 24th "March for Life" in Washington, DC with our area Knights of Columbus and were spiritually impressed by the young teens who we marched side-by-side with, reciting the rosary and praying for the end of abortions. What an amazing day.

At our January meeting we cheered and congratulated our chairwoman, Andrea Meyers, who diligently and perfectly organized and managed our debut December fundraiser on December 20, 21 (the weekend before Christmas) at Princeton MarketFair for "Free Gift-Wrapping - Donations Gladly accepted for St. David the King Columbiettes Charities." (always getting our name out there.)

At least 20 ladies who volunteered for the many shifts and wrapped Christmas gifts for 2 full days had a terrific time. Talk about everyone working together – it was fantastic fun and we even had a few minutes here and there to get to know each other better – even husband Knights helped out! It netted our charities \$1200.00 and we are looking forward to doing it again next year!



St. David the King

At our SouthWest Chapter meeting in February, St. David the King Columbiettes generously donated to the Prison Ministry that they will be sponsoring for the June Convention. We gave Sr. Antonelle Chunka, who has been tirelessly heading this 'great need' a generous head start, with an overflowing carload of new and slightly used blankets, linens, sheetsets, dishes, glassware, cookware, fashion pillows and much more for the women who are released from NJ prisons and setting up a home... Extremely gratifying to say the least.

The months also found us raffling fabulous Gift Baskets at our Knights Spaghetti Dinner and Parish Breakfast and helping the Knights when needed. We also worked on our "Sole Hope" project, chaired by Gina Mastro, of donating packages of cut out shoe panels from old jeans and bandages/ointment packages for the underprivileged children in Uganda.

We also cut and organized two large boxes of front covers from donated used and new greeting cards, chaired by Roseann Airel. The covers were sent to the St. Jude Children's Ranch in Nevada for them to make and sell new cards to raise funds. The new cards we donate to our food pantry and will be included in the soldier box supplies, which we will do in the months ahead.

We did squeeze in one event the first Sunday in March....I was especially gratified to donate a beautiful collection of over 60 new stuffed animals with tags – so we asked our pastor if we could donate them to the children of the parish..."Adopt a Stuffed Animal" from the Columbiettes.





St. David the King

It was a huge hit – (pictures enclosed.) After each mass the children were delighted to choose their favorite. The comments by the parents were just wonderful, thanking the Columbiettes for our generosity. It was delightful to give back, as our parishioners always support us in all of our fundraising.

Of course, our endless thanks to our terrific President, Kathleen Finn, who has kept us excited and on track the last two years. We could not do all of it without her guidance and leadership.



St. David the King





St. David the King



Father Cannon

Greetings to our Sister Columbiettes!
Our Auxiliary hosted our Holiday Wine and Cheese Social on December 5th. We find that this event is a terrific way to relax together, appreciate the blessings of friendship, and get to know potential new members! Instead of bringing gifts for one another, we bring children's clothing and donate it to Cornerstone Women's Services, an organization that serves Southern New Jersey families.

On January 12th we welcomed 3 new women to our Auxiliary! We are so happy that our group continues to grow and strengthen. We continue to get tremendous support from our Knights Council, so many of the 3rd Degree members attended to show their support. We needed to cancel the Lenten Fish Dinner that we put on with our Brother Knights and postpone our Chicken Takeout Dinner to keep everyone safe due to the health concerns, but we are happy to say that we are all well.

We wish you all a safe and healthy Summer!
Angela Greenwald, President





Our Lady of Perpetual Help—Jersey City

Greetings from OLPH, Jersey City

Happy Easter everyone! Spring is finally here birds start singing and flowers blooming. It is a strange and troubling time with the pandemic in our midst, but we have to look to the brighter and positive side of it. With due respect to the grieving families and the victims of this pandemic, we offer our prayers and our heartfelt sympathy. Our main consolation is in our loving God who welcomes them with open arms in His Kingdom.

Jesus is truly risen and that changes everything. We can still be joyful for the gift of new life for the living and those who passed away. God is in control and has a perfect plan for each of us. We are in this time of “birth pangs” which is painful for the whole world but after this pain comes a new springtime and renewal of mankind. Be strong for what comes next for God is with us.

We have cancelled our activities because of the lockdown. We will resume when this lockdown is over. Meanwhile let us rest and meditate and pray. God wants our 100% attention. Let’s give Him all the glory and honor! Stay healthy and safe dear sisters.

Naty Caballero



St. Ann

St. Ann’s auxiliary is here! After many months of planning and organizing, we held our installation and degree ceremonies on January 5. It was a welcomed way to ring in the new year, with twenty-nine ladies installed into our newly-formed auxiliary.

Though only official for a mere few months, the work has already begun. Our first month kicked off with a meet-and-greet hosted by St. Ann’s Knights of Columbus at their hall, where we bonded with them and each other. We’ve hosted two membership drives at local parishes—St. Catharine’s in Glen Rock, and St. Leo’s in Elmwood Park—and held a meet-and-greets for prospective members after each. Plus, during our March meeting, we hosted our first first-degree ceremony! We graciously welcome Michele and Celia into our ever-growing auxiliary.

No new group is without its kinks, but everyone has stepped up to volunteer and offer ideas for recruitment and fundraising. We have many committee members in place already who are bursting with ideas. Our monthly meetings already feature a bucket for Ronald McDonald tab tops, and a Happy Basket Raffle to fundraise for future events and donations.

St. Ann’s is excited to officially be part of the Columbiettes family, and we have big ideas for the upcoming year and beyond!





St. Anthony

Happy 2020! And what a different type of year it has been so far. Our annual Christmas party was postponed to our January meeting due to the weather. The food and comradery was worth the wait, everything was delicious and we had a wonderful time talking about our time with our families.

In February, after postponing the event two times, we sucseffuly held our 11th Pocketbook Bingo/Tricky Tray. They say third time is a charm and it was! A fun time was had by all. And some people were even happier walking away a winner of a beautiful pocketbook or tricky tray basket.

We were busy once again this year selling our Palm Crosses. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to meet with the parishioners of our parish while selling the Palm Crosses after each of the masses both in January and February. Due to the Stay At Home order, most Palm Crosses were delivered to the homes and others we had a no contact pickup. A little bit different but by coming together, we all got it done. Right before the shutdown, we held our Annual Baked Potato Night. Even with people already wanting to stay at home, we had our faithful few that attended. And they weren't disappointed with the delicious food they were served.

Due to the stay at home order, we held our first Zoom meeting. While we don't want this to be an every month occurance, and would love to be at our meetings in person, it was wonderful to see everyone. Just like many things we are learning throughout this pandemic, we are learning new things and if we must do it again, we know it can be done.

Wishing you all a very Happy Mother's Day! Hoping we will be able to see our Sister Columbiettes at the convention in June. Be well and stay safe. Many prayers coming to all who read this and your loved ones.



St. Bernadette

In January, we held our Annual Soup Sale. Orders for quarts of Chicken Noodle or Beef Vegetable are taken in advance and at the door. It was very successful, we look forward to doing it again next year.

We held a Membership Drive on the weekend of January 25 and 26th. Two prospective members expressed interest and completed applications.

Our nominated Charity recipient was selected at our February Chapter meeting. Three South East Chapter Auxiliaries in total nominated the same young lady. One of our members suggested her granddaughter's dear friend, Sienna Joan Smith, who is 11 years old and in the 6th Grade. In November 2019, Sienna was diagnosed with pineoblastoma, a rare aggressive brain cancer. She is currently receiving chemotherapy at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia; this treatment will be followed by radiation and surgery.

In February we placed bulletin inserts to publicize our South East Chapter Baby Shower to benefit Life Choices Resource Center in Metuchen, NJ. We collect baby items from our parishioners in addition to donating on our own.

Student Good Citizen Award applications were sent to South Amboy High School, Sayreville War Memorial High School, Old Bridge High School, Mater Dei and Bishop Ahr High School. The committee will select a candidate for submission to NJ State Council Columbiettes and we will invite the candidate to our Memorial Mass, Installation of Officers and social in June.





St. Bernadette

We held our Shake the Can for Vocations drive after all Masses the weekend of March 14 and 15. Mass was very sparsely attended since that is when the COVID-19 pandemic began but we still managed to collect a nice amount while keeping our distance.

We were looking forward to attending our Chapter Evening of Recollection and participating in our Chapter First and Major Degree at the end of March but unfortunately these events were cancelled.

We are unable to meet as an auxiliary in April and May per our Chaplain's directive, but we are keeping members informed via email. As a result, our 5th Annual Tea Party has been cancelled. At least we have a big head start on planning for next year.

There are three Officers that will be attending this year's convention and we are looking forward to things being back to normal by then.

Sending our best wishes to our Sister Columbiettes across the state. Stay safe, happy and healthy. You are all in our prayers.



St. Francis

St. Francis kicked off their Columbian year with their annual Chicken Dinner takeout in the beginning of September. Then we moved onto our annual Christmas Bake Sale. Both events were a great success! At Christmastime, we did our semi-annual donations to our priests; parish; deacons; deacon-in-waiting; King's Things kitchen pantry; St. Vincent de Paul kitchen pantry; and St. John of God Community Services. We started planning for our annual Spaghetti Dinner that we normally have in April; however, with the COVID-19 lockdown, we decided it would be best to cancel it to ensure everyone's safety. We hope to be able to pick up with our annual events again next September!

While we wait out in the unprecedented times, we collectively pray to God to protect all the front line workers that are battling this virus. We hope to be able to become more appreciative of each other's camaraderie.

We send our sister auxiliaries love and prayers for a safe remainder of the year!

- Dana Zagorski, President



St. John's

The big news for St John's Council Columbiettes is that we are celebrating our 15th Anniversary this year!

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic which is sweeping our nation and world at the moment our celebration of this wonderful milestone had to be postponed. In fact all of our events, (as well as other council's events) are put on hold till this virus is controlled and stopped! Now more than ever we all need to come together as one world and pray for all of us during this difficult time.

I look forward to the day when we all can be together again. Until then, stay safe and be well.

*Peace,
Roberta Elwell
Past President
St John's Council Columbiettes – Dumont/Bergenfield*



Vincent T. Lombardi

Everyone loves a winner and our auxiliary had several winners at the November Tricky Tray. The Tricky Tray is always a fun night filled with good food and laughter. We always look forward to supporting our Chapter at this event. December we did our annual fundraiser at the First Avenue Playhouse in Atlantic Highlands. This year's play was 'Twas the Fight Before Christmas. Members, family, and friends gathered for this enjoyable night out which also included a 50/50 and a raffle. Also with our families we gathered with the VTL Knights and their families for their annual Christmas dinner. We look forward to the dinner as it gives us a chance to "let down our guard" so to speak and relax a bit. The evening was rounded out by a visit from Santa Claus. And speaking of Santa, we helped Santa deliver gifts to pediatric patients at Monmouth Medical Center. This has become an annual tradition for us. In February we hosted the Chapter meeting where we chose the Chapter Charity. Our nominee was Sienna Smith, a young girl from Parlin who has several medical issues. Sienna was also nominated by the St. Bernadette auxiliary and was chosen the recipient. Also in February we answered a call for help from our good friend Robert Lauricella from the VTL Knights. Robert needed help serving food at the Men's Conference at St. Mary's. We were glad to help out. March 1st we finally held a Past President Dinner honoring Ann Dimaira. The well deserved honor was well attended by Ann's family, members of the auxiliary, and special guests. Later on that month Vaughan Kuhlmeier, Grand Knight at VTL, was kind enough to invite us to join with the Knights at a membership drive at St. Catherine's in North Middletown. Although we can not be together face to face, we can be together heart to heart. We tirelessly continue to pray for those afflicted by the Coronavirus and their families, and for an end to this pandemic. Please say a special prayer for our own Ann Dimaira, who is on the front lines as a nursing supervisor at Riverview Medical Center in Red Bank.

Love to All, be safe, stay well, Mary Vernarelli VTL Vice President



Warren

Our Advent and Christmas season started again helping our Brother Knights fill over 200 bags of food for the needy seniors in our local area, and again, it was done in less than 30 minutes. A little celebration followed with pizza and snack type foods.

In lieu of our December meeting, we enjoyed a wonderful dinner at a local Italian Restaurant where we exchanged gifts and played games. Each of us brought gifts and clothing for the needy children registered through our Catholic Charities Social Service center. A few of us helped to distribute the gifts at a party held for them on Dec. 14.

After our January meeting concluded, we celebrated the New Year with a wine and cheese party (we like to party). We donated sanitary pads to the Catholic Charities Social Center for needy women. We had our annual collection at our two parishes for the Seminarians and Postulants.

We had a first degree in February, following the first degree we changed into our RED clothing and welcomed two new members to our auxiliary. YAY!

On Feb. 15 and 16, we had our annual loaf cake sale after all masses. Our parishioners LOVE our LOAF CAKES! We always manage to sell out and never seem to have enough for all the masses! We gave first communion pins to our children that made their first holy communion.

We helped our brother Knights with their fish fries by baking desserts for them and serving them at the fish dinners. We met as a group to attend Stations of Cross at the beginning of Lent. We awarded a junior and senior high school student from our parish with a monetary award for receiving the St. Timothy award by our Bishop. This award recognizes those students who live their lives as disciples and demonstrate their catholic faith.



Warren

At our March meeting, we will wear green. Our Postulant Sister Anna Palka will address the membership on a topic specific to the Lenten season and following the meeting, we will put together approximately 35 Easter baskets for the needy children.

We will be celebrating our Charter anniversary of 9 years as a council. We will gather for the eleven o'clock mass on March 15 and then celebrate with an afternoon lunch together.

Soon the golf tournaments will begin and we will be making monetary donations to them as well as other fundraisers for charitable events

A few of us will attend the retreat at San Alphonso where God and sea meet. Several others will attend a retreat sponsored by the Sisters of Jesus our Hope. We will be sponsoring an essay contest for the students from our catholic elementary school that made their confirmation. The essay is on the saint whose name they chose as their confirmation name, a monetary award will be given to four finalists.

In May will be collect diapers for the infants and children of Catholic Charities and hold our final bake sale.

We have sent out the Good Student Citizens award and are awaiting return of the applicants; a candidate for the humanitarian award will be nominated as well. In June we will hold our final meeting with a meal and complete our donations for the year

Have a joyous Blessed Easter. Bev Redondo President





Immaculate Conception—Spotswood

To begin the season of giving we helped our Brother Knights by wrapping almost 90 shirts to be given as gifts at the Knights #4907 Special Citizens Christmas Party. We were done in record time thanks to the many ladies who volunteered to help.

December 4th was our Columbiette Christmas Party. We had a great time celebrating the beginning of the Christmas season by enjoying a meal together. Along with our guests, we played some laugh invoking games, had an opportunity to win some prizes and sang some wonderful Christmas Carols. In lieu of a gift grab-bag we donated ShopRite gift cards to our parish to be used for those who are in need of help.

In February we distributed 75 Act of Contrition crosses to the parish children making their First Penance. What a joyful event to share with them and their parents.

On February 23rd, we celebrated our 30th Anniversary at our Annual Corporate Communion. We attended Mass together, which is always a great way to bolster our Catholic tradition. After Mass we enjoyed a great luncheon, because what would a Columbiette gathering be without food. We were very fortunate to have had two speakers from the Spotswood Police Department. They gave a very informative presentation on safety, both in the house and outside.

Saturday March 14th and Sunday March 15th we sold St Patrick's Day green Carnations. It was a bit of a tentative sale due to the Covid-19 virus and the looming shutdowns which reduced the number of parishioners at the weekend Masses. With St. Patrick on our side we were



Immaculate Conception—Spotswood

The Knights held their annual Fish Fries beginning on Friday, Feb 28th. As in the past we assist our brother Knights with this event. Thursday mornings we clean and chop all the vegetables for the renowned salad bar. On Friday's we make sure the dessert and salad bar remain clean and well stocked. The homemade desserts are donated by the Columbiette members and are always a customer favorite. Unfortunately because of the closing of eat in restaurants due to Covid-19, the last Fish Fry on March 20th was take-out only. We were there to make sure the orders were taken and filled. We made sure every dinner order included a soup, salad, roll, coleslaw, and dessert.

The quarantine unfortunately resulted in us cancelling our Annual Easter Bunny Visit to our local nursing home. The residents as well as our bunny were disappointed. We will be there, God willing, next year.

Hoping and praying that we can finish up the Columbiette year seeing friends at the Convention. Prayers being said for all our sisters.



State Directory Updates

Please note that all updates have been made directly to the online edition of the New Jersey State Directory. This publication can be seen by visiting the state website at: www.njcolumbiettes.com.

A Note From the Editor

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

Thank you to everyone who submitted articles for this publication and special thanks to Maureen O'Brien who contributed pictures from various functions.

Unfortunately, due to the high cost of printing the ECHO, printed subscriptions are no longer available. However, it is possible to have the booklet electronically sent to you via your auxiliary president and/or other officials who receive it. Additionally, it is posted as a .PDF file on the state website at: www.njcolumbiettes.com. Please share this availability with your members.

For the next submission, articles can be e-mailed to:

echonewsletter@hotmail.com

Microsoft Word files are the easiest to manipulate when inserting into the publication.

Thank you,
Dana Zagorski



Dana Zagorski, Editor

180 Estates Blvd.
Apartment #24
Hamilton, NJ 08610

Email: echonewsletter@hotmail.com

Cell: (856) 803-7257

