

St. John Neumann Council's Continuing Word

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President's Corner

Soon our 2014-2015 year will be complete. I believe that we can be proud of what we've accomplished as a group and individually this year! Many hours have gone into bringing about the pictorial directory that will soon be in our hands. A big thank you goes to Barbara Speziani and Shelia Thomas who worked on planning with the photography team to do the family pictures, as well as editing and adding the groups and extra pictures of military members to it. It really was a monumental feat. Faye Johnson headed up a group of CCW members to visit the Blue Nun's school for disabled women on a regular schedule which benefited the clients as well as those serving them. There will be a poster depicting the work done with them for the ODCCW Convention. Also, we worked together to raise funds for getting a Smart TV for the Parish Hall for use in faith formation activities and by other groups. We were able to raise almost two-thirds of the needed funds for the equipment! I am applying to the Koch Foundation to see if they can grant funds to finish our fund raising. We had the usual fundraisers too; the Bridge Marathon; Country Store, Hugs for the Homeless Walk-a-thon and Chocolate Festival and many contributed to making them a success. Thanks to all who donated refreshments, donated items/goods, donated time for manning tables and attended CCW events. We couldn't have made it without everyone's pulling together. Next term, we plan to build onto the scholarship that we have set aside for the next Emmaus Retreat, for spiritual growth.

A special thanks to Mary Kay Hill who put together our Council's Continuing Word and Shelia's help in editing it. Please feel free to submit an article or cause that you feel passionate about to the newsletter for a future edition. I am just the facilitator; this is your CCW and your newsletter! There is a lot of talent out there and we want to put it to use for the good Lord. Have a safe and refreshing summer!

Let us all welcome and thank our 2015-2016 CCW Officers. . .

Newly Elected officers:

Vice President- Linda Brophy

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Secretary- Bonnie Hicks

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Treasurer- Ruth Cole

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Returning officers:

President- Diane DiSalvo

Western Deanery Rep.-Karen Lombardo

New Commissioners:

Spirituality- Nancy Myrick

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Service- Janet Nicolella

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Thanks to each of you for offering to lead us to do the work of the CCW Mission!



National Council of Catholic Women

Mission Statement

The National Council of Catholic Women acts through its membership to support empowers and educates all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. NCCW programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world.



May 2- First Saturday Healing Mass with Adoration 9-11a.m.

May 3- CCW Sunday

May 4- CCW Board Meeting

May 9- Saturday Banquet at Red Elephant at 12:30 with installation of officers

May 10- Mother's Day

May 11- SJNCCW General Meeting

This will be our planning session for 2015-2016. We need your input since it is "our CCW" and not any single person's CCW. Typically, we pay our dues for the upcoming year in May. Dues will continue to be \$15.00, which it has remained for many years. What a bargain!

May 24- Pentecost Sunday

My Faith Journey

I was born into a happy Catholic family. My parents both attended Catholic elementary and high school, but chose for their 3 children to attend public school, for the academic advantages. My parents made sure we attended CCD, as it was called back then, and that all of us were active in youth groups to educate us in the ways of the Church. We were taught by example to put our faith into action. My parents were active volunteers in the community and at church. Because of their role modeling I have always been an active volunteer in my church and in my community. When I was growing up as well as when my children were growing up, ours was the home where friends gathered. It was a normal event most nights for our home to have an extra person at our dinner table. My parents were always welcoming to one and all. We said prayers before meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner, whether we ate at home or ate somewhere else. When friends visited, they said prayers right along with us, whether they were Catholic or not!

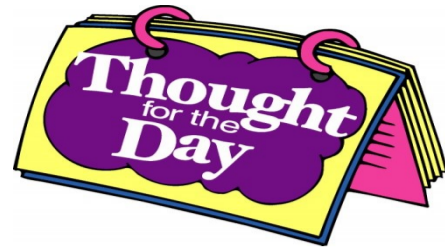
I attended Penn State and became involved with the Neumann Society on campus. During my college years, the center was a strong force for me to keep on track with my religious growth. I have always believed that being a nurse was my calling from God, to minister in a physical and spiritual way to others. I think I was a holistic nurse before the term was coined!

My faith journey was strengthened by meeting and marrying two wonderful non-catholic men. My husband, Jeff, was a practicing Lutheran when we met. He decided on his own to convert to the Catholic religion before we married. I traveled the RCIA journey along with him which was definitely a wonderful learning experience about the Catholic faith. After 11 years of illness, Jeff's strength and love of God taught me more about the goodness of God than I had ever learned prior to that time. Through faith in God comes joy even through sadness.

Five years ago I met Ron, my present husband. He too was a believer and had a strong faith. He was not Catholic when I met him and again, on his own, he decided to convert to the Catholic faith. He too says prayers before every meal and believes in being an active church and community volunteer. I continue to grow in my faith with Ron.

So what is the consistent thread in my faith journey? I have been blessed to be surrounded by a family of believers. God has always had an active presence in my life and as I get older I realize more and more how important it is to nourish my faith by surrounding myself with believers.

I am very thankful for CCW and the women of SJN that continue to nourish me. Mary Kay Hill



St Philip Neri's feast Day is in May. Diane submitted these quotes attributed to him:

"Immaculate Virgin, thou hast to save me. Grant that I may always remember thee; and thou, do thou never forget me. The happy day, when I shall go to behold thy beauty in paradise, seems a thousand years off. So much do I long to praise and love thee more than I can now do, my Mother, my Queen, my beloved, most beautiful, most sweet, most pure, Immaculate Mary". Amen

It is an old custom with the servants of God always to have some little prayers ready and to be darting them up to heaven frequently during the day, lifting their minds to God out of the filth of this world. He who adopts this plan will get great fruit with little pains."

Watch me, O Lord, this day; for, abandoned to myself, I shall surely betray thee."

My children, if you desire perseverance, be devout to our Blessed Lady."

Birthdays to Celebrate!

May

None this month

June

6/5 Clare Bakon
6/12 Josephine Pettrow
6/25 Alice Hazel
6/29 Sally Donadoni

July

7/4 Bonnie Hicks
7/7 Rebecca Myers-Bratton
7/10 Kathleen Sabatino
7/21 Donna Ball
7/24 Karen Lombardo
7/28 Pat Phipps