



St. Andrew Women's Club Catholic Woman of the Year 2021

It is difficult to define the St. Andrew Women's Club 2021 Catholic Woman of the Year since all her activities are deserving of a book! This self-giving, generous, and "she can do it all" woman is one of God's gifts to our Women's Club, to our parish and to other community organizations.

She is a transplant from Greenlawn, New York in the Huntington, Long Island Township. She graduated from Harborfields High School in 1968. In 1970, she married her high school sweetheart, John. With John, she raised their four children – Jill, Cheri, David, and Christine. They enjoy the company of their two son-in-law's, one daughter-in-law and thirteen fantastic grandchildren! Every week she hosts conference calls with her grandchildren to say the rosary and pledge of allegiance.

During her childrearing years, she was the first "non-nurse" childbirth educator in the Lamaze Method of Natural Childbirth. In 1998, she enrolled in the Nursing Program at Suffolk County Community College and received her Associates Degree in 2000. She worked with high-risk pregnancies at Stony Brook University Hospital helping to save babies while working part-time in the hospital's blood bank where she was a regular donor. To this day, she continues to donate her platelets on a regular basis.

In her spare time, she also taught CCD and served as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist in her parish. Her unique endeavor was beginning the first Catholics for Freedom of Religion (CFFR) laity group in St James Parish in Setauket, NY in 2012. Not being a shy woman, she wrote to Pope Benedict, Pope Francis, Cardinal Dolan (NY), Bishop Murphy (NY) and Bishop Guglielmone (SC) to ask for their support. Receiving positive responses, she aided in helping to establish laity CFFR groups in NJ, FL, OH, TX, and other counties in NY.

She moved with her husband to Myrtle Beach, SC and joined St. Andrew Church where she became involved in several ministries. In 2014, she became the state director of Catholics for Freedom of Religion in South Carolina. She delivers the message of freedom of religion to every person she meets through face-to-face contacts, church bulletins, emails and visiting church groups in South Carolina. She is instrumental in conducting monthly Patriotic Rosaries and Veteran's Day parades in Market Common in Myrtle Beach. If there is inclement weather, she goes out of her way to find a space to conduct these ventures. An annual scholarship for a St. Andrew student who plans to attend St. Elizabeth Ann Seton High School was due to her suggestion and hard work. This was named the "Catholics for Freedom of Religion Essay and Speech Contest".

Not only is this wonderful lady the current Secretary for the St. Andrew Women's Club, but she is also a member of the Columbiettes, and a volunteer and teacher for expecting parents at Coastline Women's Pregnancy Center in Myrtle Beach. She is always eager to volunteer for any project in the Women's Club and parish 100%. She finds time to attend Pro-Life marches in Washington, DC and Columbia, SC to continue in her mission to save the innocents.

If that were not enough, she was also invited to the White House "Opportunity Now Summit" in Charlotte, NC to discuss urban renewals, school choice and the opioid crisis. She was asked to be a part of a national call of faith leaders from across the nation to not only pray as a group for the end of COVID-19, but to be updated on plans to fight the pandemic and get Americans back to their normal lives.

It is with great pleasure that we present the St. Andrew Catholic Woman of the Year 2021 Award to Carol Jean Zwaryck Walters!