



Hello fellow women parishioners,

August, 2019

My name is Mary Georgopoulos and I am the president of The Women of St. Francis for 2019-2020. This is a very exciting year, since it is the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Charleston and the 100th anniversary of the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW). There are many events planned at the State, Deanery, and Parish level. Please watch for them in the bulletin and on the parish website.

Since moving to Hilton Head in 2012, I have come to appreciate the warmth and generosity of the Women of St. Francis organization. Joining our group of service-oriented women, inspired by their tremendous faith, seems to make a large parish such as ours a bit smaller and friendlier. I encourage you to give us a look! We have many committees that serve in all different capacities. I'm sure you will find **the one place** where you will feel comfortable giving of your time and talent that is unique to you, while giving glory to God and making lifelong friends. We lay women are called to holiness in our everyday lives by working, sharing, and giving of ourselves by going out to those in need of our help. The Women of St. Francis are members of the larger community of the Beaufort Deanery, the South Carolina Council of Catholic Women (SCCCW) and the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW). Together we can change the culture that is so badly in need of the love and mercy of Our Savior. We may take small steps, but they add up to produce great results!

We also assist at the parish level sponsoring prayerful events, such as the Days of Reflection, Mary's Way of the Cross, traveling to the annual Marian Eucharistic Conference in Greenville, and retreats. This year we have already sponsored a Patriotic Rosary on July 4th that we hope will become an annual event.

We welcome your ideas and your energy to start new initiatives. We realize that we have women from all areas of the country and the world who join our group and we are happy to entertain your suggestions from your former parishes that could be implemented here. Our board meets on the 4th Monday of the month and our general meetings for all members occur on the 2nd Monday of the month with some exceptions. All are welcome, whether a member or not, to attend our first event, a Potluck Dinner on September 9th, where we will showcase our different committees that are always open to new volunteers. We will have a membership drive the weekend of August 24th & 25th in the Narthex after the Masses, so be sure to stop by and chat with some of our members.

Our main fundraisers are our Fashion Show in December and our Soup for Scholarships evening in February with a cookbook for sale of all the wonderful recipes we've accumulated over the years. If you have expertise in either of these areas, we welcome your participation.

On the reverse side of this letter, you will see the many activities we perform each year, as well as past accomplishments that have helped countless people in our parish, community, and beyond.

Included in this packet of information is the registration form that includes your reservation for the kick-off event, the oh-so-popular Potluck Dinner, the organizational chart with contact information, our calendar of programs and events for the year, and the Fashion Show invitation (it sold out early last year, so please get your RSVP **including your check** in asap this year). Please note that this year, our registration form asks for your "neighborhood" location to be circled. This is to facilitate our ambassador program that we are instituting this year to help those who would like to carpool with each other. Since not many women like to come to events alone, we can help you pair up with another member. This will especially help our older members who cannot drive at night, but still wish to come to the meetings.

Whether a new member or a renewing member, please consider joining our group of wonderful women this year!

God Bless,

Mary Georgopoulos

President – Women of St. Francis

HIGHLIGHTS OF DONATIONS BY THE WOMEN OF ST. FRANCIS

SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION

CHURCH –

- . CHAPLETS FOR CONFIRMATION CLASSES
- . HOSTED THE INTERFAITH CONVOCATION LUNCHEON FOR RELIGIOUS LEADERS
- . HOSTESSES FOR ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC SCHOOL 20TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON RECEPTION
- . HOSTESSES FOR THE FIRST COMMUNION RECEPTION
- . ROSARIES FOR FIRST COMMUNION AND RCIA CLASSES
- . DONATION TO SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONVENTION PROJECT
- . HOSTED WITH BEAUFORT DEANERY THE SCCCW STATE CONVENTION AT MARRIOTT ON HHI
- . SUPPORT FOR MARTHA GRISWOLD – FOCUS MINISTRY

SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMUNITY –

- . COLLECT ALUMINUM CAN TABS FOR RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE IN SAVANNAH, GA
- . COLLECT ENVELOPES & GREETING CARD FRONTS FOR THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF THE LOWCOUNTRY
- . CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PREGNANCY CENTER & CLINIC OF THE LOWCOUNTRY
- . DONATION TO OSPREY VILLAGE BUILDING FUND FOR ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
- . HOST LIFE CARE CENTER CELEBRATIONS AND PROVIDE BIRTHDAY GIFTS TO RESIDENTS
- . DONATION TO THE HOLY FACE PROJECT
- . DONATION TO ST. FRANCIS OUTREACH MINISTRY

FAMILY –

- . BLANKET MAKERS PROVIDE BLANKETS FOR CHILDREN THROUGH CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS
- . COLLECT CELLPHONES TO PURCHASE PHONE CARDS FOR U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL
- . COLLECT ITEMS TO HELP HOMELESS CHILDREN THROUGH FAMILY PROMISE
- . DONATION FOR GAS CARDS TO FAMILY PROMISE FOR TRANSPORTING HOMELESS FAMILIES
- . DONATION OF TREATS & HYGIENE ITEMS TO OPERATION MORAL SUPPORT FOR THE MILITARY
- . HOST ICE CREAM SOCIAL FOR PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STUDENTS

INTERNATIONAL –

- . COLLECT USED EYEGLASSES FOR LIONS CLUB
- . CROSS CATHOLIC INTERNATIONAL – WOMEN HELPING WOMEN PROJECT
- . GLOBAL VILLAGES SUPPORT THROUGH HEIFER INTERNATIONAL
- . SISTERS OF ST. MARY OF NAMUR (Sister Kathleen's Order) FOR THEIR MISSION PROJECTS
- . DONATED A CARGO SHIP CONTAINER OF DIAPERS FOR MUSTARD SEED DIAPER PROJECT IN JAMAICA

ST. FRANCIS BY THE SEA PARISH

- . 240 CHAIRS AND 4 CARTS FOR FAMILY CENTER & 24 CHAIRS FOR BACK SACRISTY AND CRY ROOM
- . 50" TV AND DVD PLAYER FOR FAMILY CENTER
- . 70" TV AND MOUNT FOR YOUTH GROUP MEETING ROOM
- . DONATION TOWARD CHAIRS FOR CHOIR
- . HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE DOOR FOR CHURCH
- . INCENSER STAND WITH BURNER AND BOAT FOR CHURCH
- . NEW COLLECTION BASKETS FOR CHURCH USHERS
- . TWO LECTIONARIES FOR CHURCH
- . VESTMENTS FOR DEACONS

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

- . DONATED ITEMS FOR THE FINE ARTS BUILDING, INCLUDING BAND INSTRUMENTS AND RISERS
- . COLLECT BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION
- . DONATED TABLE OF 10 TICKETS FOR ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL GALA
- . GRAPHING CALCULATORS FOR CLASSROOMS
- . PROVIDE PIZZA FOR PRINCIPAL'S MONTHLY LUNCH WITH STUDENTS
- . PURCHASE NEEDED EQUIPMENT FOR NEW MULTI-PURPOSE/GYM BUILDING
- . SCHOOL UNIFORMS FOR STUDENTS (AS NEEDED)
- . TWO COLOR PRINTERS FOR TECHNOLOGY NEEDS
- . TWO SETS OF BARTON LEARNING SYSTEMS FOR READING
- . TOTAL OF NINE \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS FROM SOUP FOR SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDRAISERS