

There's a point in every true friendship where you stop being friends and become sisters.



The Manger and the Cross: One Story of Love

Christmas and Easter aren't two separate stories. They are one divine arc - one movement of love that stretches from the crib to the cross. Christmas gives us the beginning: God with us, born into poverty, wrapped in cloth, and laid in a feeding trough. Easter gives us the end - and the new beginning: God still with us, but now risen in glory, leaving behind the burial cloths as signs of victory.

At Christmas, angels sing "Glory to God in the highest." At Easter, we shout "Alleluia!" because that glory has conquered death. At Christmas, shepherds come to adore the Lamb. At Easter, Mary Magdalene runs from the tomb, the first to proclaim that the Lamb has risen. In Bethlehem, there was no room in the inn. On Calvary, there's no room in the grave.

Everything about Christmas is fulfilled in Easter. The child born to save the world has done it. The wooden manger foreshadows the wooden cross. And the quiet night in Bethlehem whispers the promise of a new dawn outside the tomb.

Easter is everything - but it's not a one-day celebration tucked into spring. It's a living invitation. Every single Sunday is a chance to walk into the joy of the Resurrection, to meet the risen Jesus in the breaking of the bread, and to be reminded that death does not win. All are welcome - no matter where you've been, no matter what your story is. The Church flings open its doors every Sunday not with judgment, but with hope. Come and see. Come and receive. Come and experience Easter - not just once a year, but every week, for the rest of your life.

April President's Letter - Linda Lauletta

Wishing everyone a Happy Easter! Another month filled with CCW activities. Mary's handmaidens' group will be busy with several projects. Several of us will be attending the 58th ODCCW convention at Lake Mary.

Keep our past president, Diane Owen in your prayers. She is running for ODCCW Executive Officer position. What will she be doing if she is elected? Lots of exciting activities to support our Council of Catholic Women! Such as the following:

- *Presides in the absence of the Diocesan President
- *Substitutes for the President whenever necessary and always assists the President
- *Serves as coordinator of the Diocesan Commissions
- *Is responsible for updating the Manual
- *Renders a written report of her year's work at the annual Diocesan Convention
- *Represents her Diocesan Council on the National ring as a voting delegate to the NCCW Convention.
- *Succeeds to the presidency in the inability of the Diocesan President to continue in office"

Let's rally around Diane, Sunday April 19 in spirit!

"Easter reminds us that God's love is stronger than any suffering or darkness we may encounter".

... St. Padre Pio



“Hats Off to Spring” 2026 Fashion Show

The temperature was cooler than usual and the wind blustery, but the inside of the Wesley Center at the Living Hope Church was filled with the warmth of spring on January 31! Forty tables were decorated with hats displayed with lighted cylindrical vases and greenery and hat boxes filled with chocolate treats! Ten models walked the stage displaying fashions from Dillard's at the Florida Mall in Orlando. Attendees enjoyed a wonderful salad luncheon, shopped at Dillard's' displays, bid on Silent Auction prizes, and purchased tickets for raffle baskets, a gift card wreath, and 50/50. The afternoon ended with many positive comments and a common question: can I buy my own table next year?!

A special thanks to our many sponsors and models; to Cindy Burnbaum, who worked with our models; and our two gentlemen who assisted attendees and models: Bob Owen and Sal Terrana. A special thanks to our Fashion Show Committee: Connie Brewer, Tillie Granucci, Sandy Malsberger, Diane McCue, Diane Owen (co-chair), Mary Ellen Pollock, Loretta Terrana (co-chair), and Barbara Wessels who spent many hours over the past seven months planning this very successful event.



BSCCW St Patrick's Day meeting



Northern Deanery Golden Rose Award Winner

The Northern Deanery honored its Golden Rose Award Winner, Madison Jardim, at the Spring General Meeting on March 21 at St. Vincent de Paul in Wildwood. Madison (Maddie), a parishioner and nominee from Blessed Sacrament, was selected from three nominees from parishes within the Northern Deanery.



Fr. Mark (Northern Deanery Spiritual Advisor) and Diane Owen, Northern Deanery President presented a certificate, gifts, and bouquet of yellow roses to Maddie. Maddie was celebrated by members of the Northern Deanery as well as ten members of her family!

Maddie will be attending the ODCCW Convention in April where she will be presented as a candidate to receive the Golden Rose Award from the ODCCW.

If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, then, you are an excellent leader

We pray for all our sisters and their families. 🙏

Heavenly Father, We lift up all those who are facing various illnesses and losses. Give them the hope and courage they need today and every day. Comfort their pain, calm their fears, and surround them with Your peace. Amen



Sister Spotlight



Kathleen Holt Honored with the Ann Dupee Gem of the Hills Award

Awarded to South Lake Chamber of Commerce volunteer ambassadors who go above and beyond to serve their community

More than 25 years ago, Kathleen founded a ministry dedicated to making and distributing rosaries around the world. To date, more than 100,000 rosaries have been lovingly created and shared — a remarkable testament to faith in action. The same group oversees the Angel Tree at Blessed Sacrament, bringing Christmas joy to families and individuals throughout Lake County each year. Her faith journey continued when five years ago she began the path to become a Lay Carmelite, strengthening her spiritual commitment and lifelong dedication to serving others.

For the past four years, she has personally brought Christmas magic to the residents of Colonial Lakes Nursing Home in Oakland by providing new gift sacks for every resident, replaced worn games, supplied lunch, and filled the halls with joyful carols.

Kudos to our own Kathleen for her shining example of what our sisterhood stands for!



**Loretta Terrana,
newly elected
Vice President of
Northern
Deanery**

Upcoming Events

Mary's Handmaidens - 1-3pm
April 7 - Social Hall

Board Meeting - 1-3pm
April 14 - Adult Ministry Bldg

General Meeting - 11am
April 21 - Social Hall

CCW Mass - 8:30am second Thursday of every month

ODCCW Convention
April 18-20 - Marriott Lake Mary

People of Faith
April 22 - South Lake Presbyterian Church



4/1 Carolyn Spille
4/3 Jeana Wresh
4/4 Monica Thilmony
4/5 Lor Toth
4/8 Betty Stewart
4/9 Rita Held
4/11 Loretta Terrana
4/15 Melinda Holihan
4/20 Sandy Malsberger
4/21 Susan Hillman
4/28 Kim Large

*We welcome your
ideas and input for
the next newsletter!*



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When God Commands 🙏

A poor elderly woman, struggling to make ends meet, called a local radio program known for its focus on faith and miracles. With a soft, trembling voice, she shared her hardships and prayed aloud for God to help her - asking simply for food and strength to carry on.

Listening in was a wealthy, cynical businessman - an avowed atheist. He scoffed at her faith, amused by what he called "blind belief."

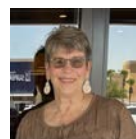
Wanting to mock her conviction, he got her address from the radio station and instructed his secretary to deliver a shipment of groceries to her home. "But," he said with a smug grin, "when she asks who sent it... tell her it was from the devil."

Later that day, the secretary arrived at the woman's home, arms full of food and supplies. The woman was overwhelmed with joy. Tears welled in her eyes as she lifted her hands toward the sky, and thanked God with all her heart.

The secretary finally said, "Aren't you going to ask who sent this?" The woman, beaming, replied, "No need. Because when God gives the command... even the devil has to deliver."



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Diane Owen,
Northern
Deanery



Sue Brown,
Parliamentarian



Ellie Clark,
Sunshine



Hope Williams,
Hospitality