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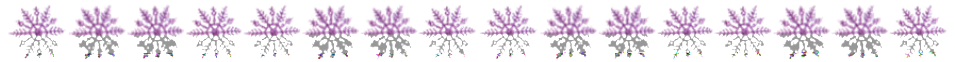


*Count Your Blessings*

Yvonne Shimschock, Editor  
13 Banor Drive  
Hillsborough, NJ 08844



New Jersey State Columbiettes  
Winter 2015



New Jersey State Columbiettes

Message from State President  
Lisa Roberts



For each new morning with its light,  
For rest and shelter of the night,  
For health and food,  
For love and friends,  
For everything Thy goodness sends,  
Father in heaven, we thank Thee.

— Ralph Waldo Emerson



This message brings with it well wishes for a Blessed, Happy and Merry Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's. The NJ State Council along with all the Columbiettes throughout the state has been very busy since convention which was only a short 5 months ago. I want to start by thanking all of you for electing me to this position and I hope that, along with the state board of officers, we can serve you in the best possible way.

On behalf of the state board, I want to congratulate Pat Zellner on her election as our new Supreme President. It is also with great pride that I congratulate Barbara Lasek and Catherine Nicholson on their election as Supreme Directors. I also want to thank Barbara Ann Lucarelli for her service to this great organization as Supreme President these past two years. I look forward to toasting you at your testimonial

dinner on November 22nd. NJ State has been off and running for 2015-2016 Columbian year with the institution of St. Maximilian Kolbe on July 26th and Santa Maria on October 18th. Thank you to Sandra Bohinski and her team, South West Chapter and newly appointed District Deputies Rose Spina and Michele Ewing for helping our order grow. Our fall activities included the Chapter/Auxiliary Officer Workshops that were held at each of the chapters during September and October. We also held a dedicated District Deputy Workshop at St. Anthony's R.C. Church, Port Reading. Thank you to State Chaplain, Fr. Smith for the beautiful mass prior to the installation of the District Deputies and providing us a location to host the workshop. Thank you to all the DD's who said yes to their appointments. I look forward to working with each of you throughout the



year. The feedback from many of the DD's was very positive. The Information Guidebooks were distributed to all auxiliaries, chapters and DD's at these workshops. We also provided a kick start for the collection of tab tops and back packs. New ideas were shared along with suggestions for recruitment and retention – the M&M's – “More Members” and “Members Matter”.

Please use the information guidebook as a reference tool for the programs, forms, due dates and valuable information to help you throughout the year. Be sure to share the contents of the guidebook with all of your members. The events and programs are for EVERYONE and I want to keep the chairladies busy as they receive the forms and submissions for all the great programs. Looking to the future, the auxiliaries will be receiving additional information in January with regards to the Student Good Citizen and Humanitarian Awards. Please read the letters and requirements carefully and submit only one entry per aux-

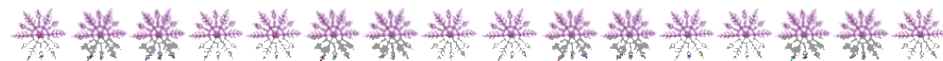
iliary for each of these awards.

The date and location is set for the 2016 NJ State Council Convention – so mark your calendars.

- Embassy Suites – Piscataway/Somerset
  - June 24th – 26th, 2016
- Convention information /packages will be sent shortly after New Year's. We look forward to seeing many of you there. We will be celebrating our 60th Anniversary as NJ State Columbiettes.

Dates and Events to Remember:

- Return your State Support Raffle Tickets to chairlady Nancy Fallon with one check by December 2nd. The drawing will take place on December 10th – Good luck to everyone and congratulations in advance to the winners.
- Weekend Retreat – April 8th – 10th, 2016 – and there is a one day option for those that can't get away for the entire weekend. Barbara Ann Lucarelli, chairlady is taking reservations – first



come/first reserved.

- Pocketbook Bingo – April 24th, 2016 – more details will follow in the coming months.
- May 1st, 2016 – Charity Award Luncheon and Raffle Drawing – more details will follow in the coming months.

I want to congratulate, Lorraine Noger, Immediate Past State President for the wonderful manner that she served our order these past two years. She is a great friend and well deserving of the tributes given to her at the Testimonial Dinner in her honor on November 1st. Thank you to Susan Kadar for chairing this wonderful day.

To all my Sister Columbiettes and their families, I

extend my heartfelt wishes for a joyous Christmas and New Year's. May the New Year bring growth and prosperity to each and every one of you and to the Columbiettes.

On Christmas, may you be blessed with a heart that only knows to love.

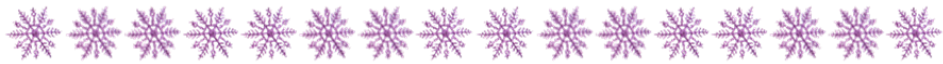
May baby Jesus teach you to pass your blessings to all those around you.

May you have a blessed Christmas!

Always Count Your Blessings – and as I count my blessings – I count each of you twice.

With Much Love,  
Lisa Roberts  
NJ State President





As you read this edition of the ECHO, as a Church we are celebrating the Advent Season and preparing to celebrate the Christmas and the Season of Christmas. One of the major feasts of the Christmas Season is the Feast of the Holy Family. With the visit of POPE FRANCIS to the United States this past September. This past October, bishops from all over the world be met meet in the Vatican for the Synod on the family. These two events have brought to our attention the importance and role of the family in society. The church is called to care for family life.

THE HOME  
REPRESENTS THE MOST  
PRECIOUS HUMAN  
TREASURE, THAT OF EN-  
**COUNTER, THN-**





## A Message from Immediate Past State President ± Lorraine Noger

I would like to thank everyone who attended my Testimonial Dinner on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Also a very special thank you for all of the cards and gifts. It is much appreciated.

Remember to send me the information on any new members for the Welcome Seed program and the First

Degree Honoree. I hope to see my mail box full.

I would like to wish you and your family a very Happy Thanksgiving and a Happy, Holy and Blessed Christmas. May your New Year's be filled with love, peace and happiness.

– Lorraine

## State Vice President <sup>2</sup>Vicki Bird

During the coming seasons of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas I will be thinking of and praying for all sister Columbiettes and their families that they may continue to be showered with our Blessed Mother's Light. Below is a poem / prayer by Robert Louis Stevens that I would like to share with you:

*Loving God, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels,*

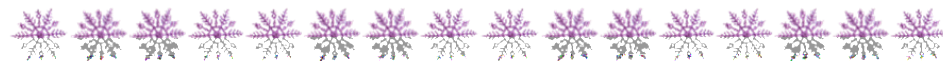
*the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.*

*Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.*

*Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.*

*Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.*

*May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,*



*and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.*

Wishing each of you a Happy Thanksgiving, a very Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

– Vicki

## State Secretary <sup>2</sup>Elena McFarland

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

It is the most wonderful time of the Year!!! Time to be thankful all that we have and thank others for all they have done...“ 7 K D Q N t s R X f ” my sister Columbiettes for all the wonderful works of charity you have done throughout 2015. Less than a month later we celebrate the Birth of Christ! It is sometimes the most overwhelming time of the year too! Let us focus on the joy and happiness of Christmas and fine pleasure in all we do to prepare for such a wonderful event.

Be sure to show your Columbiette pride by wearing one of our beautiful logo wear items while volunteering around the state! Check out our Columbiette Logo Wear Shop online at <http://njcolumbiettes.promoshop.com> there is something for everyone. Remember we can do custom T-shirts if your auxiliary or chapter is attending an event as a group. Just give me a call!!

May you have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

– Elena

## State Financial Secretary <sup>2</sup>Nadine Lecorchick

Dear Sister Columbiettes, You have all done amazing work this year; I'm looking forward to seeing what we can accomplish in 2016!

Wishing you a most Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

– Nadine



## State Treasurer <sup>2</sup>Fran Corcione

I would like to wish my Sister Columbiettes and their families a very Happy Thanksgiving and a Happy and Holy

Christmas. Please remember to "Count your Blessings".

– Fran

## State Advocate <sup>2</sup>Kathleen Donahue

*We all remember  
A night in December.  
A Virgin becomes a mother  
To a Child like no other.  
The brightest star shone in the sky.  
The angels sang from on high.  
Shepherds came to see the boy  
Their hearts bursting with joy.  
For in the dark of the night  
This Child brought the world His  
light.  
It shines to this day  
Which is why we say  
Merry Christmas on His birthday.*

I want to wish all my Sister Columbiettes a very Blessed and Merry Christmas. May you have good health, love and happiness in the New Year.

If you have any questions later in the year concerning resolutions, please contact me and I will be happy to assist you.  
–Kathy

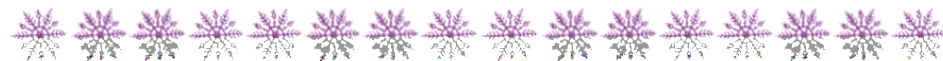
## State Sentinel <sup>2</sup>Donna Lewandowski

Dear Sister Columbiettes,  
Thank you for electing me as your State Sentinel. I feel truly honored and hope to serve you all well. Now on a business note.....new travel cards will be coming soon, so please make sure you sign your cards and bring them to all

auxiliary meetings, chapter meetings and Convention.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy Blessed New Year. May the Immaculate Heart of Mary Obtain Peace for the world.

– Donna



## NJ State Committee Chairpersons

### Vocations

Many thanks to all of the Auxiliary and Sister Columbiettes who participated in the Vocation Program by buying angel pins or sponsoring sales at your meeting / church events. This program helps our program to succeed so we may help our Seminarian / Postulants in their studies along with our Memorial fund program. Also remember to keep saving those pennies this will enhance our program and we may then be able to give

our Seminarian/Postulant a large check to help them in their studies.

Remember I am only a phone call away. I will be more than happy to attend an auxiliary or Chapter meeting to show you our new selection of pins.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Holy Blessed Christmas season.

– Lorraine Noger  
Chair

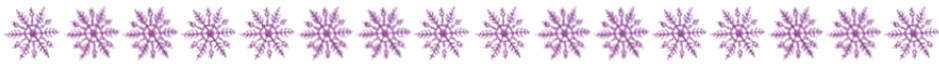
### Charity Awards Luncheon

"Catholic women celebrating Catholic women" is the agenda for The New Jersey State Council CHARITY AWARDS LUNCHEON. It will be held on Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, at the Forsgate Country Club in Monroe Township from 1:00 to 5:00PM. Tickets are \$40.00 per person.

This special event will honor three Catholic women who

volunteer their time and talents to better the lives of others. Their good works are centered in the areas of education, business and humanity.

An Awards Committee is gathering information on candidates and will select the award recipients. If you know a Catholic woman deserving the recognition and honor, please contact Carol Bohinski



at 732-521-0085 or cab-ohinski@verizon.net.

Please plan to attend. It will be an uplifting and enjoyable afternoon. Reservation

## Jewelry and Name Badges

I am pleased to announce that we are now taking names for pre-orders of the silver Alex and Ani type bracelet with the Columbiette logo. The cost is \$20.00. E-mail me at [columbietteskathy@yahoo.com](mailto:columbietteskathy@yahoo.com) with your name, auxiliary and how many bracelets you wish to purchase. You may also call me at 732-826-3881. My machine is always on.



We also sell many other jewelry items with the Columbiette logo including necklaces, pins, key rings,

information will be sent out in early March.

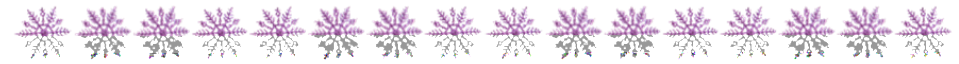
Thank you.

– Carol Bohinski  
Chair

watches, rosaries, embroidered patches and charms. Why not get a new travel card case to go with your 2016 travel card? Your President has an order form listing all the items and prices if you wish to place an order. I will be happy to bring the jewelry to one of your meetings.

Columbiette name badges are available in blue with white lettering, white with blue lettering, red with white lettering and white with red lettering. Pin backs are \$9.00 and magnet backs are \$10.00. They are not just for officers. Anyone can place an order for a name badge.

– Kathy Donahue  
Chair



## News From Our Chapters

### South East

Greetings from South East Chapter! We began our 2015-2016 year on September 17<sup>th</sup> at Father Carey auxiliary in Carteret. Since all of our officers returned for a second year, we did not have an Installation of Officers ceremony. President Kathy Distefano welcomed all the New Jersey State Officers and Past State Presidents to our meeting with bouquets of flowers. She also congratulated Patricia Zellner, who was elected as Supreme President. Pat is a Past President of South East Chapter. The first of the State Officer's Workshops was held that night. State President Lisa Roberts was pleased with the number of officers who attended.

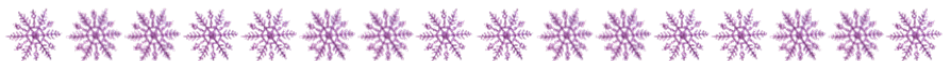
President Kathy thanked the members of Father Carey for their hospitality. They prepared a delicious home cooked meal.

Many members of South

East Chapter had an enjoyable afternoon attending Lorraine Noger's Past State President's luncheon on November 1<sup>st</sup> at Jacques in Middletown. We are very proud of Lorraine who is a member of South East Chapter. Vice President Diane Kulbacki presented her with a gift, flowers and a certificate of appreciation.

Our second meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup> was held at Our





Lady of Victory in Parlin. This was our annual Christmas party and Tricky Tray. Vice President Diane Kulbacki filled in for President Kathy who was in Italy on an extended trip. Diane thanked Ways and Means Chairladies Nancy Fallon and Meg Zadlock, OLV President Yvonne Burdynski and all their members for the excellent job they did running this event. Everyone enjoyed the evening, especially the lucky winners of the baskets,

## Mid West

We hope that you all had a wonderful 2015 Convention this past June. Here is a picture of Mid West Chapter with our seminarian, Roy Quesa. We were happy that he was able to attend, and are proud to report that he now a Deacon. We wish him well.



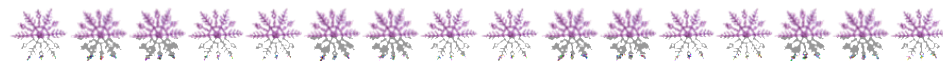
donated by all the auxiliaries.

Our February 18, 2016 meeting will be held in South Amboy. Auxiliaries will present their Chapter Charity resumes for a vote that night. Bayshore will host our baby shower on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

The officers and members of South East Chapter wish all our Sister Columbiettes a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

—Kathy Donahue  
Publicity Chair

Mid West Chapter held its September meeting at the Union Knights of Columbus Hall. Best Wishes to officers: President –Fran Corcione  
Past Pres –Elena McFarland  
VP –Yvonne Shimshock  
Secretary –Mia Sena  
Fin Secretary –Bev Redondo  
Treasurer –Margaret Oxenham  
Sentinel – Erica Ruffer  
Also at this meeting, Auxiliary and Chapter Officers had the opportunity to meet in small groups with State Officers to discuss the responsibilities of



their office. We greatly appreciated the wisdom that the State Officers shared!

Our November Meeting was held at Msgr. Frances X. Coyle in Springfield. Food items were collected and donated to the Rosary Shrine in Summit.

## Western

The Western Chapter meeting was preceded by the installation of officers at St. Anthony's KOC Hall in Butler. State President Lisa Roberts presided over the installation. Supreme President, Patricia Zellner was in attendance and addressed the attendees. State Vice President Vicki Bird chaired the ceremony. A reception and dinner followed.

The new officers are:  
President: Cathe Nicholson  
PP: Donna Lewandowski  
Vice President: Barbara Hill  
Secretary: Ann Taggart  
Fin. Secretary: Colleen Testa  
Treasurer: Mary Hargraves  
After the meeting, the State Officers conducted a workshop

The sisters of this order were grateful for the nonperishables ([summitdominicans.org](http://summitdominicans.org)).

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!  
— Fran Corcione  
President

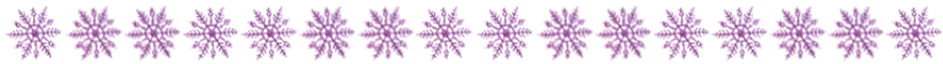
for all officers. Each auxiliary officer was with a Sate Officer of that position. We learned the duties of each office.

There was a First and Major degree on October 25 at St. Francis DeSales in Vernon. We had 26 making their degrees.

Our December 2 Chapter meeting will be held at Bishop Navagh. We will hold a tricky Tray. All members bring a \$5.00 gift. All auxiliaries are asked to bring a \$25.00 gift.

Western Chapter extends Best Wishes for a Blessed Merry Christmas and a Healthy Happy New Year.  
— Barbara Schounnot  
Publicity Chairperson





## Central

Tuesday, September 22, 2015 we had the honor of State President Lisa Roberts installing the new officers of Central Chapter Columbiettes. President Barbara Ann Lissi, Past President Mattea Truppe, VP Maureen Italiano, Secretary Joan Winant, Fin. Secretary Susan Liguori, Treasurer Filomenia Mohr, and Sentinel Eileen Colby.

We conducted our regular meeting after the installation and then the State officers conducted their annual officers' seminar. This year seminar provided all officers attending a smaller more intimate group of learning for all.

To help Central increase our treasury we are sponsoring a jewelry demonstration by Park Lane jewelers the web site was provided to all to make a purchase. Our 5 week club raffle was handed out to all auxiliary presidents.

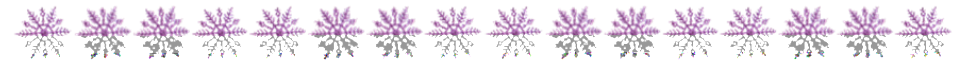
All of our auxiliaries have been busy. St John's sponsored a "Spud Tacular" event; baked

potatoes with whatever topping you wanted to add. It was delicious! They also co-hosted and adult & children Halloween party with their brother knights.

St. Philips had their annual Mary Ann Valentin International dinner and is presently working with the Rosary Society to collect all types of clothing, hats, scarves, gloves and gently used clothes especially school aged ones.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Jersey City their Primerica Leadership Conference. I'm sure Regina Mundi, Paterson and Bloomfield are also doing many good deeds.

—Barbara Ann Lissi



## South West

South West chapter was very busy this summer. On July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015, we welcomed St. Maximillian Kolbe into Southwest Chapter. They are a very eager group and couldn't wait to get started.

On September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 we had the pleasure of hosting a workshop conducted by State President, Lisa Roberts and the State Board. Supreme President Patricia Zellner was also here. It was a very informative evening.

October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Santa Marie Columbiettes joined Southwest Chapter. Our Chapter is really growing. We are so happy to have so many new Columbiette members. We hope their stay with us will be rewarding.

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, I had the pleasure of attending the Testimonial Dinner for Past State President Lorraine Noger. It was a lovely tribute to Lorraine. On November 22, 2015, we will attend the Testimonial Dinner for Past Supreme President Barbara

Ann Lucarelli. This will be a lovely way to say thank you to Barbara Ann for her dedication and hard work during these past two years.

We will be celebrating, Thanksgiving and Christmas, at our November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. We are all looking forward to the Tricky Tray that will follow.

Our 13 Auxiliaries are all busy with Pasta Dinners, fashion shows, Breakfasts' with Santa, etc. Keep up the good work girls. We are very proud of you.

I would like to thank my Board of Officers for all their help this past year. With three Institutions everyone was kept very busy. To Carol Bohinski and the Degree team, thank you, thank you, thank you.

South West Chapter would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, a Blessed and Holy Christmas and a Healthy Happy New Year. Stay warm!!! See you all next year.

— Barbara Liona  
President



## News From Our Auxiliaries

### Bayshore

It has been pretty quiet recently. But on the weekend of November 21-22, we are sponsoring a Membership drive and Cookie Sale at St. Ann's Church after all of the masses. We hope to get a few new candidates.

In December, at our meeting we are having a Pot Luck along with a Christmas sing-along. Also a drawing for our dues being paid as we have

done in the last few years.

Upcoming events, Stealing Bingo on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016. This is the first and we hope profitable. If anyone is interested please give me a call (732-495-1958).

Bayshore Columbiettes wish all a very Blessed Christmas Season.

— Lorraine Noger  
President

### St. Augustine

St. Augustine Columbiettes, Kendall Park, hosted their 14th annual Spaghetti dinner on October 24.

We will be attending the yearly Memorial Mass along with our brother Knights on November 17 at Consolata Mission. Deceased Columbiettes and Knights are remembered at this memorial.

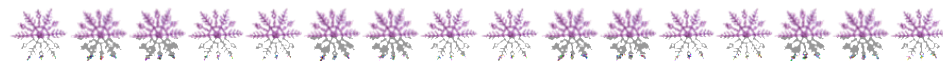
Socials have been a theater and pizza party and a shopping trip to the Amish Market.

Turkeys will again be donated to the St. Augustine food pantry for Thanksgiving.

The Christmas Brunch and Spring Fashion Show are in the planning stages.

Our Baptismal Program (gift to the baby and certificate and rose to the parents) is met with great appreciation. Blessings to All.

— Joan Campisano  
President



## 6 W - R K Q ¶ V

St John's Council new year started in September with the installation of our new officers for the 2015-2016 year. Installed were the following:

President: Nina DiCostanzo  
Vice President: Laura Labetti  
Secretary: Michele Sciarrino  
F. Secretary: Maureen Italliano  
Secretary: Michele Sciarrino  
Treasurer: Lillian Holmes  
Sentinel: Marge Kenter

We also welcomed Fr. Michael Trainor, of St Mary's Church, who will be our Chaplain. We look forward to the spiritual guidance he will give us at our meetings.

September also saw St John's Columbiettes hosting the Central Chapter Installation of officers, with the state officers in attendance.

October we had our second annual "Spudtacular Event." This consists of a hot, piping baked potato with a fixin bar to load up your spud with choices of; chili, sour cream, broccoli, butter, chives, carrots, onions, etc. A "smashing"

time was had by all.

Then it was time to do the Monster Mash at TWO Halloween parties! The Knights and Columbiettes had both a Children's and Adult Halloween costume party. Tricky tray, entertainment and awards for best costumes were given.

November is the month where we remember those of us who have passed with a Memorial Mass held at our council and when we give thanks for all we have at our Thanksgiving celebrations.

Jingle Bells rock in December as the Knights and Columbiettes have a children's Christmas party and of course and adult one. Santa is known to make an appearance at both!

As the new year approaches, (and we're always surprised at how fast it comes!) we stop and reflect on the year that has passed and pray for a happy and blessed new year. Peace,  
— Roberta Elwell  
Past President



## St. Philip the Apostle

Hope all had a restful summer. We ended the Columbiette year with election of our new officers and preparing our backpack donation for convention.

September we had our installation of officers by our newly elected Grand Knight Richard Donkersloot. Our new officers are Debbie Sirvidio, President, Sharon Festa, Past President, Diane Van Blarcom, Vice President, Maureen Nejme, Secretary, Cathie Murtha, Treasurer, Karen Wilson, Financial Secretary and Pat Mc Kenna as Sentinel. We welcomed our new District Deputy Mattea Truppe. We will install Reverend Miguel Jimenez as our Chaplin at our November meeting.

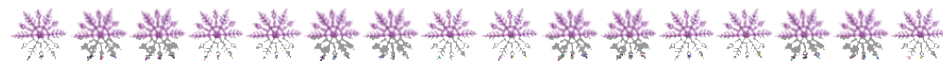
A busy year is planned. Our Mary Ellen Valentin International Dinner was held on October 11. Food this year represented the different countries of some of our members. Food prepared was from Hungary, Poland, Philippines, Slovakia, Italy and the

United States. We had 12 hot dishes in total; besides same raffle prizes Karen Wilson and her brother provided some of the entertainment. Our annual Family Bowling is scheduled for November 22. We are joining the Rosary society in collecting gently used clothes, coats, hats, scarves and gloves and gently used pocketbooks. Clothing will be going to St. Mary's and an inner city group in Paterson.

At our Christmas party we also will be collecting food items to donate.

Our best wishes go out to all for a Happy Thanksgiving, A blessed Christmas and Happy Holy Healthy New Year.

– Barbara Ann Lissi



## Parsippany

Dear Sister Columbiettes

We hope everyone enjoyed this beautiful summer. Parsippany Columbiettes keep busy all through the year – We don't "vacation" from our attempt to do good works for anyone in need. A wonderful group of ladies have been Installed as our officers for the coming year. We thank our new DD Susan Kadar for helping with the installation. In September St. Christopher's church had a dedication to the unborn and Columbiettes attended with the Knights. Our officers and other members attended Western Chapter's October meeting and were very pleased with the officer's training offered that evening. A day of reflection will be coming in November as we give thanks for all our blessings. Our biggest happy event was our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual TEA. A wonderful

success, we were honored to have our State President Lisa Roberts and two Past State Presidents attend, Susan Kadar and Marion Tallia.

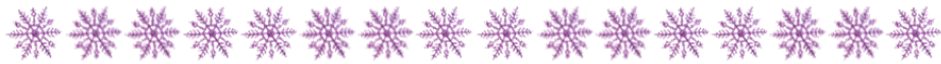


As we move towards a busy season we continue our cards to shut-ins for all occasions and of course our pillow sales are just ongoing and keep us happily busy. Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas to all our sister Columbiettes and their families.

– Fran Veit







## St. Maximillian Kolbe

Announcing newly instituted auxiliary St. Maximillian Kolbe.

Best wishes to all the members from your sister Columbiettes!



## St. Bartholomew

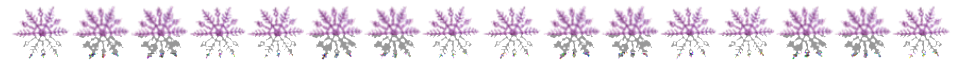


Congratulations to the St. Bartholomew Columbiettes for being named one of Reader's Choice Awards "Best Charitable Organization and Best Place to Volunteer". This is a great accomplishment that deserves much praise and recognition!

## Santa Maria

Welcome newly instituted auxiliary Santa Maria.

Best wishes to all the members from your sister Columbiettes!



## Regina Mundi

The Regina Mundi Columbiettes are kicking off a new year with new ideas and lots of motivation to go forward to enhance our Council. We have formed a few committees to take care of tab tops, backpacks, shoe box items, our annual baby drive supplies and more.

A bake less cake sale was started this fall along with two new committees: Sunshine and Hospitality. We want to keep everyone in the loop – active and inactive members to keep our Council strong.

Our members help the Knights of Columbus with many of their events. A Doo/Wop Halloween Party was held the end of October and it was a huge success. The Veterans Day Parade saw the Columbiettes marching with our Knights. The Annual Christmas Party, hosted by the Knights, is always an enjoyable day.

We will be working together as a team to increase our membership and make our meetings interesting. The October guest speaker's topic was "Stocks—Investing Made Simple". In November the topic will be "Crime Prevention in the Home" and in December we will learn about computers / tablets along with our cell phones. One of our goals is to select a charity to work with during the year.

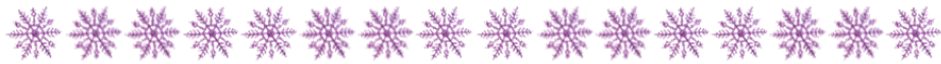
Welcome and best wishes to our newly assigned District Deputy, Susan Liguori. We look forward to a great year of working with Susan.

A Newsletter will be sent to all of our members to keep everyone up to date on their Council.

Happy Fall from the Regina Mundi Columbiettes!

— Kathy Rager  
President





## Vincent T. Lombardi

The Vincent T. Lombardi Columbiettes Council #6552 have almost completed to our 5<sup>th</sup> year and continues to serve the parishes of St. Mary's, New Monmouth, NJ and OLPH/St. Agnes, Atlantic Highlands, NJ. It's great to be five!!

Right before we began our new Columbian Year, the Columbiettes presented Mater Dei Prep-Seraphs Fund with the check from our Houlihan's Fundraiser back in March of 2015 (Jan Flanagan pictured with check).



Hooray, they have reached their financial goal in order to remain open!

At the beginning of August, our chaplain, Deacon Bob Scharen became a grandfather to his first grandchild, a boy!!!

We began our Columbian Year in August, 2015 with an updated slate of officers. The Lombardi Columbiettes are pleased to welcome our new President, Mary Vernarelli, Vice President, Connie

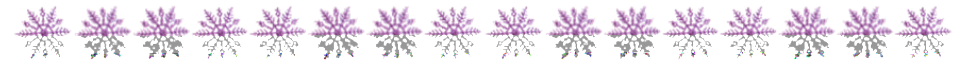
Lopusznick as Vice President and Ann Dimaira is our new Treasurer. Christine Dudek remains as Financial Secretary, Jenny Dimaira remains as Sentinel, and Jan Flanagan remains as Recording Secretary. (Mary Vernarelli with GK Lou Debello)



Our Past President, Gilda Healy, was honored at a Testimonial Dinner at Anna's Italian Kitchen in Middletown, NJ. Gilda was honored by current State President, Lisa Roberts as the new Past President (below).



The dinner was also attended by Past Grand Knight, John



Condon current Grand Knight Lou Debello.

Back in September, our back to school night brought a bounty of backpacks and school supplies for the needy. We participated with our brother Knights in their annual barbeque at the American Legion Hall on Rte. 36 in Leonardo. Fortunately, the weather held out. We managed to get notice into the weekly bulletin at St. Mary's to hold a membership drive in early October. Together with the bulletin notice and speaking at a few of the Masses at St. Mary's we got an overwhelming response. For our November meeting, we will have a First Degree at Bayshore Council, here in Middletown to welcome our new members. Very Special thanks to Lorraine Noger, President at Bayshore and Past NJ State Council President for allowing us to use the hall at Bayshore.

October, the month of the Rosary, the Columbiettes attended the annual Rosary Rally at St Mary's, New Monmouth. We had an open house right

before our usual October meeting. It was so refreshing to see that our new recruits seemed enthusiastic to join us. Some of our brother Knights and Columbiettes also participated in the annual Blue Mass at St. Agnes, Atlantic Highlands. Thereafter, the Shore Casino, a fine dining and catering establishment provided refreshments thereafter.

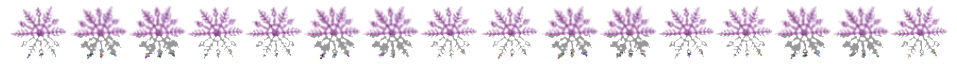
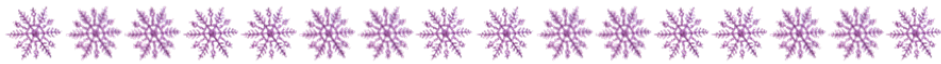
Believe it or not, the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are almost here! We will be working with our brother Knights for the annual Thanksgiving and Christmas family dinners. The Columbiettes usually provide the desserts and the side dishes.

We will continue working with our brother Knights and for ourselves on other events and more fundraisers for both St Mary's, OLPH/St. Agnes and for the Knights.

Blessings from all of us at Vincent T. Lombardi #6552 to all of you. Pray for us.

— Mary Vernarelli  
President

[www.vtlcolumbiettes6552.com](http://www.vtlcolumbiettes6552.com)



## Somerville

Somerville began the year with a joint installation with brother Knights, followed by dinner. Congratulations to the incoming officers:

President: Mary Jo Farmar

PP: Yvonne Shimshock

Vice Pres: Melody Bonfiglio

Secretary: Nancy Fusco

Fin Secretary: Michelle Reno

Treasurer: Elena McFarland

Sentinel: Stacey Miller

We are also happy to have

Kathy Valente as our DD.

We continue the monthly food bank collection at every meeting, which we had started doing last year. So far, we've donated canned goods and cleaning supplies to the Hillsborough Food Bank.

We kicked off October with our annual pet collection at Mary, Mother of God Church as celebration of the Feast of St. Francis. The food, bedding, and monetary donations were given to St. Hubert's Animal Shelter. Several of us also attended the Somerville KOC Charity Ball, where proceeds were given to

Samaritan Homeless Interim Program (SHIP). Our auxiliary raffled 3 "baskets of cheer" at the Ball, which resulted in a generous donation to SHIP on behalf of our group! Petrock's Liquors of Hillsborough generously donated a basket for our raffle.

In conjunction with National Vocation Awareness Week, we held 'shake a can' events at Mary, Mother of God and St. Joseph's of Raritan Parishes. The spare change collected will be sent to NJSCC "Pennies from Heaven" program.

We will be winding down 2015 with Adopt a Family for Christmas. At our December meeting, we will write Christmas cards to our Senior members, decorate the KOC hall, and of course...party!

Wishing everyone a Wonderful Thanksgiving, a Joyous Christmas, and a very Happy New Year!  
— Yvonne Shimshock  
Past President

## Don Bosco <sup>2</sup>Newton

In June, the Don Bosco Columbiettes installed its new officers. Afterward, we enjoyed a nice meal with family and friends. We also went to three area nursing homes in our area during July and sang patriotic songs with them. It was a joy to see them singing with us. We gave each of them a flag to wave while singing.

In August, the Don Bosco Knights of Columbus ran a booth at the Sussex County Farm and Horse Show/New Jersey State Fair. Their booth was dedicated to Dan Coronato, a former Knight who passed away recently. The Don Bosco Columbiettes and their families volunteered their time to help the Knights staff the booth. It was a lot of fun working together.

Don Bosco started our Columbian year with an Auxiliary meeting on September 8, 2015. This was held on a Tuesday instead of Monday because of Labor Day. We welcomed our new District Deputy, Ann Taggart from St. Anthony's in

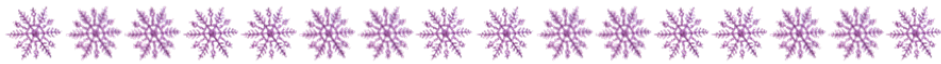
Butler.

On October 4, 2015, the Don Bosco Columbiettes participated in a life chain for Respect Life Sunday, in the square of Newton NJ.

Our auxiliary meeting was held on October 5, 2015. On October 17, 2015, we had a luncheon to honor our auxiliary past president, Rosemary Hoffmann. It was a wonderful afternoon having a meal together with sister Columbiettes. On October 18, 2015, together with the Squirettes, Don Bosco Columbiettes had an open house to share what we do with Catholic women who may be interested in joining. October 25, 2015, we joined Wester Chapter at St. Francis de Sales in Vernon, NJ.

The Don Bosco Columbiettes are very happy to welcome our newest member who made her 1<sup>st</sup> and Major degree that day.

Another auxiliary meeting was held on November 2, 2015. We have a lot planned for the rest of our Columbian year. We are busy now getting



ready for our Applebee's Flapjack breakfast, making wreaths to help our St. Paul's Abbey, Santa's Ice Cream Social and an afternoon and evening together just enjoying a meal and a Christmas show. Hope, everyone's holidays are healthy and happy.

Please remember to visit our auxiliary website for an update on activities and related events.  
[www.donboscocolumbiettes.weebly.com](http://www.donboscocolumbiettes.weebly.com).

— Patricia Keegan  
President



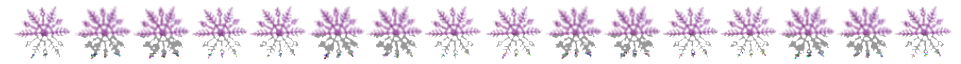
Past President's Luncheon on October 17, 2015 (L-R Back Row: Patty Savacool, Doris Zayac, Pat Fitzpatrick, Karen Glowatski, Rosemary Hoffmann, Susan Bodnar, Lisa Tomasula, Colleen Testa, Patty Losey, Mary Ann Stanek, Doris Shields, Maria Coranoto, Connie Pyne, Eileen Palumbo; Front Row: Toni Dionisio, Pamela Porfido, Pat Keegan, Josephine O'Rourke, Rosemary Woodring, Catherine Testa, Carol Strand, Peggy Bopp and Anne Kappelmeier)



Installation of 2015-2016 Officers on July 18, 2015 (L-R Back Row: Mary Ann Stanek, Father ST Sutton, Pat Keegan, Colleen Testa, Carol Strand; Front Row: Miriam Montagne, Maureen Fiore, Vicki Bird and Rosemary Hoffmann)



Life Chain March on October 4, 2015 (L-R: Linda Barcelona, Pamela Porfido, Eileen Palumbo, Mary Ann Stanek and Susan Kadar)



## Warren

The Warren Council has had a busy Fall! We kicked off our year in August by joining with the Knights for a picnic. In September, we held a very profitable bake sale and sponsored a golf tee for Sam's Spirit golf tournament. The funds raised by the golf tournament were donated to the niece of a fellow Knight and Columbi-ette who has an aneurism.

In October, we adopted a family. This family has three children including first grader Logan, who has cancer. We will be giving them a \$100 gift card for Thanksgiving dinner and a \$50 gas card. We will continue to provide gas cards throughout the winter as their own church is taking care of Christmas donations. We

will provide an Easter dinner and baskets for the kids. Also in October, we baked desserts and helped to serve at the K of C Roast Beef Dinner. This was a fundraiser for our elementary school.

Funny Hat Night was held in November; we looked ridiculous, but had a lot of fun!! We also provided a local women's shelter/homeless shelter with toiletries this month. We wrapped up November by joining K of C in a memorial mass for our deceased members. Wishing everyone a Wonderful Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year from Warren!  
— Margaret Oxenham  
President







## Bishop Navagh

We finished up our Columbiette year with our second annual Altar Server Appreciation Party. We had

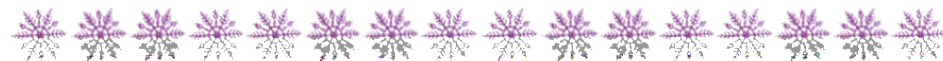


altar servers from the three local parishes attend. We also helped work at the annual carnival to support Holy Spirit School. At graduation we awarded a scholarship to a graduating 8th grader. At the end of June, nine of us attended the annual State Convention in Somerset from June 26-28. We took our backpacks, gallon bags of toiletries for the homeless, and can tab tops to support the state programs. We received many awards, including the NJ State Council Columbiette Activity Award. Then in August we were awarded the Margaret Mary J. Mangan award for the 18th time.

We opened the fall season with our fish & chips dinner catered by Tastefully British. We followed that up with a baked potato night in October. Both fundraisers were very successful. In October we held recruitment weekends. We spoke at Masses and attended a Ministry Fair at the three main area churches. We were successful. We had four ladies take their First Degree on Oct. 25 and six ladies their Major Degree. We are always asking for new ladies to join. We are busy collecting food for our adopt-a-family for Thanksgiving & Christmas baskets. This week we will join with the Knights and celebrate Mass to remember all the deceased Columbiettes and Knights.



(Fish & Chips Dinner at Halloran Hall, Lincoln Park)



In December we will host the Western Chapter Christmas dinner meeting and Tricky Tray. It is always an enjoyable evening. We hope many of you will be able to join us. We

wish everyone a Blessed Christmas and a Happy, Healthy 2016.  
– Barbara Hill  
President

## 6 W \$ Q W K R Q \ ¶ V

We would like to welcome our new slate of officers for the 2015-2016 year. They are as follows:

- Pres - Antoinette Moralishvili
- PP- Catherine Nicholson
- Vice Pres - Florence Cartagena
- Secretary - Joan Shuhnicki
- Fin Secretary - Ann Taggart
- Treasurer - Christine Lynch
- Sentinel - Barbara Barchuk
- DD - Mary Ann Stanek
- Chaplain - Fr. Emmet Murphy

The installation of officers was held on September 19, 2015 and enjoyed with a Mass followed by a dinner to honor all.

St. Anthony's has a long history of many great women who have grown through the organization and become State and Supreme Presidents. This year we congratulate Barbara Ann Lucarelli as Past

Supreme President; Lisa Roberts as State President; Catherine Nicholson as St. Anthony's Columbiette Past President/Western Chapter President/Supreme Director/District Deputy; Ann Taggart as Chapter Secretary. We are proud of their success and the hard work and dedication of all our members that enable the Columbiettes to grow and prosper.

We have held many successful events - such as a sold out Pocketbook Bingo in June and again in November; and a yummy Baked Potato night. It is through the hard work and dedication of our membership and those who chair each event that we are able to support many charities.

Congratulations to Abigaile Grace Macqueen, a student





from Butler High School and winner of the Good Citizen Award; Mr. Jashiri from A.J.'s Pizza as Humanitarian Award Recipient; and Al Taggart who was honored as Knight of the Year at the Department for Persons with Disabilities Golf Outing held at Weigand Farms.

May everyone have a happy and healthy holiday

## St. James

In September, St. James began our Columbian year with a commitment to dedicate our charitable efforts to the needs of our local seminarians; thus we designated this as "The Year of the Seminarian". Also, we committed to increase our funding to the local Deacon's Food Pantry and the St. James Soup and Fellowship.

In keeping with our values of Faith and Country, we recited the rosary at our October meeting asking God's guidance and protection for our nation and her leaders.

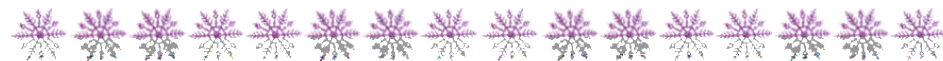
season. Let us all be thankful for those who are in our lives; the time we spent with those who have passed and the memories they have left us with; and the freedom and safety our troops have given us.

As we enter the Christmas season and new year, let us Celebrate Christ.

— Geri Nolan

October was a month full of activity as we held a weekend "Angel Pin Sale" and a membership drive at our Parishes. Also, we assisted our Brother Knights with their 7th annual Tricky Tray.

Our Memorial Mass for deceased Knights of Columbus and Columbiettes was held on November 2nd at St. James Church. Together, we prayed for and remembered our deceased Brothers and Sisters who built the foundations of the organizations we support and enjoy today.



At our November meeting, we held our "Prayer Service of Thanks" and during our social time, gobbling was heard as we did "The Turkey Trot". Fun was had by all.

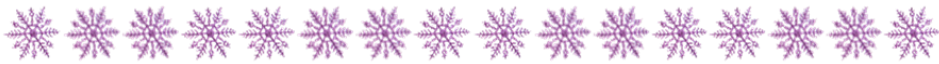
Columbiette elves are busy in preparations as December will be full of parties and celebrations. On December 6<sup>th</sup>, we will assist our Brother Knights at the "Christmas Party for Rest Home Residents". We anticipate angels flying again at our "Angel Pin Sale" on December 5 and 6. Our Christmas Party is scheduled for December 10<sup>th</sup> at which the State Council Columbiettes' Support Club Raffle will be drawn. Angels are busy in preparation and a heavenly evening is planned. Then, on December 12<sup>th</sup>, we will join our Knights at their Christmas Celebration and Awards Night.

Many plans for the New Year are underway. We will hold a First Degree Ceremony in January. In February and March, we will hold a "Bakeless Cake Sale" and assist our Knights with their Friday Lenten Dinners. In April, we

look forward to the Weekend Retreat at San Alfonso's Retreat House, a Family Breakfast fundraiser with our Knights and a baby shower for the benefit of the Action Pregnancy Center in New Brunswick. In May, we will sponsor a Holy Hour for Vocations at St. James Church. The following weekend, we will "Shake the Can" after all Masses. Also, we will host our "Tea Party" and a barbeque, in conjunction with our Knights, in which all profits will go to the purchase of a defibrillator for St. James Church. Lastly, we will march with our Knights in the Jamesburg Memorial Day Parade to honor those who served our country so well.

**To all our Sisters, from St. James Columbiettes - Our sincerest wishes and prayers for a Happy Thanksgiving, a Very Merry Christmas and a New Year full of blessings!**

Union of prayers,  
— Carol Bohinski  
President



## 10 Ways to Keep Christ in Christmas

- 1. Prepare your heart daily.** Have a quiet time daily, and teach your children to have quiet time daily. Read and study the Bible. Pray. Journal if that's your thing.
- 2. Read the Christmas story** (find it in Luke 1:5-56 and 2:1-20). THE Christmas story should be read aloud often in every home during this joyous season.
- 3. Display and discuss a Nativity in your home.**
- 4. Give often.** There are a myriad of ways to give during the holiday season. You can take an ornament off an Angel Tree or buy gifts for a family in need. You can give money or time or gifts, just do it with a cheerful heart.
- 5. Celebrate a birthday on Christmas.** It is the birthday of Jesus, is it not? Celebrate it with cake and candles and singing.
- 6. Attend church on Christmas Eve or Christmas day.**
- 7. Send Christmas cards with a spiritual flavor.**
- 8. Read Christian books.**
- 9. Make a Jesse Tree.** A Jesse Tree traces the lineage of Jesus from Creation through His birth. From lessons on Rahab to Abraham to Ruth, this beautiful and meaningful tradition will change the way you think about the Christmas season.
- 10. Be thankful.** We often reserve our thanksgiving for November, but remind your kids (and yourself) to look for things to be thankful for. Help them to pray thanks for those gifts, both before and after Christmas.

Reference: <http://tommynelson.com/10-ways-keep-christ-in-christmas/>



## A Note from the Editor

Thank you for all your submissions to this edition of the ECHO Newsletter. What amazing things you are doing in His name! If you haven't submitted anything recently, please consider contributing to the Spring issue. **Deadline is April 15, 2016.**

Submissions can be mailed to me at **13 Banor Drive, Hillsborough, NJ 08844** or emailed to me at [echonewsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:echonewsletter@hotmail.com). Feel free to contact me at 908-723-0239 with any questions.

ECHO Newsletter subscription price is \$9.00. A 'subscription' includes the Winter and Spring issues for the Columbiette Year. You may obtain an electronic version (PDF) of the newsletter at no cost. I can be reached by mail, email, or phone for subscription requests.

For more information about what is happening within the Columbiette organization, check out the Supreme Semantics Newsletter. It is available on the homepage of the Columbiettes website: <http://www.columbiettes.com/>

Have a Wonderful Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

– Yvonne Shimshock

# Happy New Year!