

Echo



Count Your Blessings

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New Jersey State Columbiettes
Spring 2017



New Jersey State Columbiettes

Message from State President

Lisa Roberts



Greetings to all my sister Columbiettes and Welcome Spring!!!

This is amazing - as I write this message it is time for the final wind down of the past two years as State President. Final preparations are being completed for our 61st Annual Convention. All should have received their packages with the forms and information needed to submit reservations, journal and boosters as well as planning for the raffles and the entire weekend. The team has worked very hard all year and I am sure all will find the work well worth the attendance to the convention.

NJ State is working on some final preparations for the institution of a new auxiliary in Carneys Point, NJ. The date as planned is Sunday, June 4th and I hope many will be able to attend to show your support of this new group of ladies. The final act of my presidency will be the

Installation of Officers for the new Southern Chapter. The date for this event is Thursday, June 29th and will be held and hosted by Leisure Village West in Manchester. This new chapter will give the ladies in the deep south of the state the opportunity to engage in the service level of the organization. I want to thank and congratulate all for their assistance in bringing the new auxiliary and chapter to fruition.

The Second Annual Charity Awards Luncheon was held on Sunday, April 30th at Pierre's in South Brunswick. The selection committee received 16 nominations and after long deliberations have chosen three very worthy recipients. Education, Evelyn Quinn, Social Works of Humanity, Sister Mary Antonelle Chunka and Corporate Ethics Fran Corcione. It was a wonderful day honoring these



fantastic Catholic Women by a wonderful organization of Catholic Women. I was happy to see many of you there.

As we come close to the end of this Columbian Year - the Charity Raffle was held at the luncheon on April 30th, and Convention is June 23-25 at the Embassy Suites in Somerset/Piscataway.

Please remember to submit the paperwork for the awards to be given at the convention.

PLEASE KNOW - IF YOU FILL OUT THE COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS ACTIVITY AWARD - YOU WILL WIN THE AWARD!!! I know you have all be very active with your events, charitable giving, etc. and have earned this award. Past President Lorraine is anxious to have a full mailbox of the submissions.

At the annual convention, the presentations of donations for Seminarians, Postulants, Backpacks and Shoebox/Bags will be distributed at the pre-business session on Saturday. Please come for the day if not the weekend to see the fruits of

all your hard work. Additionally, we will present the charity raffle proceeds to the Chapter Charities, the Student Good Citizen Award recipient and new this year, the Humanitarian Award recipient will be presented at this morning session.

During the weekend of April 21st to 23rd, I joined with many Columbiettes and friends, the San Alphonso weekend retreat. It was a wonderful weekend, although a bit cool and rainy, sharing in the conferences and prayer services reflecting on The Way of Darkness in our Life and the Way into the Light was inspiring. Thank you, Barbara Ann, for chairing this event and organizing the retreatants' reservations and making mine and assistant Ann Taggart's job much easier. Congratulations to the ladies who achieved anniversaries 10 and 30 years. We also had 18 ladies that attended retreat for the first time. I hope you all enjoyed the retreat house and the conferences and hope you will join us in 2018 the weekend of



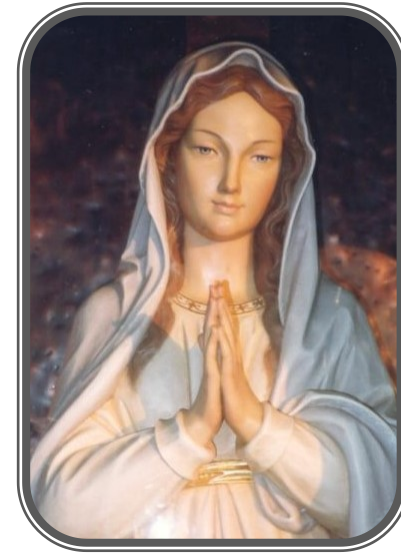
April 20th to 22nd.

I wish to extend a very Happy Mother's Day to all the Mom's, Grandma's, Nana's, Godmothers, Aunts, Sisters and all women who in some way engage, encourage and support the children around

you.

Please continue to Count Your Blessings - and know that as I count my blessings, I count each of you twice.

-Lisa



Morning Consecration to Mary

*My Queen, My Mother, I offer
Myself entirely to thee.*

And to show my devotion to thee,

I offer thee this day, my eyes,

My ears, my mouth, my heart,

My whole being without reserve.

*Wherefore, good Mother, as I am thine own,
Keep me, guard me as thy property and possession.*

Amen



State Chaplain—Fr. Bill Smith

During Lent, 2017, I read THE JOY OF BEING A PRIEST following the Cure of Ars by Christoph Cardinal Sornborn. His last reflection was MARY and PRIESTS. At a first glance, you might be saying to yourself ‘how can this be of any value to me as a Columbiette’. That is an appropriate question. Cardinal Sornborn reflects upon Mary from the perspective of St. Theresa, The Little Flower. Since Mary and St. Theresa, The Little Flower are two of your patrons, I thought I was an appropriate reflection for this issue of the Echo.

Let us begin with the Mary as Mother of Jesus, Mother of Christ, Mother of God and Mother of the Church. In her last and longest poem, St. Theresa, The Little Flower wrote these words about Mary: “In pondering your life in the holy Gospels, I dare to look at you and come near to you.” When we read the Gospels, each of us can come near to Mary. In this way, Mary is our sweetness.

“Mother full of grace, I know that in Nazareth you lived in poverty wanting nothing more.” Mary becomes “the little way” for St. Teresa, The Little Flower. As we turn to Mary for each one of us, she intercedes on our behalf of each one of us in our need and the situations of our life. In this way Mary, is our life.

When St. Teresa, The Little Flower reflects on Mary at the foot of the Cross, she wrote “O afflicted Mother, there is no sorrow like your sorrow.” At the Cross Mary shares in all our sorrows. As she shares in our sorrows, Mary is our hope.

Mary in your great faith, you help us in our faith.

Mary, Mother of Jesus, Mother of God, Mother of the Church, intercede of us.

St. Theresa, The Little Flower, pray for us.

—Fr. Smith



A Message from Immediate Past State President—Lorraine Noger

I hope everyone had a joyous Easter and are getting ready for the State Convention.

Remember to send me the information on any new members for the Welcome Seed program and the First Degree Honoree. Also, remember the deadline dates for the “Count Your Blessings”

awards that is due to me on or before June 1st. I hope to hear from every auxiliary. I’m sure all of the Auxiliary have filled the requirements of the award. Good Luck.

I hope to see many of our Sister Columbiettes at Convention!!!
—Lorraine

State Vice President—Vicki Bird

It is coming to the close of another Columbiette year, take time to look back and review all that your Auxiliary and Chapter have accomplished. The acts of charity, kindness, giving sharing and new sisters who have become a Columbiette.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the state convention in June. Remember to share your success (and failures) with your Sister Columbiettes at the convention. This is a

wonderful way to pick up new ideas for your Auxiliary to try next year and to make new friends

I hope that all my Sister Columbiettes had a Blessed and Happy Easter! May our Risen Lord bless you and your families throughout the year.

Happy Mother’s Day to all! May you continue to ‘Count Your Blessings’ each day. God Bless,
—Vicki



State Secretary—Elena McFarland

Dear Sister Columbiettes,
Spring is here and the flowers are in bloom! All auxiliary presidents were mailed delegate and alternate forms and committee chairpersons received request for convention reports. Deadline was May 1, 2017. Thank you for following all instructions.

Order your Columbiettes shirts now and have them for convention!!! Be sure to show your Columbiette pride by wearing one of our beautiful logo wear items while volunteering around the state! We have a great collection of logo

wear items sure to please everyone. Our hottest item this year is our BLING Shirt; if you don't have one get yours now!! Remember we can do custom T-shirts if your auxiliary or chapter is attending an event as a group. Just give me a call!! 908-428-7203.

I am looking forward to seeing all my sister Columbiettes at Convention and hearing all the wonderful works of charity you have done throughout 2016-2017.

May you have a Wonderful Spring!
—Elena

State Financial Secretary—Nadine Lecorchick

Dear Sister Columbiettes,
I hope you and your family had a very Joyous and Blessed Easter. May this season fill you

heart with hope and bring you joy! See you at Convention.

—Nadine

State Treasurer—Fran Corcione

I wish my Sister Columbiettes a Happy Easter. It was my pleasure to serve as your State Treasurer. Looking forward to

seeing you at convention in June. Please remember to "Count your Blessings".

—Fran



State Advocate—Kathleen Donahue

I can't believe that the 2016-2017 Columbiette year is almost over! Where does the time go? It seems like it was just September.

This year's resolutions and recommendations will be presented at the State Convention held at the Embassy Suites in Piscataway on June 23-25th.

It has been an honor to serve as your State Advocate. I thank all of you for your support.

May our patronesses, The Blessed Virgin, St. Theresa and St. Joan of Arc bless you and your families!
—Kathleen

State Sentinel—Donna Lewandowski

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

As our Columbiette year comes to a close, please remember to sign your travel cards and bring them to convention.

Thank you again for electing me as your State Sentinel. I truly am honored

to serve as an officer and represent you all. I pray you all have a wonderful sunny and safe summer.

May the Immaculate Heart of Mary Obtain Peace for the World.
—Donna

A Message from Our Past State Presidents

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

Spring is here! Birds are chirping, grass is turning green, daffodils are dancing in the warm breeze, trees are budding – who can ask for anything more. Happy Springtime!

Past State Presidents Ann, Anna, Barbara, Barbara Ann, Marion, Sandy, Susan



NJ State Committee Chairpersons

Charity Awards Luncheon

The New Jersey State Council was pleased to honor Catholic women at the Charity Awards Luncheon on April 30, 2017, at Pierre's of South Brunswick. They are:

HONOREES

- Sister Mary Antoinelle Chunka - for her work in Social Welfare. Sister Antoinelle is the founder and director of "The Promise", a program which serves to rehabilitate troubled youth and prisoners. Cynthia Czarnecki and the Immaculate Conception Auxiliary submitted her nomination.
- Francis Corcione - for her work with Corporate Ethics. Fran, co-owner of Capelli E Mani Design Hair Salon, integrates her work ethics with charity for the good of the Church and her community. Anne Caswell of the Union Auxiliary submitted her nomination.
- Evelyn Quinn - for her work in Education. Evelyn,

Vice President for Mission Integration at Georgian Court University, supplements her campus duties to develop programs by which students can reach beyond what they believe they are capable of doing for themselves and society. Mary Ann Sweet of St. Augustine of Canterbury Auxiliary submitted her nomination.

RECOGNITIONS

- Carol Bevilacqua - nominated by Judy Leone
- Anne Marie Bishop - nominated by Mattea Truppe
- Sharon Festa - nominated by Evelyn Kovacs and St. Philips Columbiettes
- Phyllis Monguso - nominated by Anne Caswell
- Susan Olscvary - nominated by Fr. Emil J. Kapaun Columbiettes
- Sister M. Michaelita Popovice, RSM - nominated by Warren Columbiettes
- Lois Rishko - nominated by



St. David the King Columbiettes

- Joanne Rizzo - nominated by Ann Fletcher
- Marge Sanders - nominated by Long Valley Columbiettes
- Mia Sena - nominated by Sgt. John F. Basilone Columbiettes
- Debra Sirvidio - nominated by Diane Van Blarcolm and St. Philip the Apostle Columbiettes
- Cathy Stevens - nominated by Barbara Rymer
- Linda Thatcher - nominated by Father Carey Columbiettes

A Selection Committee (one member from each Chapter) made the difficult choices in naming the worthy candidates. They are:
 Laura Labetti - Central Chapter
 Yvonne Shimshock - Mid

West Chapter
 Kathy Jessen - South East Chapter
 Jeanne Belles - South West Chapter
 Mary Kubishy - Western Chapter

The NJ State Council Columbiettes is honored to recognize and thank the award recipients for "touching hearts and changing lives". Our honorees give their time, energy and talents to better the lives of others.

During the luncheon festivities, Laura Labetti, Chairlady of the State's Charity Raffle, conducted the raffle. Congratulations to the 3 winners!

It was a most enjoyable afternoon of Catholic women honoring Catholic women. -Carol Bohinski, Chairlady -Mary Ann Sweet, Co-Chairlady

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.

The Pennies are due on or before June 1st, one check please payable to "New Jersey State Council Columbiettes". All amounts big and small are acceptable.

Remember I am only a phone call away. I will be more

Jewelry and Name Badges

Name badges are available at any time. They come in blue with white lettering, white with blue lettering, red with white lettering or white with red lettering. They come in your choice of pin back or magnet back.

Information included on the badge is your name, title (if you have one), name and number of your auxiliary and the town where your auxiliary is located.

We are continuing to sell Columbiette jewelry. We have a variety of necklaces and pins available along with other

than happy to attend an auxiliary or Chapter meeting to show you our new selection of pins.

See you at Convention, when you will see the Seminaris and Postulants receiving their gifts on Saturday morning. Thank you again.
—Lorraine Noger
Chairlady

items such as watches, rosaries, key rings, pocketbook holders and embroidered patches. The Alex and Ani type bracelets are back in stock. We have travel card cases which contain the opening and closing prayers.

I will have the jewelry at the New Jersey State Convention on June 23-25th at the Embassy Suites in Piscataway, NJ. If you would like to place an order ahead of time, I will have it ready for you to pick up at convention.

—Kathy Donahue
Chairlady



New Jersey State Convention





News From Our Chapters

Central

Spring came too quickly; it seems only a short time ago we were submitting our articles for the Winter issue of the Echo.

2017 our First meeting of the year was actually “Mardi Gras” or “Fat Tuesday”, our theme the whole evening was Mardi gras. Refreshments were donated by our officers. To make it official we even had “A King Cake”. Every member in attendance had a crown, tiara, mask and beads to wear. We also sponsored a Crazy auction and all went home with something and the treasury gained a few dollars. All members in attendance went home with pens, notebooks and cross pins. The next day was the start of Lent and Jesus died on the cross for our salvation.

Sad news it is official Bloomfield Auxiliary disbanded; most of their members transferred to other auxiliaries.

All of auxiliaries have been busy sponsoring different

functions to help their treasury. The Sunday of the ice storm Regina Mundi was to hold a function, but rescheduled to the following week. Our Lady of Perpetual help is always keeping busy. St. John’s held their God and Cog and April 23 was their annual “Tea Party”. St Philip’s sends a group on Fridays to help serve lunch at Eve’s Kitchen in Paterson and is always helping School 12 in Clifton with food collections.

A Blessed Easter to All!

To all my sister Columbiettes a very Happy Mother’s Day and to all my brother Knights a Happy Father’s Day.

See you all at Convention; make sure your Angels are done.

—Barbara Ann Lissi
President



Mid West

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. We kicked off 2017 with our February Chapter meeting held in Somerville (Somerville Council). At that time, we began our annual fundraiser Ten Week Club and also held a Baby Shower. Donations from the Shower were given to Great Expectations.

In April, we met at St. Mary’s Church in Alpha (Warren Council) where we reviewed the slate of officers for voting at our next meeting, held a Tricky Tray, and admired each auxiliary’s Convention Angel!

In June, we will meet in

Union (Union Council) to hold elections, finalize Convention plans, and discuss Degree Ceremony planning for next year. Watch this space for details!

I look forward to seeing everyone soon.

— Fran Corcione
President



South East

Greetings from South East Chapter!

2017 found the members of South East Chapter heading to St. Lawrence auxiliary in Laurence Harbor for our Feb. 16th meeting. Resumes were submitted for our Chapter

Charity with Emil Overmere from St. Bernadette’s selected as our Chapter Charity for 2018. President Diane Kulbacki thanked St. Lawrence for the desserts and their hospitality.

Our Chaplain, Father



William Smith, held an Evening of Recollection at his church, St. Anthony of Padua in Port Reading, on March 30th. Father celebrated Mass and for his reflection this year was inspired by a verse from The Passion of Our Lord by St. Matthew. "Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife sent him a message. 'Have nothing to do with that upright man I have been extremely upset today by a dream that I had about him.'" Father Smith was inspired by Pontius Pilate's



wife telling her husband not to harm Jesus. Father proceeded to give us his opinion on what she might have been thinking and feeling. It was well received

by the many members who attended the evening. Sandwiches, salads and desserts were served after the service.



The annual baby shower, this year to benefit Life Choices in Metuchen, took place in South Amboy on April 20th. President Diane thanked the ladies for their generosity for the number of items donated.

Our Lady of Peace will host the May 18th meeting in Fords. We will begin the evening with Mass and the May Crowning.

Our final meeting of this Columbiette year will be held at St. Bernadette's on June 16th with the election of officers.

On behalf of the officers and members of South East Chapter, we wish everyone a happy and safe summer!

—Kathy Donahue
Publicity Chairperson



South West

Greetings from South West Chapter! Our first Chapter meeting of the new year was held in February at McGivney Hall at St. Augustine of Canterbury in Kendall Park. It was well attended and Fr. Edmund Luciano (our Chaplain) was able to attend. He is kept very busy with his work with the youth of the diocese and the assistant to Bishop Checchio. He is a wealth of knowledge and we all get so much information from him regarding our faith, and he always has some great stories and jokes too!

South West Chapter is being split. Another Chapter is being formed – Southern Chapter. They will be instituted on June 29th in Manchester. South West will be comprised of St. James, Hopewell, Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Peace (North Brunswick), St. Augustine of Canterbury, St. David the King, and St. Cecelia. The new Southern Chapter will consist of: Fr. Emil Kapaun, St. Francis, Our Lady of Perpetual

Help, Leisure Village West, Maximillian Kolbe, and Santa Maria. South West Chapter will miss these ladies but this will be for the best as South West has 13 auxiliaries and more coming down the pike. We wish them the very best.

We held a Major Degree on Sunday, April 2nd at St.



Augustine. We honored the new Bishop of the Diocese of Metuchen – Bishop James F. Checchio. There was no 1st Degree as all the auxiliaries have had their own 1st Degrees in their own auxiliaries throughout the year. There were 39 new initiates and about 90 guests.

We wish you all a Happy Spring and a Blessed Easter season.

—Mary Ann Sweet
President



Western

Western Chapter Columbiettes hopes that everyone had a very blessed Easter and are looking forward to the upcoming beautiful weather.

We have been busy in the past few months...December found us at Bishop Navagh holding our Christmas Dinner & Tricky Tray. Many beautiful prizes were won by some lucky winners.

March found us at General Judson for our meeting and our Major Degree. We welcomed 7 new members and looking forward to spending time with each of them. What wonderful hospitality we had from the members of General Judson. Always so welcoming to all of us.

On April 1st we held our Applebee's Pancake Breakfast fundraiser. A special thank you to Barbara Hill-Western

Chapter Vice President and the member of Bishop Navagh and St. Anthony's for your help in making this a great success for the Chapter. All who attended had a fun time!

We will be gathering in May at Don Bosco Newton for our May Crowning and meeting.

June will find us in Parsippany for our Election of Officers and preparing for the State Convention.

Members of Western Chapter are working hard to make the 61st Annual NJ State Columbiettes Convention a fun time. We look forward to seeing all of the Columbiette "Angels" June 23rd thru 25th at the Embassy Suites, Piscataway, NJ.

Many Blessings to all who are reading this.

—Cathe Nicholson
President



News From Our Auxiliaries

Sgt. John F. Basilone

Hello Sister Columbiettes:

The Sgt. John Basilone Columbiettes #13264 kicked off our Columbian year by marching in the annual John Basilone Parade in September.



In October, we installed our Officers and held our Angel Pin & Religious Goods Sale which was a success with items donated by our sisters. We



helped our Knights with their annual mum sale and continue

to support them at their monthly pancake breakfast. In November, we hosted a coffee and dessert reception after the All Souls Mass. Some of our other activities and donations included supporting our Knights at a special Veterans Memorial Breakfast, collecting for a Coat and Blanket Drive, helping out at St. Ann's School for the Halloween Trunk or Treat, a donation from a family



member of children's pajamas and teddy bears for the Louisiana Flood Victims and we also matched a separate anonymous monetary donation, providing



food baggies to the Somerset County Food Bank which are given to vulnerable elementary school children on Friday afternoons as their primary food source for the weekend, and donated \$100.00 to a parish family for Thanksgiving dinner. For the Christmas season, we adopted a family in need and hosted a Wrap Party for the family gifts in place of our December meeting, assisted KOC with annual sale of Christmas Wreaths and decorating Christmas trees for 1st Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. On February 12th, we had a very successful bake sale that we held during the KOC monthly breakfast and held a fund drive after all masses for Seminarians and



Postulants on the weekend of March 18th and 19th. Additional Spring events included: donation of Easter Basket and Dinner for local family, assisting KOC with Special Citizens Drive and hosting Confirmation Reception. Our auxiliary will be celebrating our 10-year anniversary this coming September, and we plan to attend a mass with an activity following.

—Tina DiFabio

ParsIPPany

Sister Columbiettes, January 2017 found Parsippany Columbiettes full of enthusiasm and looking forward to a new year. Many of our new members have jumped right in to help and allow us to reach our

goals. We were able to assist a family in Lake Hopatcong that lost everything in a house fire, thanking God the family of seven were all safe. Our February meeting was held at St. Ann's after their Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner. At



this meeting, we looked to our hearts and we donated funds to over 20 various charities, many requested by membership. What a great feeling to be able to help so many.

Our activities also included collecting hats, gloves and scarves for Missionaries of God and soup for food pantries. We have a Cakeless Cake Sale with proceeds going toward a 1st communicant's entire outfit for their Holy Communion Day. An Altar Server's party, ice cream social at the Fireman's Home and a baby shower are part of our giving. We also plan a Pampered Chef fundraiser with

proceeds going toward the Tank Pull in June. March will find us holding a 1st Degree and a Make It, Bake It, Buy It raffle.

Parsippany Columbiettes are extremely proud to have sponsored a girls' soccer team and we plan to do the same in years to come. We feel it's a contribution to our youth as well as a way to let know about Columbiettes via the great soccer shirts. Here is Jasmine, a member of the fall soccer team last year. Imagine if every auxiliary could sponsor a team - Columbiette shirts all over New Jersey!!!

We donated three beautiful baskets to the Jefferson PTA for their tricky tray. We included our pillows and again, let everyone know about Columbiettes and their work for both the church and communities.

We wish everyone a very very happy spring and a Blessed Easter.

—Fran Viet





Bayshore

It is with a sad heart to inform you that Bayshore Columbiettes will be disbanding in June. It has been a long run for 63 years; we would like to thank our Sister Columbiettes of South East and South West for their friendship during these years. Thankfully many of our Sister Columbiettes at Bayshore will be transferring to St. Lawrence. We will see you at Convention.

On June 4th we will be having our Pizza and Ice

Cream Appreciation for the Altar Servers for St. Ann's church in Keansburg. The Altar Servers are given the State Certifications and a small gift from us by our Chaplain, Fr. Dan Cahill. The Altar Servers enjoy this every year and we have a great turn out with awards and games.

Looking forward to attending the State Convention in June.

—Lorraine Noger
President

St. Bernadette's

St Bernadette, Parlin has been in a celebratory mood lately.

In December, we adopted two (2) residents of The Venetian Care and Rehabilitation Center in South Amboy. These ladies have no family and we have been bringing little personal items and reading to them. One has Down Syndrome and the other is blind. We are "twice blessed".

February 5th was the 100th

Birthday of one of our Charter Members whom most of you know - Irene Padewski. She resides in Succasunna and on January 22nd (and then again on the 5th) several of us visited, baked a cake and decorated her room with more than 150 cards on ribbon donated by Columbiettes in our Auxiliary as well as South East Chapter. Irene hummed along as we sang Happy Birthday several



times!

After our February meeting, we assembled the favors for our 2nd Annual Tea Party being held on Sunday, April 30th at 2:00 p.m.

March 11th had us baking for our parish's 60th Anniversary celebration "Garden State Jazz Orchestra. It was wonderful but we were probably in the kitchen more than at our table. Sound familiar?

We attended our Lenten Afternoon of Recollection on March 25 beginning with lunch. Deacon Don's theme was God's Love and we listened to his words, recited the rosary, meditated with Chant Music, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Divine Praises, Sang hymns, etc. The Sacrament of Reconciliation followed as well as Mass.

We are preparing for our Scholarship Recipient, Tea Party, Elections, May Crowning and Installation of Officers. Also, many sisters prepare and assist at Community Vacation Bible School. We have a busy schedule ahead, as always!

Special Thanks to our

NJSCC Board of Officers for all of their leadership and assistance these past two years! Wishing our Sister Columbiettes a Blessed Easter.
—Lois Ann Smith
President



PHOTO: President Lois Ann Smith presents certificates on behalf of Supreme President Patricia Zellner and St. Bernadette Auxiliary at Irene Padewski's 100th birthday celebration! Lilly Zammit, Treasurer and Kathy Jessen, Financial Secretary brought their singing voices and agility in hanging all those cards!!!



Long Valley

We have been busy with various fundraisers: Panera Bread, Avon, Christmas cookie sale, cookbook sale, Wonders of Chocolate Festival and Mardi Gras bake sale. These funds will be used for high school scholarships, food pantry, Project Jasmine (our adopted child), vets support, and local organizations.

A Communion Breakfast in February was enjoyed by many Columbiettes and convent nuns. We also supported a Tricky Tray initiative for Operation Chillout for Homeless Veterans Outreach program held April 21 at Vasa Park. On May 20th at St. Mark's Church we ran a flea market. We will finish the year by installing new members as

well as board officers, and participating in WC events.

Wishing everyone a very happy, healthy, and restful summer. God Bless.

—Nancy Lennon
President

PHOTO: *The Long Valley*



Columbiettes had a wonderful visit with the convent nuns who enjoyed friendship, fellowship and goody bags.

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS.
NAME THEM ONE BY ONE.
COUNT YOUR
MANY BLESSINGS
SEE WHAT GOD HAS DONE.



Bishop Navagh

On December 7th we hosted our Christmas Western Chapter Dinner, Meeting & Tricky Tray. A fun time was had by all. On Sunday December 11th some of the Columbiettes helped serve breakfast at the annual Holy Spirit School's Santa Breakfast. We sold many Angel Pins that morning. We started participating in the Pajama & Book Program and as of this date we collected over 185 pajamas and over 125 books.

In January we visited the Little Sisters of the Poor Home in Totowa to play Bingo with the residents. We brought prizes for everyone and treats to eat as well. It was very rewarding to see the residents truly enjoy such a great afternoon. Also in January we honored our Past President – Barbara Hill with a dinner held at Lina's Restaurant we presented Barbara with a beautiful cross necklace and earrings – so was also presented with a certificate from Supreme/State. The happiness and great fellowship

in the room was overwhelming to Barbara.

On February 26th we held our 4th Annual Altar Server Appreciation Day. We had over 90 people which included



the servers and their families. Everyone enjoyed pizza, snacks, water. The boys and girls participated in a variety of games. A fun time was had by all.

On March 3rd we held our Lenten Friday Baked Potato Night – we served over 172 potato complete with a “fix-in” bar. No one left the hall hungry! On March 8th we had 2 ladies attend the Western Chapter Major Degree at General Judson in Vernon. On March 19th we had 11 members join the town-wide Grains of Hope food packing event to feed the hungry and



those in Haiti. In that afternoon we helped pack 150,276



meals! It was a fun and rewarding afternoon. On March 31st we joined the Pequannock Knights of Columbus for a Lenten Stations of the Cross at Holy Spirit Church in Pequannock.

We collected many bags of food and supplies for our Adopt-A-Family Easter meal.

In April we held our annual Spring flower baskets and flat sale - 50% of this fundraiser will also go to our Adopt-A-Family to make their summer a little cheerier. The baskets/flowers were picked-up the week before Mother's Day. On April 1st we helped Western Chapter at a Applebee's Pancake Breakfast in Butler.

We are making plans for our annual baby shower. This is always a fun afternoon and the expected mother is thrilled

by our generosity. A light lunch will be served.

We had our May crowning at our May meeting and we selected a scholarship winner from the student's essays following the meeting. We sold \$1.00 tickets for our Big Raffle to be drawn on Memorial Day. We will also be marching in the town's parade with the Knights and afterward enjoy a picnic with our families at the hall.

June will bring our annual carnival at Holy Spirit Church in Pequannock. Our duty is helping in the kitchen.

We are attending the Annual NJ State Convention. We are collecting backpacks, can tab tops, gallon bags for the homeless, pennies and selling Angel Pins all to bring with us. The day is truly amazing seeing just what all Columbiette ladies accomplish in a year! We look forward to seeing many of you there!

Bishop Navah wishes all sister Columbiettes a Happy Spring, Blessed Easter and a relaxing summer!

—Mary Kubisky
President



St. John's

St. John's Council Columbiettes welcomed the new year 2017 with a wonderful post-holiday dinner with our Sister Columbiettes along with our current Chaplain, Fr. Steven Carey and our past Chaplain, Fr. Michael Trainor, you can say we were doubly blessed!

We held our first fundraiser in March, Cod & God fish fry and in April we had our "ever popular" Garden Tea Party. A delicious assortment of Tea sandwiches, muffins, desserts and of course *TEA* enjoyed by all!

May brought us the month where we vote on the charities that we will support with the money we have raised during

Our Lady of Victory

Here are some of the things OLV has been working on or participating in:

In January, we began the year with our Bakeless Cake Sale which was very successful.

On Feb. 19, 1961, Our

the year and vote on our next slate of officers for the upcoming year of 2017-2018. We thank all of our current officers who have served our council for the past two years and congratulate our new officers who will be taking over in September.

We always end our Columbiette year, with, of course, a party and all look forward to the summer months ahead!

On behalf of myself, my sister Columbiettes and all of the officers at St John's Council, we wish everyone a happy, safe and fun summer. See you in September! Peace.

—Roberta Elwell
Past President

Lady of Victory Columbiettes was instituted. We celebrated our 56th Anniversary at our February meeting. Our immediate Past President, Yvonne Burdyski was honored along with all our Past Presidents and Charter Members in attendance.



On Ash Wednesday, along with our Brother Knights, we started our Lenten Fish Fry. It ran the Fridays during Lent. We set the hall, prepped the Salad Bar and also the Dessert Table. Our Brother Knights manned the kitchen and did all the cooking for this annual event during Lent.

From March to June, we collected donations to donate to the Seminarians.

We continued our Baby Bottle Project throughout February in which the money collected promotes Birth Rights. In April, those monies will be donated to Life's Choice Center the proceeds we collected.

Additionally, on April 8th, The 12th Annual OLV Easter Friendship Meal took place. This is a meal provided Free of Charge for anyone who would like some friendly company for whatever reason. A monetary donation was made by our auxiliary for this worthwhile and humanitarian event.

On April 20th, we participated in our Chapter's Baby Shower in which a

monetary donation was given as well as donated gifts.

Our Sisters in Service Dinner was April 30th, honoring our Religious Sisters for their community service. At this event mass was given by Father Ken, our Chaplain, and a dinner was enjoyed for the Sister that join us. Each Sister receives a gift bag with some treats. The afternoon was enjoyed by all.

Before our May meeting, Father Ken said mass then we crowned our Blessed Mother and picked our Columbiette of the Year. After our meeting, we worked on our tab tops, and readied our backpacks and toiletries for Convention.

June will be fun and games at OLV as we wrap up our year. We will end our year with a Tricky Tray for our members, a few games of Bingo and then a BBQ. We look forward to seeing many of you at Convention.

Our Lady of Victory Columbiettes wish our Sister Columbiettes a Happy, Healthy and Safe Summer!

—Liza Palestrini



Leisure Village West

I am proud of the achievements our auxiliary has accomplished. As an opening, very successful, fundraiser last September we sponsored a Card Party and show. The show featured some of our woman as Calendar Girls, wearing beautiful outfits highlighting the 12 months of the year.

We work closely with our Knights helping with canister collections for such worthy charities as Alzheimer research and Persons with Disabilities. As Columbiettes we chose St Jude Children Hospital as a most deserving cause to donate to. In our hearts albeit a small amount we feel that we have helped a family to deal a little easier with a very heart wrenching situation. We collected for Toy for Tots and Coats for Kevin's Kids. Our Auxiliary is looking forward to our upcoming events and a successful charity year.

One of my staunch dedications and priorities is my work with the Manchester School

System as a substitute for handicapped children and children with disabilities in both the Elementary school and High School. It brings great comfort and joy to be able to be a part of helping others. My time as President is drawing near but I will remain a vital part of this auxiliary as Past President. My proudest moment was when my husband Grand Knight Neil Emmino and I were the instruments for the formation of the Columbiettes in Leisure Village West and watched it grow from an idea to a reality. We started with twenty women becoming members for our charter and now have thirty-two members and are growing all the time. I want to thank all those who helped me in this effort through the past three years. I would like to thank our District Deputy Barbara Leone for all the help she gave me and the LVW Columbiettes.

—Connie Emmino
President



Vincent T. Lombardi

Spring has finally sprung and we are looking forward to a beautiful Easter season and the blessings that it brings. Our Chapter Charity recipient, Ivey Lynn Jankowski, nominated by Vincent T. Lombardi, has undergone more surgeries but is doing well. We sent her family a \$200 Target gift card, the amount raised from a fundraiser held in her honor.

During the Christmas season, we assisted the Knights with their holiday dinner attended by local military families. We continued our support of the Knights by once again acting as "Santa's Elves" and distributing gifts to children hospitalized at Monmouth Medical Center. On a more solemn note, many of our members attended the

Knights' Deceased Members Mass, honoring both Knights and Columbiettes who have passed away.

Although we are a small group, our collections are going strong. So far, this year we have collected 40 rosaries to be donated, 8 bags of toiletries, 1 1/2 lbs of can tabs, 7 backpacks filled with school supplies, and mailed 2319 coupons to military families overseas.

For our April meeting, we hosted an Open House for potential new members. For the Spring, we are also working on more fundraisers at the First Avenue Playhouse in Atlantic Highlands.

Have a Happy and Blessed Easter season!

—Mary Vernarelli
President

Our Lady of Peace, North Brunswick

The Columbiettes adorned Our Lady of Peace Church this year with over 120 poinsettias.

The congregation was given the opportunity to make a donation for altar flowers in



memory of or in honor of loved ones. Those names, along with a poinsettia plant, were brought to the altar during the offertory. The church looked magnificent!



The Columbiettes of North Brunswick purchased an 'OUR LADY OF PEACE REMEMBERS' Board. When a member of our congregation

passes into eternal life, the family can place a 4 X 6 picture of their loved one in a magnetic frame on the board.

This enables all of us to put faces with the names we hear at mass, so that we can remember them as we join in prayer. The Board is placed in our Narthex for all to see as they enter the church, and serves to honor those we've lost.



Our Lady of Peace in North Brunswick welcomed 22 new members to our auxiliary during the months of February and March. We held our First Degree ceremony on February 13th. Each new member



received a welcome poem, a handmade rosary in Columbiette colors, a travel card, and their Columbiette pin. The ceremony was followed by a welcoming reception with desserts and refreshments. We are proud to announce that we now have 88 members.
 –Eva Gresh
 President



St. James

St. James is pleased to have gained three new members at our First Degree Ceremony, which was held at our March meeting.

In February, together with our Knights, we held our Annual Corporate

Communion Mass at St. James Church. This was followed with a continental breakfast. Once again, we are assisting our Brother Knights with their Friday Lenten Dinners. Each week, we set tables and provided desserts.



A host of activities were scheduled for May. We did a “Shake the Can” for vocations after parish Masses. At our May meeting, we honored our Blessed Mother at our traditional May Crowning and enjoyed our “Pot Luck Supper” to which members bring special culinary delights. We also held our annual Tea Party and marched with our Brother Knights in the Jamesburg Memorial Day Parade to honor those who gave their lives for our country.

Our Knights will join with us in presenting gifts to our Parishes’ First Communicants and Altar Servers. We will

honor a Monroe Township High School Senior at their 22nd Annual Awards Program. We will award our St. James Columbiettes’ selected Good Student and Humanitarian honorees at our June meeting.

Monthly donations to the St. James Soup and Fellowship continue as well as collecting back packs, school supplies, personal items and tab tops for the State Convention donations.

To all our Sisters, from St. James Sisters, “Best wishes for a happy, peaceful and safe summer.”

–Carol Bohinski





Don Bosco, Newton

At our November meeting, we collected pet food and supplies and donated them to Fr. Johns Rescue in Lafayette.



The Don Bosco Columbiettes helped out at St. Paul's Abbey making wreath for them to sell with their Christmas trees. It's a fun family night where food and fellowship is shared. All while helping the priests at the Abbey set up for their tree sale. We also donated cookies to sell to their patrons while looking for their trees. The Columbiettes donated toward the Golf outing held by St. Joseph's RC Church in Newton. We have a secret sister club. It's for fun all year

and we revealed ourselves in November. We picked new names for the following year to keep it going.

In December 60 members, family and friends got together and had dinner together then enjoyed a show. We went to see 'The Calamari Sisters, The feast of the seven fishes.' It was a hysterical show and everyone enjoyed themselves.

At our December meeting we collected t-shirts and socks and distributed them to 4 area nursing homes. A vintage sale with Santa was held in December. Christmas items as well as baked goods were sold and the proceeds went to local children for their mission trip this summer. We don't meet in January. We collected laundry detergent and fabric softener/softener sheets and donated them to the food pantry.

At our March meeting, we collected Shop-Rite/Weis cards to donate to the Manna House. This is the soup



kitchen in Newton. March 4th was our Applebee's



fundraiser. The Don Bosco Columbiettes marched in the St. Patrick's parade. It was cold but everyone had fun.



At our April meeting we collected coffee, tea, sugar and powdered milk/coffee-mate. April 1st, we took a bus trip to the Sands Casino. We enjoyed the company of our sister Columbiettes and family and friends. During March/April, we did a Palm Cross

fundraiser and donated all proceeds to 'The Little Sisters of the Poor'. On Good Friday we did a fundraiser at a local pizza parlor, Villa Capri. They were very generous to donate \$1.00 for every pizza they sold that day. April 29th, we hosted a murder mystery dinner. It was a fun night for everyone. We also sang patriotic songs at 4 local nursing homes, since our Christmas caroling was snowed out. Also, we crowned Mary on May 7th. Our annual flea market was held on May 20th at St. Paul's Abbey in Andover NJ.

Every month a different sister takes our traveling Mary home for the month. Mary comes with the rosary and a booklet on how to say the rosary. Many members enjoy this. At each meeting, as part of our prayer service, our auxiliary says a decade of the rosary.

Please visit our auxiliary website for an update on activities and related events. www.donboscocolumbiettes.weebly.com
—Patricia Keegan
President



St. Anthony's

In October 2016, we enjoyed a nice evening with our annual Baked Potato night (with all the toppings too). We also “walked down memory lane” during our monthly meeting in which members brought in old pictures, items, & books. What a great way to reminisce and see the many changes and accomplishments that have transpired.

The month of November consisted of one of our biggest fund raisers. On November 4, 2016, we held our infamous pocketbook bingo. Donations were made to Rosemary Farm Sanctuary, Veterans Program Butler High School, our building fund, and money set aside for the winner of the humanitarian award.

On November 9, 2016, a mass was held for all deceased members.

We held a membership drive on November 12 & 13, 2016 which resulted in new members. Welcome and may God Bless you as enable our Columbiette Organization to

grow and prosper.

A Pot of Luck Dinner was held at our November regular monthly meeting. This is a nice relaxing night served with the best homemade food.

On December 1, 2016 we held a Soup-er night. The 8 varieties of soup were a big hit and were well received by all who attended.

On December 3, 2016, items that were collected for the Toys for Tots were brought to the train which arrived at the Butler Museum. They were then distributed to those in need.

A fun evening was had by all on December 20, 2017 for our Christmas Party. [An additional game was added this year- The new game of *murder mystery* which was so much fun.]

2017 was welcomed in by NJ State Columbiettes hosting a comedy night on January 13, 2017.

A first degree was held before February's monthly meeting. We welcomed four



members, along with two members from Bishop Navagh. Congratulations to all that made their degree.

On March 4th and 5th a Palm Cross fundraiser was held. Pick up was on April 1, 2017.

We congratulate all those who made their Major degree on March 8, 2017. Congratulations once again!

On March 24, 2017, a wine glass painting fundraiser was held by us at the Butler VFW Hall. The cost for this enjoyable night provided 2 wine glasses, paint brushes, wine and snacks, and a ton of fun.

During the month of April, we supported the Western Chapter Applebee's pancake breakfast (held on April 1,

2017).

We also were able to collect donations by *shaking the can* at St Anthony masses on April 1, 2017 and April 2, 2017.

Tables were reserved at the Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast on April 9, 2017 for the First Holy Communion families that were in attendance. It was held right after the 9:30am mass.

Things we are looking forward to are:

- June 20, 2017 - Pot O 'Gold drawing -winner to be announced
- June 23-25 NJ State Convention - Embassy Suites Piscataway

Wishing you all an enjoyable summer!

—Geri Nolan

Msgr. James F. Gacquin

We were busy this season! Members collected can tabs for McDonald House, had a diaper drive for Project Self Sufficiency, collected baby bottles filled with change for Good Counsel homes,

collected toiletries collected for women's shelters, and held a toy drive and delivered the items to Project Self Sufficiency.

In effort to increase membership, a new pamphlet



was created for recruitment, and a brief introduction of the Columbiettes was delivered at each Mass.

We baked desserts for the Knights of Columbus pasta dinner fundraiser, and we had our own Cinco de Mayo fundraiser on May 6.

Fridays during Lent, we hosted soup suppers after the Stations of the Cross. Macaroni and cheese was

served on Good Friday. See you all at Convention!
—Diane Sarao



Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Jersey City

December was very exciting, busy, and blessed month. We were very blessed because many parishioners in our Parish distributed a lot of gifts in our Christmas Giving Tree; we were busy sorting and delivering all the gifts to different nursing homes and shelters. Our Christmas party was so joyful, too! The end of January we celebrated our Parish Feast of St. Aedan and everyone brought their favorite dishes to share.

February was the month of all couples so we decided to have our World Marriage Day

and Renewal of Marriage Vows. We had 27 couples that participated and after the Mass we served light refreshments. Our Parish sponsored a dinner dance on February 18, called "Hearts United", as a way to unite Filipinos and Latinos.

Finally, on March 12, our monthly meeting a lot of our sister Columbiettes attended and made our meeting so great!! On behalf of our council we wishing everyone a Blessed Easter and a Wonderful Summer.

—Susan Liguori
President



St. Philip the Apostle

St. Philip the Apostle Auxiliary #11671 is hard at work serving God, Country, and Community! This year we are continuing our food pantry ministry to one of our local schools. The Columbiettes bring in healthy items to help stock the pantry at the school. They buy items such as oatmeal, soup, boxed juices, pasta, peanut butter & jelly, and cereal. We have seen the difference these items make as the school children help to carry the items to the pantry. They often remark..."Cool. That's my favorite"! Around the Holidays, we received a generous donation marked for this project and we were able to purchase supermarket gift certificates.

Several Columbiettes join our President Sharon Festa at Eva's where they serve meals to the guests. They sign up for a once per month serving. Many of them have commented that serving the guests is a reminder to serve

the Lord where He is found.

Our blanket ministry continues to thrive. Cathie Murtha heads this group and they have been able to create many lovely items such as quilts, crocheted throws, lap throws, and infant caps. Much of the material is donated, so if anyone is interested please contact us. Cathie would be pleased with fleece material and yarn.

Our Applebee's Flapjack Fund Raiser was held on Saturday, March 25th. From 8:00am-10:00am, we served breakfast at the Applebee's on Route 3 in Clifton.

Other activities were Mother's Day Gift Bags for women in recovery, Baby Shower to benefit mothers from St. Mary's as well as assorted clothing/handbags, and Church Carnival. We are looking forward to Columbiette Convention. Have a blessed & restful Summer!

—Deb Sirvidio
Immediate Past President



Somerville

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

Happy Spring! I hope this newsletter finds you well.

We've continued our "monthly donation" program by collecting snacks, cleaning supplies, and baby food at monthly meetings.

In February, we held our annual Baby Shower for



Catholic Charities. We also visited Bridgewater Senior Knitting & Crocheting Club, who support our shower by providing beautiful hand-knitted baby hats, sweaters, and blankets. The seniors are always excited to have us visit!

We celebrated Mass together on the first Sunday in March as a tribute to 'Columbiette Sunday' (the day that the first Columbiettes were installed

in New York City.)

We have held several 'shake-a-can' weekends over the course of this Columbian year: in November 2016 and May 2017 —at four of our five parishes to support the NJSCC Pennies from Heaven Campaign.

Besides our own activities, we have also been working with our Brother Knights. We participated in their Easter Bunny Breakfast and Comedy Night, and marched together in the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

At the beginning of May, we held a Living Rosary at the KOC Hall. On May 30, we will hold a First Degree Ceremony. We will welcome 2 new members. For our June meeting, we will pack donations for Convention and...party!

Blessings from Somerville.
—Yvonne Shimshock
Immediate Past President



Regina Mundi

Welcome springtime! Our Bakeless cake sale was a winner! Past President Anna Misajet helped round up all our members to participate, making a grand total of \$262 earnings.

We welcomed new members with pins and prayer cards. We also welcomed two transfers from Bloomfield—Eileen Colby and Louise Palagano.

Our December 6th fundraiser at TGIF was a really fun day. We enjoyed our meals and were able to socialize with others.

We are sad to report that our Sister Columbiette Claire Jaeger passed away; we honored her with a special prayer.

Our Auxiliary was honored to be awarded the Margaret J. Mangan Achievement Award for the 2016 year. Special thanks to our Financial Secretary, Susan Cramer for compiling all the

necessary papers. Our State President, Lisa Roberts, presented this award to our President at a Chapter Meeting.

We enjoyed a February Fling on February 12th. It was a great event!

During the winter months, we collected baby clothes / items, which we donated to Oasis in Paterson—a haven for women & children—and to Sister Anne Maroney at St. Mary's Hospital in Passaic.

Sister Columbiette Joann Graziano spoke to us about The Department of Senior Services, Disability and Veterans. Joann works in Paterson for Legislative Aide Nellie Poi. She provided a very informative message and we are arranging for more speaker in the future. A most wonderful summer to all!

—Kathy Rager
President



Updates to State Directory

as of 4/2017

PAGE CHANGE

- 27 New President for Bishop Navagh
Mary Kobisky
54 West William Street
Lincoln Park, NJ 07035
Phone: 973-696-5707, Mobile: 201-341-6932
maryshog@optonline.net
- 42 Updated Name and Address for Warren President
Margaret Connoly
963 Wilbur Avenue
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865
(no change provided for phone numbers or email)
- 49 Correct email for Mary Ann Sweet is
cjubileesweet47@yahoo.com (it is correct on Page 9)



Remember -
our fallen heros.
They are the reason
that we are free.



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!

Special Thanks to Maureen O'Brien, State Historian, for sending me pictures of various events throughout the year! Her photos can always be found in the newsletter.

If you haven't submitted anything recently, please consider contributing to the Fall issue. Submissions can be emailed to echonewsletter@hotmail.com.

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.

Have a great State Convention and a wonderful Summer!
– Yvonne Shimshock