

New Jersey State Council Columbiettes



Women of God



Spring 2023

ECHO

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STATE OFFICERS

President, Nadine Lecorchick

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

As this Columbiette year draws to a close, so does my tenure as State President. It has been an honor and privilege to represent you these past two years. We have had many ups and downs, but always came through smiling and loving our organization and each other.

You have all taught me how to try to please everyone without hurting anyone. My main objective was to always come up with a solution to please everyone. We can always work out our differences with a little ingenuity and compromise.

I learned the ins and outs and the ups and downs of our organization. I made so many new friends and reconnected with some old friends that have moved away. I have worked closely with our Brother Knights and can tell you first hand that our State Deputy, Jim Stoeber, and State Secretary Ray Sands have the utmost love and respect for the Columbiettes. They stand behind us 100%.

I wish you all a beautiful Spring and a happy and safe summer. I hope you all come back in September ready for a new Columbiette year full of adventure, fun and, of course, Columbianism. May our patron saints, our Blessed Mother, St. Therese, and St. Joan of Arc, always protect you and guide you.

Remember, we are all Women of God!!

With much love,

Nadine Lecorchick
NJ State President

Hail Mary Campaign

Our Hail Mary Campaign for the "Peace of Christ" will end on May 31, 2023. Thank you to everyone who recited Hail Marys and sent in their tallies. It looks like we will reach the two million mark and are thankful to everyone who has responded to this endeavor. According to Saint Sister Faustina, our Lord Jesus said, "Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy." (Diary 300) The rosary is a powerful tool and our Blessed Mother is certainly smiling on those involved. Thank you for your support!



Our new campaign will begin on June 1, 2023 and end on May 31, 2024. The theme will be "Divine Mercy for All the World" and we are seeking our Blessed Mother's intercession to bring souls back to Christ and end the tumultuous attack on our Catholic faith and Christian values. A dedicated email address has been set up at hailmarysforDM@gmail.com. Please continue to share your prayers for this extremely important cause. Jesus told Sister Faustina, "Souls perish in spite of My bitter Passion. I am giving them the last hope of salvation; that is the Feast of My Mercy. If they will not adore My mercy, they will perish for all eternity." (Diary, 965) Through the message of Divine Mercy, our Lord is preparing us for His final coming.

Prestigious Past State Presidents

Alleluia – Spring is Here!!!

Hush, can you hear it? The rustling in the grass, bringing you the welcome news that Winter's day is past. Soft, can you feel it? The warm caressing breeze, telling you the buds are bursting on the trees. Look, can you see them? The cherry blossoms, daffodils, and more. Now you must believe it - Spring is here again.

As we are enjoying all the wonderful signs of rebirth, renewal and refreshing our hearts and minds this Spring, please remember all of the Moms, Grandmas, Godmothers, Aunts and all the special women in our lives. As strong, faithful and loving women, all have inspired, encouraged and loved young people who will be the future of our church, our country and our world.

Wishing everyone a joyful and glorious Spring. Looking forward to seeing so many of you at our State Convention in June.

With love and care,

Sandy Bohinski, Barbara Ann Lucarelli, Anna Misajet, Anne Graziano, Susan Kadar, Lorraine Noger, Lisa Roberts, Vicki Bird

Vice President, Frances Corcione

Sister Columbiettes,

It's been a pleasure to serve as your Vice President for the past two years. I look forward to working with you as State President. Happy Mother's Day to all!

Fran Corcione
NJ State Vice President

Secretary, Kathleen Donahue

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

Spring is here! Nature is blooming. Easter brings a renewal of our faith. It's time for a new start.

Your auxiliary's delegate and alternate forms are due. It is important that this information is received in a timely manner. It is used to prepare your credential papers for the State Convention. These must be signed by your Financial Secretary before they are presented at registration.

After your elections in May, you will also be receiving a form to list your Auxiliary or Chapter officers, Chapter delegates and alternates as well as your State delegates and alternates. It also contains the information for the State Directory.

Please fill out and email the form to me at columbietteskathy@yahoo.com or mail 3 copies to me at 107 Broad St., Perth Amboy, NJ 08861. You may bring the 3 copies with you to the State Convention.

I thank you for your cooperation.

I look forward to seeing everyone in June!

Kathy Donahue
NJ State Secretary

Treasurer, Catherine Nicholson

Spring is finally here! Wishing you all the joys Spring and Summer may bring you. With the flowers blooming and the sun shining it brings new beginnings and a hopeful start to the seasons upon us.

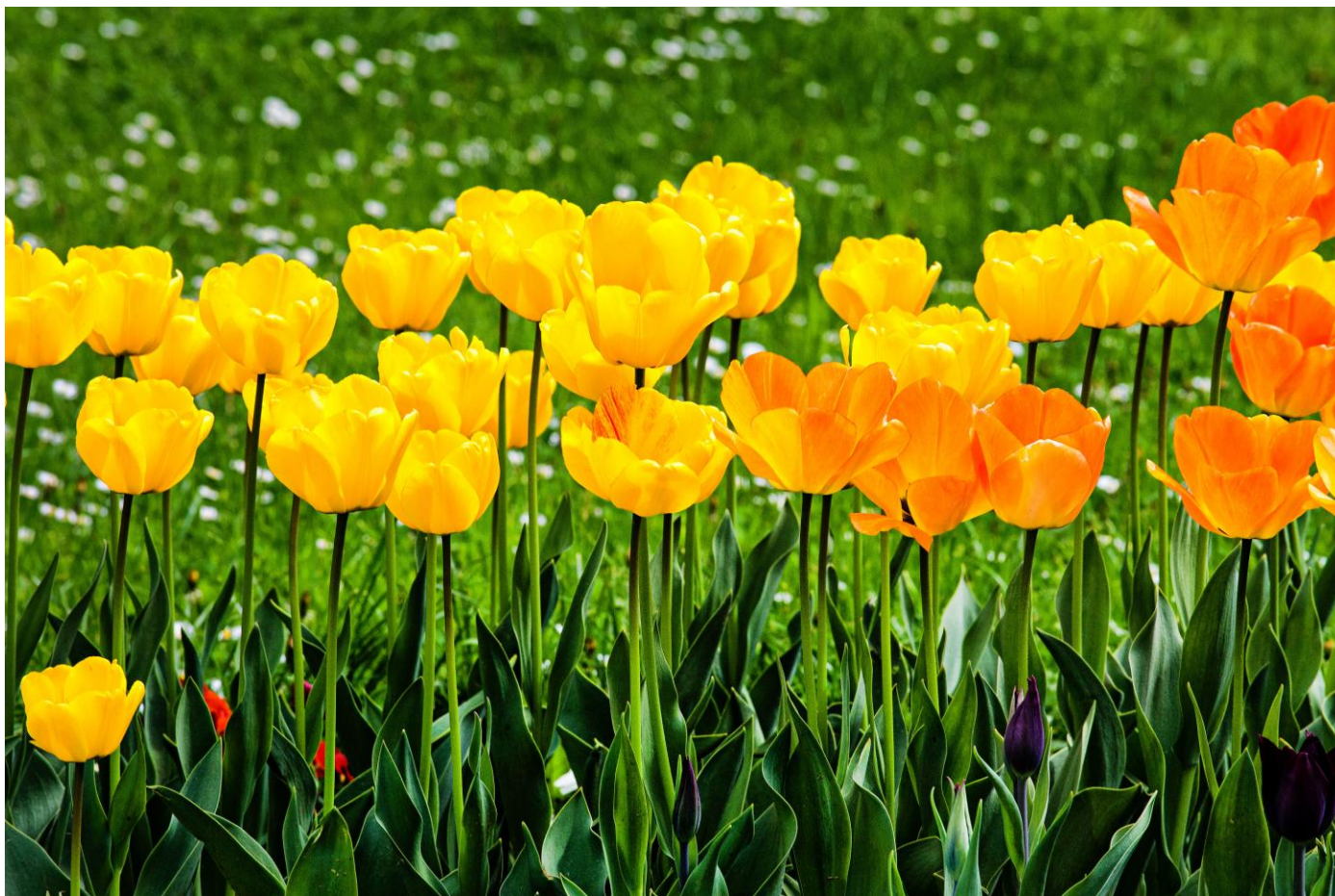
I want to wish all of you a very Happy Mother's Day!

God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers. ~Rudyard Kipling

Looking forward to seeing everyone in June at our annual convention on Bourbon Street...*Let The Good Times Roll!*

Please stay well and healthy. Many prayers coming to all who read this and your loved ones.

Cathe Nicholson
NJ State Treasurer



STATE COMMITTEES

Convention 2023



The Convention Committee Reminds You to Join Us at
Mardi Gras in June at the 67th Annual NJ State Council
Columbiettes Convention

June 23-25, 2023

Embassy Suites, Piscataway, New Jersey

IMPORTANT DUE DATES:

- Due May 15, 2023 - Reservation & Banquet Forms
- Due May 15, 2023 - Raffle Information & Form
- Due May 15, 2023 - Journal Ad Information & Form
- Due May 15, 2023 - Booster Information & Form

--- From Your Convention Committee ---

Historian

Please submit any photos you may have for the Historian to the webmaster, Frances Corcione at MrsC417@hotmail.com.

Memorial Cards, Greeting Card & Business Card, Kathy Jessen

Thank you to everyone who has requested cards and business card enclosures. Over 200 cards have been requested as of this writing.

All monies collected will be donated to our Seminarians and Postulants in June.

I can make up a card for any occasion: Thank You, Get Well, Congratulations, Thinking of You, Sympathy, whatever your need may be. You can provide me with the verse that you want written on the card, or I will write a custom message from you. All I need to create a card is your request via email, phone or mail. Your request should include who the card is being sent to (along with their address if it is not in the State Columbiette directory), who it is from, and what kind of card you want. I will mail the completed card within 48 hours of your request using your return address or I can deliver it to you for your special occasion. The suggested donation is \$5.00 per card, but any amount is gratefully accepted. You can request the cards today and pay for them tomorrow. I keep track of all requests and payments.

Memorial Fund Card Enclosures are also available. These are a business card size printed on both sides and can be inserted into your own store-bought greeting card. The suggested donation is \$5.00 per enclosure card.

I look forward to fulfilling all your orders.

Please contact me if you have any questions about how the program works or if you would like to see a sample. I'd love to hear from you.

Kathy Jessen

Chairlady

Contact Information:

5 Singleton St.

South Amboy NJ 08879

732-721-2522 (home) or 732-261-7490 (cell)

Kjessen5@optonline.net

State Directory, Laura Labetti

Please submit any updates to the New Jersey State Directory to Laura Labetti at labetti250@optonline.net. The online edition of the New Jersey State Directory is available on the state website at www.njcolumbiettes.com.

State Fundraiser – Garden Flags, Frances Corcione

Please see the order form on the next page for the order form to order this year's state fundraiser.

Tab Tops, Sandra Bohinski

Please keep saving your tab top, ask your family, co-workers and friends to do so too. They are easy to store and they cost nothing. The Ronald McDonald House is a house built from love.

Vocations/Pennies from Heaven, Lorraine Noger

Please remember to keep saving those pennies all year long (remember the soda can, cat and dog food cans and vegetable cans). This will enhance our Vocation program and we may then be able to give our Seminarian/Postulants a large check to help them in their studies and other needs.

The Pennies check is due on or before June 1st, one check please payable to New Jersey State Council Columbiettes. All amounts big and small are acceptable. If you want to send it earlier than the due date, that would be great.

See you at Convention, when you will hear about the gifts on Saturday morning to each of the Seminarian/Postulants.

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS – Remember to send in your selection of the Seminarian/postulant to me by April 15 at the latest. Also include the addresses, phone number and email addresses.

Thank you, Lorraine Noger, Chairperson

If you have any questions, you can call me at 732-495-1958 or email me at lmnoger@gmail.com.

Website, Frances Corcione

Don't forget to regularly visit our Columbiettes websites to learn about new activities, events and regulations!

- Supreme: www.columbiettes.com
- NJ State: www.njcolumbiettes.com



New Jersey State Council Columbiettes

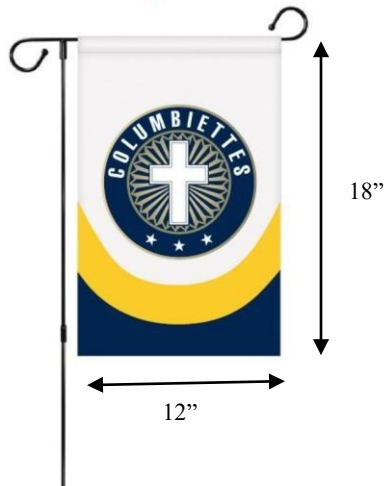
Garden Flag

Order form	
Cost per Garden Remembrance Flags (price of flag only)	\$15.00
Number of Garden Remembrance Flags	
Total amount enclosed	

(Print or Type Name and Address)
Name
Address

Make check payable to NJ State Council Columbiettes

Please mail or email to:
Fran Corcione
227 Barbados Drive North
Toms River, NJ 08757 973-454-4145
Email: mrsc417@hotmail.com



CHAPTERS

Central

Happy Spring Sister Columbiettes !

After a year of post-pandemic re-energizing/reorganizing, I am happy to report that our Auxiliaries have had a very successful year. They have continued to grow, each one having several new member initiations since January. Congratulations to all of the Auxiliary Officers & sisters on this achievement.

Some of the activities we have offered this Spring include: Communion Breakfasts, Bingos (Booby, Designer Bag & SpringO Bingo), Trivia nights, participation in town events, membership drives, support of local food banks, monthly Friday night family nights, baby showers...and more.

It has been so wonderful to see the Auxiliaries supporting each other's activities. This cross Auxiliary participation has strengthened the bonds of our sisterhood.

Central Chapter is planning on sponsoring another bus trip to Sights & Sounds theater in PA to see the living story of "MOSES" in late August or early Fall. If you have been there before, you know how amazing these productions are. We are also looking into a weekend tour & winery trip to the Thousand Islands, NY or a sailing on the Viking lines throughout the Great Lakes. This is a new destination for Viking which is known for their European River cruises.

Watch the Central Chapter Facebook page for dates, details and reservation info on all of the activities of our Auxiliaries.

As my term as Central Chapter President comes to an end, I wish to offer my thanks & congratulations to all of our Auxiliary officers & sisters for their diligence, hard work & steadfast support in order to make our Chapter so great.

See you all at Convention! Have a wonderful Summer.

Joan

Joan M. Winant President, Central Chapter

Mid West

Mid West Chapter is excited to welcome in this beautiful spring! We will hold our next chapter meeting at Msgr. Francis X. Coyle (Springfield) at the end of April. At this meeting we will be collecting food for the St. Joseph Service Center in Elizabeth NJ. It always brings a rewarding feeling to help others in need.

We were able to experience that rewarding feeling at our meeting back in February as well, when we held a baby shower for the Sisters of St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center in Camden NJ. The gifts were greatly appreciated as expressed in a heartfelt Thank You note that we recently received from one of the Sisters. She not only expressed the gratitude for the baby and toddler supplies received, but went on to wish all the Mid West Chapter members a Joyous & Spiritual Easter.

Outside of our regular Chapter meetings, the auxiliaries of Mid West are engaged in social activities, too! To be specific, the Millstone Valley Auxiliary opened their doors and extended an invite to their Game Night Social & Lenten Dinner at the end of March. The Somerville Auxiliary has an event in the works and looks forward to welcoming others from Mid West to their social.

Our final chapter meeting will be held in June at the Union Knights of Columbus Hall. It is at this meeting that we will hold our formal election of officers for the upcoming 2023-24 Columbiette year.

Mid West Chapter is also very excited to attend the annual Columbiette Convention this June. It is always a wonderful event where we get to see how our small donation of a backpack, a toothbrush, a tab top or a dime come together into the magnificent donations for the ongoing Backpack Ministry, Toiletry Bag Ministry, Tab Tops for the Ronald McDonald House, and Pennies from Heaven for the seminarians.

The Mid West Chapter Officers would like to extend Warm Wishes & Joy to all our Sister NJ Columbiettes for this Spring and upcoming Summer!

Respectfully Submitted By,

Erica Ruffer

Mid West Chapter Vice President

South East

Prayers that our Sister Columbiettes had a Blessed Easter!

Our Committee Chairs this year are:

- Audit – Katie Elichko, Yvonne Burdynski, Nancy Fallon
- Dark Horse – Katie Elichko
- Historian – Melissa Leck
- Publicity – Lois Ann Smith
- Respect Life – Ginger Tornombe
- Ways and Means – Nancy Fallon

Our Annual Tricky Tray Meeting at Our Lady of Victories was a huge success. This year, again, each Auxiliary brought their food and beverage items and OLV provided the dessert and coffee.

Sunday, January 15th had us starting off the New Year with an Initiation Ceremony at Vincent T Lombardi in Atlantic Highlands with several Auxiliaries bringing candidates. Light refreshments were served afterwards.

Our Lady of Peace hosted our February 16th meeting. Once again at this meeting we voted for our Seminarian/Postulant and Charity Recipient. Jerome O'Campo will once again be our choice for this year's seminarian and Olivia Rae Vargas has been selected as our Charity Recipient at the 2024 NJSCC convention. Olivia was Father Carey's nomination.

An Initiation Ceremony is scheduled to be held at South Amboy Columbiettes on Tuesday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m.

On Thursday, April 20th at 7:30 p.m. St Bartholomew's Auxiliary in East Brunswick is hosting our Annual Baby Shower. Some of the items requested and collected were: diapers, wipes, bibs, blankets, onesies, baby clothes, and pacifiers,

ShopRite, Wal-Mart and Target Gift Cads. ALL items are appreciated! These items will be donated to Life Choices in Metuchen.

Also, at our April meeting our Chapter Nominating Committee will be activated for our Slate of Officers for the 2023-2024 year. Our Nominating Committee consists of Katie Elichko-Chair, Kathy Donahue, Diane Kulbacki, Kathy Jessen, Maureen O'Brien, and Linda Orosz.

Our May 18th meeting is being held at Vincent T Lombardi and besides the Slate of Officers being presented we will have our Annual Memorial Mass and May Crowning.

June 15th our Traveling Gavel will bring us to Father Carey Auxiliary for the election of officers and deciding whether we continue the traveling gavel and if voted scheduling where each meeting will be held.

Our Chapter is looking forward to our NJSCC Convention being held this year at the Embassy Suites from June 23-25th! This "Mardi Gras" event is sure to be filled with renewing friendships of Sisters from around the state and having fun! Our Convention Co-Chairs Kathy Jessen and Maureen O'Brien have been very busy making sure all have an informative and fun filled weekend! As you know South East is hosting.

August 25th – 27th will see many Chapter Sisters this year at the Supreme Council Columbiettes Convention being held at the Embassy Suites in Piscataway. Close to home!!! This gives our members the opportunity to participate since it is being held in New Jersey!

It is with a saddened heart that I report that we have lost two (2) of our cherished Sister Columbiettes recently. Meg Zadlock who was on our Ways and Means Committee and worked diligently on our Annual Tricky Tray for many years passed in December. She was also part of our Convention Committee when South East Chapter Hosted. And Helen Orosz who also was a jewel in our Chapter and you would see her not only at South East, but also at our NJSCC Convention, bringing her delicious baked goods and at our Chapter Meetings would share her beautiful roses from her expansive gorgeous rose garden. Both of our sisters will be missed.

South East Chapter

Lois Ann Smith, Publicity

A Prayer to Begin Summer

For more light in the day,

We thank you.

For gentle mornings,

We thank you.

For nighttime conversations,

We thank you.

For friends and families,

We thank you.

For gardens and all manners of creation,

We thank you.

Help us, Creator of our souls.

Help us love this earth.

Help us dwell wholeheartedly in our lives this day.

Help us pray as we walk, work, play, rest, and create.

Amen.

Western

Happy Spring from Western Chapter! We hope you had a Blessed Lenten season and a joyous Easter!

Western Chapter held its annual tricky tray at our December meeting which was hosted by the ladies of Bishop Navagh. The ladies provided a wonderful meal and dessert, including a beautiful cake to celebrate the Auxiliary's 55th anniversary. Congratulations to Bishop Navagh!

Our March meeting was held at the Sacred Heart Center in Newton and was hosted by Don Bosco. We had a very nice dinner before the meeting. The ladies had fun catching up with each other!



Our May Crowning will be held at St. Mark's on May 3rd and will be hosted by our Long Valley Auxiliary. This will be followed by our June meeting in Parsippany and NJ State Convention.

Western Chapter was instituted on June 30, 1958, plans to celebrate our 65th Anniversary are underway – we hope to have a special event!



We wish all our Sister Columbiettes a Very happy Mothers' Day and we look forward to seeing you at Mardi Gras!!

AUXILIARIES

Bishop Navagh

We continue to use Zoom, as well as, meet in person for our meetings. Some of our members have moved to different parts of New Jersey and others have moved to other states, North Carolina, Florida and Maryland. They wanted to remain a member of our Auxiliary and are very happy to join the meetings using Zoom.

We began the year initiating 4 new members at our January meeting. This was after we had initiated 7 new members at our November meeting. We are very happy that most of our new members have participated in many of our events.

We hosted a baby shower for Blanca, a Mom in need, in January. We had 25 members attend the baby shower and they were extremely generous in bringing gifts such as hats, diapers, books, a homemade knitted blanket, bath towels, pacifiers, a diaper bag backpack, baby bottles, pacifiers and more! The Auxiliary purchased a Pack-N-Play. Blanca was overwhelmed with emotion as she opened her gifts with the help of her son Jayden.

We hosted a Baked Potato Night fundraiser in January and were happily surprised at the turnout. We hadn't hosted one in several years. Our customers loved the food and socializing with their friends. We may make this an annual event!

Our Chaplain, Father Stephen Prisk, notified us that he needed to step down as Chaplain. His duties as Pastor of Holy Spirit Church, along with Holy Spirit School, and assisting Bishop Sweeney didn't allow him to fulfill his role as our Chaplain. So we asked the new Pastor of St Joseph's Church, Fr. Art Zaba, if he would serve as our Chaplain and he enthusiastically said YES! We installed him as our Chaplain at our February meeting.

March was a busy month for us. We hosted the Altar Server Appreciation Party to thank our Altar Servers for their service to our 3 churches. We invited our Altar Servers and their families. And served pizza and snacks and had ice cream for dessert. And we played Bible Jeopardy with the children. Everyone had a great time. Here is a picture with the Altar Servers, Fr. Art Zaba, Fr. Stephen Prisk, and Sr. Ellen Byrnes.



Our Take Out Fish Fry which was held on March 10th was very successful. Our members worked together and delivered 195 meals in less than 2 hours!

This year we attended the Grains of Hope event. We also gave a donation as we do every year. Half the production this year went to a food pantry in Milot, Haiti and the food was distributed to Haitians suffering from a chronic lack of food. The rest was distributed to needy residents of NJ. This year more than 1,000 people participated at the Pequannock Valley School and assembled 175,000 ready-to-cook packages meant to feed a family of four.

On March 18th, Fr Art Zaba (our new Chaplain) was installed as St Joseph's Pastor. He had asked for our help with serving the food at his Installation Reception. So, eight of us served the food to the more than 300 people who came to celebrate with Fr. Art.

We provided a ham and all the trimmings for Easter dinner to our Adopt-A- Family in early April. Our Adopt-A-Family consists of a young mother and her 2 young children. Our members donated canned goods, paper products and gift cards to the local supermarket.

We will be hosting our Spring Flower Sale in May. Our Chairwoman, Joan Deodato, was able to find a wonderful florist last year. The flowers were beautiful and we're looking forward to working with them again this year. Half the profit from the Flower Sale will be donated to our Adopt-A- Family and the rest will go into our General Funds Account for our other charities.

Our ShopRite Shake-a-Can fundraiser has been scheduled for the weekend of 6/2, 6/3, 6/4. We did very well last year and hope it's just as successful this year. We have several other events that are in the planning stages for the rest of the year: Memorial Day Parade and Picnic, Holy Spirit Scholarship Essay Contest, and a trip to the Blue Army Shrine in Washington, NJ.

Wishing all of our Sisters a Happy, Healthy Spring and Summer!

Marybeth Doyle
President Bishop Navagh

Don Bosco—Newton

The Don Bosco Columbiettes joined our brother Knights at a Mass for Deceased Members on Sunday, November 13, 2022 at Good Shepherd Parish in Andover. This event was followed by breakfast at a local diner.



We held a first-time Photoshoot with Santa & Mrs. Claus on Saturday, December 3rd in the Saint Joseph Community Center in Newton. It was a resounding success as expressed by many who came. Columbiette Connie Pyne and her husband Fred made many children smile with glee as Santa and Mrs. Claus. Several attendees indicated that they would return next year to create new Christmas card pictures. There were seven backdrops available which allowed anyone to take pictures with their own cameras for Christmas cards or family albums. For those without cameras, pictures were available at \$3.00 each. Each child received a small gift from Santa & Mrs. Claus. We only charged \$10/family for admittance which even allowed pets!

Each month our members voluntarily donate items for various causes according to a schedule set up prior to the start of our Columbiette year. Some of the items collected have been:

- December: Men's/Women's white socks for residents in local nursing homes;
- February: Children's character band-aids for children's ward in local hospital;

- March: ShopRite/Weis gift cards for Manna House;
- April: Non-perishable items for Queen of Peace Food Pantry;
- May will include baby items for Birth Haven.

Shown here is Columbiette Pat Keegan at the Homestead Nursing Home delivering some donated socks from our December meeting voluntary donation. She also took socks to



Valley View and Barn Hill nursing homes. Many residents will have warm and cozy feet for 2023. Columbiette Ginelle Veenhuizen is shown delivering boxes of character band-aids to a local hospital pediatrics department where she works. Our March meeting brought in \$340 worth of gift cards and cash for

Manna House which is an organization that feeds lunch five times a week to those in need. Shown is our Vice President Agnes Gerrety delivering the funds to a representative at Manna House.

Several of our Columbiettes attended the Winter Weekend Retreat at the Sacred Heart Spiritual Retreat Center on January 6-8, 2023 run by the Salesian Sisters. The theme was “Strength for the Journey.” There was also the option of a Saturday only attendance for reduced cost. This has become an annual event for many of our members. Mass, confession, seminars, and private counseling sessions were made available to those attending.

We hosted an Open House (meet & greet) on Sunday, February 19th after all the Masses at the Saint Joseph Church in Newton. We were able to successfully recruit a new member who was installed prior to our March 6th meeting.

Friday, March 31st saw many Columbiettes purchasing pizza at a local pizzeria. Villa Capri donated \$1.00 to our auxiliary for every pizza purchased on that day from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. which included take-out, eat-in or delivery pies. We made a total of \$275 for simply eating pizza! On April 22nd we will resurrect our annual Applebee’s Flapjack Breakfast Fundraiser after a 3-year hiatus due to the Covid virus. This is always a fun event with many Columbiettes volunteering to help raise money for our scholarships.

We will have a May Crowning at our May 1st Auxiliary meeting and on May 21st we will have a First Communicant crown the Mary statue in the rose garden behind Saint Joseph Church. This will be followed by a fellowship luncheon at a local restaurant. Religious pins were donated to all First Communicants and youths receiving their Confirmation this spring on behalf of the Columbiettes.

The Don Bosco Columbiettes will be 30 years young on June 25, 2023! We will be having a 30th Anniversary Celebration at the Farmstead Golf & Country Club in Lafayette on June 11th for all Columbiettes, families, and friends. More information will be posted on our website as plans are finalized. Everyone is invited to join in the festivities—even Columbiettes not members of the Don Bosco Auxiliary.

Please visit our website (www.donboscocolumbiettes.weebly.com) which has links for prayer requests, picture galleries, newsletters, recruitment materials and other pertinent information. We also sponsor the Squirettes of Mary, Circlette of Mary’s Angels which was established on March 13, 2013. Their website is www.squirettes-marysangels.weebly.com.

Our scholarship applications will be reviewed soon with four scholarships being awarded (two for local graduating high school seniors at \$250 and \$500 each and two for 8th grade students at \$75 each). These are based on community service and exemplary qualities of our patronesses.

We wish everyone a very Happy Mother's Day and wonderful summer. Hoping to see many of you at the State Convention in June.

Father Cannon

Greetings, Columbiette Sisters!

It has been a busy Spring for our Auxiliary! We co-sponsored a number of activities with our Brother Knights this season and Lent was a primary focus.

We began by organizing Holy Hours each Friday of Lent which provided opportunity for Reflection, Exposition of the Holy Eucharist, and Stations of the Cross, all led by our Chaplain, Father Robert D'Imperio. This event was also open to all parishioners and many participated.

We worked with the Knights as they conducted their Annual Lenten Takeout Fish Bake, which was another tremendous success this year.

Finally, we worked together to sponsor the Annual Palm Sunday Breakfast in which all proceeds are donated to support our Parish, St. Gabriel the Archangel, operations. This event not only provides financial support, but also serves to continue to build comradery and cooperation between and among the Columbiettes and the Knights, as well as a great way to build community in the Parish. We have included a few pictures from the event.



Best wishes to our Sisters across the State!

Immaculate Conception

It has become a tradition for our Auxiliary to sign and deliver Valentine's Day cards to local senior resident facilities. A few of our members are residents at these facilities and they receive a card and a loving visit. We hope these greetings bring a little love to our seniors.

With a commitment to our parish children and our faith and to recognize the importance of receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, again this year we presented each child with a cross imprinted with the Act of Contrition as a memento and a reminder to visit Jesus in Confession often. Our gift is accepted with a smile and a thank you from both the child and their parents. Pray for these little ones.

In February we observed the anniversary of our Auxiliary. This year we gathered together to celebrate at the parish Family Mass. This gave our members an opportunity to see the wonderful addition of this mass is to our parish. After mass we joined the families in the cafeteria for fellowship. We used this opportunity to hold a membership drive which brought some interest and a new member to our Auxiliary. It is always nice to gather together to pray, share some food, and have some laughs

Our annual St. Patrick's Day Carnation Sale has become one of our favorite fundraisers. We sell green carnations before and after all masses. This year our sale took place five days before St. Patrick's Day. With many thanks to our generous parishioners and to St. Patrick, our fundraiser was a success and we sold all our flowers.

Another long standing tradition of our Auxiliary is our Palm Sunday Easter Bunny visit to a local senior resident home. The Easter Bunny and her bunny ear wearing helpers brought Easter joy to the residents along with a cute little plush bunny. They have a chance to shake hands and take pictures with the Easter Bunny. We were happy to visit with one of our members who was very happy to see us again.

Due to the generosity of our members we were able to assemble 12 Easter Baskets. Each basket was filled with fun items along with a chocolate bunny, crayons, bubbles, a sicker activity book, candy, and chips. The baskets were delivered to Alice's CUP Food Pantry in Spotswood. It is our hope these baskets bring Easter happiness to the children of the families the pantry assists.

We are proud of the contribution the Columbiettes made in assisting our brother Knights at their Annual Fish Fries. This year seventeen members were able to assist at the in-person and take out dining. The diners are happy to enjoy many of their favorite Lenten meal with their families and friends. Our members keep the salad bar and dessert bar full, and take dinner orders as they greet the people at the door. It is a labor love and the six weeks go by quickly. It is also an opportunity to offer community service hours to student and Boy Scout volunteers.

As May approaches we have plans to Crown our Blessed Mother and say the rosary in the Columbian Club garden. We extend our best wishes and prayers to all for a Happy and Blessed Mother's Day.

As the end of the Columbiette year approaches we look forward to our Annual Convention. This convention will end the second year of our State President and our Auxiliary member, Nadine Lecorchick. We are proud of her and her State Board. Thank you for all your hard work. You are truly Women of God.

Immaculate Conception
Palm Sunday Easter Bunny Visit



Immaculate Conception
Easter Baskets



Immaculate Conception
St. Patrick's Day Carnation Sale



Long Valley

Happy Easter Season Sister Columbiettes!

Spring time is a lovely reminder of how things can start new. It can be a time to have a fresh start! We are reminded on how beautiful life is and how God can give us inspiration, whether you are looking for it or not!

From our last ECHO Submission, we were getting ready for the Christmas season. One of our big functions that we help our Brother Knights of Columbus with, is their annual Charity Auction in December. They go through our wonderful town of Long Valley and support local businesses! We helped them with what they need help with, such as selling admittance tickets and passing out and selling raffle tickets. It was a huge success as they made between \$20-\$25,000. We had made a donation to the Auction with the Theme of "All Around the World." It was a basket made with all different kinds of food and wine, and lots of items that were made and produced from different countries throughout the world! It sold for a lot and we were extremely happy to help out! A special thank you to our Vice President, Marge Sanders, for getting that together.

We also took Christmas photos again for our 3rd year in the row! We started this fundraiser for anyone who didn't want to travel to the mall or who couldn't afford professional photos for Christmas cards during Covid that was a huge success, so we knew we had to do it again! There were different style backdrops and props to help make photo sessions fun and appropriate for everyone! While the sessions were free, we did ask for any donations, and we were so blessed to have raised close to \$400.

Another Christmas celebration that we love to partake in is our Christmas Cookie Sale and our Christmas Tree Ornament sale. This year, we were able to make over \$1,000. Everyone was so happy and excited to see what goodies and treats we had. We had an assortment of cookies, breads, and peppermint bark sold while our Ornaments were a big hit with pictures of the Nativity, baby Jesus, and sayings of "Peace" and "Joy."

We just had our Palm Sunday Bake Sale. There were a mixture of cakes, cupcakes, and chocolate covered pretzels and other baked goodies. We made \$694, which was more than what we did last year! Here is a picture of Sisters Lucie Cohn, Grace Barbagallo, and Marge Sanders, who helped out and sold our goodies during some of the masses.



Something that was put on hold for a while, and we are thrilled to announce its comeback was our famous "Wonders of Chocolate" Tricky Tray. Our theme this year was 'Spring Fling.' It's a fun event that involves eating some chocolate while having a tricky tray. Baskets and items were donated from local businesses around the area and our fellow Sister

Columbiettes. A few examples of some baskets that were auctioned contained photo sessions, kitchen supplies, handmade wood craft items, store made chocolates and so much more. We were able to make over \$1200. We couldn't have done it without the help from our sisters who donated their time and baskets, but a special shoutout goes to our own Vice President, Sister Marge Sanders. A job well done for planning out everything! It was great to see even more of our Sister Columbiettes help out and come support this very special event!

One of our two main collections that we do during the year happened during two weekends in January. The Pajama Program collects new pajamas for kids (sized from newborn to teens) along with new books and are donated to children who are in need, because each kid deserves to have a good night sleep! We were so fortunate to collect just under 100 sets of pajamas and over 60 books. Special thank you to Sister Carol Guedez for collecting and delivering all of the items. Our second collection is happening right now. We are collecting Underwear and Feminine/Toiletries to benefit the Father English Center. After we have our collection, we will be sure to give you the total amount!



I'm truly amazed with the amount of work Long Valley has done and continues to do! Our meetings are slowly, but surely, gaining more people in attendance as well. We just had 2 New Sisters join, along with 1 sister who transferred from Delaware. I'd love to introduce you to our new Sisters Carol Novrit and Jacqueline Moffitt and newly transferred sister, Margaret Wallace. We were blessed already with the amount of work that they have already started with their baking talents and active duty in attending and helping out in meetings! We can't wait to see what the future will hold for them!



May God continue to bless you all and find success in all you do sisters!

With love,

Laura Bigos – President
Long Valley Columbiettes #10419

Millstone Valley

We were off to a great start in January helping our brother Knights of Columbus with a Pancake Breakfast on January 8th. On January 22nd our 19th Anniversary Mass was very moving and the catered luncheon in the Hospitality Room was truly a satisfying event enjoyed by all. Once again, we helped our fellow Knights with their pasta dinner, par cooking many pounds of pasta, serving and making up the take-out. During the month of February, we enjoyed a fun Tricky Tray with many great gifts and proceeds going to the Christina S. Walsh Breast Cancer Foundation. We also hosted the Midwest Chapter meeting February 23rd. March 24th, we had our always fun game night along with Sgt. Basilone and Somerville Auxiliaries. Soup and Salad from The Olive Garden as well as Song Puzzles and Riddles that we all had tremendous fun trying to solve in a timely way. On April 1st we had a benefit for all the children of the parish, Tea with Alice in Wonderland. We provided the entertainment and food, including sandwiches and snacks, drinks and more. We are diligently searching for our Student Good Citizen Nominee of the year and were excited to submit a Humanitarian nominee earlier this month. On April 19th we held another cash for gold event that is always successful.

We're anxiously awaiting the upcoming Convention and look forward to being with all of our Sister Columbiettes from all over NJ!

Our Lady of Peace—North Brunswick

Our Lady of Peace Columbiettes' Holiday Committee has the distinct pleasure of decorating the church at Christmas time. With donations given in memory of loved ones, they were able to blanket the church with beautiful red poinsettias. Due to the generosity of our parishioners, they were also able to buy a large nativity set for the outside entrance of the church. For our Holiday Committee, decorating the church has become a labor of love and one they look forward to each year.



Holiday Committee decorating the Church

During the 2022 Christmas Holiday season, Our Lady of Peace Columbiettes supported the Knights of Columbus in their campaign to 'Bring A Hero Home for the Holidays'. Our gift of \$664 went toward transportation costs of active-duty from one of the NJ military bases. It allowed them to visit their families at Christmas, something that would have not been

possible without the proceeds from the overall fundraiser. As Columbiettes we extended the solicitation of this cause to our Parishioners, who also contributed whole heartedly – we are proud of our military and it is an honor to support them in any way we can!

On Sunday, February 5, 2023, Showstoppers Plus, held their ninth Annual “Special Bowl” at Our Lady of Peace Parish Center. This event created by Laura Gibbons and her husband, Jay, to honor the Special Needs Community brings joy, fun, and hope to special needs individuals, their family, and friends. The Celebration includes music, games, interaction, performances, dancing, and donated food from local vendors/restaurants. The Columbiettes support this event by soliciting local vendors for donations, preparing and distributing marketing materials, assisting with setup and clean-up, and working the event. A joyful and rewarding time was had by all especially our Special Needs Friends!



2023 “Special Bowl” Volunteers and Attendees

In the first quarter of 2023 the Columbiettes Auxiliary, #11378 voted to have a fundraiser to benefit a local child with AVM (Arteriovenous Malformation). This condition consists of an abnormal tangle of blood vessels connecting arteries and veins, leading to low blood flow and oxygen circulation. The Columbiettes sold My Grandma Coffee Cakes to parishioners and the local community selling a total of 206 coffee cakes! Total proceeds of over \$1800 will be combined with other donations and presented to the family later on this spring.

Our annual Membership Drive was held on February 25th and 26th. Father Mike was the speaker for all ministries. We had 10 women who expressed interest and provided their contact information. We held our Meet and Greet Social on March 7th; (7) candidates attended and completed the application to join our Auxiliary. On April 10, 2023 at Our Lady of Peace Church we held our Initiation Ceremony where six (6) women were initiated into our Auxiliary. It was a beautiful ceremony with a beautiful cake to welcome our new members!



April Columbiette Initiation - 6 New Members

Our newest committee, “Just for Fun”, organizes and plans “fun” activities for our members who work so hard during the year to help others. We have enjoyed movies like Elvis Presley, 80 for Brady, dinners at local restaurants and have gone to see Broadway shows such as Mr. Saturday Night, MJ: the Musical and most recently A Beautiful Noise: The Neil Diamond Story. During the New York City trips, our members have traveled in a limo bus and a stretch SUV limo; we are forever spoiled!!! As the weather warms up, we plan to organize some outdoor trips so we can continue to enjoy each other’s company.



The Columbiettes on Broadway to see MJ the Musical

Our Lady of Perpetual Help—Jersey City



GREETINGS FROM OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP AUXILIARY JC

Easter Season is finally here what a blessed time of the year. Jesus Christ has Truly Risen. He brings new life, new hope, renewal and transformation. Nature responds with beauty, new growth with greenery, flowers abloom, birds singing.

Our Auxiliary underwent many challenges, but God is good, we are bearing fruit. We moved to another welcoming beautiful St. Anthony of Padua Church.

In January 14, 2023 we had an Initiation Ceremony for four very good Catholic, younger, energetic, and enthusiastic ladies eager to serve the Lord. They are wives of the Knights of Columbus from different Parishes. Earlier we had one Initiated in October and in November another transferee from New York, an honorary life member joined us. We have stability now, fully equipped to start another year.

Let me share an inspiring message from one of our new members:

“I was so moved from the start by the ministry and heart of the Columbiettes. Each of them care about all of us new members and welcomed us as sisters from the very start. I hope to grow in faith with my new sisters and to participate in the joy that is serving others.” - Meghan Nelson

We are also blest with the presence of the Knights of Columbus Assembly 642 who supply us with new members, supply sound system, help set up, even make coffee and clean up after our activities. They hold Round Table Meetings with K of C members from different Parishes where our OLPH K of C Council members attend.

Our Lady of Victory

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

In January, Our Lady of Victory started the year with our first fundraiser, our Bakeless Cake Sale which was very successful.

In February 1961, Our Lady of Victory Columbiettes was instituted. We celebrated our 62nd Anniversary at our February meeting with an array of appetizers and cake. We had a St. Valentine's Prayer Service at our meeting as well. We also wrote out get well cards and sent a gift to our Charity recipient who underwent surgery.

On Ash Wednesday, along with our Brother Knights, we started our Take-Out Only Fish Fry which ran through Good Friday. It was an extremely successful fundraiser that will help with our charitable endeavors.

At our March meeting, we celebrated St. Patrick's Day. We had a prayer service for St. Joseph, as well. We had a Spring and Easter Trivia Night with the members in attendance and the profit going to our charity.

In April, our Auxiliary participated in South East Chapter's Baby Shower. We donated items such as diapers, baby wipes, onesies, various blankets and other items. Also, in April, the nominating committee announced the slate of officers for the coming year. Additionally, we gave our charity recipient an Easter Basket and a generous monetary gift.

At our May meeting, the election of officers will take place, as well as our May Crowning and mass in our council's hall with our chaplain. After our meeting, we will work on our tab tops and ready our backpacks for distribution at Convention.

In June, Scholarships are awarded to two local schools. Also, at our June meeting, we will have a BBQ dinner and Tricky Tray for our members. June's Family and Friends Tricky Tray features prizes donated from our members that are gifts

that are only new items. The money raised is donated to a designated charity. Memorial Services were held at our meetings throughout this year for deceased members.

Finally, our Lady of Victory Columbiettes wishes our Sister Columbiettes a very Happy, Healthy, Safe and Fun Summer! God bless and be well.

Liza Palestrini
Vice President

Parsippany

Sister Columbiettes:

Welcome Springtime –

In January the Parsippany Columbiettes reached their 68th anniversary. To say we are proud is not enough. Proud and very, very blessed. We have worked hard through some quiet times, lost so many of our charter and wonderful members, but we endure.

We always look forward to our spiritual life, our fun times and of course most of all our charitable works. For the young - we are collecting items for Birth Haven based on their needs. For the older we continue to make lap blankets, as well as any requests we can meet.

Our seminarian from a few years ago, Fr. Nico gave Lenten talks that were attended by many of our members. We hope to have him even more involved with Parsippany Columbiette activities.

In February we had our annual “Give from the Heart” meeting. Each of our members can choose a charity and a donation will be made by Parsippany. Many of these charities are close to our hearts and it is a very, very rewarding evening.



We wish you all a happy springtime and summer as well. Looking forward to May and all the May crowning events ahead.

Sacred Heart

As always we are quite busy at Sacred Heart. We hosted another bingo night in January with proceeds going to the NICU Strong Hackensack Meridian Health Foundation. We also have another Bingo night on April 28th. In February, we hosted a Trivia night with proceeds going to Hope with Heart foundation. We continue to pray for the unborn with our spiritual baby who is now 8 months old. Please join us for a family night one Friday a month with special themes. We are also excited to announce we have been holding lots of inductions for new members. Can't wait to see you ladies at the Convention in June!



Santa Maria

“Baseball is like church, many attend, but few understand.”

PICTURES FROM OUR ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT, DECEMBER 2022:



OUR FAREWELL TO SENTINEL STEPHANIE AARON WHO IS BEING DEPLOYED IN APRIL 2023:



Our ladies have been busy this part of the year:

- November 2022. Wreaths of Love, Danielle Brenner and Sacred Heart school students made wreaths for parishioners to place on service personnel graves at cemetery in Mount Holly, NJ.
- November 2022. Santa Maria Columbiettes donated thermometers, ice packs, toaster oven to Sacred Heart School teachers, and donated \$250 to cover lunch monies for needy students.
- December 11, 2022. Christmas Party with Knights of Columbus, Femmina Grill, Medford, NJ.
- December 13, 2022. Advent by Candlelight, Anne DeFeo and Helen Judge organized. Speaker and fellowship with time for ladies to pray and share during the pre-holiday season.
- January 13, 2023. Patty Borm Retreat at Saint Francis retreat house, Allentown, NJ.
- January 2023. Patty and Ed Borm donated and placed lending book box near Sacred Heart School for children.



- February 2023. Began to collect plastic for Girl Scouts to obtain a Buddy Bench, part of the Trex Challenge.
- March 10 and March 24, 2023. Bento box sales (Lenten feasts) along with Knights of Columbus.
- March 11, 2023. Bid farewell to our Sentinel, Lt. Col. Stephanie Aaron who is being deployed.
- March 15, 2023 Santa Maria Columbiettes donated \$200 to Sacred Heart Church for Easter Flowers.

Enjoy the Spring and Summer!

Joanne Daywalt, Secretary

Sgt. John F. Basilone

3 of our members helped at our annual KOC breakfast with Santa in December. We also supplied Christmas dinner for our adopted family.



In January we installed 3 new members! This was special for us since we have not had a new member since 2018. This is also more than 10% of our membership!

Our February meeting was via zoom since our president was sunning in Florida for the month! This was mainly a planning meeting for us.

March was a busy month. We put together Easter Baskets for 5 children in need from one of our local schools. We also put together a special basket for the child of our adopted family.



In April we supplied Easter dinner for our adopted family.

We selected our charity for Midwest Chapter. We are going to support Andrew Garofolo. Andrew has had surgeries since he was 3 months old. He has had several surgeries even through 2014. Andrew has always been in a wheelchair. In 2021 he developed hammered feet and hands and began having breathing problems. Andrew has been diagnosed with Lupus, Leukemia, and Vasulitis.

We appreciate all donations from our Chapter.

On May 20 we will be bagging lunches for the Somerset County food bank. The food bank donates upwards of 800 bagged lunches for children in the county. We invite anyone from our Chapter who would like to participate to meet in the church basement on May 20 at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted by

Karen Soriano

St. Ann's

Happy Spring!

"2022" ended with our Council's annual Children's Christmas Party along with 97 toys donated to the Operation Toys for Tots Train. We also hosted a baby shower for New Hope Pregnancy Resource Center.

We started the "2023" New Year by celebrating our 3-year Anniversary (January 5th) at our January meeting with a mass and small celebration afterwards.

In February we initiated 4 new members followed by refreshments.

Our March meeting began with our Chaplain, Fr. Sam Monaco performing our Lenten Mass.

We have been busy preparing for our Pocketbook Bingo Fundraiser which is being held on April 21st. In May, we will be preparing for Executive Board elections and getting ready for NJ State Convention in June!



St. Ann's #2853



3 Year Anniversary



St. Anthony's

We were busy once again this year selling our Palm Crosses. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to meet with the parishioners of our parish while selling the Palm Crosses after each of the masses both in February and March. Our goal was 200 crosses, and we are happy to report we sold well over that! Great teamwork by all who were involved.

During this time, we have been holding our Spring 10-week club raffle. It is always fun to wait for that winning phone call. Even though some of us are still waiting 😊

St. Anthony's is looking forward to our 65th Anniversary. We were instituted on July 15, 1958 and can't wait to celebrate our Sapphire Anniversary with a cocktail party on June 20th.

Wishing you all a very Happy Mother's Day! Looking forward to seeing our Sister Columbiettes at the convention in June.

Be well and stay safe. Many prayers coming to all who read this and your loved ones.

St. Bartholomew

Our Auxiliary collected and filled 250 mugs with hot cocoa mix, oatmeal, and candy. These mugs were delivered on February 17th to the Hands of Hope Food Pantry in Edison and were distributed to their patrons on the 18th with a St. Valentines theme. Hands of Hope sent us a lovely thank you note stating how much everyone enjoyed their mugs that weekend. We look forward to keep filling these mugs every year.



To celebrate Easter our members filled around 50 Easter Baskets with chocolate bunnies, candies, coloring books, toothbrushes and toys. We also had some special baskets made for some newborn babies. These baskets were delivered to kids and families at Naomi's Way and Laurie Haven Shelters.



We are happy to announce that we have welcomed 12 new members this Columbiette year in 3 different initiation ceremonies. We hope to keep growing and helping our community.



St. Bernadette

We held a successful Bake Sale in December. Leftover cakes were donated to our Parish Bingo for them to sell. All proceeds were donated to St. Bernadette Church.

Student Good Citizen Award applications were sent to South Amboy High School, Sayreville War Memorial High School, Old Bridge High School and St. Thomas Aquinas High School. Our committee will select a candidate for submission to NJ State Council Columbiettes.

We held our Shake-the-Can for Vocations drive after all Masses the weekend of March 11 and 12. Over \$500.00 was collected!

In April, we donated food and gift cards to our Social Concerns Ministry for Easter distribution. We also collected baby items for our South East Chapter Baby Shower from our parish community, they are always so generous!

We are ready to host our Tea Party once again on April 30!

Sending our best wishes to our Sister Columbiettes across the state. Stay safe, happy and healthy. You are all in our prayers. We will see you at our Annual Convention.



At our November Chapter Meeting.



From our Bake Sale.

Kathy Jessen, President

St. David the King

The President of St. David the King Auxiliary in Princeton Junction, Andrea Meyers, (on the right) pictured with their church pastor, Fr. Timothy Capewell, presented a \$500.00 Scholarship check at their March meeting. The recipient, Luisa Bolanos, is a junior at Trenton Catholic Preparatory Academy. Luisa is a member of the National Honor Society and completes many hours of community service as a school ambassador. She is planning to attend college and is interested in criminology and medicine. The Auxiliary was enthusiastic with a little party for her and her mother and sister, and wish the best to Luisa in all her future endeavors.

Debra Camilleri

May God Bless and watch over you....



ST DAVID THE KING SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

St. Francis

The Auxiliary ran a flower/bake sale the weekend of March 25/26 at St. Clare of Assisi Church at both the Gibbstown and Swedesboro campuses. Members met early on Saturday morning at St. Joseph's Church Hall to wrap Easter flowers with colorful paper and to bring in their homemade baked goods. The Easter flowers and baked goods were divided equally and delivered to both Churches to be sold at all Saturday and Sunday masses. Our total net profit was \$1,130.

Gail Marie Persia, President
St. Francis Auxiliary

St. John's

St. John's Council will welcome the season of spring with our first ever SPRINGO-BINGO Event!

We are looking forward to getting together with all of our Sister Columbiettes for a night of fun, cash prizes and of course a mini-tricky tray.

The year always seems to go by "way too fast" and we are looking forward to our annual convention in June.

On behalf of myself and all of St John's Council we wish everyone a blessed Easter, may it bring you renewed hope, faith, love, and joy!

Peace,

Roberta Elwell

Past President

St John's Council 1345 Dumont-Bergenfield



St John's Council Columbiettes celebrating Irish Night with Grand Knight Gerry Flood and Fr. Stephen Carey.

St. Maximilian Kolbe

The new year has started with the St. Maximilian Kolbe Auxiliary installing eight new members in January. The new members have been very anxious to be involved in Auxiliary projects and events. It is anticipated that three more new members will be installed this Spring. In addition we have welcomed two transfers from other Auxiliaries. We look forward to the input of new ideas from our new members.

During this Lenten season we are actively involved with assisting our Brother Knights in serving Lenten lunches each Friday during lent.

Our Auxiliary reached out to members of the Legion of Mary and the Rosary Altar Society to work on joint projects. A very successful bake sale enabled us to make substantial donations to St. Maximilian Kolbe Church and the American Heart Association. We have also joined in the monthly recitation of the rosary to honor our Blessed Mother.

On a sad note, we lost two members of our Auxiliary since Christmas. One of our deceased sisters, one of the founding members, was 100 years old. God Bless Josephine and Angela!

We wish all our sister Columbiettes and their families all the blessings of the Easter season.

The Presence Of Our Patronesses (the experience of a St. Maximilian Kolbe Columbiette)

Do we really listen, observe and appreciate the wonders that surround us?

Who would think that the presence of our three patronesses would appear in the local restaurant?

All this did occur during a recent visit with friends for lunch at a local Asian restaurant. The elderly woman who stopped in her tracks to salute a group of military personnel exiting the restaurant; the new mother lovingly feeding her infant son; the middle aged woman tenderly attending to her aged parent; and the most profound occurrence of the presence of the Blessed Mother.

During the casual lunch the conversation eventually turned to discussing some of our religious beliefs. Being that the group was composed of individuals from different churches and backgrounds it was interesting to hear from others. The most surprising share came from the “Chatty Cathy” in the group who related her experiences with and through her devotion to the Blessed Mother. Wow! How inspiring! The emotion in her voice was so genuine. It truly felt like Mary was there at the table with us. This became even more inspiring when one of the other women, who attends another Christian church spoke of her devotion to the Blessed Mother.

Let us continue to honor the Blessed Mother, St. Teresa the Little Flower, and St. Joan of Arc. They are indeed inspiring!

St. Philip the Apostle

Easter and Spring greetings to all! A Blessed Easter to all in their native language. Christ is Risen! (Polish) Chrystus zmartwychstal! (French) Joyeuses Pague (Italian) Cristo e risorto! (Spanish) Cristo ha resucitado!! (Greek) Khristos Anesti! (Syrian) Mshiho Qom! (Czechoslovakian) Vesele Velkznoce (Ukrainian) Khrystos Voskres! (Filipino) Maligayang Pasko!

St. Philip has been keeping busy. On March 10, we celebrated our 13th anniversary with a cake donated by the officers at our March meeting.

Every second Wednesday of the month after the 9 am mass our food collection committee led by Jackie Wozniak collects food and delivers them to St. Michael the Archangel Food Pantry in Passaic.

During the Month of May, we will be sponsoring a Day of Reflection, Drive by Baby Shower and working on our Mary Ellen Valentin International Luncheon to be held June 4 with food served of our different nationalities. We have members that are Irish, Italian, Polish, Czechoslovakian, French, Ukrainian and Filipino to name a few.

We are collecting our school supplies and tab tops to be taken for the convention. Looking forward to closing out our year on a high note. See you in June.

Vincent T. Lombardi

Not a month goes by that the members of the VTL Columbiettes are not active in some way.

In November we attended the Chapter meeting and Tricky Tray, always a fun time. We also provided Thanksgiving Dinner for the St. Mary's Life Teen Group. December brought the VTL Knights Annual Christmas Dinner, a night for good food and good company.

Even though we don't meet in January, we still helped the Donnelly Knights at their Italian Night/Gift Auction. We provided and organized the Gift Auction and kept all proceeds from that, and the Knights were gracious enough to give us a portion of the profits from ticket sales.

In March we will again help the Donnelly Knights by decorating for their monthly Pancake Breakfast (St. Patrick's theme, of course!). April we'll spend a weekend doing Hospitality after Masses at St. Mary's, then in May we host the Chapter Meeting and May Crowning.

Mary Vernarelli
Vice President VTL Columbiettes

A Note From The Editor

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

Thank you to everyone who submitted articles for this publication. The ECHO is posted as a .PDF file on the ECHO tab on the state website at: www.njcolumbiettes.com. Please share this availability with your members.

For the next submission due on November 15, 2023, articles can be e-mailed to echonewsletter@hotmail.com Microsoft Word files are the easiest to manipulate when inserting into the publication. Text files and .JPG files are also acceptable. Please do not submit PDF files as these cannot be easily used and any photos included cannot be extracted to include in them in the ECHO.

Thank you. Have a wonderful, adventure filled, but safe summer. I look forward to seeing everyone at Convention in June.

Lucie Cohn

Our Patronesses

By Margaret Porter, CT PSP

**My Lifetime is a journey which I do not walk alone,
I walk with three who guide me on my way;
I feel their presence with me when I'm facing the unknown,
They give me strength to face my fears each day.
Our lady walks before me, clearing peril from my path,
St. Theresa holds my hand and comforts me;
With Joan of Arc behind me shielding me from unseen wrath,
I feel the Peace of God among these three.
They walk with me through crisis, freeing me from untold strife,
I feel their love and I am born anew;
Don't hesitate to call on them for guidance in your life
Just feel their presence...they are there with you.**

