

New Jersey State Council Columbiettes



Women of God



Spring 2022

ECHO

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STATE OFFICERS

President, Nadine Lecorchick

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and looking forward to much warmer weather. Easter is behind us and we are all witnesses to the word of God that His son, Jesus Christ will rise on the third day.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son".

Remember Jesus took the human form and felt all the things we feel so He would know how hard it is for us. He had to live so He could die for us.

"Lord, death could not hold You. And because of You, the resurrection, we, too, can live. Thank You that the grave is only a journey into the presence of God. You have removed the sting of death and empowered this thing called life. Now I will live in Your presence forever. Amen" -----Rebecca Barlow Jordan.

As we are coming to a close of our Columbiette year, I hope you are all looking forward to Convention. This is a wonderful time for all of us to get together and celebrate all the good works you have done throughout the year. I am looking forward to seeing you all and celebrating YOU!!!

As a closing, I would like to thank you for all of the beautiful flowers, cards and most especially, prayers that you have sent to me and my family for the loss of my husband, Bill. Your kindness will remain in my heart forever.

May God Bless you all,

Nadine Lecorchick
NJ Columbiettes State President

SOS Hail Mary Campaign

LET THE PEACE
OF

Colossians 3:15
RULE IN YOUR
HEARTS

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Hail Mary Campaign for the United States of America! This campaign will end on May 31, 2022 and it is anticipated that more than two million Hail Marys will have been prayed by that time. All prayers sent after that date will be counted toward our new one-year goal which will be designated for the Peace of Christ—that peace which only the Lord can give! This theme covers a broad spectrum of petitions such as peace in the world, serenity for yourself or others, forgiveness of transgressions, etc. Your interpretation will be part of your intentions. It is now more important than ever to beseech our

Blessed Mother's intercession with Jesus her son through the powerful prayers of the Rosary. Please support this endeavor to collectively say more than **ONE MILLION HAIL MARYS** by praying and reporting the amount of Hail Marys you have recited. This campaign will run from June 1, 2022 until May 31, 2023. A dedicated e-mail address has been set up at: **hailmarysforthePOC@gmail.com** to receive tallies from anyone at anytime. Please ask family members, friends, neighbors, church groups, etc. to pray Hail Marys to help in obtaining this goal. Thank you for your assistance. The cumulative tally of all Hail Marys prayed will be updated as responses are received at: **www.donboscocolumbiettes.weebly.com**.

Prestigious Past State Presidents, Sandra Bohinski

To All:

Happy Spring! Happy Best of Everything!

We wish you joy; we wish you love

We wish you sunshine from above.

Sandy, Barbara Ann, Anna, Anne,

Susan, Lorraine, Lisa, Victoria

Vice President, Frances Corcione

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

It has been a privilege to be the New Jersey State Vice President. I hope that each of your Auxiliaries had a rewarding year. I am only a phone call away if you need me.

I wish you all a very Safe and Happy Spring.

See you at convention.

May the Women of God watch over you.

Sincerely,

Frances Corcione

Secretary, Kathleen Donahue

Spring is here! The drab winterscape is turning green. The flowers are blooming. Just as the physical world around us renews itself, so should we have used Easter as a time for us to spiritually renew our faith in God.

Mary, our Blessed Mother, is the best example of what we should strive to be as Sister Columbiettes. Mary was kind, loving and faithful. We too should strive to do our best to help our families, neighbors and strangers in need of our help. I hope all the mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers enjoyed the day set aside in your honor.

Please remember to bring your delegate/alternate credential forms with you to the State convention. Also, the Auxiliary and Chapter Presidents need to return the list of your officers and delegates along with your directory information by the convention.

I look forward to seeing all of you then!

Kathy Donahue
NJ State Secretary

Financial Secretary, Donna Lewandowski

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

I hope you all had a blessed Easter and are now preparing for the annual convention.

We as Columbiettes have much to celebrate and I for one am looking forward to seeing everyone again!

I would like to thank everyone for their very prompt payments of their per capita taxes. What a wonderful group to belong to, the love and support of everyone is amazing.

All stay healthy until we meet again and enjoy some spring weather!

God Bless,
Donna Lewandowski
NJ State Financial Secretary

Treasurer, Catherine Nicholson

Spring is finally here and beautiful days are ahead. 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.

*May the sun shine bright on your joyous days,
And the rain refresh you through peaceful nights;
May summer show you God's wondrous ways,
And prepare you for heaven's great delights.*

Happy Mother's Day to all

A Mother is one who can take the place of all others but whose place no one else can take

Looking forward to seeing everyone in June at our annual full weekend convention.

Cathe Nicholson
NJ State Treasurer



Supreme Directors, Carol Bohinski and Mary Ann Sweet



Best wishes to you and your loved ones!
May your summer be filled with love, blessings,
and sunshine!

Supreme Directors,
Carol Bohinski
Mary Ann Sweet
(The Jersey Girls)

STATE COMMITTEES

Convention 2022, Nicole Markus

Time is going quickly, and Convention weekend will soon be here.

The Committee is busy preparing for you to have a fun weekend as well as an informative one. Don't forget to pack your ugly sweater and Christmas pajamas. We also have fun games planned for the weekend.

Don't forget to gather your ads and Snow People and Elves. Be sure to ask your Knights to take out an ad as well as any business you may patronize. Carol Bohinski is waiting to hear from you.

If you do not have time to shop, send a check to Diane Hurley and she will do the shopping for you. You can also buy your raffle tickets ahead of time. Ask your members if they would like to buy some tickets. Remember, you have to be in it to win it.

Joanne Rizzo and Ann Fletcher are busy preparing their shopping list, so they don't forget anything for the hospitality room.

Mary Kate Walsh can't wait to greet you at the registration desk.

Eileen and I are making our list and checking it twice when we receive your registration form. If you have any questions, you can call me at 732-675-4254 or e-mail me at nicole.markus@gmail.com.



The **NJSCC 66th Annual Convention** will soon be here! Sending a friendly reminder that submissions to the **Convention Journal** for ads and boosters are due by May 15th.

The Journal is a perfect way to congratulate our State President and Officers for their successful leadership this year and to tout your Auxiliary.

Please send appropriately sized ads formatted in Word or PDF. A full-page size is 5.83" X 8.27" and a half page size is 5.83" X 4". Please understand submissions not sized appropriately must be resized and, in many cases, this creates distortions. Some distortions can be corrected; but, not all. The ad may be changed from the original submission. We cannot be responsible for these ad changes.

Boosters are for Snow People (adults) at \$1.00 each and for Elves (children) at \$0.50 each.

Please contact me via the below e-mail address if you have concerns or need assistance.

Thank you, as always, for your support and cooperation,

Carol Bohinski, Chair – Convention Journal
NJSCC Convention Committee
cabohinski@verizon.net

Expansion/Recruitment/Retention, Sandra Bohinski

Retention and Recruitment

Just as we need R & R in our private lives; it is just as important in our Columbiette life. We need to work hard to keep our members - show them that we care and are concerned about them. If they miss a meeting, call them to see if all is alright with them. We need new members to bring new ideas, new life to our Auxiliary. There s a song that has this line - Make new friends but keep the old, one is silver and the other gold. This is how we should feel about our members.

Sandy Bohinski, Chair, Nadine Lecorchick, Cathe Nicholson, Lisa Roberts

Historian, Nicole Markus

Please submit any photos you may have for the Historian to the webmaster, Nicole Markus at Nicole.markus92@gmail.com.

Humanitarian Award, Lisa Roberts

There are so many people that do such good and selfless deeds for those around them. The Humanitarian Award is a way to say thank you and to recognize one of those wonderful people. We hope that every Auxiliary takes the time to nominate someone for the Humanitarian Award this year. Nominations are due on May 15. Please send your nominations to Lisa Roberts at PO Box 4325, Wayne NJ 07474-5325.

Jewelry, Kathleen Donahue

The Columbiette jewelry will be brought to the New Jersey State convention on June 24-26 taking place at the Embassy Suites in Piscataway.

I am happy to announce that we will have a few new items available for sale. Stop by the table and take a look.

Kathy Donahue
Jewelry Chairperson.

Memorial Cards, Greeting Card & Business Card, Kathy Jessen

Thank you to everyone who has requested cards and business card enclosures. Almost 300 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, and 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

State Directory

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

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



New Jersey State Council Columbiettes

Garden Flag

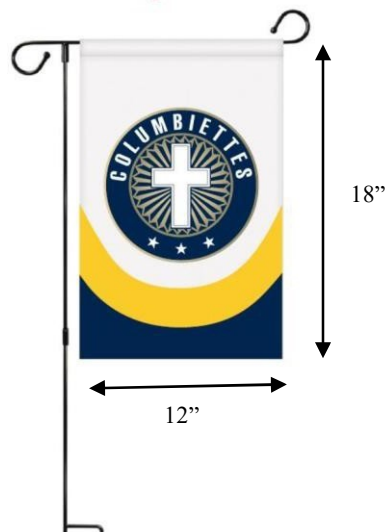
Order form	
Cost per Garden Remembrance Flags (price of flag only)	\$15.00
Number of Garden Remembrance Flags	
Total amount enclosed	

(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



Student Good Citizen Award, Barbara Ann Lucarelli

We urge all Auxiliaries to make every attempt to participate in this program. The deadline for sending your auxiliary's choice has been extended to **May 15th**.

The Past State Presidents look forward to receiving your selections, so we can select a winner.

Thank you to all the auxiliaries who will participate in this program.

Best regards,

Barbara Ann Lucarelli, Past State President

Tab Tops, Sandra Bohinski

Keep saving those tab tops. This is the easiest and most inexpensive way to do something for charity.

Throughout the years we have donated several million-tab tops to benefit the Ronald McDonald House.

At the request of the staff at the House, please bring in your tab tops in the heavy plastic bags given to you at the Seminar.

Sandy Bohinski, Chair

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

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

Weekend Retreat, Barbara Ann Lucarelli

San Alfonso Retreat House - "Where God and Sea Meet"

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of my sister Columbiettes a Happy Easter Season. I have missed seeing and communicating with all of you.

This year, we have 20 ladies attending the weekend retreat. Thank you to those who were able to attend. We are hoping that next year we will be back to normal.

I want to extend anniversary congratulations to Carol Bohinski for Ten years and Lisa Roberts for Twenty-Five years attendance at San Alfonso and welcome seven new retreatants.

Next year's retreat is scheduled for April 28 – 30, 2023.

CHAPTERS

Central

Happy Spring, Happy Mother's Day, Happy Summer !

At the start of 2022, Columbiette meetings & events were still being held remotely. Central Chapter Auxiliaries continued to keep busy with creative & resourceful ways to help our communities and raise money for our selected Charities. Successful "Stop & Drop" programs/events were continued by Auxiliaries throughout the Chapter.

February 2022, saw pandemic restrictions easing and we were realizing a "New Normal". Central Chapter Auxiliaries were now able to employ hybrid "ZOOMING" and hold "Google Meet" gatherings.

Although we just came through a challenging period of time, Central Chapter continued to grow. We welcomed 2 new Auxiliaries, Star of the Sea in Bayonne, & Sacred Heart in Rochelle Park.

Since February, Sacred Heart & St. John's held several initiation ceremonies welcoming 16 new sisters from various auxiliaries. On the calendar are 2 more ceremonies slated for April at St. John's & May at Sacred Heart. It is wonderful to see our Auxiliaries are working together, including candidates from all of Central Chapter Auxiliaries.



Even though last year was very stressful, our Auxiliaries did a wonderful job in hosting successful fundraising events & activities such as Bingo, Trivia Night, Spud-tacular event, and continuing with Hope Scarf's collection for cancer patients, while helping our Brother Knights with their activities, Communion breakfasts & memorial services.

Going forward, we are celebrating several milestone Anniversaries, which had to be postponed due to the Pandemic. St. Ann's is holding their 2nd (aka their 1st) Anniversary dinner on June 1st, and St. John's is holding their 17th (aka their 15th) Anniversary dinner on June 5th. Congratulations ladies!

All are welcome to join Central Chapter's July 9th bus trip to Sights & Sounds in PA to see the story of "DAVID". If you have been there before, you know amazing these productions are. This is the first year DAVID is being offered and we

are lucky to have arranged for great group seats. This trip is open to all & tickets are limited. Just let Chapter President Joan Winant know if you would like to join us.

See you all at Convention!

Joan

Joan M. Winant
President, Central Chapter

Mid West

Mid-West Chapter started our year with our first meeting in September at St Mary's of Alpha. We had a mini tricky tray as our fund raiser. We donated money to Feeding Hands to help the victims of Hurricane Ida.

Our next meeting in November was hosted by Somerville. We were able to donate money from each auxiliary to the food banks in our area. We discussed again our candidate for our charity which will be Christina S. Walsh Breast Cancer Foundation. We chose our Seminarian Jacob Miller who is the son of one of our sister Columbiettes of Somerville.

At our February meeting hosted by Millstone Valley we donated baby items of clothes, food and diapers to the St Joseph Neighborhood Center in Camden, NJ. We voted on the changes to our by-laws. We collected money for our 10 week club which is a fund raiser for our Chapter.

In April we went to Sgt. John F. Basilone auxiliary at St Ann's Church in Raritan, NJ where we discussed our slate of officers which will change for next year. We donated money toward humanitarian relief in the Ukraine. It would go to a local Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Somerset, NJ.

Our June meeting will be held in Springfield at Msgr Francis X Coyle auxiliary and we will be voting for our new officers and discuss our donations for Convention. We also collected food and monetary donations for the animal shelters in the area.

We were happy to hear that the Convention will be held again at the Embassy Suites in Piscataway. We will once again make our donations of backpacks, toiletry bags and tab tops to be distributed to the 5 dioceses of New Jersey.

On behalf of Mid West Chapter, I wish to extend congratulations to our board of State Officers and wish them a blessed and successful 66th Convention. May our Women of God be with them and guide them for another year.

Beverly Redondo
Mid- West Chapter President

South East

Our Chapter prays all of our Sister Columbiettes had a healthy and spiritual Easter!

Our November meeting brought the most Sister Columbiettes together since the beginning of the pandemic. Our Annual Tricky Tray, and only fund raiser, was held and everyone went home happy...not just if they won...but because they were actually in person after all these months of COVID-19!

Each auxiliary donated two (2) items – a \$25.00 basket or gift item to be raffled off and a gift card valued at \$25.00. A Money Christmas Tree and Santa and Sleigh were our special ticket items. Of course, there was a 50/50!

This year auxiliaries brought their own dinner items to be shared at their table and Our Lady of Victories Auxiliary supplied the cake and coffee. Some tables brought way too much food!!! Tis the season!

On Wednesday, February 16th we gathered at the East Brunswick VFW as St Bartholomew's hosted this Chapter Meeting and had Tommy, a member of our Chapter Recipient Unbroken Warriors, speak to us about this very important undertaking!

Diane Kulbacki, President, presented everyone with a very special prayer card that she and Peter purchased when they visited Jerusalem. The cross on the card is made from olive wood from Gethsemane and the flowers from the Holy Land. Something we will all cherish.

Voting commenced on our seminarian for next year and it was unanimous to continue sponsoring Diane Kulbacki's nomination from St Bartholomew's Auxiliary Jerome O'Campo. Jerome was born in the Philippines and has great devotion to St Ruth and St Rita. Jerome is humble and has known his calling to be a priest since the second grade!

Our Charity was voted on as well that evening. Our charity for the 2023 year was nominated by Liza Palestrini of Our Lady of Victory. Andrea Kobesto Fuchs. Andrea has coronary artery disease as well as stents. She was terminated and has lost her benefits.

She is presently dealing with a brain aneurysm which has led to coils in her head and brain. Blockages are causing the need for angioplasties.

President Linda Orosz reported that since the dissolving of Don Bosco Auxiliary that Father Bill Smith is their new Chaplain.

After a full evening of all of our Auxiliary Reports we went home feeling very good about all of the ministries and good works done by all of our Sister Columbiettes.

Of course, there was coffee, cake and other goodies as well!

The very next day brought us to honor our former Chapter President Kathy Distefano at a wake service in her honor at Chubenko's Funeral Home. Father Bill Smith, our Chaplain, led us in this solemn service.

A special loss was experienced at the passing of our State President, Nadine Lecorchick's husband, Bill. A tribute, indeed, to the both of them was in the condolences shown by so many at the Spotswood Funeral Home that there was standing room only and continued the following day at Immaculate Conception Church at his beautiful funeral mass. The homily was true to his legacy, love for his family, his faith and preparedness to be with Our Lord. Father Bill Smith, Chaplain, concelebrated this mass. Again, the love and support for Nadine was obvious in the fullness of the church.

Our next Chapter Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 21st at Father Carey Auxiliary in Carteret!. Our Right to Life Baby Shower will be held at this meeting and new and gently used items will be donated to this year's recipient, St Joseph's Parish Life Care Center in Carteret. This is held in the second floor of their convent. A list of items needed was provided.

The Nominating Committee will be activated in May for next year's slate of officers under the Nominating Committee Chair, Kathy Donahue.

Our June meeting will be held on Thursday, June 16th, 2022 at South Amboy Auxiliary when elections will be held for the 2022-2023 Columbian Year.

We are looking forward our Women of God 66th New Jersey State Council Columbiette Convention this year! A Christmas Pajama Party and Ugly Sweater Contest...who could ask for anything more?

We are especially looking forward to getting together with our state-wide Sister Columbiettes for some much needed visiting and catching up. Our Chapter Hospitality Room is always fun and enjoyable as we break bread together and laugh and laugh and laugh!

From our Chapter to yours prayers for a safe and as normal as is possible summer to ALL of my Sister Columbiettes. God's Blessings, always.



Initiation Ceremony at St Bartholomew's.

Lois Ann Smith, Publicity

South West

The South West Chapter continues to show their determination and perseverance as they promote their worthy causes. At our November meeting, the auxiliaries were very enthusiastic when speaking about all the wonderful events and fundraisers they have planned. They continue to make a difference by responding to the needs of their parishes and communities. Our members have told us about Pie Sales, Grandma's Coffee Cakes Sales, Plant Sales, Craft Fairs, a Christmas Wrapping Fundraiser Event, a Calendar Raffle, Deceased Members Mass and Columbiettes Christmas Gatherings.

We collected 142.69 pounds of food to be donated to a local food pantry. We all had a lot of fun playing the Turkey Trot game with six of our Sister Columbiettes volunteering as our turkeys.



Our February Meeting was held on Zoom. We purchased baldrics to be used by the auxiliaries when holding the Initiation Ceremony and we look forward to welcoming new members. We heard about more events that our auxiliaries are planning. They include Bake Sales, Crab Cakes Sale, Bakeless Cake Sale, Food Drives, Craft Project and St. Patrick's Day activities with parish children, Easter Flower Sale, Tea Party, Corporate Communion Breakfast with the Knights and assisting the Knights with Fish Fries.

The South West Chapter Charity is the Hugs for Brady Foundation. This foundation is dedicated to helping children with pediatric cancer. They pledge that every dollar donated will be spent in the pursuit to help find a cure for pediatric cancer.

We are so pleased to have Jonas Jara-Diaz as our Vocational Recipient. Our prayers are with him as he continues on his journey to answer the Lord's call to the priesthood.

At our April Meeting, we will hear from our Nominating Committee with the slate of officers proposed for the next Columbiette year. We will vote at our June Meeting. We will also catch-up on information for the Convention and for the rest of the Columbiettes year.

Thank you very much to Nadine Lecorchick, our State President, and the State Officers for their encouragement and leadership this year. Their faithful guidance is very much appreciated.

It has been a great honor to be the Chapter President for these last two years and I would like to extend a very big thank you to the Chapter Officers for their continued dedication and support. Another very big thank you to the Auxiliary Presidents and all the Sister Columbiettes of South West Chapter for their loyalty and assistance in making these years so successful and unforgettable.

We wish you a Happy and Blessed Mother's Day in prayerful remembrance of all mothers especially Mary, our Blessed Mother.

We are looking forward to joining our Sister Columbiettes at the State Convention in June.

South West Chapter wishes all our Sister Columbiettes a peaceful and relaxing summer and may our patron saints, our Blessed Mother Mary, St. Joan of Arc and St. Therese watch over you and your families.

Ann Fletcher, President
South West Chapter

Western

Happy Spring Sisters, hoping you had a very Happy Easter! Western Chapter held our Tricky Tray following the December meeting hosted by Bishop Navagh. It was so fun having all our auxiliaries together at one of our favorite events. It was a very long, cold, snowy winter causing our March meeting to be postponed until April when St. Anthony's hosted the meeting and an initiation of new members. Welcome Diane Brown, Maureen Capuzzi, Peggy Husni, and Linda Shilling from Parsippany and Chris Higgins from Msgr. Gacquin. Many of our auxiliaries also held initiations bringing several new members to Western Chapter! Welcome to all!!



Our next meeting will be the May Crowning hosted by Don Bosco at the Sacred Heart Retreat center. This is another of our favorite meetings as we honor our Blessed Mother Mary with song and prayer.

Have a very Happy Mothers' Day.

We look forward to seeing you at NJ State Convention in June,

Betsy Roos

President, Western Chapter

AUXILIARIES

Bishop Navagh

Although we are back to in person meetings, we have several members who continue to use Zoom. 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.

Our Chaplain, Father Stephen Prisk, said Mass for our Deceased Members of the Columbiettes and Knights of Columbus on December 7th. It was heartwarming to see so many Columbiettes and Knights attend this Mass to honor our sisters and brothers who are no longer with us.

Every year we play Bingo with the residents of St Joseph's Home for the Elderly, which is run by the Little Sisters of the Poor. Unfortunately we could not go again this year due to the pandemic. We are planning to go next year.

We also host the Altar Server Appreciation Party each year to thank our altar servers for their service to our 3 churches. We could not host the party this year due to the pandemic. Many of our altar servers are not back to serving at Mass yet. We will plan it for next year.

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 have donated canned goods, paper products and gift cards to the local supermarket.

This year we attended the Grains of Hope event. We also gave a donation as we do every year. The Grains of Hope has been packaging meals for the needy for about ten years now. The township of Pequannock, Lincoln Park and surrounding towns have all worked together in packaging 1,730,000 meals, which have been distributed to HAITI and the people who are in need throughout N.J. Grains of Hope is now addressing the crisis in the Ukraine. On March 20th, we helped to package over 60,000 meals, all of which will be sent to feed the refugees. We are praying that God changes Putin's heart and mind to stop this senseless war.

Our chairwoman for the Spring Flower Sale, Joan Deodato, was able to find another florist who is working with us 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. We were very grateful when the Lincoln Park Knights gave us a large donation for our Adopt- A- Family.

Our Take-Out Fish Fry which was held on April 8th was very successful. Our members worked together and delivered 206 meals in less than 2 hours!

Our Shop Rite Shake a Can fundraiser has been scheduled for the weekend of 4/29, 4/30, 5/1. 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 members of Don Bosco, Newton #7784 continue to enjoy their new, in person meeting facility at the Sacred Heart Center. We have been able to hold our meetings at Sacred Heart since September 2021, as well as Zoom for members who were not able to join us in person. The nuns have taken us welcomed us, and it feels like home.

This year, Our Hail Mary campaign is known as HAIL MARY FOR THE USA, which was the idea of our member Peggy Bopp, early in the Spring of 2021. Sadly, Peggy passed away in early January of this year. She was a member of the Columbiettes, for many, many years. She was the first one to volunteer when help was needed. At age 93, she was at the home of another member wrapping dishes, glasses, and other home possessions so the owner could move out to be with family members in another state. Peggy is missed by many Don Bosco Columbiettes.

This year the Hail Mary campaign's goal was to pray two million Hail Mary's for the year. We are currently at 1.7 million. The campaign will run until May 31st. With six weeks left, I am sure we will exceed our goal. Thank you to all that have helped us this year.

Our monthly donations were reinstated this year, and we were able to collect over 300 pairs of white socks to be distributed to four local nursing homes in the Newton area. We were not able to visit the nursing homes to sing carols this year, but hope that we will be back singing in December 2022!!

In February we collected over seventy boxes of character band aids for the pediatric wing of Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center for their young patients.

In March, we purchased gift cards for the local soup kitchen, called Manna House which is in the center of Newton. We were able to collect almost three hundred dollars in gift cards for Manna House. That will feed many individuals who visit Manna House for a daily meal.

Our April collection was over one hundred pounds of non-perishable goods that were delivered to the food pantry at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Branchville.

Lastly, we are extremely delighted to share that we have three, **YES, THREE NEW MEMBERS**. At our last three meetings we were able to induct a new member at each meeting. This allowed the new member to meet and get to know the members of Don Bosco #7784. We look forward to seeing them at our future meetings, either in person or on ZOOM.

Pam Raynor

Father Cannon

Best wishes to our Columbiette Sisters! Collaboration is the best word to describe our efforts in the Fall and Winter months. We have worked closely with our brother Knights on many efforts to benefit the St. Gabriel Archangel Parish community.

The Knights were able to bring the Silver Rose to our church in September, and an evening was dedicated to its honor. Each year, from early March through mid-December, Silver Roses are stewarded by Knights of Columbus Councils along routes from Canada to Mexico. Every stop the Silver Rose makes throughout the pilgrimage is a rosary-centered occasion for Knights, Columbiettes, parishioners and community members to pray for respect for life, for the spiritual renewal of each nation, and for the advancement of the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

In December, we co-sponsored the Parish Christmas Breakfast with the Knights. We worked together to prepare and serve the Annual Breakfast which focused on welcoming Christ into our families, Parish, and community. We also worked together to collect necessities for veterans and delivered the gifts from the Giving Tree to the Veterans Home.



We collaborated with the Knights to sponsor the Lenten Fish Bake, an event that is always popular with our community and just held the Palm Sunday Breakfast in which the Knights and Columbiettes have donated all proceeds to benefit the Parish.

Our Auxiliary conducted a Raffle in which a framed Pieta was won by a long-tenured parishioner, and the winning ticket was chosen by our Chaplain, Father Robert D'Imperio. All proceeds from the Raffle will be used for the purchase of car seats for client families in need at Cornerstone Women's Center.



We are preparing for our annual Chicken Takeout Dinner to be held on June 5th. Our members decided that all proceeds will be donated to benefit the suffering families of Ukraine.

We wish you all a blessed and safe Spring and Summer!

General Judson Kilpatrick

In December, the GJK ladies were busy planning and running the annual St. Francis de Sales Parish Christmas Party. It was a great time being able to be out and be together again. In January, with all the issues with the virus we laid low. Then in February, we baked, helped, and attended our Knight's pancake breakfast. We also held our Penny Social and collected over \$500.00 for our seminarians and postulants. In March, we held our Kid's Care Service Project with our Religious Ed program, in which we helped each grade level complete a community service project. We have plans to honor our altar servers in June. Looking forward to seeing everyone at Convention!!!

Immaculate Conception

Again this year we were able to assist with our Parish Christmas Tree display. There were 75 trees in the display. We checked the lights from last year because we know "when one goes out they all go out". On installation day we supplied the workers with coffee, water, and doughnuts. We also supplied hospitality when the trees were taken down in January. We purchased a tree dedicated to all our living and deceased members. As in the past the display is a beautiful scene for the celebration of Christmas and a glittering backdrop to our Parish Manger.

For Valentine's Day we held our second card writing campaign. Valentine's Day cards were hand signed and delivered to a local nursing facility where two of our members are residents. We hope this brought a little love to everyone.

One of the Sacraments that can be received more than once is Penance. To help our parish students recognize the importance of receiving the Sacrament often, we presented them with a cross with the Act of Contrition on it as a memento and a reminder to visit Jesus in Confession.

Also in February seventeen members gathered for mass to celebrate our 36th Corporate Communion Anniversary. After mass we went to a local diner for brunch. It was so nice to gather together to pray, enjoy a meal, have some laughs, and be social again.

Again this year we held our annual St. Patrick's Day Carnation Sale. Green carnations were sold before and after all our masses the weekend before St. Patrick's Day. Thanks to our generous parishioners and St. Patrick, our fundraiser was a success and we sold all our flowers.

As we had done for many years, but were unable to last year due to COVID, we visited one of our local Senior Resident Homes on Palm Sunday. We were able to bring the Easter Bunny with us again this year. Each resident was given a cute little plush bunny and a chance to shake hands with the Easter Bunny. The residents were delighted to see us and wanted their picture with the Easter Bunny. We were happy to visit with two of our members who were so happy to see us again.

At our April meeting the members assembled 12 Easter Baskets. Each basket contained a chocolate bunny, crayons, bubbles, a coloring book, candy, and other fun items. The baskets were delivered to Alice's CUP Food Pantry in Spotswood. It is our hope these baskets bring Easter happiness to the children and 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 fifteen members were able to assist at the in-person dining. Our patrons were happy to see each other and share a Lenten meal favorite. We prepare and stock the unlimited salad bar, supply baked goods for the unlimited dessert bar, and greet the people at the door taking orders. It is a labor love and the six weeks go by quickly. Hope to see you next year.

As the end of the Columbiette year approaches we look forward to our Annual Convention with great excitement as our auxiliary member, Nadine Lecorchick continues as New Jersey State President. We are proud of her and look forward to a full weekend of Convention activities.

Immaculate Conception
Palm Sunday Easter Bunny Visit



Immaculate Conception
Easter Baskets



Long Valley

Happy Easter and Happy Spring Time 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. We had worked with our Brother Knights of Columbus and together we hosted a weekend of Christmas photo sessions, like we did last year. Sister Patrice Schaffer and myself, who are photographers in our spare time, took Christmas photos for anyone who didn't want to travel to the mall or who couldn't afford professional photos for Christmas cards this past year. We had different style backdrops and props to help make their session fun and appropriate for everyone! While the sessions were free, we did ask for any donations, and we were so blessed to have raised over \$450.

Sadly, Patrice's family were affected with Covid, so I took it upon myself to do photos on my own and helped over 25 families. It really was such a great way to bring the Christmas season in full bloom. Here's a photo from last year to show what props we had used.

Last year, we missed working on one of our biggest fundraisers, which is our Christmas Cookie Sale, due to Covid. This year, we were able to bring it back in full swing and were able to make \$776. Everyone was so happy and excited to have us back. I have to give a special shout out to our two Sisters, Lucie Cohn and Marge Sanders who went above and beyond and baked even more cookies when we were just about to be sold out.

We also just had our Palm Sunday Bake Sale. There were a mixture of cakes, cupcakes, chocolate covered pretzels and other bakes goodies. We made \$591. Here is a picture of Sister Amy Bandel and Sister Lucie Cohn who helped out and sold our goodies during some 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. We held it right during Mardi Gras. It’s a fun event that involves eating some chocolate while having an auction on baskets and items that were donated from local businesses around the area. 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 \$1000. We couldn’t have done it without the help from our sisters who donated their time and baskets, but a special shout out goes to our own Vice President, Sister Marge Sanders. A job well done for planning out everything! Here are some photos from our event. It was great to see even more of our Sisters help out and come support this very special event.





One of our two main collections 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 52 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 will be happening in the upcoming weeks at the end of April. 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!



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

Millstone Valley Columbiettes – April 2022

Happy Anniversary to us! We started off the year by celebrating the 18 year anniversary of our Auxiliary with a Mass and luncheon on January 16th. We have welcomed several new members this year and are truly blessed to have so many dedicated, giving and caring members as well as the support from our MidWest Chapter and NJ State Columbiettes. Thank you!

We helped our fellow Knights of Columbus members with their Annual Pasta Dinner at the end of January and Crab Cake Dinner in early April. Both were “to go” events again this year. We cooked many pounds of pasta and helped package lots of crab cake meals! These dinners are big hits each year and raise money for the youth of our Parish.

We were honored to host the Midwest chapter meeting in February. For the meeting, we are proud to announce that we collected baby items to donate to the Sisters of St. Joseph’s (SSJ) Neighborhood Center in Camden. This is a charity that is near and dear to our hearts since a previous member of our Auxiliary, Sister Colleen Gibson along with her fellow Sisters of St. Joseph’s opened this center to support their community. We also held our very first Tricky Tray in March and donated \$483 to another one of our deserving charities, the Christina S. Walsh Breast Foundation.

At the end of March, we had a great time hosting a craft night with dinner and socializing with our neighboring auxiliaries in Somerville and Raritan. 35 women attended and enjoyed soup, salad, crafting, baked desserts and each other’s company. We hope to have another event like this one again soon.

As the weather gets nicer, we are looking forward to our monthly Social Steps get together to walk, socialize and enjoy some coffee and light snacks afterwards. We will continue our tradition of presenting the First Communicants with a gift bag (with a prayer card, cross and a handmade bookmark). This year there will be 35 young boys and girls who will receive First Communion in our Parish on May 7th. We are grateful to our Auxiliary members who are catechists and help prepare these children to receive their Sacraments.

Throughout the year, we have enjoyed collecting items for the Food by the Pound competition that are delivered to the Feeding Hands Pantry in Somerset, backpacks, school supplies and toiletries. Twice this year we have donated coloring books and crayons to the Children’s Hospital at St. Peter’s University Hospital in New Brunswick. We are looking forward to a couple of fundraising events including a Cash for Gold event and Vendor Fair so we can donate money to some very worthy organizations.



We wish all our NJ Auxiliaries and State officers a relaxing and healthy summer!

Our Lady of Perpetual Help—Jersey City

Going away party for Almabella Capron who is contemplating on going home to the Philippines for good. We will miss her dearly.



Happy Easter to all. Christ is truly risen! Alleluia. Congratulations to all sister Columbiettes for the courage to remain joyful and healthy in spite of all the stresses that life throws at us. We continue to experience Covid 19 restrictions but a bit better. Hopefully soon it will be over.

Spring is a season of hope and newness in our beautiful world's majestic creations of God. The sun is shining bright, the air sweetly scented, flowers bring delight and birds singing joyfully. God is great and He will refresh and renew our strength for the best is yet to come.

Meanwhile our OLPH sister Columbiettes have been busy with monthly virtual meetings and sharing helping hands in our Parish. This year we were able to put back our Simbang Gabi tradition of 9 day Advent Masses. We also managed to gather occasionally in person to eat out and socialize.

We will continue to reach out to our membership who don't have access to Zoom, and give them information regarding Covid 19 vaccination and testing centers as well as updates with what is happening in the Auxiliary.

Special thanks and appreciation to our Officers and committed members for their dedication. Thanks to our DD Mattea Truppe for her presence and encouragements even if only virtually.

Let's continue praying to God for an end to all variants of Covid 19 and an end to this diabolical war in Ukraine.

Submitted by: Naty Caballero
OLPH Publicity Chair

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 61st 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. Also, in February at the Chapter meeting, we were pleased that our resume was accepted and our proposed nominee for Chapter Charity was chosen as this year's recipient.

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 Spring and Easter Tricky Tray with the members in attendance and the profit going to our charity.

In April, our auxiliary participated in South East's Chapter Baby Shower. We donated items such as diapers, bibs, blankets along with 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 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. At this meeting, we will have a Kentucky Derby Race and a Hat Contest with the profits going to our charity. After our meeting, we will work on our tab tops and ready our backpacks for distribution at Convention.

At our June meeting, we will have a 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

Dear Sister Columbiettes:

Parsippany ladies have been busy with big attempts to get back to the old "normal". Throughout the Pandemic days we have continued to save items for the Convention – tabs, school supplies, items for the shoebox ministry. In addition, we collect coupons for our Military and Holley Adams follows through with delivering them. We are currently having a "Cakeless Cake Sale" campaign with the proceeds going to First Holy Communicants at each of our three churches. As I write this, we are having our yearly "Give from the Heart" meeting when each of the ladies will choose a favorite charity and a \$50.00 donation is made. Each of our members participates and there are many, many charities that will benefit. Hopefully next month we will be able to have a Baby Shower for an unwed mother or one of the homes that provide them with their needs.

The good works we try to do make us so very happy, but some of our happiest moments were our Christmas Dinner at Benvenuti's when we had some ladies attend that will soon become new Columbiettes. A very very special event allowing us to at last get together with our Sister Columbiettes was the Western Chapter Christmas Event in December. How wonderful to see everyone, maskless!!!! We wish you all a blessed Easter and happy spring days and nights.



Sacred Heart

Hello from Sacred Heart Rochelle Park NJ #2842. We have had an amazing journey so far. We just initiated another 6 ladies this past February and are 30 members strong!



In October we had our first major fundraiser Bingo. Proceeds went to Betty Torricelli Institute for Breast Care (\$3,000).



In December some ladies participated in the Light for Christ advent prayer service with the Knights. We had our second major event, Trivia on April 1st. We have also been holding family nights with our brother Knights one Friday a month with monthly themes. Please join us if you are in the area on Friday May 20th at 7pm. Lastly, we have adopted a spiritual unborn baby who is now 7 months old. Please help us pray for the unborn. We are eager to continue to serve God.

Santa Maria



Joelle Wentz, President welcomes our new member, Theresa Kerney.



Santa Maria celebrated this past winter by sharing homemade cards and gift bags with Virtua Rehab patients, and Danielle Brenner worked with St. Vincent DePaul helpers and 8th graders to make Wreaths of Love which were placed at Sacred Heart Cemetery for families to place on deceased service loved one's graves.



We held a pretzel sale, a Rada Cutlery sale, and a Spring Bulb sale, along with donations to our wonderful priest, Father John.

The entire parish, school, and community assisted us in collecting plastic so we could obtain a Trex Bench. Within 3-4 months, we collected 513 lbs of plastic! The bench will be gifted to the parish.



Stephanie, Joelle Wentz, and Ann DeFeo (past president).

With the help and donations from the Knights and Columbiettes, we assisted Lieutenant Colonel Stephaie Aaron in painting and obtaining items for a Lactation Station at MacGuire Air Force Base.



In celebration of St. Joseph Day, select members made homemade chicken soup and rolls and delivered them to homebound in our parish.

This April, the Knights and Columbiettes are to receive an award from Sacred Hear Parish held at the school gala in recognition of our efforts to support the school and parish.

We wish all our Sister Columbiettes a happy spring and summer.

Respectfully,

Joanne Daywalt
Secretary

Sgt. John F. Basilone



As the New year set in, we zoomed for are first meeting and finally got back in track with in person meetings. We provided 7 large Easter baskets and gift cards to a local family from our parish Social Ministry. Lovey items and of course candy to the family as well. Now we are preparing for our vendor/craft fair in May 7 from 10:00 am to 3:00 in the St. Ann school cafeteria. It's a combined effort between us and the Millstone Valley Columbiettes.

Looking forward to June and the summer!

Blessings,
Christine Esposito

St. Ann's



Nothing warms our hearts more than the holidays, and St. Ann's Auxiliary went all-out this year. Not only did we donate to Toys for Tots, we greeted the train at the station to drop them off. Santa (and the Marines) was very glad to see us! Our December meeting also included writing the now-annual Christmas cards for our veterans and religious sisters, which, of course, also included Christmas sweets and a rousing white elephant gift swap.

We didn't slow down in the new year, either. We attended our first Mass together to celebrate our two-year anniversary, gathering together at St. Anne's parish. With our sisters hailing from several local parishes, it was great to worship together! We also aided our Brother Knights in many of their events, including the ever-popular Irish Night featuring step dancers and a corned beef dinner.



Our anniversary party in January was regrettably postponed, but we're quickly approaching our rescheduled date of June 1. We're looking forward to celebrating two years of St. Ann's with dinner, dancing, and a tricky tray. All Columbiettes and families are invited, so come join us!

In virtual news, we're now on the web! Find us at www.stannscolumbiettes2853.net, where our latest updates and events are posted (including details on how to get in on that anniversary party).

St. Anthony's

Happy Spring from St. Anthony's Columbiettes!

We are so happy to say we are finally meeting in person again. While 2+ years of meeting via Zoom, never missing a meeting, was wonderful, it was fantastic to finally meet in person.

In the fall/winter we held such a successful calendar raffle, we decided to have another one this Spring. Congratulations to all the past winners and future winners as well.

Ann Taggart and Lisa Roberts, as well as members of our Auxiliary, 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. Thank you to Ann & Lisa for another successful year.

Our members, organized by our Sentinel Leslie Usinowicz, have been busy “Shaking The Can” to raise money for the State Heaven Cents program. Since Leslie has taken on this endeavor we have quadrupled our donation to the fund. Thank you Leslie and thank you to all who donate to this very worthy cause.

Our Auxiliary was the host of the winter Western Chapter meeting. While we had to reschedule our St. Patrick’s themed meeting in March due to snow & ice, it was wonderful to see everyone on April 6th. We still had an Irish theme because everyone could use some Irish luck all during the year.

Wishing you all a very Happy Mother’s Day, a wonderful summer and looking forward to seeing everyone at the convention in June.

Submitted by Cathe Nicholson

St. Augustine

In February, the St. Augustine Columbiettes presented over 50 “Act of Contrition” crosses to our Parish Second graders in remembrance of their First Penance. We also continue to award a monetary gift to one 8th grade student from the school and CCD classes on their Confirmation. This award has now been renamed to the “Kathy Michalski Confirmation Award” in Honor of our Past President who passed away this past January.

The St. Augustine Columbiettes are planning to gather together the first weekend in May to celebrate spring and the HOLY Mother with our brother Knights to say the Rosary and pray for peace in our community, country and around the world. We also continue to present all families with babies/children that are being baptized at St. Augustine’s each week with a lovely certificate and cross to commemorate the occasion.

Our Auxiliary continues to hold monthly Bake Sales that we started last fall in conjunction with our monthly Parish Communion Breakfast as a small on-going fund raiser activity for the Auxiliary. Our Auxiliary voted to donate all proceeds from the February Bake Sale (about \$250) to the Ukrainian Solidarity Fund sponsored by the Knights of Columbus (“KofC.org”) to help the refugees from the Ukraine. We also plan to partner with local businesses in the community (Confectionately Yours, Joe’s Deli, Panera Bread) in the Spring and Summer for additional fund raising opportunities where our Auxiliary receives a % of the proceeds of the sales for a particular day.



December 2021 Bake Sale depicting from Left to Right: Robin Varsalona (Secretary), Mary Kate Walsh (President) and Kathy Pavalkis (Vice President)

We are also planning to hold a “POUND” Auction at our June meeting and planning for our Annual Year-End Columbiette Communion Mass and Brunch on Pentecost Sunday, June 5, 2022.

The St. Augustine Knights of Columbus #6345 celebrated their “50th” Anniversary on February 28, 2022 and will commemorate the event with a Dinner Dance to be held on April 24th in Cranbury, NJ. The St. Augustine Columbiettes congratulate our Brother Knights on reaching 50 years serving our community and our church and will continue to support them in all of their good works going forward!

St. Augustine’s Auxiliary wishes all of our Sister Columbiettes to Be Well and Stay Safe and have a very happy, fun, enjoyable Summer! GOD BLESS!



Mary Kate Walsh
President, St. Augustine Columbiettes

St. Bartholomew

The St. Bartholomew Columbiettes have had a busy winter and start to spring. In December we were happy to get back to hosting our annual Christmas tea which benefits many local charities. At our December meeting our members adopted three classrooms from the Catholic Charities run, YES Preschool Program for their annual Christmas party.

In March we filled mugs with hot chocolate, granola bars and candy and delivered them to the “Hands of Hope” soup kitchen at St. James Church in Edison.

The day of our April meeting was a packed one. We started out by making 19 Easter Baskets for the children at the Laurie Haven Shelter in Fords. We had so many extra donated supplies that 47 goody bags were made to be distributed by the Sisters of Charity in Asbury Park while they serve lunches Easter week.



Following the basket making we held our second initiation ceremony welcoming two new members into the St. Bartholomew Columbiettes and four new members into South Amboy Columbiettes.



In May we are planning a "Come Grow with Us" seed packet membership drive and also a baby shower to benefit Life choices.

Submitted by Diane Kulbacki
President, St. Bartholomews Columbiettes

St. Bernadette

We held our Poinsettia Sale at the end of November. Orders are taken in advance and we have a designated pickup time. We received a few new customers this year in addition to the regulars. This is always our indication that Christmas is soon approaching!

November was a busy month. We donated food items for Thanksgiving baskets and Shop Rite gift cards to our Social Concerns committee for distribution to local families.

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

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

In January, we held our Annual Soup Sale. Orders for quarts of Chicken Noodle or Beef Vegetable are taken in advance and at the door. Any excess is donated to families in need.

We held our Shake the Can for Vocations drive after all Masses the weekend of March 12 and 13.

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 so ready to host our Tea Party once again on May 1!

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 in one way or another at our Annual Convention.

Kathy Jessen, President

St. David the King

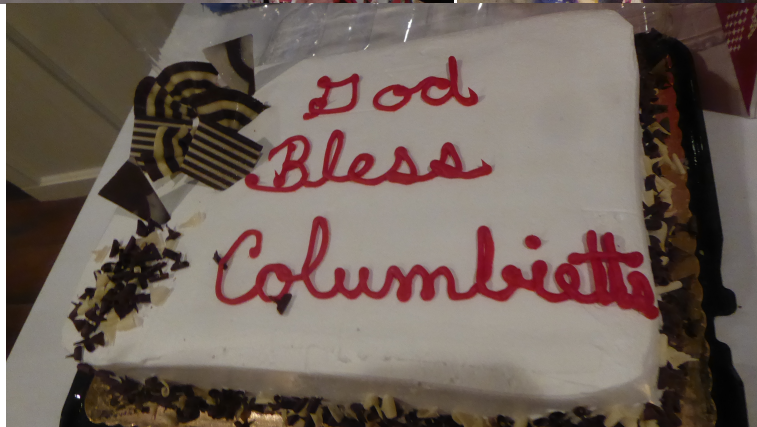
St. David the King Columbiettes joined with our Knights of Columbus to have an excellent "CRAB CAKE" sale for our parishioners, family & friends before Lent. We had a wonderful time working together and raised monies for our many charities.



Several ladies of St. David the King stop for smiles around our 'Rosary Table', on Ash Wednesday, while making blue and white rosaries for our upcoming First Communicants from our parish and another local parish. A lot of productive fun for all of us.



All of St. David the King ladies enjoyed our Christmas Dinner with games and chatting - pictured are a couple of the tables.



Taking different shifts for 2 days on Dec. 18 & 19th, 2021, St. David the King ladies endlessly gift wrapped for our terrific fundraiser at the Princeton Marketfair Mall.



St. Francis

The auxiliary had a very successful Christmas cookie sale the weekend of December 11/12. The members gathered at St. Joseph's Hall in Swedesboro to pack and weight home-made cookies which were sold at all Masses at St. Michael's, Gibbstown, and St. Joseph's, Swedesboro. In addition to cookies, we sold miniature Nativity sets and pound cakes. Our net profit totaled \$1,526.

Gail Marie Persia, President
St. Francis Auxiliary, Swedesboro

St. James

The St James Columbiettes have had a busy winter season. December brought us many blessings during Advent and the Christmas Season, including the opportunity to celebrate together at our annual Christmas Party this year. Our Winter Fundraiser was a successful "Bake Less Cake Sale." We assisted our Brother Knights with their weekly Lenten Fish Fry's.

St James began spring with an "April Baby Shower." Generous donations of baby products, clothing and gift cards will be donated to the Life Choice Pregnancy Center. St. James Knights of Columbus celebrates their 50th Anniversary on April 30th. Congratulations to our brother Knights! On May 1st, we will hold our *Spring Tea & Tricky Tray*. At our May Meeting we will be crowning our Blessed Mother, and sharing a potluck dinner. We are also planning to march in the Jamesburg Memorial Day Parade on May 30th. We are preparing the June Awards honoring the Good Student, and Humanitarian recipients.

Wishing everyone a wonderful summer! Stay safe and healthy.

Blessings to all,

Daria Ludas, President St. James Auxiliary

St. John's

Our first event, in a VERY long time, was our popular "Spudtacular". This one had a different twist to it as it was a "Lenten Spud-tacular"! Dinner consisted of a hot, piping baked potato with a fixing bar to load up your spud with choices of various toppings.



All who attended had a wonderful time and are looking forward to having more of these!

We once again had a scarf drive for Hope Scarves. This is a non-profit organization that takes donated scarves for women and children who have cancer or are cancer survivors. They only accept scarves large enough so they can wrap around their heads. Please visit their website hopescarves.org to find out more about this wonderful organization.

This year, finally, we will be celebrating our 15th Anniversary, (which is now 17 years!) We will have this celebration in June starting with a Mass at the council hall followed by dinner.



Together, we do many great things! Let us continue to stay safe, be well and continue to pray for one another. Wishing all a very happy and blessed Spring & Summer.

Peace,

Roberta Elwell

Past President

St John's Council 1345 – Dumont, Bergenfield

St. Maximillian Kolbe

It is a special honor to be a Columbiette!

Last December our Auxiliary bought Christmas pajamas and tapes and interactive toys to the Children's Specialized Hospital here in Toms River, New Jersey. For several years now, instead of having a Christmas Party with a grab bag, we receive a list of children and young adults who reside at the hospital and give them pajamas and educational tapes and toys for their needs.



This year for our Christmas Party, the Auxiliary cooked and baked and we celebrated Jesus' birth at our Bingo Hall.



In February 2022, our Auxiliary had a bake sale. We raised \$500 to give to Fr. Steven Piga to use for our Easter Flowers for Easter Sunday! It was a wonderful experience to see our members come out and bake, wrap, plate, and sell at the Masses on that weekend in February. Our Auxiliary is the definition of what a team is! We work together and get it done.

April 3rd our Auxiliary had a Mass said for all deceased members of our Auxiliary and Knights. This year our Grand Knight, Armond Galluccio passed unexpectedly. 20 Columbiettes attended the Mass and then gathered together at a diner to enjoy each other and be thankful for every day we have each other.

St. Philip the Apostle

St. Philip's Columbiettes have been very active this fall and winter. Their biggest fundraiser, The International Dinner and Tricky Tray was held. It was a great success. This event is named in honor of our deceased sister Mary Ellen Valentin who had a dream to bring many nationalities together. Mary Ellen lived a life of service to others and has continually inspired our members to help those in need.

We also had our Christmas party and a Yankee gift swap. This party gave us a chance to reflect on the meaning of Christmas and the blessings we have received. We have turned the gifts we receive as Columbiettes into blessings for others.

Our blanket ministry continues to be very active. These ladies create warm blankets, hats, and scarves. These go to those who are truly in need of warmth and love. They meet and also work on their own.

Our group continues to provide Holy Communion outfits to 2 children who are in need. This was one of our first outreaches when we were instituted. Each year the recipients are extremely grateful.

Our Confirmation Candidates are included in our outreach efforts as well. A breakfast of bagels, the fixins, water, and juice. The teenagers were grateful for food and prayers.

Included in our church community efforts are St. Philip's boy scouts and girl scouts. We have provided monetary donations to each group. The scouts continue to shape the minds and hearts young people and the donations enable them to achieve their projects.

We are busy preparing backpacks and tabs for convention. Our sister Columbiettes eagerly purchase necessary supplies for the needy students of our diocese. Both collections are ongoing throughout the year.

Star of the Sea

The sisters of Star of the Sea #371 in Bayonne were happy to resume in person meetings in February. The ladies organized a blood drive for New York Blood Center, held on March 26th (rescheduled from February due to weather) The drive saw more than 50 donations of donations and was an opportunity to tell drop-ins about the Columbiettes.

At our February meeting the Knights invited the sisters to march in the annual Bayonne St. Patrick's Day parade. The parade had been postponed for two years due to Covid, and it was a beautiful date for all involved. Many sisters are also involved in several community groups and schools and were able to show their steadfastness as pillars of the community.

At our March meeting we discussed the idea of a family movie night to be held as a membership and fundraising drive. Plans are moving forward with the idea.

Warren

In December in lieu of our meeting we had a wonderful luncheon at a neighborhood restaurant. At our luncheon we presented our two parishes with a monetary donation.

Our January meeting was an online meeting where I discussed my agenda and reminded my sister Columbiettes of our upcoming events. I also asked if all had read our November minutes and voted to accept them as read.

We have sold 100% of our Charity raffle tickets and I asked for a few more to sell.

We had our in person meeting in February where we voted on giving donations to 5 charities. We wear red at this meeting and gave out small gifts to those who attended by a raffle.

We had a viewing of precious relics that were brought to our church. It was a beautiful site with over 200 items.

At our Chapter meeting we sold all of our 10 week club numbers which is a fundraiser for our Chapter.

We held a bread loaf sale in February after all masses and earned over \$500 for our home baked goods.

In March we wear green and we will make up Easter baskets for the children of Catholic Charities.

We are so proud to be celebrating 11 years as a Columbiette auxiliary. We celebrate by attending mass together and enjoying a lovely meal afterwards.

We will help our Brother Knights with desserts and serving at their fish fry on Good Friday.

We hope to have a plant sale in May for Mother's Day.

We will vote on our new slate of officers.

In June we will have a pot luck dinner and discuss our participation at Convention on June 24-26th.

HAVE A JOYOUS AND BLESSED EASTER!



Bev Redondo – President
Warren Council #474

A Note From The Editor

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

Thank you to everyone who submitted articles for this publication. Due to the high cost of printing the ECHO, printed subscriptions are no longer available. The ECHO is posted as a .PDF file on the state website at: www.njcolumbiettes.com. Please share this availability with your members.

For the next submission due on November 15, 2022, 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.

Thank you. Stay healthy and safe.

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.

