

# New Jersey State Council Columbiettes



Women of God



Winter 2021

ECHO

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# STATE OFFICERS

## President, Nadine Lecorchick

### **Message from State President Nadine Lecorchick**

This message brings wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving, Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

It's hard to believe that we are already 5 months into the new Columbiette Year. I would like to thank you for electing me to this position and I, together with the state board, will serve you in our best possible way.

The NJ State Council along with all the Columbiettes throughout the state has been very busy since convention. We are already seeing initiations of new members and the hosting of many fund raisers. Please, keep up the good work! New Jersey has always prided itself on getting the job done. We always did and I hope we always will work great together, supporting each other and supporting our charities.

On behalf of the state board, I would like to congratulate our new Supreme President Ronnie Pliszak. I know you will do great things for our organization. We would also like to thank Micki Magee for her two years of service as Supreme President.

Our Officers and District Deputies Seminar was held on September 26th. We shared a lot of information and I think it was a great success. We did receive a lot of great feedback and some great ideas.



I am trying out a new way to have the DD's attend meetings. We have regional DD's for the auxiliaries that are always available to you for your meetings. I would like to thank all the Regional District Deputies for accepting the appointments. You will be seeing a lot of different auxiliaries throughout the year and will come back with a lot of good information to share.

Please use the leadership guidebooks provided to all the presidents at the meeting. This is a great reference tool for the programs, forms, due dates and other valuable information to help you throughout the year.

Be sure to share this information with your members. These programs are for ALL Columbiettes, not just the presidents.

Please start to think about your Student Good Citizen and Humanitarian Awards. Please read the letter and requirements carefully and remember submit only one entry per award, per auxiliary for these awards.

Please remember to send in your Raffle tickets and 30-week club forms. These are our only fund raisers for the state. We appreciate your support in helping to keep your state running.

The Weekend retreat is April 22-24. It is a first come, first serve only. Please get your reservation in early.

We celebrated our immediate past president at her testimonial dinner on October 24, 2021. It was a great afternoon and many of you came out to celebrate and thank Elena for the great job she did. Thank you to Past State President Vicki Bird for chairing Elena's dinner.



I would like to thank Elena McFarland, our Immediate Past President, for the hard work she did to keep our state running during a very difficult 2 years. Covid tried to beat us down, but thanks to Elena and many wonderful strong women, we won. We survived it and in the end through all of your hard work, we donated over \$42,000.00 to our Charities.

A BIG Congratulations to Father William Smith, our State Chaplain on the 40th Anniversary of his Ordination. Thank you for all you do for us, both emotionally and spiritually. We look forward to celebrating many more anniversaries with you. May God Bless you and give you the strength and humor (because you need that with us) to guide us through many more years. Thank You!!



Lastly, I would like to thank all of you. Without your hard work and dedication to our organization, there would be no need for the state board... You are the backbone of this organization. Each one of you is invaluable to us. We appreciate all your hard work and the loving, giving spirit that lives in each one of you.

Remember, with every act of charity and love you do, whether it is for your church, community, or country, you are saying YES to our Lord.

We are all, Women of God.

With Love to you all,  
Nadine Lecorchick  
NJ State President

## SOS Hail Mary Campaign

### HAIL MARYS FOR THE USA



Please support the 2021-22 Hail Mary Campaign to seek our Blessed Mother's intercession for the United States of America by helping to pray ONE MILLION HAIL MARYS. Our country is in dire need of divine assistance to combat the many evils

spread by Satan. 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. A dedicated e-mail address:

[hailmarysfortheusa@gmail.com](mailto:hailmarysfortheusa@gmail.com) has been set up to receive tallies from anyone at anytime.

Please pray Hail Marys at your meetings and ask family members, friends, neighbors, church groups, etc. to pray Hail Marys to help in obtaining this goal. The cumulative tally of all Hail Marys prayed will be updated as responses are received at:

[www.donboscoColumbiettes.weebly.com](http://www.donboscoColumbiettes.weebly.com). This campaign will run until May 31, 2022 at which time all Hail Marys prayed will be dedicated to Our Lady. Thank you for your assistance. God bless you all! Please continue to pray the Rosary whenever you can.

### Immediate Past President, Elena McFarland

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

It is the most wonderful time of the Year!!! Time to be thankful all that we have and thank others for all they have done... "Thank You" to all of my sister Columbiettes for all the wonderful works of charity you have done throughout 2021. In less than a month we celebrate the Birth of Christ! Let us focus on the joy and happiness of Christmas and find pleasure in all we do to prepare for such a wonderful event.

Remember to send me the information for any new members for the Welcome Program and the Initiation Honoree. You can email or snail mail the information to me. Please be sure to include the new members full name and address. [elena.columbiettes@comcast.net](mailto:elena.columbiettes@comcast.net) or 3 Monfort Drive, Hillsborough, NJ 08844.

Wishing you and your family a Happy, Holy and Blessed Christmas and may your New Year be filled with love and happiness!

Elena McFarland  
Immediate Past President

## **Prestigious Past State Presidents, Sandra Bohinski**

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

May you have a Thanksgiving full of joy, peace and harmony and may you have a wonderful Christmas and New Year, too. We wish you a heart filled with love and gratitude on this Thanksgiving and throughout the year.

The Prestigious Past Presidents are thinking warm thoughts of you!

Sandy, Barbara Ann, Marion, Anna, Anne, Susan, Lorraine, Lisa, and Vicki

## **Vice President, Frances Corcione**

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

It's a privilege to be the New Jersey Vice President I hope that each of your Auxiliaries have a rewarding year. We are just a phone call away if you need anything.

I wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Women of God

Sincerely,  
Frances Corcione

## **Secretary, Kathleen Donahue**

I hope you all had a Happy Thanksgiving! What a difference a year makes. Many people, while still being careful, were able to be with family this year. There is something special about being with people you care about. Treasure those memories. We sometimes took them for granted until we realized how precious they were when we couldn't make new ones.

Let's carry those warm feelings of love, kindness and gratitude through the Christmas season. God gave us His newborn Son on Christmas Day because He loved us. Let us spread that love not just to family but to friends, Sister Columbiettes, neighbors and even strangers. Your good tidings can spread comfort and joy so there will be peace on earth.

I wish each of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a healthy Happy New Year!

Kathy Donahue  
State Secretary



## **Financial Secretary, Donna Lewandowski**

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

I can't believe the winter holidays are upon us. Time is rapidly passing me by, so I am hoping you all take time to enjoy your family and friends. Take some you time, especially, it is so important.

Soon per capita bills will be mailed, so be on the look out. They are one bill you do not need a vote to pay.

May our Blessed Mother bring you much love and joy this Christmas season and many more thankful moments this Thanksgiving.

God Bless,

Donna Lewandowski

NJ State Financial Secretary

## **Treasurer, Catherine Nicholson**

Thank you again for electing me as your State Treasurer. It truly is an honor and a privilege to be on the NJ State Board. I look forward to working with all of you this year and the coming years.

The chilly weather is upon us which can only mean one thing....the holidays are right around the corner. What a wonderful time of year this is to spend time with family and friends and all the great memories that will be made.

### **Year-Round Joy**

Christmas is full of shiny things  
That sparkle, gleam and glow;  
These holiday pleasures dazzle us,  
And yet, deep down, we know...  
That Christmas has its special gifts,

But year-round joy depends  
On the cherished people in our lives,  
Our family and our friends.

*-Joanna Fuchs*

Wishing all of you a very Blessed Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a  
Joyous & Healthy 2022.

Cathe Nicholson  
NJ State Treasurer

**Supreme Director, Carol Bohinski**



**Sending my Best Wishes to all  
Sister Columbiettes  
and their loved ones  
For a Blessed Christmas and  
A New Year filled with  
Joy, Love,  
Happiness, Good Health,  
And Peace.**

***Carol Bohinski,  
Supreme Director***

# STATE COMMITTEES

## Ceremonials and Humanitarian Award, Lisa Roberts

**Message from Lisa Roberts**

**NJ Past State President**

**Ceremonial Chair and Humanitarian Award Chair**

Greetings to all my Sister Columbiettes, family and friends. Hope this finds all well and enjoying this wonderful time of the year as we prepare for the coming of the Christ child.

Soon we will start the new year and before we know it, we will be joining together for our state convention. As the Ceremonial Chair, I wanted to give you some thoughts regarding the new Initiation Ceremony. All auxiliaries have received the new program and can hold this ceremony and bring your new members to full membership of the order. The ceremony is very easy to exemplify. If you would like to host an Initiation Ceremony at your auxiliary or chapter, please reach out to one of the regional District Deputies in your Chapter or contact the State Vice President Fran Corcione or myself for assistance. Please remember that this new ceremony takes the place of the previous First and Major Degree. When a candidate witnesses this ceremony, they are full members. You will only need to send the A100 application with the fee of \$5 per member to the Supreme Secretary within 10 days of the exemplification of the ceremony. Also, if you have members who previously only completed the First Degree, they too can witness this Initiation Ceremony and that will fulfill the obligation previously required to witness the Major Degree. With these members advancing to full members, you DO NOT send the A100 or monies to Supreme. Your Financial Secretary will just need to update the Supreme Membership Portal with the date of the ceremony.

As the Humanitarian Award Chair, on behalf of State President Nadine, I look forward the many submissions from each auxiliary. I am confident

that each of you knows of a special, deserving individual that you can nominate for this award. Reach out to your pastor, community leaders, etc. and ask if they know someone who stands out and is deserving of this recognition. It could be anyone who is serving the community and touching people's lives in a charitable way. It is through their time and talent that the lives of others are improved. Each auxiliary is eligible to submit one nominee for this award. The NJ Prestigious Past State Presidents are anxious to read the submission letters and biographies and choose the most deserving humanitarian.

I want to wish everyone a Very Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

## Convention 2021

Convention was held in person on June 26, 2021 at the Embassy Suites in Piscataway, New Jersey





## Expansion/Recruitment/Retention, Sandra Bohinski

### ***Don't forget about our new drawing!***

Three times a year we will have a \$25.00 drawing. Our first drawing will be held on Sunday, December 5. For each new member that has joined, the name of her sponsor will be placed in the drawing.

Please e-mail the name of the new member, her sponsor and Auxiliary to [bosgeneral@aol.com](mailto:bosgeneral@aol.com) by Saturday, December 4. We will have two additional drawings during the year as well as our \$100.00 drawing for every three new members sponsored by the same individual at Convention.

Don't forget to send the names to Elena McFarland so she can send them a "Welcome Gift".

## Historian

Please submit any photos you may have for the Historian to the webmaster, Nicole Markus at [Nicole.markus92@gmail.com](mailto:Nicole.markus92@gmail.com).

## Jewelry, Kathleen Donahue

You will be receiving your 2022 travel card soon. Is your case split in half or held together with tape? Then it's time to get a new travel card case for your new travel card. It comes with the opening and closing prayer cards. We currently have them in stock. We also have some necklaces, silver charms and assorted Columbiette pins available. If you are interested in purchasing something, you can call my home phone 732-826-3881, text my cell 732-824-1135 or e-mail me at [columbietteskathy@yahoo.com](mailto:columbietteskathy@yahoo.com).

Kathy Donahue  
Jewelry Chairperson

## Memorial Cards, Greeting Card & Business Card, Kathy Jessen

Did you know that the New Jersey State Council Columbiettes has a Greeting Card program? All proceeds are donated to our Seminarians and Postulants in June at convention.

### Who can request a card?

Anyone! Columbiette members, Officers, District Deputies, and non-Columbiettes alike.

### **What type of cards are available?**

There are 2 types of cards: Folded greeting cards and business card enclosures (a business card size printed on both sides that can be inserted into your own store-bought greeting card). A sample of the business card was provided at the Officer Seminar.

### **What kind of cards can be requested?**

The greeting cards have this year's 'Women of God' theme on the front. Cards and business cards can be created for all occasions. Thank You, Get Well, Congratulations, Thinking of You, Sympathy, Birthday, 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.

### **How is a card requested?**

Send me an email, text, call, or letter. 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.

### **How long does it take for the card to get sent out?**

I will mail the completed card within 48 hours of your request using your return address or I can deliver it to you.

### **How much does it cost?**

The suggested donation is \$5.00 per card (including postage) but any amount is gratefully accepted.

### **How do we pay?**

You can request the cards today and pay for them tomorrow, I keep track of all requests and payments. You can mail a check made payable to "NJSCC" to me and I will forward it to the State Financial Secretary.

NOW ACCEPTING REQUESTS FOR CHRISTMAS CARDS! It's not too early to order those cards for your Chaplain, District Deputy, or whoever you want and check an item off your to-do list! These can be sent to the recipient or to you for presentation.

Do you have a question that was not answered? Please feel free to ask. Wishing you a wonderful and blessed Christmas season!!

Kathy Jessen

Chair, NJSCC Greeting Card and Business Card Enclosure Program

Contact Information:

Email- [kjessen5@optonline.net](mailto:kjessen5@optonline.net)

Cell/Text- 732-261-7490/Home Phone 732-721-2522

5 Singleton St.

South Amboy NJ 08879

## State Directory, Laura Labetti

Please submit any updates to the New Jersey State Directory to Laura Labetti at [labetti250@optonline.net](mailto:labetti250@optonline.net). The online edition of the New Jersey State Directory is available on the state website at [www.njcolumbiettes.com](http://www.njcolumbiettes.com).

## Vocations/Pennies from Heaven, Lorraine Noger

Please remember to keep saving those pennies, 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..

The Pennies check is due on or before June 1<sup>st</sup>, one check please and 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.



I wish all of my sisters Columbiettes a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Remember when you come to Convention this year, you will see the gifts given out on Saturday morning to the Seminarian/Postulants

**CHAPTER PRESIDENTS – REMEMBER TO SEND IN YOUR SELECTION OF A SEMINARIAN/POSTULANT TO ME BY April 15 or earlier if possible.**

Thank again.

**Lorraine Noger, Chairlady**

## **Website, Nicole Markus**

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

- Supreme: [www.columbiettes.com](http://www.columbiettes.com)
- NJ State: [www.njcolumbiettes.com](http://www.njcolumbiettes.com)

# CHAPTERS

## South East

At our April meeting, held via ZOOM from St Anthony's in Port Reading, home of our Chaplain Reverend William J Smith, President Katie advised members of our "Drive Through" Right to Life Baby Shower. It will be hosted by St Bernadette Auxiliary with donations brought to Life Choices in Metuchen. At this time only "new" layette items are accepted due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



St. Bernadette Auxiliary Members Falon Tanko and Kathy Jessen delivering items to Life Choices

We were able to hold a Mass and May Crowning at St Anthony's and it was GREAT to actually see some of our Sister Columbiettes in person as well as ZOOM!



Father Smith assisted President Katie Elichko crown our Blessed Mother.  
Masks were worn and social distancing prevailed!

Immediate Past President Kathy Donahue presented the slate of officers for the 2021-2022 year as follows: President – Katie Elichko, Immediate Past President – Kathy Donahue, Vice President – Gerri Kosloski, Secretary – Louise Welch, Financial Secretary – Barbara Kadubic, Treasurer Agnes Gorska, Sentinel – Lois Ann Smith, Delegates to NJSCC Nominating Committee – Katie Elichko and Gerri Kosloski, Alternates to NJSCC Nominating Committee – Louise Welch and Barbara Kadubic.

Nancy Fallon and her Ways and Means Committee held a “small” Tricky Tray to increase our funds so that we could present our charities and seminarians with their stipends. It was held at Our Lady of Victories and each auxiliary was requested to bring one basket and one wrapped lottery ticket, each valued at \$25.00 and a small item associated with the lottery ticket.

June brought about our election of officers as well and all officers on our slate were elected. Voting on our Traveling Gavel was held and hopefully this pandemic will allow us to meet in person, safely, of course! September 16th Our Lady of Peace, November 18th Our Lady of

Victories (Tricky Tray), February 17th St Bartholomew's (Seminarian Nomination and Charity Recipient for next year), March 17 our Evening of Reflection at St Anthony's of Padua, April 21st Father Carey (Right to Life Baby Shower), May 19th May Crowning St Lawrence and June 16th our Chapter Meeting will be held at South Amboy.

An update on our Charity recipient, Sienna Smith, was given and all were elated that she is doing miraculously well.

Our 65th Convention was unique, as you know, in that it was held in person as well as Zoom and was Saturday morning! ALL orders of business were accomplished and the mass Father Bill celebrated following the convention caucus was beautiful.

Our Seminarian for the 2020-2021 year was Marco Barcenas and a stipend will be presented to him from our Chapter.

Our Lady of Peace in Fords graciously held our September Chapter Meeting and our new Columbiette year began!

President Agnes Gorzka at Our Lady of Peace hosted an Initiation Ceremony on Thursday, November 11th where 10 new candidates were welcomed into three (3) auxiliaries! Our Lady of Peace 4, Our Lady of Victories 1 and St Bernadette 5. Congratulations to all of our New Sister Columbiettes.



Chapter Chaplain, Father William J Smith, and we wish him all God's Blessings on this beautiful milestone. Father Smith was ordained by the Most Reverend John C Reiss, Bishop of Trenton on November 14, 1981. His Anniversary Mass, celebrated at St Anthony of Padua's in Port Reading, was extremely personalized and his love and support in the lives that he has touched was evident in the attendance at his celebration. The church was bursting at the seams as all who were invited there witnessed. His parishioners hosted a wonderful reception afterwards and it looked as if Father Smith actually got to enjoy himself! May God continue to bless you Father Bill on your faith-filled journey as shepherd of so many at St Anthony of Padua's, Our Lady of Mount Carmel and especially including your Sister Columbiettes!



Our next chapter meeting will be held at Our Lady of Victories on Thursday, November 18th when we will hold our Annual Tricky Tray and this year members will be bringing food for their tables so that more funds will be available for us to donate!!! It will also be our Christmas gathering and often you will see apparel of the red, green, silver and gold kind. Again each auxiliary is asked to donate a \$25.00 basket and gift card valued at \$25.00 with an item associated with the gift card. Nancy is also introducing some new activities to assist in raising funds.

Auxiliaries have time to investigate and get information on a seminarian they would like to nominate and also a charity for next year to be presented at our next meeting on February 17th.

South East Chapter prays all are well, this pandemic ends completely and wishes all of our Sister Columbiettes and their families the most Holy and Healthy Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year!

South East Chapter  
Lois Ann Smith, Publicity

Merry  
Christmas

## South West

The South West Chapter held its first meeting of the Columbiette year on September 16. After a year of Zoom meetings, it was wonderful to be together in-person. The new Installation Ceremony was held. The Officers for this year are are President – Ann Fletcher (St. James); Immediate Past President – Carol Bohinski (St. James); Vice President – Kathleen Finn (St. David the King); Secretary – Nancy Lee (Hopewell); Financial Secretary – Jeanne Bellas (St. Augustine); Treasurer – Evelyn Pearce (Immaculate Conception); and Sentinel – Joanne Rizzo (St. James). We joined together to celebrate and congratulate Nadine Lecorchick - our new State President.



Many members of the South West Chapter were in attendance at the Officers Training Seminar on September 26. There was a great deal of important information that was presented. Thank you to the State Officers for making this session available to us and sharing information, ideas and answering many questions.

We are grateful for the return to normalcy and anticipate a successful Columbiette year. The South West Chapter added nine new members this past year and we are enthusiastically looking forward to joining together with them and all of our Sisters in our Columbiette activities. Even though last year was very challenging and very difficult to hold events and fundraisers, our members did a courageous job in continuing with their activities. Moving forward, plans have been made for upcoming activities. Auxiliaries have held or are planning to hold a plant sale, food drives, a blessing of the animals service and fund raisers to receive a percentage of proceeds from restaurant purchases. Auxiliaries are joining with our Brother Knights in praying the rosary and holding a memorial service. Others are attending mass for deceased members. We are looking forward to having the Initiation Ceremony in-person, attending mass together, assisting the Knights and celebrating the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

At the November meeting, the South West Chapter will hold a food drive to collect donations for a local food pantry. After the meeting, we will have some fun and play a Turkey Trot game.

We continue to join with our Sister Columbiettes in prayer for those affected by this terrible COVID pandemic.

The South West Chapter wishes all our Sister Columbiettes and their families a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. We pray that 2022 will bring blessings and peace to all.

May our Patron Saints, the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Terese the Little Flower and St. Joan of Arc, watch over you and your families in the coming year.

Ann Fletcher  
President

## Western

Western Chapter is proud to announce the appointment of our own Lisa Roberts as Treasurer to Supreme Council, Donna Lewandowski as State Financial Secretary and Catherine Nicholson as State Treasurer. What an honor to have Western Chapter represented by these ladies, we wish them the best of luck in the coming year!

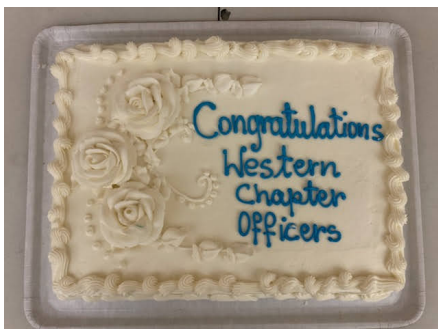
Western Chapter was honored to begin its 2021 – 2022 Columbian year with the installation of officers on October 6th by State President Nadine Lecorchick. Thank you, Nadine, for making the long trip up to Vernon and to Janet Tussey who chaired the installation. Many dignitaries were in attendance including Supreme Treasure & Past State President Lisa Roberts, Past Supreme & Past State President Sandra Bohinski, State Secretary Kathleen Donahue, State Financial Secretary Donna Lewandowski, State Treasurer Cathe Nicholson and Past State President Susan Kadar. The following officers were installed:

- President Betsy Roos (General Judson Kilpatrick)
- Immediate Past President Lucie Cohn (Long Valley)
- Vice President Mary Kubisky (Bishop Navagh)
- Secretary Mary Ann Stanek (Don Bosco)
- Financial Secretary Colleen Testa (Don Bosco)



- Treasurer Mary Hargraves (Bishop Navagh)
- Sentinel Nancy Lennon (Long Valley).

Dinner preceded the evening which was hosted by our sisters from General Judson Kilpatrick and Brother Knights. Thank You to Janet Tussey and sister GJK's for a delicious dinner and a very memorable evening.



On October 24<sup>th</sup>, many of us attended the testimonial dinner for Past President Elena McFarland in Bridgewater, it was a fun afternoon celebrating Elena's accomplishments during a difficult time when she had to lead us through virtual meetings.



How nice it is to be able to see and meet with all our sisters in person after a long period of separation due to the Covid pandemic. Western Chapter officers, past presidents and auxiliary

Presidents came together on August 25<sup>th</sup> for pizza and our organization meeting, and again at the Officers Seminar on September 26<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to our next meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup> at Bishop Navagh when we hold our tricky tray. It fills our hearts with joy to hear everyone chatting and catching up with each other! God is Good! We wish all our Sister Columbiettes a joyous Advent and Merry Christmas!



## AUXILIARIES

### Bishop Navagh

Due to the pandemic, we continued using Zoom for our May and June Meetings. Our members became comfortable using Zoom and meeting attendance was very good.

Our Chaplain, Fr. David Monteleone, was transferred to another parish in June. Fr. Stephen Prisk was his replacement as Pastor of Holy Spirit Church and we asked Fr. Stephen if he would be our new Chaplain. Thankfully, he said Yes! He will be saying Mass for our Deceased Members of the Columbiettes and the Knights on December 7th at Holy Spirit Church. We are hoping for a good turnout to remember and honor those Sisters and Brothers who have given so much of themselves but are no longer with us.

Our TO GO Fish Fry on June 11th was a huge success! Our volunteers worked hard starting with those who took the orders and collected the money. Then the people in the kitchen worked together like a well-oiled machine, cranking out 192 meals in less than 2 hours. Our runners delivered all those meals to our happy customers. And we had a few non-members who helped by carrying the trays of food into the kitchen. We received some donations and even sold some Angel Pins! We worked hard but had a lot of fun!

There were 20 submissions to our Holy Spirit Essay Contest Scholarship program. We presented the winner with a check at the Holy Spirit graduation on June 15th.

Our Adopt-A-Family Chairwoman, Joan Deodato asked Sr. Marie at Holy Spirit Church to choose a family for our program. It's a single Mom with 2 young children. Our members are providing her with canned goods, paper products and gift cards to the local supermarket. We will supply their entire meal for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We will also give the

Mom a monetary donation so she can purchase some Christmas gifts for the children.

We hosted Recruitment Weekend at each of our 3 parishes in October. Our VP and Recruitment Chairwoman, Sue Fierro, did a wonderful job recruiting our members to speak at the Masses and hand out brochures. As a result, we have 2 potential new members.

St Joseph's Church hosted the St Joseph's Pilgrimage on October 9th. This is a program created by the Paterson Diocese, with 11 Churches participating. You can check it out on the Paterson Diocese website. Several of our members met in St Joseph's parking lot and were able to take the bus that St Joseph's Church provided. It lasted about 3.5 hours. We prayed the rosary on the bus and prayed at each of the churches we visited. We visited Holy Family Church in Florham Park, Shrine of our Lady of Fatima in Convent Station and St Joseph's Church in Mendham. It was a very enjoyable day.

Several of our members participated in the Rosary Rally for Our Nation on October 10th. Bishop Sweeney and the Order of Malta led everyone in a Rosary procession to pray the Glorious Mysteries.

We were very proud when one of our Sisters, Mary Hargraves, received an award at the Vivere Christus Award Ceremony on October 17th @ the Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Paterson. This award is given in recognition of their selfless and faithful response to the missionary discipleship of their parish. Bishop Sweeney handed out the awards and Bishop Serratelli gave the Homily.

We are praying that all our Sisters stay safe and healthy during these uncertain times. And we wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a Blessed Christmas!

## Don Bosco—Newton

The Sisters of Don Bosco #7784 were so pleased to return to church for our Easter service, April 2021. We were able to have our spring fund raiser at a local pizza parlor and raised over two hundred dollars. In Spring we also saw members step up to take on the responsibility of an officer, for the new year, 2021-2022. Sadly, in May we lost a charter member, Mildred Bugge. In June we awarded four scholarships to four young ladies. Two awards were given to two eighth girls and the other two were our Good Citizen and our Founder Scholarship award. By the beginning of summer, we exceeded our goal of praying one million Hail Mary's, we prayed Hail Mary for 2,294,842 times. Thank you to all our followers, for helping us reach our goal.

There was a March for Life Mass at Our Lady Queen of Peace, in Branchville, that was attended by many sisters and later they walked throughout the town saying the rosary for unborn babies. Miriam Montagne and I went to the June convention, and we brought over fifty-five pounds of tabs, sixty backpacks, and over forty-five bags of toiletries. In August, the Columbiettes once again helped the Knights of Columbus at the Sussex County Fair. Our members worked as cashiers, runners, sandwich wrappers and dishwashers. The fair was for a week and during the week more than sixteen members and husbands worked over 305 hours. That is over thirty-eight days working eight-hour shifts.

As we began in September we continued to meet by way of ZOOM. We have been meeting over ZOOM for more than a year, and we have been consistent with our attendance. We started a new Hail Mary campaign where we are seeking our Blessed Mother's intercession for the United States of America. All Hail Mary counts can be emailed to: [hailmarysfortheUSA@gmail.com](mailto:hailmarysfortheUSA@gmail.com).



Attending State training

We found ourselves homeless when we were unable to return to our Community Center for our monthly meetings. We needed to find a new venue as well as a new spiritual advisor. After many prayers, and inquiries we were able to find a new location for our meetings, at Sacred Heart Retreat Center, and Sister Theresa of the Salesian Sisters, became our spiritual advisor.



Photos from our new location

In October, the Columbiettes were attending the Life Chain Rally on the Green in Newton, which was a rally to Save Unborn Children. At the conclusion of the rally a rosary was should by all in attendance.





## Life Chain and Rosary Rally

Over one hundred pounds of snacks and drinks were collected for Saint Mother Theresa's Food Pantry in Newton. At our November meeting we collected personal care items for the Good Shepherd RC Church in Andover.



## Officer Installation

A few members tapped into their creative juices and decorated their car into a “Cookie Monster” for a “Trunk or Treat” celebration at a local nursing home where residents came outside to watch the staff’s children parade in Halloween costumes for cookies, candy, and other treats. Oh, yes, we gave out cookies.



Celebrating Trunk or Treat with Cookie Monster

The Don Bosco Columbiettes have embraced the term Charity by helping a Columbiette sister and a husband who is a Knight, Louise, and Geoffrey Crann. Knight Geoff is currently extremely ill and in a nursing home in Maryland where his son lives. Louise is in the process of clearing out and getting their home ready for sale. Traveling back and forth is costly and Geoffrey’s company went bankrupt, so their funds have lessened greatly. The Don Bosco Sisters rolled up their sleeves, brought boxes and tubs, and packed Louise and Geoffrey’s home of treasures from forty years. The Sisters have also agreed to give them one thousand dollars to help with expenses. This fund came from the Emergency Fund established back in 2005. I am so proud of my sisters in the Don Bosco #7784, who came to the aid of one of their own.



I am wishing everyone a most blessed Christmas and a Happy, and Healthy New Year.

God bless you.

Pamela Raynor President

## **Father Cannon**

Greetings to all of our Sister Columbiettes!

Our auxiliary has been quite busy over the last months!

We conducted two Community Beautification Events over the Summer, and we have been working closely with our Brother Knights on a number of activities for our St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish. We jointly conducted a special Prayer Service in honor of hosting the Silver Rose, and will sponsor a Parish Christmas Breakfast next month. Our Auxiliary will also participate in the Parish Giving Tree Program in December.

We wish you and your families a blessed holiday and a Happy New Year!

## **General Judson Kilpatrick**

The General Judson Kilpatrick gals were overjoyed to be back to in person meetings in September. What a great feeling to be back together again!!! We, of course got right to work!!! In October, we hosted the Western Chapter meeting and were oh so proud to see our own, Betsy Roos, installed as President. Also in October we helped out at the St. Francis de Sales first annual trunk or treat. We set up crafts and activities in Boland Hall for all to enjoy. In November, we held a fundraiser for the Sussex County Vietnam Vets. Flags with the service person's name, branch of service, and dates of service lined St m.

Francis' driveway. What a beautiful tribute and way to remember our Veterans. In December, we are setting up crafts and activities for our Parish Christmas Tree lighting and organizing our Parish Christmas party. We want to send out our wishes to all for a Blessed & Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year!!!



## Immaculate Conception

In May this year we were able to crown the statue of Mary in the Columbian club garden. Last year only two women were able to place the crown on Mary. This year there were over a dozen who enjoyed an afternoon outside in the sun while crowning Mary, saying the Rosary and ending with a special prayer in honor of St. Joseph

We had an exciting Convention in June. Not only were we back in person, we were in attendance as one of our Auxiliary members, Nadine Lecorchick became State President. Nadine has had an illustrious career as a Columbiette. As a member of the Immaculate Conception

Spotswood Auxiliary, South West Chapter, and the New Jersey State board, she has held numerous positions which will enable her to be a successful leader. We congratulate her on her achievement and share in her excitement for her upcoming years as State President.



As we continued our in person meetings in September I was excited to welcome a new member to our auxiliary. She was the first member we installed in person with the new Installation Ceremony. The Installation went well despite the weather. Hurricane Henri was making his presence known in our area during the meeting. The winds and rain were fierce. Yet in spite of the weather I am proud to say that 22 of our members came out in the storm to welcome Jen.

In October we were happy once again to host our Annual Ghostly Gala Halloween fundraiser. The hall was decorated by the members and it looked frightful. The guests outdid themselves with their costumes. We held two Gift Card raffles, a 50/50, and awarded gifts for best costumes in three categories. Our great DJ had guests dancing to a variety of songs and music. Everyone had a spooktacular night of food, fun and good friends.

On November 14th our parish held a Gala to celebrate its 75th Anniversary. The Gala ended a year of various special parish events held for parishioners and guests. Immaculate has gone through some changes over the years and the Immaculate Conception Spotswood

Columbiettes have been a part of those changes for over 35 of those years. Many of our members attended these unique parish anniversary events and we look forward to being a part of the parish for many more years to come.

We have continued to participate in the Don Bosco sponsored Hail Mary campaign to save unborn babies as we pray for our Nation.

Best Wishes to everyone as the holidays approach and we celebrate with family and friends. May the Baby Jesus bring us all wonderful gifts and blessings for 2022 and may our Mother Mary continue to watch over us.

## Long Valley

Since our last Echo update, the Long Valley Columbiettes have been keeping super busy. We are so excited to tell you what we have accomplished!

Let's start off with announcing our 2021 Scholarship winner. She is an exceptional young woman who was able to commit to service work for her community and school, have exceptional grades, and attend mass on a regular basis. We congratulate our 2021 High School Graduate Scholarship Winner, Gabriella Nowak. After mass, our Vice President Marge Sanders awarded \$500 to Gabriella and congratulated her for being an exceptional student. Way to go Gabriella!

We helped out at two events this summer to help out our Veterans. The first was "Vets Summer Fest". This event is run by Operation Chillout, an organization which helps homeless Veterans. This year's Vets Summer Fest was on Saturday August 14th. We were able to collect \$300 with the help of selling T-shirts and Cookbooks that our auxiliary has produced (FIRST PICTURE). A month later in September, we were able to help another organization called "Sarge's Discipline." This is an organization that helps promote PTSD awareness and collections go

toward Veterans Programs. We were able to participate and help sell t-shirts along the way. (SECOND PICTURE)



We finally started meeting in person for the first time in over a year in September, and it feels great to actually be in the presence of everyone! For our first meeting of the year, in September, we actually did an open house to invite more sisters to join our Auxiliary. During our October meeting, we performed the new initiation Ceremony and welcomed 3 new sisters! Please help us welcome our New Sister Columbiettes, Donna Fania, Paula Roselli, and Helen Schuettler.



We also want to send out a special congratulations to our own Financial Secretary who was just initiated as our Western Chapter Sentinel! Congratulations Nancy Lennon. We are so proud of you!



Towards the end of the month on the 30th, the Long Valley Columbiettes celebrated our 12th year of becoming an Auxiliary. We celebrated a joint mass with our fellow Long Valley Knights of Columbus. It was a beautiful mass that was said by our new Chaplin, Father Michal Rybinski, followed by a dinner at a local Retreat Center called "Liebenzell Retreat Ministries," which our fellow Columbiette Sister Patrice Shaffer works at. Pictured here are some of our fellow Columbiettes who attended the dinner.



Christmas is right around the corner! So many things are done before the end of the year and I can't wait to give you the total amounts with



what we collected and donated for in the next Echo Submission. Throughout the year, we have collected yarn and donated hand-made scarves to the Father English Center, which is a pantry that helps so many people out in the community. Last year we had made over 180 scarves. We can't wait to tell you the total amount, but we are still collecting and making them. In the middle of November, we had our 2nd year of taking Christmas photos for the Community. We have collected \$250 and are still receiving donations. And we are so excited to announce that we will be having our Christmas Cookie Sale again this year so stay tuned!

Continue to have a successful year fellow Sister Columbiettes and continue to stay safe and healthy. Merry Christmas to you all!

With love,

Laura Bigos; President  
Long Valley Columbiettes Council #10419

## Millstone Valley

We were so happy to meet in-person for our Officer Installation ceremony in July when we welcomed our new officers – President Erica Ruffer, Secretary Michele Tuck and Vice-President Linda Chemidlin as well as our returning officers and several Past Presidents who offer their guidance and support. We celebrated this event with the Knights of Columbus officers and our Auxiliary Chaplain Father Hank. We are grateful to have initiated several new members recently as well.

While we will continue to enjoy some traditional events, our new President has introduced several new activities including Social Steps (to walk and socialize with fellow Columbiettes) and Read and React (to meet and discuss a different book each month). Another new activity called Crafting with Purpose has allowed several of our members to

craft fall wreaths and holiday shadow boxes for our homebound parishioners.

Our September parish picnic was a big hit this year! We assisted the Knights with food preparation and organized several games for the kids. Our October meeting included a candy exchange in which we bought bags of candy to donate to students at the elementary schools in Manville, especially devastated by Hurricane Ida. Throughout this year, we will also be donating money and purchasing food items for Feeding Hands, a local food pantry that was also destroyed during the hurricane.



We were honored to be asked again to organize our parish's Annual Veterans Day celebration on November 14th which included an outdoor mass, roll call and refreshments and snacks afterwards. A gift bag was presented to each Veteran that included a handmade quilt, crocheted coasters, prayer card, bookmark and a gift card to a local restaurant. Gift bags were delivered to Veterans who could not attend.

Many thanks to our Fundraising Committee who held their first event in October. We rely on these funds to donate to our favorite charities throughout the year.

For Christmas, we will be collecting pajamas for women and children at Safe + Sound, an organization that provides support to survivors of

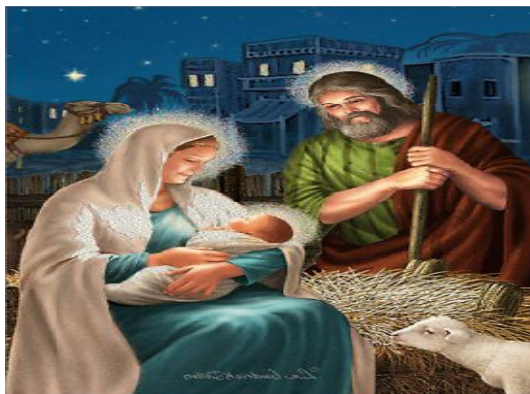


domestic abuse as well as coloring books and crayons to donate to the Children's Hospital at St. Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick.

We continue to pray for good health for all our Sister Columbiettes!

## Our Lady of Perpetual Help—Jersey City

Greetings from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Jersey City Auxiliary!



Happy Advent and advance Merry Christmas to all our sister Columbiettes!

It's been a couple of years of lockdown and restrictions because of Covid pandemic. Our Auxiliary is experiencing boredom and inactivity at

this time. Our projects are on hold and our facilities like meeting rooms will probably remain locked since the new Pastor took over.

However we collaborate with the Parish in the monthly food drive for our Parish pantry and events such as Trunk or Treat.

At times we get together and attend our Zoom monthly meeting.

This coming year more than ever we need new ideas and inspiration to help us delve deeper during our isolation and restrictions to find that glimmer of light, of joy, consolation and hope.

So may all of us experience a holy, blessed Advent season and wishing you all a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Naty Caballero

## Parsippany

Sister Columbiettes:

Looking ahead to the beautiful festive season of Thanksgiving, Christmas and a New Year, we have faith that things will continue to move forward enabling us to continue our “in-person” gatherings. The Columbiettes of Parsippany were so very very happy to be able to attend a Western Chapter meeting early in October, how wonderful to see old friends and meet some new ones as well. Throughout the Pandemic period our own Tina Callahan made and distributed masks keeping so many safe and healthy. In May we were blessed to be able to have members from our three churches, St. Ann’s, St. Christopher’s and St. Peter’s join together at St. Peter’s Grotto for a Rosary. The photo shows the beautiful turnout of Sister Columbiettes. As we all do, Parsippany continues to support our food pantries, coupons for our Military, and blankets, scarfs, hats, gloves, etc. to keep warm those in need. Of

course I could not close without letting you know that God graced us with the ability to have our Annual TEA this year. It was a very full house, with an autumn theme, goodies galore and everyone's fill of all the TEA desired. This successful event allows us to continue our giving throughout the year. As Columbiettes, may our beautiful New Jersey theme "Women of God" help us to pray so that God will bless us and our families as we move together to a new year.



## Santa Maria

May 9, 2021

Presentation by President Ann DeFeo of Humanity Award to Jessica Donohue for assisting Sacred Heart Church by providing the means to video Masses to the congregation as a result of the Covid pandemic.

May 20, 2021

Outside gathering to welcome our new members at Long Branch Park, Hainesport, NJ. Elizabeth Harmon, Misse Raylman and Donna Guyre.



June 11, 2021

Presentation of scholarship to Danielle Rodriquez for \$800 towards her final year in Sacred Heart school.

June 13, 2021

Presentation of \$25 gift to Deacon Jim Costa for 20 years of service to the church.

July 13, 2021

Induction of new Columbiettes officers for 2021-2022 year along with Knights of Columbus at Sacred Heart Church, Mount Holly, NJ. Patty Borm, Vice President; Diane Tew, Financial Secretary; Joanne Daywalt, Secretary; Deacon Jim Casa, Spiritual director; Stephanie Aaron, Sentinel; Anne DeFeo, Past President; Joelle Wentz, President.



July 31, 2021

Assisted Knights of Columbus #1179 in conducting bike ride in Mount Holly, NJ. Proceeds donated to Sacred Heart School.



October 16, 2021

Sacred Heart School CYO Funfest, Mount Holly, NJ.

Knights/Columbiettes provided coverage for the snack shack.







Cow plop  
was a big  
hit.



October 24, 2021

Shared Mass and breakfast with Knights of Columbus.



Happy Holidays from Santa Maria Columbiettes.

## Sgt. John F. Basilone

The Sgt. John F. Basilone Columbiettes #13264 kicked off the Columbian year by participating in the annual John Basilone Parade and brainstorming ideas for fundraisers and activities for the fall season. As Hurricane Ida swept through our community, we rallied together to help wherever possible. Our auxiliary provided gift cards for two displaced parish families and some of our members assisted at local clothing and food drives for several weeks after the storm. Together with community volunteers, we were able to provide food and clothing to over 150 families in Somerville and help the Raritan Pregnancy Aid Center replace baby items and clothing that were lost in the storm.

In October we sold St. Francis of Assisi medals at St. Ann's annual blessing of the animals. It was wonderful to see so many families and their fur babies! Some of our members also collected coats for our Knights of Columbus annual drive and we provided treats for the St. Ann Academy Trunk or Treat event.



In November we are giving thanks by providing lunch and dessert to the Raritan Police Department, volunteer firefighters, and the Department

of Public Works for their tireless efforts during Hurricane Ida. We have also adopted a family displaced by the storm and we are donating a complete Thanksgiving Dinner to the family.

In December we are planning an Immaculate Conception Medal sale as well as providing Christmas dinner and gifts for our adopted family. We will also support our Knights by working their annual Breakfast with Santa. We wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and blessed Christmas season. We look forward to continuing our good works in the new year!

## St. Ann's

It's been a busy summer at St. Ann's Auxiliary! We kicked it off with our now-annual yard sale, our biggest fundraiser of the year. We worked hard to sort donations on Friday night and work the sale all day Saturday. It was so successful that we did it again in October! Anything unsold was donated to local churches and charities, so nothing was wasted.



Our sisters hail from several local parishes, and we've aided each of them as we can. We hosted a Thanksgiving food drive and was able to donate to each of our host parish's food pantries—St. Ann, St. Leo, and St. Catharine—in time for the holiday. We also aided our brother



Knights in their many events, including the Memorial Day parade, cleanup at the local train station, and their annual Italian Night dinner.

And our exciting news: we hosted our first public event! A Sip & Paint fundraiser was held at the Knights of Columbus hall, bringing in nearly seventy sister Columbiettes and community friends. We put brush to canvas and learned more than we knew before about blending paint! There were refreshments of wine and cheese, and several raffle baskets auctioned off.



St. Ann's is already planning for 2022, including a party in January for our second anniversary as an auxiliary. It's hard to think it's been two years already, but it also feels like we've always been together!

## St. Augustine

With the COVID-19 Pandemic lessening, St. Augustine's Columbiettes has returned to in-person meetings. We are hoping that our meeting attendance will increase as the year progresses.

The St. Augustine's Auxiliary was pleased to have Carol Bohinski, past SW Chapter President, attend our November 11th meeting to install our

Officers for the 2021-2022 year: This year's officers are as follows: Mary Kate Walsh as President, Kathy Michalski as Past President, Kathy Pavalkis as Vice President, Jeanne Bellas as Financial Secretary, MaryAnn Sweet as Treasurer, Robin Varsalona as Secretary and Lu Chincarini as Sentinel. We would like to thank all those who attended and the ladies who are stepping down for all of their past service to the Auxiliary.

The St. A's Columbiettes gathered in early October with our brother Knights to say the Rosary for our Blessed Mother and pray for peace in our community, country and around the world. We are preparing now to support those in need in our community for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. St. Augustine's continues to present all families with babies/children being baptized at St. Augustine's each week with a lovely certificate and cross to commemorate the occasion. St. Augustine's has also started a bake sale in conjunction with the monthly Parish Communion Breakfast as a small on-going fund raiser for the Auxiliary. We plan to partner with local businesses in the community (Confecionalately Yours, Joe's Deli) as we did last summer for additional fund raising opportunities in the coming year.

Currently, we are planning to participate in a mass on Nov. 22nd with the Knights of Columbus to honor all of our departed Brothers and Sisters. We are also planning for our Annual Christmas mass in December and hopefully the Christmas Brunch with fun games and Secret Santa to follow and are looking forward to performing more good works in the coming year!

St. Augustine's wishes all of our Sister Columbiettes to Be Well and Stay Safe during these trying times as we come out of this pandemic! We wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Fabulous 2022! GOD BLESS!

Mary Kate Walsh  
PRESIDENT, St. Augustine Columbiettes

## St. Bartholomew

On August 22nd our Pastor and Chaplain asked the Columbiettes to host a parish breakfast to welcome parishioners back to Church. We purchased and served individually wrapped muffins, doughnuts, and pastries, and also had coffee, tea and juice.

We were excited to be able to meet in person starting in September but alas it was not meant to be due to an issue with the fire system at our meeting place. So, we met via Zoom in September and October and in November we met at our Vice President's home, which was a nice change. We held our meeting and had the Zoom link, enjoyed delicious food, and wrote Christmas cards in English and Spanish and Hanukkah cards. Hopefully this will be resolved by December, and we can meet again in our own meeting room!

We held a membership drive the weekend of October 2nd and received applications from 7 interested ladies! Five of them attended an Initiation Ceremony at Our Lady of Peace Fords on 11/11 to become members of our group.



Initiation Ceremony at Our Lady of Peace Fords on 11/11. Pictured are our 5 new members with Past President Lois Ann Smith and President Kathy Jessen.

On October 11th we were once again asked to attend our Brother Knights Memorial Mass and to prepare a light breakfast following. We had frozen the leftover breakfast items from August and purchased bagels and juice and served with coffee and tea.

At our November meeting, we voted to donate Thanksgiving items to our Parish Social Concerns ministry. We will donate 5 \$10 Shop Rite gift cards and 5 of each item: Corn, Yams, Applesauce, Stuffing Mix, Green beans, Turkey Gravy, Cornbread mix, Cranberry Sauce, Chicken broth (for stuffing). These items will be given to those in need. We put all the items in a reusable bag when we drop them off. This is the second year we are doing this and we will be sure to count our pounds for the Feed the Hungry program.

Lois Ann Smith, Lilly Zammit and I attended the Past State President Testimonial Dinner in Somerville on 10/24.



Pictured from l-r: Treasurer Lilly Zammit, President Kathy Jessen and Past President Lois Ann Smith.

Later in November we will be holding our Poinsettia Sale (11/29). We are holding a Bake Sale in December. Our Parish "Women's Organization Christmas Party" will be held in January as well as our Annual Soup to Go Sale.

Once again, this year we plan to donate Shop Rite gift cards in lieu of having a “grab bag” at our December Meeting. These cards are given to our Parish Social Concerns Committee.

We wish all our Sisters and their families a Very Blessed Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year!

Kathy Jessen

## St. David the King

St. David the King Columbiettes of Princeton Junction, NJ had a Fabulous Mum Sale Fundraiser on September 25/26, 2021 at our wonderful parish selling over 330 9 inch and 14 inch mums. Our parishioners were delighted. Mostly all of the Columbiettes participated and worked so hard with the enormous set up (assisted by several of our Knights) and the sales to our wonderful and generous parishioners. It was such an Inspiring event and wonderful to be back in action. We look forward to being able to do more fundraising events for our many charities.



We are proud to say that we have an amazing group of ladies, who do so much for the charity of others in our parish and with the Columbiettes. We are truly blessed.

With God's Blessings,  
Many thanks,  
Debra Camilleri  
Past Auxiliary President

## **St. Francis**

On Sunday, October 3, 2021, the St. Francis Auxiliary Columbiettes hosted a presentation by VITALity Catholic Healthcare Services after the 11 a.m. Mass in St. Joseph's Church Hall, Swedesboro. VITALity is the healthcare ministry of the Diocese of Camden dedicated to helping those with healthcare needs and those who are in need of assistance to stay safe and healthy at home. After the presentation a question-and-answer period followed accompanied by refreshments. Even though we did not get the audience that we had hoped for, those that attended gained a greater understanding of this program and how it can assist one or a loved one.

Gail Marie Persia, President  
St. Francis Auxiliary, Swedesboro

## **St. James**

The St. James Columbiettes and our Brother Knights honored our Deceased Members at a Memorial Service officiated by Deacon Patrick Smith on November 8, 2021.

We are planning our annual Christmas Party and Advent Wreath Lighting Ceremony on December 13th.

In addition to our backpacks, tab tops, pennies from Heaven and toiletries collections, we have added a new charity. Our members include residents from Helmetta, Jamesburg and Monroe, which were severely flooded by Storms Henri and Ida in September. Some of our members have been greatly impacted by these two storms. We started a new charity this year to help these victims titled, "Charity Begins At Home."

The St. James Knights of Columbus will celebrate their 50th Anniversary on February 5th with a Dinner Dance. We congratulate our Brother Knights on reaching 50 years serving our community and our church.

The St. James Columbiettes are planning to hostess an afternoon Tea in early May. More details will follow.

## St. John's

As much as we wanted this new year to be back to "normal" we still faced many challenges, but we proven that together, we do many great things! We are reminded many times that our Columbiette organization is one of Charity. In following this principle of Charity, we held two very successful drives (a scarf drive and shoe drive) which were written about in the Spring Echo and we also were able to donate to various local charities.

As the Covid virus is still with us we decided once again to postpone our 15 Anniversary Celebration. No new date has been decided yet, but we are looking foward to the Spring of 2022 to celebrate our Anniversary, Happy 15-16-17 to us!

Let us continue to stay safe, be well and continue to pray for one another. Wishing all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, Blessed New Year!



Peace,

Roberta Elwell

Past President – St John's Council 1345 Dumont-Bergenfield

## **St. Maximilian Kolbe**

On September 18, 2021 St. Maximilian Kolbe Auxiliary put together a Baby Shower, which was the result of Spiritual Adoption from October of 2019.

The Shower was a huge success. Our parishioners donated over 100 baby gifts. Our KofC Council 10899 donated \$350 donation to us in 2019 for the Shower. The shower received a total of \$700. The gifts and monetary donations were distributed among 4 pregnancy Centers. Special Sources, Birthright of Toms River, Open Door of Toms River & Good Counsel. Thanks to Lynn Ruggerio and her committee.

On October 23, 2021 St. Maximilian Kolbe Auxiliary collected 300 pairs of shoes, which was brought to a Storage Area and picked up by Soles for Souls. These shoes will be sold and sent to Third World Countries to help those people. Thanks to Cathy Allen her committee, Len Capobianco & John Clark for their efforts.



On November 13th St. Maximilian Kolbe Auxiliary had a Tea for the women in our parish, in order to generate membership for our Auxiliary. A huge Success! We will be having an initiation Ceremony on Saturday November 20th for 20-22 new members. There were 52 Women who attended the Tea.

God is Good! All the Time God is Good!

## Warren

Greetings from Warren Council 474 in Northwest NJ. What a year it has been!

Our auxiliary met in May and June despite some concerns over the virus. Our release forms were signed and some members still wore masks as precautionary measures.

In September we opened our new Columbiette year with a formal in person meeting. Motions were reviewed and plans for the year 21-22 were briefly discussed. In October we brought in two new members with the initiation ceremony, which was very nice. Several of us attended the dinner for our past State President Elena McFarland, a lovely afternoon was spent amongst other auxiliaries and there was certainly enough good food and drinks, especially the Malibu bay breezes! On Saturday Oct. 30 we held our first craft/vendor fair and small tricky tray event with positive results. We are looking forward for future events such as this and are already in the planning stages for November of 2022. Many of us are still recuperating from the event physically and writing thank you notes to all who helped make it a success.

At our November meeting we will vote on donations to our two churches for Christmas. Our plans for the remainder of this year include attendance at All Souls Mass, Food for the Needy monetary donation and attend a Memorial Mass with our brother Knights. Sadly, Catholic

Charities is not holding a Christmas Party for the needy children this year. Hopefully we will be able to share in that event next holiday season. In lieu of a December meeting we already voted to attend a Christmas Dinner with a small gift exchange.

May you all share in the happiness of the holiday season, have a joyous and blessed Christmas, Happy New Year. See you in the spring!

Regards,

*Bev Redondo*

Bev Redondo, President

## **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. However, it is possible to have the booklet electronically sent to you via your auxiliary president and/or other officials who receive it. Additionally, it is posted as a .PDF file on the state website at: [www.njcolumbiettes.com](http://www.njcolumbiettes.com). Please share this availability with your members.

For the next submission due on April 15, 2022, articles can be emailed to [echonewsletter@hotmail.com](mailto: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.

