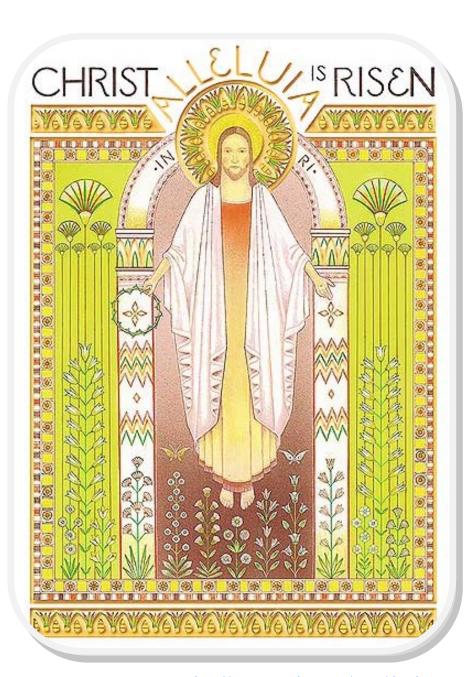
Yvonne Shimshock, Editor 13 Banor Drive Hillsborough, NJ 08844









http://www.printeryhouse.org/artists/church-peter.asp



New Jersey State Columbiettes

Message from State President Lisa Roberts

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

As I write this message, I am amazed at how fast this past year has gone. We are in the home stretch of this Columbian year as we approach our Annual State Convention in June.

I want to thank all for their commitment to this wonderful organization. Thank you to the State, Chapter and Auxiliary Officers and members for continuing the good works in support of our parishes, communities, youth and charities. I look forward to seeing many of the fruits of your labors in time and talent at the convention. I also want to extend my gratitude to the chairladies and district deputies for all the hard work you have done in your respective positions for the good of the order.

Over the past several months, NJ State Council has

also been very busy. During January a mailer was prepared and sent to all auxiliaries with the information regarding the second half of the year committees and events. I hope you found this packet helpful in planning out the balance of the year and an opportunity to participate in the events, awards, etc.

The Recruitment Team was very happy to be invited to the NJ State Knights mid-year Grand Knights meeting on January 9th. A brief presentation was provided to a very engaged group of Knights. They were provided with a takeaway of information with answers to frequently asked questions and a post card to send to Sandra Bohinski with an inquiry for more information and a face to face meeting with the council. To date we have had several inquiries with hopes of more to come. The team will be hosting a table at the upcoming NJ State



Knights convention in Wildwood, NJ. Please keep them in your prayers for great success and prosperity in spreading the news of Columbiettes.

I hope all noted the dates for submission of the Humanitarian Award and Student Good Citizen Awards. The due date was pushed earlier to April 30th for submission to the chairladies in hopes that the selection committee of Past State Presidents can choose the winners in both awards with sufficient time to notify the winners, the submitting auxiliaries and for those that did not win the state award, the receipt of a certificate from NISCC to be presented by the auxiliary during the June meetings, if you so choose. I look forward to the presentations at state convention.

It is with great disappointment that we were not able to hold the Pocketbook Bingo event due to lack of participation. But as many of us have discussed, it was just too busy in all areas of the state to get the number of attendees to

make the event a success. But I am happy to know that other events throughout the organization are being well attended and great successes. We will consider planning this event in the future.

During the weekend of April 8th - 10th, I joined with many Columbiettes and friends, the San Alphonso weekend retreat. It was a wonderful weekend, although a bit cool, sharing in the spiritual messages and teachings of Mercy. Thank you Barbara Ann for chairing this event. Congratulations to so many that achieved 5, 10, 20 and 25 year anniversaries. We also had 10 ladies that attended retreat for the first time. I hope you all enjoyed the retreat house and the conferences and hope you will join us in 2017 the weekend of April 21st to 23rd.

I very much enjoyed the Charity Awards Luncheon on May 1st, where we honored three ladies for their great works in Humanitarian Works, Education and Corporate Ethics. This event showed how



empowered Catholic Women are a strong and positive influence on the goals and ideals of the Columbiettes. The message of the event was "Catholic Women Honoring Catholic Women". We also drew the Charity Raffle at this event – congratulations to the winners! Thank you to Carol Bohinski for chairing the selection committee and luncheon and to Laura Labetti for chairing the raffle.

We will conclude this year with the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of NJ State Council at the Annual State Convention. The committee from Mid West Chapter has been working very hard to make this a memorable weekend. Please be sure to submit your journal ads, boosters and

reservations by the assigned deadlines. The convention packages were mailed to all auxiliaries, chapters and chairladies and emails were sent to all district deputies. I look forward to celebrating with all my sister Columbiettes and reporting on the many achievements of our Order.

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

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

Lisa



Page 2 Page 3



State Chaplain-Fr. Bill Smith

As I write this reflection it is the Octave of Easter. The Octave of Easter begins on Easter Sunday and ends on the 2nd Sunday of Easter, also known as Divine Mercy Sunday. With this in mind, it is appropriate to reflect upon the mercy and peace of God.

The sacred author of St. John's Gospel shows us the peace of God on the first Easter evening. The followers of Jesus are gathered together and locked in a room out of fear of what could possibly happen to them. They believed in and followed Jesus who was crucified. They probably where wondering what would happen to them?

Jesus enters the locked room and says to them PEACE BE WITH YOU. The followers of Jesus rejoice when Jesus offers them His peace. When we experience Jesus' peace we also experience rejoice. Christian joy is not laughing all the time or being happy all the time.

After offering his disciples

his peace, Jesus says to the them AS THE FATHER HAS SENT ME SO I SEND YOU. When Jesus became a human being He had something to accomplish. First and foremost, he came to be the Savior of the world and to show God's love and mercy through his teachings, actions and miracles. Jesus died on the cross for the forgiveness of sins. By His Resurrection, Jesus overcame sin and death. Jesus overcoming sin and death allows us to experience God's mercy and peace. As the followers of Jesus, each of us are called to show God's love and mercy to others by our actions. As we show God's love and mercy to others we experience God's peace and others can God's peace

In the words of St Paul, the grace and mercy of the Lord be with you. In the words of Jesus PEACE BE WITH YOU!

Then Jesus said to his disciples gathered that first Easter evening WHOSE SINS YOU SAY FORGIVE THEY ARE FORGIVEN. For



Catholics, Orthodox Christians and Anglican / Episcopal Christians understand when we go to Confession that a priest has the authority to absolve those who go to Confession of their sins. God forgives sins, the priest as a presentative of Jesus Christ assures us that our sins are forgiven.

Let us take these words of Jesus a bit further and we are to forgive those who had hurt us. It is not always easy. Sometimes it takes time. The important thing to remember is that we have to the responsibility to forgive others and work to that end until we have reached that ability to forgive those who have hurt us. In the Lord's Father (Our Father) we pray FORGIVE US OUR SINS AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO HAVE SINNED AGAINST US.

For us personally Pope Francis in his audience on March 30, 2016 said *The mercy of God is greater than any of our sins.*

- Fr. Smith

A Message from Immediate Past State President-Lorraine Noger

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

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

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

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

Lorraine

Page 4 Page 5



State Vice President-Vicki Bird

As you are busy finishing the 2015-2016 year, take time to reflect on all that you have accomplished thus far. It is good to remember what has been done and to know that there is more to come!

Remember to share your success (and failures) with your Sister Columbiettes at the convention. This is a wonderful way to pick up new ideas

for your Auxiliary to try next year and to make new friends.

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

Happy Mother's Day to all!
May you continue to 'Count
Your Blessings'.
God Bless,
Vicki

State Secretary—Elena McFarland

Dear Sister Columbiettes,
Spring is finally here!!!
After a long winter it is
wonderfully uplifting to see the
flowers in bloom. I am looking
forward to seeing all of my
sister Columbiettes at

Convention and hearing all the wonderful works of charity you have done throughout 2015-2016.

Order your Columbiettes shirts now and have them for convention!!!

Be sure to show your Columbiette pride by wearing

one of our beautiful logo wear items while volunteering around the state! Check out our Columbiette Logo Wear Shop online at

http://njcolumbiettes.logoshop.com

There is something for everyone. Remember we can do custom T-shirts if your auxiliary or chapter is attending an event as a group. Just give me a call!! 908-428-7203.

May you have a Wonderful Spring!
—Elena

State Financial Secretary—Nadine Lecorchick

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

I hope you and your family had a very Joyous and Blessed Easter. May this season fill you heart with hope and bring you joy! See you at Convention.

- Nadine

State Treasurer—Fran Corcione

Dear Sister Columbiettes, Spring is here and I hope all is well! I'm looking forward to seeing you all at convention in June.
Please remember to "Count your Blessings".

— Fran

State Advocate—Kathleen Donahue

I can't believe how fast this Columbiette year has gone!

The New Jersey State
Convention will be upon us
before you know it. I'm busy
preparing the resolutions and
recommendations that will be
presented on Friday evening.
They will be mailed to the
Supreme President, State
Officers, Past State Presidents,
District Deputies, Chapter
Presidents and Auxiliary
Presidents. Please bring your
copy with you when you come
to convention so you have
them in front of you while they

are being discussed and voted on.

I wish all the mothers, grandmothers and great grandmothers a very Happy Mother's Day. Remember our Heavenly Mother Mary during the month of May by saying a rosary in her honor.

I wish everyone a very pleasant spring and summer. Hopefully the weather will be warm and sunny this year.

I look forward to seeing you at the State Convention in June.

-Kathy

Page 6 Page 7



State Sentinel—Donna Lewandowski

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

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

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

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

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

- Donna

A Message from Our Past State Presidents

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

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

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



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NJ State Committee Chairpersons

Charity Awards Luncheon

The New Jersey State Council honored and awarded three Catholic women at the Charity Awards Luncheon on May 1st at Forsgate Country Club in Monroe Township. They are:

Denise Reil - for her work for humanity. Denise is the founder of Visitation Home, Inc. in Hamilton Township. Southwest Chapter submitted her nomination.

Catherine Nicholson – for her work in corporate ethics.
Catherine is Supreme Director,
District Deputy, Western
Chapter President and Past
President of St. Anthony's
Auxiliary. St. Anthony's Auxiliary submitted her nomination.

Kathleen Sylvester – for her work in education. Kathleen is Director of Campus Ministry at the Academy of Holy Angels in Demarest. St. John's Auxiliary submitted her nomination.

An Honoree Selection Committee (one member from each Chapter) made the difficult choices in naming these three from all the worthy candidates submitted. Each honoree received a lovely award from NJSCC and was presented a Papal Blessing by Father Smith.

Our honorees give their time, energy and talents to better the lives of others. We recognize and thank them for "touching hearts and changing lives".

- Carol Bohinski, Chair
- Mary Ann Sweet, Co-Chair

(Chair Carol, Fr. Smith, and NJ President Lisa with Honorees Kathleen, Denise, and Catherine)



Page 8 Page 9



Jewelry and Name Badges

The Columbiette name badges are still available. The cost is \$9.00 for the pin back and \$10 for the magnet back. They come in white with blue lettering, blue with white lettering, white with red lettering and red with white lettering. The badges are not just for officers, any Columbiette can wear one so everyone knows your name and where you are from. Contact me if you wish to place an order.

The Alex and Ani type bracelets are available. They are

silver. A bracelet with the Columbiette logo is \$20. If you would like a bracelet with the Columbiette logo and an angel charm, the cost is \$30. Lorraine Noger has bracelets with an angel charm which are \$20. All of the other jewelry is still available as are travel card cases.

I will be at the Major
Degrees and the State
Convention. I hope to see you
there!

– Kathy Donahue
Chair

Vocations

Many thanks to all of the Auxiliary and Sister Columbiettes who participated in the Vocation Program by buying angel pins or sponsoring sales at your meeting/church events. This program helps our program to succeed so we may help our Seminarian/Postulants in their studies along with our Memorial fund program. Also

remember to keep saving those pennies this will enhance our program and we may then be able to give our Seminarian/Postulant a large check to help them in their studies.

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



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

See you at Convention,

when you will see the Seminarians and Postulants receive their gifts.

Thank you again.

Lorraine NogerChair

Weekend Retreat

"Where God and Sea Come Together"

I cannot believe that another retreat year has just ended. It was a lovely weekend. The conferences were spiritually uplifting and we had <u>65</u> ladies in attendance. I am already planning for next year. The dates are **April 21** –

23, 2017 and the cost, I believe, is remaining the same \$210.00. Special thanks to all who have attended this weekend. I am looking forward to seeing you next year. May our Blessed Mother shower you with Her Love Always.

— Barbara Ann Lucarelli

– Barbara Ann Lucarelli Chair



Page 10 Page 11



NJ Recruitment and Retention

Remember: If you don't ask, you won't know if she wants to join.

— Sandy Bohinski
Chair

Tab Tops for Ronald McDonald House

Help families in need and make the staff at the Ronald McDonald House happy. Keep saving those tab tops. It would be greatly appreciated if you could bring your Auxiliary tab tops in paper or plastic bags to Convention. Remember, "it's the house that love built".

– Sandy Bohinski Chair





News From Our Chapters

Central

All Auxiliaries have been busy holding their different activities. Bloomfield had a Fun Sunday in March. April 10 St. John's will sponsor their "Tea Party. They also submitted three candidates for the Charity Award Luncheon on May 1 at the Forsgate County Club. One of the three candidates submitted was chosen by the committee and that is Kathy Sylvester from St. Mary's parish in Dumont. Kathy won for her charitable works and education.

St. Philip's held their annual "Flapjack" fundraiser at Applebee's on Route 3 in Clifton. They will be honored at the Spring Royale as a Women's service Organization on April 17. On April 23 they will Sponsor their annual workshop given by Fr Julio reflecting on the year of Mercy.

Regina Mundi at their March meeting held a First Degree for a few women, and even St. Philip's sent a candidate or two. We welcome them into the ranks of Columbiettes. Our Lady of Perpetual Help, I am sure, has also been busy over the past several months!

On a sad note, Paterson Auxiliary will be disbanding. We welcome all members transferring to other auxiliaries.

Best wishes go out to all who celebrated the Feasts of St. Patrick and Joseph. We hope you enjoyed them both.

May our newly risen Lord bless you and keep you in his care now and always.

See you at convention.

-Barbara Ann Lissi



Page 12 Page 13

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Mid West

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

I hope this newsletter finds you well! We kicked off 2016 with our February Chapter meeting held at Millstone Valley. At that time, we began our annual fundraiser Ten Week Club and also held a Baby Shower. Donations from the Shower were given to Great Expectations. Also at our February meeting, Sgt.Basilone submitted the name of Luciana D'Cruz as our Mid West Postulant.

In April, we met at South Plainfield where we reviewed the slate of officers for voting at our next meeting, finalized plans for convention, and had a brown bag auction activity.

In addition to the activities of Mid West Auxiliaries and the Chapter as a whole, the members have been bustling in preparation to host the NJSCC Convention in June. Great job, ladies! I look forward to seeing everyone soon!

Fran CorcionePresident



South East

Greetings from South East Chapter!

The members of the South East Chapter began 2016 with our Chapter meeting on February 18th hosted by the South Amboy Columbiettes. We were pleased that our Chaplain Father William Smith was well enough, after his recent illness, to join us for a while. Father thanked all of us for the many prayers and cards he received.

Chapter Charity resumes were presented by Our Lady of



Victory, St. Bartholomew's, South Amboy and Vincent T. Lombardi. The winner was Ivey Lynn Jankowski who was submitted by Vince Lombardi.

President Kathy Distefano thanked the South Amboy Columbiettes for the wonderful meal and their warm hospitality.

Father Smith presented an Evening of Recollection at his parish, St. Anthony of Padua Church, in Port Reading on Thursday, March 31st. He began with Mass and spoke to us about the Year of Mercy. Refreshments were served afterwards. See photos.

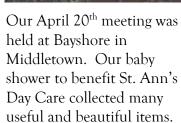
Thank you to everyone who donated to this worthwhile program.

May 19, 2016 will see us at St. Lawrence in Laurence Harbor for our meeting and May Crowning.

Our June 16th meeting will include the election of the Chapter Officers for 2016-2017. This meeting will be hosted by the Don Bosco Columbiettes.

President Kathy, her Board of Officers and all of the members of South East Chapter wish everyone a fun and safe summer! We look forward to seeing many of you at the State Convention!

– Kathy Donahue
Publicity Chairperson





Page 14 Page 15



South West

Our Columbiette year continues to be a good one. At our November meeting, hosted by Immaculate and Fr. Kapaun, we celebrated Thanksgiving and Christmas. We also had a Tricky Tray chaired by Fr. Kapaun. We all won something to keep or re-gift for Christmas. Februarys' meeting was a little iffy but we were able to have it. Gina Mastro, SW Secretary, chaired a make your own card for Valentine's Day or a Get Well Card to send happy wishes. A fun time was had by all.

Another effort for the South West Chapter was to rebuild our ceremonial team. Carol Bohinski has done a great job. We have had a lot of practice with three auxiliaries joining South West Chapter. A great big thankyou goes out to Carol.

On April 17th we hosted a First and Major Degree in conjunction with South East at St. Cecilia's Hall. This has worked out nicely. This year SW hosted and next year SE will host.

Besides spring showers, April, May and June will also bring about many fund raising events for our auxiliaries. Good luck in the weather holding up. June will bring the election of new officers for 2016-2017. Thank you, sister Columbiettes for two great busy years. I could not have done it without all of you. Hope to see many of you at the Convention. Have a great, safe summer. — Barbara Liona President



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Western

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

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

March found us at Msgr. Gacquin for our meeting. What a wonderful meal and time we had together. On March 13th we held our Communion Breakfast. A beautiful mass was celebrated and brunch was had at The Lafayette House. Janet Tussey did a fantastic job and we all left with a wonderful message from the Homily and our tummies full.

We will be gathering in May

at Don Bosco Newton for our Major Degree and small meeting. We are looking forward to welcoming all of our new members.

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

A special congratulations to Western Chapter President, Cathe Nicholson, who has been awarded the NJ State Columbiettes Corporate Ethics Award at the 2016 Charity Luncheon. Job well done Cathe! Congratulations to the Education and Humanitarian Work award winners as well.

Looking forward to seeing you all at convention with our sparkling tiaras and diamonds on.

Barbara SchounnotPublicity Chairperson



Page 16 Page 17



News From Our Auxiliaries

Sgt. John F. Basilone

Hello Sister Columbiettes,

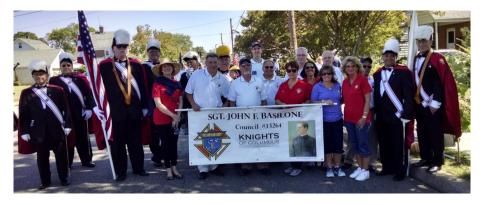
Among some of our favorite activities this past Columbiette year were the Sgt. Basilone Parade and Breakfast with Santa for the children of St. Ann's. We also played "Easter Bunny" for families in need from St. Ann's, JFK, and Bradley Gardens. Baskets were delivered to the children and ShopRite gift cards were given to the parents.

Happy Spring!

Barbara Rymer
 Vice President







Millstone Valley

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Millstone Valley has had an exciting year! In December we held our Christmas party, and donated children's pajamas to the Women's Resource Center. Many women show up there in the middle of the night with their Children and only the clothes on their backs. By having some new pajamas for the children, they hope to lessen the trauma of the event.

As usual, our Knights were very busy. They held a Pasta Dinner, which the Columbiettes helped by par cooking the pasta for them, and helping with clean up. They also held a Fish Fry, at which we sold Angel pins and homemade soup and Irish soda bread, and again helped clean up! Go Knights!

As host for the February Chapter meeting, we had a baby shower for the Center for Great Expectations. The generosity of everyone was overwhelming. Thank you all! The Center's Manager was so thrilled.

We will be presenting all of

our First Communicants with rosary beads and a prayer card to remind them of this special event. This will be done at the practices for First Communion.

We are working with the St. Joseph Parish maintenance and upgrade committee on a monetary donation to update/repair the Hospitality Room in the church which we (and many others) use.

We are planning a First Degree right before our April meeting. We have 3 potential new members!

This year we have been having small, social events before or after each of our meetings. They have included pulling a shamrock for a gift, a surprise birthday celebration for a member, pocketbook bingo, name pull for small gifts. For May, we will precede our meeting with a Cinco de Mayo pot luck!

Before we leave for the summer, we will be setting up a Summer Get Together.

Linda KenyherczPresident

Page 18

Page 19



St. Philip the Apostle

St. Philip's Columbiettes started 2016 by attend a Beefsteak dinner sponsored by our Brother Knights. February we collected breakfast cereals low sugar for School 12. March we had our annual "Flapjack" fundraiser held at Applebee's on Route 3 in Clifton. At our regular meeting we collected canned meat products for Eva's Kitchen.

On April 17, we will be honored at St Philip's Spring Royale as a "Women's Service organization along with the Legion of Mary and Rosary Society. This fund raiser is for the Youth Ministry and School Arts Program.

Parsippany

Dear Sister Columbiettes

The ladies of Parsippany

Columbiettes have been happily busy and very proud. We started on January 11, 2016 adding seven new members and they have jumped right in as active members. Most recently we joined with

Our Annual workshop will be April 23 led by Father Julio. He will be speaking on and reflecting on the Year of Mercy. During the May meeting we will have a Baby shower and collecting personal items for Mothers at a shelter for Mother's day.

We also are collecting for the state's annual convention of school supplies, backpacks, tab tops and personal items for the homeless. To all who celebrated the feasts of St. Patrick and Joseph we hope you had a grand day. May our newly Risen Lord Bless each and every one of you.

– Barbara Ann Lissi

our Knights at their Pancake Breakfast, having a successful Bake Sale at that event. In between we were able to make generous donations to 14 various charities suggested by our members at our Shrove Tuesday meeting. Hats, gloves and scarves were given to the



Missionaries of God just in time for the winter storm. Ten of our members attended the Western Chapter Communion Breakfast and enjoyed it so very much....good food, good friends. Looking ahead we have planned a Baby Shower, Altar Server Dinner, A social day at Care One Assisted Living, and Major Degrees for some of our new members. We welcome "keeping busy for others" and hope our good

fortune and blessings continue. We wish all of our sister Columbiettes the same.

- Fran Veit



Regina Mundi

We have been very active during the winter months. Our guest speaker for November was Ray Cramer and he informed us about Crime Prevention in the Home. We found this so very timely and useful. In December our speaker was Linda Darragh, who



enlightened us with many tips of how to use the smart phones plus to beware of those multiple scams out there today.

We selected two clients from the Elks Development Center in Clifton to include gifts for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Some of our members joined the Knights of Regina Mundi to see a Christmas musical at the Hunterdon Playhouse in Hampton, NJ. It was truly a delight.

During the month of February we hosted a

Page 20 Page 21



'Valentine Dance' along with the Knights and a great time was had by all.



We are pleased to announce that we held a First Degree Ceremony on March 23rd, 2016 and inducted five new members. We were also pleased to have a candidate from St. Phillips join us this evening.

Our Baby Drive, headed by Loretta Miller and Rose Evici was a huge success. We were able to deliver many fine baby items to St. Mary's Hospital in Passaic which we presented to Sister Anne Maroney and her assistant Lutz. They were absolutely thrilled and Sister Anne will be at our April meeting.

Our District Deputy, Susan Liguori, has been a pleasure to work alongside of and has been very helpful during our meetings.

A fall newsletter was sent to all of our members and we will be sending out another for the spring.

The Regina Mundi Columbiettes are looking forward to the State Convention in June and we wish all of our sister Columbiettes a wonderful, restful summer.

Kathy RagerPresident



St. David the King

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

We are an active Auxiliary in our 6th year, blessed with a delightful, prayerful and contributing group of wonderful ladies. Our activities have included Baby Shower, packages for overseas military, Spring Tea, and summertime BBQ including spouses. Here are a few photos from our activities displaying our team-

work and many friendships. One of our nice, fun 'things' is celebrating the Columbiettes birthdays each month with cake, cookies and a little time to chat after the meetings as a way to enjoy the many friendships that we have all been blessed with.

Best Wishes to All,

Debra Camilleri

President









Page 22 Page 23



Long Valley

The Long Valley Columbiettes had a very busy and rewarding year. Many great times, fundraisers and events took place, such as monthly visits with Lyons Vets in Basking Ridge to bring snacks with happy social time, and crochet scarves for the homeless.

Jasmine is our adopted girl from the Philippines who receives gifts and cards from us throughout the year. In return, Jasmine replies back with great enthusiasm and gratitude.

We celebrated our 6th Anniversary this year with a blessing Mass.

A First Degree installation ceremony was held at St. Mark's Church, organized and presented by the LV Columbiettes.

Many fundraisers took place, such as selling our Taste of Heaven Cookbook, Yankee candles, Avon, Friendly's, Panera Bread, and our annual Christmas cookie sale.

Christmas wreaths were placed at Our Lady of the Mountain's cemetery for deceased military members.

Sheets, blankets, and pillows were collected for Homeless Solutions in Morristown. We supported the Knights of Columbus Annual Charity Auction "Sharing the Season" by donating a gift basket, selling raffles and serving appetizers.

We also donated a Christmas meal to a family in need.

Christmas was celebrated with a member gift exchange and delicious snacks to share.





The Assumption College for Sisters in Denville received our annual visit. Coats, toiletries and tableware were given to all the sister-students. Sister of Christian Charity Joseph Spring, who is the college's president, greatly appreciated our efforts.

"Junk in the Trunk" will be on June 4th at St. Mark's Church in Long Valley from 9-3pm.

The upcoming Columbiette retreat will be a nice weekend for some of our members.

We are looking forward to helping at a local "Easter" food drive, and our Communion Breakfast with the Knights in



After the holidays, more fundraisers took place. We participated in a Pajama Project where 43 pajamas and 42 books were collected. We also assisted Confirmation candidates with food at their Antioch retreat. A successful Mardi Gras bake sale was held at both churches. "Twist of Art" fun fundraiser was held at Uptown Art in Denville.

Our next big fundraiser

May.

Wishing everyone a wonderful and restful summer. God Bless.

Nancy LennonPresident

Page 24 Page 25



Our Lady of Peace, Fords

On January 14, 2016 Our Lady of Peace 9199 celebrated their 20th Anniversary at their regular business meeting. The weather that evening was a far cry from the "Blizzard of 1996" when our Brother Knights worked diligently to remove the snow from our meeting place to enable a clear path for all involved in the institution. Below is a picture of the members who were in attendance for the celebration.



We were fortunate to have nine of our Charter members in attendance. (right)





As well as all of our Past Presidents and our current President. (left)



Below are our current officers along with Grand Knight Ed Delaney and Knight Liaison Bill Herring.



Everyone enjoyed themselves reminiscing and looking at our photo albums from inception.

On March 6 we held a

Fashion Show / Tricky Tray which was a huge success. The profits will be distributed among our various charities.

Roseanne BradyPresident

St. Augustine

St. Augustine Columbiettes have been joyfully busy. We welcomed 5 new members at a 1st Degree Ceremony in February. A Pro-Life Prayer service was held at the March meeting along with a baby shower. The many gifts were given to Great Expectations. A "day of shopping" is planned for April 2 at Charming Charlies, North Brunswick. Our annual fashion show is planned for April 16 and all members are involved on committees. This annual event is greatly attended and is our major fund raiser. Crosses engraved with the Act of Contrition were distributed to

children who celebrated their First Penance Service. Our Baptism program is ongoing and appreciated by the new parents. We are currently perusing essays written by our Confirmation candidates. Two students will be recognized for their winning essay and be presented with a gift. Thinking ahead to the Fall, a trip to the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA is planned for September 17 to see the Samson production. We wish all our sister Columbiettes peace and joy. Joan Campisano President



Don Bosco, Newton

In November, an auxiliary meeting was held and the Don Bosco Columbiettes held a fundraiser at Applebee's in Newton which raised money for a scholarship as well as helping St. Paul's Abbey make wreaths to sell.

In December, an auxiliary meeting was held many Columbiette women and their spouses enjoyed each other's company with dinner and a show at the theater in Newton. 336 pair of socks were collected and distributed to 3 nursing homes when we went Christmas caroling at them. (below: Christmas caroling at the Homestead)



The Santa Ice Cream Parlor was a success and we helped

the local youth who are going on a mission trip in the summer and toys were distributed to a local organization. (picture below)



There is no meeting in January but some of the Columbiettes enjoyed the Retreat at Sacred Heart. The Committee for the Murder Mystery was very busy during the time off and had everything ready to go when we met again.

An auxiliary meeting was held in February. Most of that month was working on future projects. At the meeting children's character Band-Aids were collected for the Squirettes to donate.

An auxiliary meeting was held in March and our



organization welcomed 7 new members. (below: new members and our Degree Team)



Also, a collection was taken up to help a local family that lost their house to fire. The Don Bosco Columbiettes as well as the Knights, Squires and Squirettes march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Newton. Many of the members attended the Communion Breakfast at Lafayette house. A local Pizza Parlor, Villa Capri, donated 1.00 for each pizza sold on Good Friday to Don Bosco Columbiettes. At the meeting coffee, tea, sugar and powdered creamer were collected for the local food pantry.

Coming up in April will be an auxiliary meeting. As a social event, a bus was rented and many members and family/friends are going to a Casino for the day. Also, coming up is the Murder Mystery Dinner. This should be a very exciting night. At the auxiliary meeting in May, toilet paper will be collected for the local food pantry.

In May, the Western
Chapter meeting will be held
at our Church. There will be a
Major Degree that night. A
May Crowning will take place.
The flea market will be held on
May 21st. It is held annually
and St. Paul's Abbey. Come on
up and rent a table or just shop
around. At the auxiliary
meeting in May, diapers and
baby shower gifts will be
collected to donate to a local
charity.

I hope everyone had a blessed Easter Season.

Please remember to visit our auxiliary website for an update on activities and related events.

 $\underline{www.donboscocolumbiettes.weebly.com}$

Patricia KeeganPresident

Page 28 Page 29



St. James

St. James welcomed in the New Year with four new members. A First Degree Ceremony was held at our January meeting.

It seemed we just put away the holiday decorations when the Lenten Season began. Once again, Columbiettes assisted our Brother Knights with their Friday Lenten Dinners. Each week, we set tables and provided desserts. On February 22nd, together with our Knights, we held our Annual Corporate Communion Mass at St. James Church. This was followed with a continental breakfast.

In April, eight members will attend the State Weekend Retreat at San Alfonso's Retreat House. Each looks forward to this time of bonding in prayer and friendship. Then, we will hold a baby shower at our monthly meeting to benefit the Action Pregnancy Center in New Brunswick.

A host of activity is

scheduled for May. We will "Shake the Can" for vocations after parish Masses on the weekend of May 14 and 15. On May 22nd, we will host a "Family Breakfast for Vocations" in which all proceeds will be donated to our local seminarians. This is in keeping with our commitment to "The Year of Vocations". Plans for our May meeting include honoring our Blessed Mother at our traditional May Crowning and enjoying our "Pot Luck Supper" to which members bring culinary delights. Lastly, we are putting together a float as we will march with our Knights in the Jamesburg Memorial Day Parade to honor those who gave their lives for our country.

We will honor a Monroe Township High School Senior at their 21st Annual Awards Program and award our St. James Columbiettes' selected Good Student and Humanitarian honorees at our June meeting.



On June 12th, no one will want to be late for our "Tea Party" and raffle fund raiser. At our June meeting, we will kick off ticket sales for our Auxiliary's Charity Raffle. The drawing will take place at our September meeting.

Our Knights joined with us in presenting gifts to the First Communicants and Altar Servers of our parishes. Monthly donations to the local Deacon's Food Pantry and St. James Soup and Fellowship continue as well as collections of pack packs, school supplies, personal items and tab tops for the State Convention donations.

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

— Carol Bohinski

Carol Bohinsk
 President

Bayshore

For the first time, we had an event, Stealing Bingo and it was a good success for having it the first time. We plan on having one again in the Fall.

One of our members will be taking her Major Degree at the South East/South West Degree on April 17th at St. Cecelia's.

On June 5th we are have a Pizza and Ice Cream Appreciation for the Altar Servers for St. Ann's church in Keansburg. The Altar Servers enjoy this every year

and we have a great turn out with awards and games.

Looking forward to attending the State
Convention in June.

– Lorraine Noger
President



Page 30 Page 31



St. Cecilia's

The St. Cecilia's Columbiettes #7046 have been busy planning their Tricky Tray Auction which will be held on Saturday, May 14th at St. Cecilia's Parish Hall. All the proceeds will go to the Amy Feiman Behar Foundation for Cancer Prevention. The foundation has a special purpose: to increase the early detection and treatment of breast cancer among women 40 years old and beyond, without the financial means to be screened annually. Other fundraisers we had to help benefit this worthwhile cause was an Applebee's Day which netted us 10% of dollars spent and Confectionately Yours, which gave us a very generous 20% of dollars spent.

During our Lenten Season the auxiliary participated in "Stations of the Cross" one Friday evening, reenacting "Mary, Mother of Jesus" in which we follow Mary's path behind her son experiencing the grief and pain she felt knowing that her son would die for the greater good for all of us. Before and after the Stations, our members prepared a delicious meal for anyone who wanted to join us.

Our members will be participating in a "Baby Bottle Campaign" in our efforts to support Respect Life. Life Choices of Metuchen provides us with baby bottles that will be handed out the weekend of April 23rd/24th. The bottles are taken home, with the intentions of putting all your loose change in the bottle and returning them on Mother's Day weekend. Our goal is to fill 500 bottles. All proceeds benefit Life Choices and the programs they run to help anyone facing an unplanned pregnancy in the hopes that they will choose "Life".

Finally, we are honored to help out the Southwest and Southeast Chapter Columbiettes by holding the Exemplification of First and Major degrees in honor of



Reverend William Smith, Chaplain of NJ State Council Columbiettes at St. Cecilia's Parish Hall on Saturday, April 17th. The ceremonies are always impressive and spiritual to watch and we are happy to participate and offer our home to others for this special occasion.
God Bless from the St.
Cecilia's Columbiettes.

— Lissa Izzo
President

Somerville

Dear Sister Columbiettes, Happy Spring! I hope this newsletter finds you well.

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

In February, we held our annual Baby Shower for Catholic Charities. We also



visited Bridgewater Senior Knitting & Crocheting Club, who support our shower by providing beautiful handknitted baby hats, sweaters, and blankets. The seniors are always excited to have us visit!

We held several 'shake-acan' weekends in March at our parishes to support the NJSCC Pennies from Heaven Campaign.

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

Somerville is winding down the year with a Living Rosary at Somerville KOC Hall at 2:00pm on Sunday, May 22. All are welcome!

Blessings from Somerville.

—Yvonne Shimshock
Past President

Page 32 Page 33

Bishop Navagh

On Dec. 2 we hosted our Christmas Western Chapter Dinner, meeting & Tricky Tray. A fun time was had by all. On Sunday Dec. 6 some of the Columbiettes helped serve at the annual Holy Spirit School's Santa Breakfast. We sold many Angel Pins that morning. We started participating in the Pajama & Book Program this year. We have collected 88 pairs of PJs and 25 books so far.

In January we visited the Little Sisters of the Poor Home in Totowa to play Bingo with the residents. We brought prizes for everyone and treats to eat, too. (see picture below)



We held our annual after-Christmas gathering at Lina's in January also. It's enjoyable

to be able to relax and enjoy the food and company when all the festivities are over.

On February 26th we held our Lenten Friday Baked Potato Night. We led the Lenten Stations of the Cross with the Knights. Then in March we will held our Lenten Fish & Chips on March 11. Both fundraisers were very successful. We had 7 ladies attend the Western Chapter Communion Breakfast at the Lafavette House. That afternoon we had 15 join in the town-wide Grains of Hope food packing event to feed the local hungry and those in Haiti. That afternoon we helped pack 150,684 meals! It was a fun and rewarding afternoon. (below)





We collected many bags of food and supplies for our Adopt a Family. Their Easter meal and many more for the months ahead were delivered before Easter. Now in April we are busy with our annual Spring flower basket and flat sale. It will be ongoing until April 26. 50% of this fundraiser will also go to our Adopt a Family to make their summer a little cheerier. We are hoping for a very successful sale. The flowers will be picked up May 14.

We are holding our 3rd Annual Altar Server Appreciation Day on April 17. We are hoping our altar servers from three local churches will join us so that we may thank them for their dedicated service to our churches.

We are hoping to bring several ladies to Don Bosco on May 4 for our major degree. We are making plans for our annual baby shower on May 22. This is always a fun afternoon. We will have our May crowning at our May meeting and we will select a scholarship winner from the students' essays following the meeting. We are actively selling \$1 tickets for our Big Raffle which will be drawn on Memorial Day. We will march in the town parade with the Knights and afterward enjoy a picnic with our families.

June will bring our annual carnival. We help in the kitchen. At Holy Spirit graduation we will present a scholarship to an 8th grade student.

(below: Bishop Navagh Auxiliary members hosting the Christmas Western Chapter Dinner)



Page 34 Page 35



We are planning on attending the Annual NJ State Convention. We are collecting our backpacks, can tab tops, gallon bags for the homeless, pennies and selling Angel Pins all to bring with us. Saturday morning is always so amazing to see just what all Columbiette ladies accomplish. We look forward to seeing many of you there!

— Barbara Hill
President

St. Anthony's

Our annual Christmas Dinner was held at the St Anthony Knights of Columbus Hall on December 15, 2015. It was a fun evening enjoyed by our members. This we enjoyed a new game of decorating a "live tree".

We sold Palm Crosses at St Anthony's Church after all masses the weekend of February 6 & 7. Those who purchased the crosses were able to pick them up on March 12, 2016.

Congratulations to Barbara Ann Lucarelli who received a Papal blessing from Pope Francis at the Supreme Council Columbiettes Testimonial Dinner that was held for her behalf. What an honor to receive and a special thank you from us for all that she does. Corporate Communion was held on February 21, 2016 at St Anthony's 9:30am Mass, the same day as the Knights Breakfast.

A Communion Breakfast was held on March 20, 2016 at the Knights Breakfast. Tables were reserved in honor of the young children and their families who made their first Holy Communion and wanted to participate.

Things to look forward to:

We will be hosting our 1st Annual Parent's {Kids} night out on April 8, 2016 from 6:00pm-9:00pm with a cost of \$15 per child [\$10.00 per sibling] This will take place at the Knights of Columbus Hall. There will be crafts and other fun things to do. Snacks will be included.



On April 23, 2016 we will be having our famous Comedy Knight, Hosted by Danny C. It will be held at the Knights Hall at 7pm with a cost of \$25.00. This is such a fun and exciting night.

On May 21, 2016, we will be honoring Catherine Nicholson as our Past President. Cathe has been a very active President, chairing a majority of the events that have enabled the St Anthony Columbiettes to be generous in donations to many charitable causes. Along with serving our local group she is also very active on the Chapter, State, and Supreme Levels. [Believe it or not, she does hold a full time job in addition to all she does to "enable the Columbiettes to grow and prosper".] We are very proud of her.

Pocketbook Bingo will be held at the Knights Hall on June 3, 2016 the cost is \$20.00 per person. We will also have a small tricky tray. We have chosen the following charities for donations: Let them Be Little x2 and Henry's

Halos.

Our Pot O'Gold Drawing will be on June 21, 2016 at 7:30pm at the Knights Hall

Jeff Leider, founder of Let them Be Little x2 was chosen as our nominee to be decided upon for the Humanitarian Award for the NJSCC Annual Convention which will be held June 24-26, 2016 at the Embassy Suites, Piscataway, NJ. Thank you to all that donate and participate to make our events a great success.

– Geri Nolan

I am not afraid... I was born to do this.

Page 36 Page 37



St. John's

St. John's Council Columbiettes welcomed the year 2016 in our usual way, with a Post-Holiday dinner and **SNOWSTORM!** The snowstorm, however, waited until after our dinner this year.

As the season of Lent came early this year, in February we held our Cod & God Fish Fry. This was our first fund raiser of the year and was so popular that our brother Knights had own of their own in March.

April is the month that brings out our white glove and hats for our annual "Garden Tea Party." A delicious assortment of Tea Sandwiches, muffins, desserts and of course Tea is enjoyed by all. The end of the month we, along with our brother Knights (with a little help from our friends) participated in their annual Special Children's Talent Show and this year's theme was... A "Knight" at the Oscars, This is It! We think

Steven Spielberg should check us out for his next movie!

The lovely month of May is the time we vote on the charities that we will support with the money we have raised during the year and as June fast approaches, we look forward to the annual convention to see all the wonderful things our Sister Columbiettes have done during the year.

We end our Columbiette year, the way we started it, with a party (minus the snow!) and plan to enjoy the summer days that are ahead of us.

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

Roberta ElwellPast President



Hopewell

Although we are a small group, we are a busy crew! Under the leadership of our new President, Mary Jane Kent, we've continued our mission to 'adopt' a confirmation candidate, had a chrysanthemum sale in September, a baby drive in both November and January, a corporate Mass and luncheon in honor of our deceased Sister Columbiettes on November 9, sponsored a PB&I lunch making morning for the parish for Homefront, we've decorated (and undecorated!) St. Alphonsus church for Christmas, helped with the annual giving tree, hosted a soup and bread Lenten supper with our Brother Knights where donations were accepted for the Postulant & Seminarian Vocation Fund.

Hopewell Columbiettes had a very successful annual

Easter Flower sale, are planning to attend the Family Holy Hour through the designated "Holy Door" at St. Georges in Titusville, will host an ice cream social for all the youth volunteers of the parish and "Donut Sunday" for the parish community and are planning a first ever road trip to a yet to be determined shrine, for a day of reflection and camaraderie.

In keeping with our tradition of awarding a monetary scholarship to a deserving high school graduate, this year we are anticipating our first annual 8th grade award.

Hopewell has welcomed three new members and is looking forward to growing stronger with each passing month.

Mary Jane KentPresident

Page 38 Page 39



Msgr. James F. Gacquin

Dear Sister Columbiettes,
Well where is Mother
Nature.....crazy weather!
Praying for some warming up
time now.

January was spent quietly in doors, mostly working on our squares for homemade crochet afghans for "Warm Up America" projects.

February we provided, with the help of our "First Holy Communion Class", Valentine's Day Cards and chocolates to our seniors who have lost their partners. They are always so happy to receive their small gifts of love. Lent was upon us early, so into soup suppers we dove, changing our schedule slightly to have soup at both churches and provide some education for our young children. It was off to a slow start but became somewhat popular. We provided not only Stations of the Cross, but prayed the rosary prior to stations. During Holy week we assisted our Knights with the Seder

supper and provided delicious baked goods for dessert. Good Friday we prepared Macaroni and Cheese and baked Ziti for dinner with the Confirmation candidates prior to Living Stations of the Cross.

April we will hold a "50's Dance", good food, snacks, music and fun. We will also prepare for convention and up-coming Tricky tray that we will help our churches' sister organization hold.

May, we will hold elections for officers and will continue our preparation for convention. Can't wait for June and convention and August for Supreme Convention. Wow what a great year.

May the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Obtain Peace for the World.

Donna Lewandowski
 President



Warren

Dear Sister Columbiettes, Hope you are all well; we have been busy at Warren Council!

March - on the 5^{th} and 6^{th} we collected for Pennies from Heaven at St. Mary Church. On the 9th at our meeting we wore green for St. Patrick's Day and made up Easter Baskets that were donated to Catholic Charities. We also made up 3 baskets for the children of our adopted family. On the 13th we had our 5th annual communion breakfast held at the K of C monthly breakfast and the knights paid for our breakfast. We provided our adopted family with a gift card for ShopRite and a ham for Easter Dinner. We purchased pins for the St. Philip and St. James Communion candidates, and made a monetary donation the St. Mary youth group who help with Habitat for Humanity.

Our cookbooks are in and will cost \$12 each or 2 for \$20. We continued to help out Knights with their fish frys.

April - on April 8/9/10 Bey and I attended the Columbiette retreat at St. Alphonso's Retreat House. It was a wonderful spiritual renewal which we both enjoyed. On the 17th, we had 1 new member make first and major, 2 new members make first only, and 3 current members make their major degree. On the weekend of the 23rd, we collected for Pennies from Heaven at SPSI, and on the weekend of April 30th we held a bake sale at St. Mary Church. This month, we also sponsored a golf holes for SPSI and St. Mary Church. See you at convention! Margaret Oxenham President

Page 40 Page 41



Vincent T. Lombardi

It is hard to believe the Columbiette "season" as I like to call it, is almost over. We here at Vincent T. Lombardi are a small but dedicated group of women. We have faced some challenges this year, but our faith keeps us energized.

During the holidays, we joined with the Knights for two family dinners, one for Thanksgiving, one for Christmas. These are always very enjoyable evenings as we get to gather with friends and family for good food, good conversation, and fellowship. We all contribute to the meal. whether it be a dessert, side dish, or appetizer. And speaking of dinners, we helped the Knights with their Christmas dinner for the families of members of the 42D Division of the National Guard. For our participation, we received an award of appreciation.

We had two Fifth Sunday Masses, one on Nov. 29th, the other on Jan. 31st. We alternate going to either St.Agnes or St.Mary's, the two parishes we draw our membership from. We then gather for breakfast. Going to Mass together and wearing our Columbiette attire as we usually do are ways in which we celebrate our faith together and show the public who we are.

Members attended two events given by other auxiliaries. One was the Steal Bingo at Bayshore, a fun afternoon filled with lots of laughter and fierce competition. The other was the Evening of Recollection hosted by St.Anthony's. It was a beautiful Mass, and we enjoyed meeting Sister Columbiettes from other auxiliaries.

To benefit our Scholarship fund, we had a "Dine to Donate" night at Houlihan's on March 10th. A percentage of the proceeds went to the fund. On April 6th we held a Touchstone Jewelry fundraiser given by Michele Mullins, a Touchstone consultant who is



also one of our members. Proceeds from that fundraiser went to our Charity recipient, Ivey Lynn. And on April 22 we are having a fundraiser at the First Avenue Playhouse in Atlantic Highlands. The play is called "Daughters".

In March, our beloved Vice President Connie Lopusznick passed away. Connie, a Charter member, had also served as Treasurer and a member of the Sunshine Committee. Aside from her family, including her husband Pete, a Past Grand Knight, her faith was foremost in her life. Connie was a Literature teacher at



Middletown North for 25 yrs. She was well known for her baking skills, and always having a smile on her face. God has blessed us with your friendship.

– Mary VernarelliPresident



Page 42 Page 43





Morning Consecration to Mary

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

And to show my devotion to thee,
I offer thee this day, my eyes,
My ears, my mouth, my heart,
My whole being without reserve.

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

Page 44

A Note from the Editor

Thank you for all your submissions to this edition of the ECHO Newsletter. What amazing things you are doing in His name! If you haven't submitted anything recently, please consider contributing to the Fall issue. **Deadline is** November 15, 2017.

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

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

Have a wonderful Summer!

Yvonne Shimshock

Updates to State Directory

as of 4/2016

PAGE CHANGE

- 7 Pamela Porfido Correct email is pjangel1@ptd.net
- New President for Hopewell Auxiliary
 Mary Jane Kent
 125 Mine Road, Pennington NJ 08534
 mjbkent@gmail.com
- 39 Nancy Lennon
 Correct email is nancylennon24@comcast.net
- Only phone contact for Donna Lewandowski is 973-222-5966