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*New Jersey State Council Columbiettes  
Echo*



*Spring Edition 2018*



# *Springtime Prayer*

*~Ralph Waldo Emerson~*

*For flowers that bloom about our feet,  
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet,  
For song of bird, and hum of bee,  
For all things fair we hear or see,  
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!*

*For blue of stream and blue of sky,  
For pleasant shade of branches high,  
For fragrant air and cooling breeze,  
For beauty of the blooming trees,  
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!*





## *New Jersey State Council Columbiettes*

### *Message from State President Victoria Bird*

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.

Here is a list of activities that have occurred since the winter edition of the Echo was published:

- On February 11<sup>th</sup> we held the first Statewide Major Degree practice at Leisure Village West – this was a great success, attended by 50 Columbiettes!
- On February 25<sup>th</sup> Southern Chapter held their first Major Degree at Maximilian Kolbe. The new Southern Chapter Ceremonials and Degree Team did an excellent job!
- On March 3<sup>rd</sup> in spite of yet another snowstorm, those who attended the State Murder Mystery Dinner Fundraiser had a wonderful time, enjoying the entertainment and the excellent food!
- In April, Major Degrees were held by South East, Western and South West Chapters – a very busy time for the Chapter Ceremonials Chairladies, Major Degree and Degree Equipment teams! Your dedication to our order is greatly appreciated!

Still yet to come, April 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> is the weekend retreat at San Alfonso's "Where God and sea come together." I hope to see many of my sister Columbiettes that weekend where as a family we pray and worship together.

Then on Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, we will be recognizing four outstanding women for their contribution to Social Welfare, Corporate Ethics/Business and Family Unity. Hope to see you there as we honor these wonderful women.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the state convention in June. Remember to share your success (and failures) with your Sister Columbiettes at the convention. This is a wonderful way to pick up new ideas for your Auxiliary to try next year and to make new friends.

Happy Mother's Day!

May the Holy Family bless you and your families.

Vicki Bird  
New Jersey State President





## State Chaplain—Father William Smith

On March 19, 2018, the Feast of St. Joseph, husband of Mary, Pope Francis signed the Apostolic Exhortation BE GLAD AND REJOICE. An Apostolic Exhortation is the second in importance of papal writings. Usually an Apostolic Exhortation is a message to Catholics throughout the world to highlight key points about a particular issue. It also establishes a clear direction for Catholics on a critical issue that is being discussed within the Church and society. Since Pope Francis signed the Apostolic Exhortation REJOICE AND BE GLAD on the Feast of St. Joseph, husband of Mary and our State President Vicki's theme is the Holy Family, I decided to share with you a few points of Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation.

The theme of REJOICE AND BE GLAD is the call to holiness in today's world. In his introduction Pope Francis wrote that he isn't writing a theological treatise but a pastoral approach to holiness for the everyday Catholic.

Pope Francis reminds us that the Second Vatican Council wrote that the call to holiness is for all baptized Catholics not just bishops, priests, or religious brothers or sisters. That means that each one of us are called to holiness. It is personal and communal. Holiness involves a private relationship with Jesus but also calls us to interact

with others. Holiness affects others and is actively building the Kingdom of God here on earth.

Pope Francis says there is no specific path to holiness. Whatever our situation in life one can grow in holiness. Our growth in holiness begins with the Holy Spirit and the grace of God which works in the daily activities of our life. We live our lives with love and being witnesses to Jesus Christ in everything we do wherever we are. Examples are parents who raise their children in love, those who work to support their families, in the sick and elderly and consecrated religious who never lose their smile.

Christian joy is accompanied by a sense of humor. We serve the Lord in the hungry, the stranger, the homeless, those less fortunate than our self. As we say YES to the Holy Spirit and the grace of God we will grow in holiness.

As Catholic women and Columbiettes (and me with you) we are called to grow in holiness in every activity of our life.





## Immediate Past State President—Lisa Roberts

Hello to all my sister Columbiettes of NJ!!!

After what has seemed like a very long and cold winter, we deserve this time of more pleasant days. During this most holy season of Lent, I hope this finds all my friends, their families and friends experiencing the renewal of our faith values, the rejuvenation that spring brings and the warmth and comfort that comes from both. It is hard to believe that we are now moving into convention season and with that all the acknowledgements of your hard work, faith, fellowship and taking pride in the accomplishments for each of you, the chapters and auxiliaries.

In preparation of our annual state convention, I want to remind you to submit your forms from the leadership guidebook for the following: Activity Award 'Families Working Together' due by June 1<sup>st</sup> - Remember "If you complete the form - you will receive the award," that you all deserve. The Founders Award is also due June 1<sup>st</sup> - this awards your auxiliary for growth in membership. All forms can be found on our website at: [www.njcolumbiettes.com](http://www.njcolumbiettes.com). Additionally, continue to send me your A100 forms/Welcome Seed and First Degree Honoree forms each time you have or attend a First Degree and have new members join your auxiliary.

It is with great pride that we are continuing to support the wounded veterans in NJ. Once again the NJ State Council Columbiettes will be pulling the 85,000-pound tank. The Tank Pull will be held on Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. Additional details can be found in the Leader's Guidebook and on the website. Please notify me directly if you would like to be on the team. I will send the waiver form for completion prior to the event. We need a team minimum of 20 ladies and each lady must provide a donation to the team of \$75 - or more. This can be an individual donation or can be collected from faithful sponsors. This is a fun way to support those who served us in the military and have arrived back home needing assistance.

I look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming events throughout the year.

Wishing all a Blessed Easter, Happy Mother's Day and soon thereafter Happy Father's Day. Hope to see many of you at the state convention, which as always will be a great display and evidence all the hard work, dedication and commitment you have to this great order.

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



## A Message from our Prestigious Past State Presidents

Spring shows what God can do with a drab and dirty earth. Nothing is more uplifting then to see the grass turning green and daffodils popping up all over.

May you all have a Happy Springtime!

Your Prestigious Past Presidents



## State Vice President—Elena McFarland

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

### Spring

© Teresa Underwood

The air is cool, the breeze is light.  
The clouds in the sky are fluffy and white.

The flowers open to show their bright faces,  
as the garden snail alongside paces.

The trees unfold their bright green leaves.

The spider a silken web she weaves.

The birds sing their notes high and clear.

Cheer up! Cheer up! Spring is here!

[www.FamilyFriendPoems.com](http://www.FamilyFriendPoems.com)

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

Be sure to show your Columbiette pride by wearing one of our beautiful logo wear items while volunteering around the state! We have a great collection of logo wear items sure to please everyone. Our hottest item is still our BLING Shirt. If you don't have one get yours now!! The Logo wear Catalog and order forms can be found on the NJ State Council website. Remember we can do custom T-shirts if your auxiliary or chapter is attending an event as a group. Just give me a call!!!

I am looking forward to seeing all my sister Columbiettes at Convention and hearing all the wonderful works of charity you have done throughout 2017-2018.

May you have a Wonderful Spring!

Elena McFarland  
State Vice President  
Club Shirt Chairman



## State Secretary—Nadine Lecorchick

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

It's hard to believe that this year is almost over. It's definitely been very busy with Columbiette adventures.

The Auxiliaries and Chapters have been busy with Major Degrees, fundraisers and sharing the true meaning of Columbianism. Thank you for sharing and spreading the word about our wonderful organization.

I look forward to spending many

more adventures with you all and look forward to seeing you all at the New Jersey State Convention in June. Don't forget to send in your Delegate and Alternate lists for convention. It'll be here before you know it!

May our Patron Saints, The Blessed Mother Mary, St. Joan of Arc and St. Therese watch over you all and bless you and your families.

Nadine Lecorchick  
NJ State Secretary

## State Financial Secretary—Frances Corcione

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

It has been a privilege to be the New Jersey State Financial Secretary. I hope that each of your Auxiliaries had a rewarding year.

I wish you all a very safe and

happy spring.

Families working together!

Sincerely,  
Frances Corcione

## State Treasurer—Kathleen Donahue

Hopefully, by the time you read this, Mother Nature will have gotten her act together and brought us spring weather. Spring brings us a time of new life. Trees and flowers are in full bloom renewing the earth with beauty. Christ's resurrection on Easter demonstrates to us that if we live our life in faith following Christ's teachings, we too will live again.

May is the month we honor mothers and grandmothers. I wish to thank all of them for their love and devotion to their children.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the New Jersey State Columbiettes Convention in June.

Kathy Donahue  
NJ State Treasurer





## State Advocate—Donna Lewandowski

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

Well, we are only a few weeks before convention and I can't wait to see all the wonderful things your "families" have been doing.

As your advocate I encourage you all to advocate for those who cannot advocate for themselves, such

as the unborn or the mentally challenged. Please work towards being a change agent and you will reap great rewards.

I'm looking forward to spending time with many of you in June. Keep up the great work.

God Bless and Happy Summer!

## State Sentinel—Catherine Nicholson



Spring is finally here . . . sort of ☺!

Wishing you all the joys spring and summer may bring you. With the flowers blooming and the sun shining it brings new beginnings and a hopeful start to the seasons upon us.

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

### Happy Mother's Day to all!

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

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

Cathe Nicholson  
NJ State Sentinel





## New Jersey State Committees

### Vocations

Many thanks to all of the auxiliaries and sister Columbiettes who participated in the Vocation Program by buying angel pins or sponsoring sales at your meetings/church events. This program helps us support our Seminarians/Postulants in their studies along with our Memorial Fund program.

Also, remember to keep saving those pennies as this will enhance our program and we may then be able to give our Seminarians/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 made payable to: New Jersey State Council Columbiettes. All amounts big and small are acceptable.

At Retreat and Convention, we will have a new selection of pins so come and see them.

See you at Convention, when you see the gifts given out on Saturday morning.

Thank again.

Lorraine Noger, Chairlady

### Badges

Thank you to everyone who purchased a name badge during this Columbian year. There's still time to order a badge for the State Convention. They are available in magnet or pin backs. The colors are blue with white lettering, white with blue lettering, red with white lettering and white with blue lettering. You can e-mail your order to columbietteskathy@yahoo.com. If you wish to mail it, my address is 107 Broad St. Perth Amboy, NJ 08861. You may call me at (732)

826-3881 if you have any questions.

Kathy Donahue  
Chairperson





## Jewelry

Is it time for a new travel card case? Would you like a fashionable Columbiette pin or necklace to wear to your meetings or when you have a special event? How about a Columbiette key chain or an embroidered Columbiette patch to sew on your favorite shirt or jacket? We have them available for purchase. I will be at the New Jersey State Convention at the

Embassy Suites on June 22-24. I hope to see you there!

Thank you to all who have supported the jewelry program with your purchases.

Kathy Donahue  
Chairperson



## Charity Awards Luncheon



The New Jersey State Council was privileged to honor eleven Catholic women at the Charity Awards Luncheon. It was held on April 29th at Pierre's of South Brunswick.

They are:

### HONOREES

- **Nancy Lee** for her work in **Social Welfare**. Nancy, a retired teacher and member of Hopewell Columbiettes, is honored for her generous commitment and many good works for the youth. Hopewell Columbiettes submitted her nomination.
- **Anne Savacool** for her work to preserve **Family Unity**. Anne has and does give much of her time to assist families with special needs. Patricia Savacool submitted her nomination.

- **Diane Kulbacki** for her work with **Corporate Ethics/Business**. Diane, co-owner of Brunswick Funeral Home, tirelessly gives back to her Church and community. She is a member of St. Bartholomew's Columbiettes and the President of South East Chapter. Lois Ann Smith and Barbara Kadubic submitted her nomination.
- **Sandra Bohinski** for her long time dedication to meet the needs of her Church, community and the Columbiette Organization. She receives **the President's Special Award of Honor**. Sandra is a member of St. James Columbiettes and was nominated by Barbara Ann Lizzi.

### RECOGNITIONS With Honor

- Danielle Marie Brenner for



Social Welfare. She was nominated by Helen Judge and the by Santa Maria Columbiettes.

- Joan Connelly for Social Welfare. She was nominated by Nina DiCostanzo and St. John's Auxiliary.
- Grace Glassen for Social Welfare. She was nominated by Our Lady of Peace Auxiliary—North Brunswick.
- Phyllis Monoguso for Social Welfare. She was nominated by the Union Columbiettes.
- Joanne Rizzo for Family Unity. She was nominated by Ann Fletcher, St. James Columbiettes.
- Mia Sena for Corporate Ethics/Business. She was nominated by Sgt. John F. Basilone Auxiliary.
- Elizabeth Walsh for Social Welfare. She was nominated by Sgt. John F. Basilone Auxiliary.

A Selection Committee (one member from each Chapter) made the difficult choices in naming the worthy candidates. They are:

- ◆ Mattea Truppe—Central Chapter
- ◆ Yvonne Shimshock—Mid West Chapter

- ◆ Kathleen Jessen—South East Chapter
- ◆ Barbara Liona—Southern Chapter
- ◆ Jeanne Belles—South West Chapter
- ◆ Marge Sanders—Western Chapter

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

During the luncheon festivities, Laura Labetti, Chairlady of the State's Charity Raffle, conducted the State Charity Raffle of which three winning tickets were drawn.

It was an enjoyable afternoon of “Catholic women honoring Catholic women.”

Carol Bohinski, Chairlady  
Mary Ann Sweet, Co-Chairlady



### Website

Don't forget to regularly visit our Columbiette 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)



## State 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 with the theme being “Living from the Heart.”

We had 73 ladies in attendance. I am already planning for next year. The date will be **April 5-7, 2019**. Look for the new letter and reservation form in August. It will be

sent to all registered retreatants. If you have not attended a retreat and are interested in receiving information, please send me your e-mail.

Special thanks to all who 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  
(bannlucarelli@aol.com)

## Ronald McDonald House—Tab Tops

It's hard to believe that we will soon be taking our annual trip to the Ronald McDonald House. This project takes only a few seconds of your time to twist off the tab top and place it in a container. It's amazing how quickly those tabs add up. They can be collected at home, at work, at church or we can ask our family and friends to save them for us. It costs nothing but your collections mean so much

to those families at the home.

We ask that, if possible, you bring your tab tops in a brown paper leaf recycling bag. They are sturdier, easier to load in the car and to take out of the car. I thank you for helping the families have a home away from home.

Sandy Bohinski  
Chairlady

## Recruitment and Retention

Although we've visited a few Knight's Councils, no Auxiliaries have been instituted. At the present time, we have one hopeful prospect. I ask that you keep our Committee in your prayers that we are able to get more women into our great organization.

I will be attending the Knights of Columbus Convention again this year to spread the workings of our Columbiettes. The men very graciously allow us to set up a table.

Sandy Bohinski  
State Expansion Chairlady








## Convention Committee

We are currently under construction,  
but this year's Convention Committee  
is looking forward to seeing everyone  
at  
The 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual New Jersey State Convention  
June 22<sup>nd</sup> to June 24<sup>th</sup>  
The Embassy Suites Hotel  
in  
Piscataway New Jersey

We have many new things planned for you and hope your  
convention experience this year is a memorable one.

God Bless,  
Laura & Nina  
*"Families Working Together"*





## News from our State Chapters

### Central

Christ is Risen! He is Truly Risen! May the Risen Lord bless each and every one of you. Central Chapter members and auxiliaries have been super busy working on this year's convention which is coming up faster than you think. Our Chairpersons Laura and Nina have been putting a lot of time in to make it an enjoyable one for all attending.

On June 30, 2018 Central Chapter will be celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary being one of the oldest in the state of New Jersey. A prayer tribute to all past presidents deceased, "Eternal rest grant unto

them O Lord; may perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen!" For those past presidents still with us, may our Patronesses Blessed Mother, St. Joan of Arc and St. Theresa, the Little Flower, keep them in good health and their constant care.

To all Mothers, Grandmothers, Godmothers, Fathers, Grandfathers and Godfathers have a Blessed, Happy Mother's and Father's Day.

See you at convention in June, God willing.



### Southern

Our Columbiette year continues to be a good one. At our November meeting hosted by Leisure Village West and St. Maximilian Kolbe we celebrated Thanksgiving and Christmas. We also had a Tricky Tray hosted by Fr. Kapaun. We all won something to keep or re-gift for Christmas.

Another effort for Southern Chapter was to build a ceremonial team. Noreen Boyle, our chairperson, did a great job in organizing

this. On February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018, we hosted our first Major Degree at St. Maximilian Kolbe, Toms River. A great big thank you to Noreen and all who helped make this a memorable event.

At our March meeting hosted by St. Francis, Sweedsboro, we had a very enjoyable evening. We had a bottle auction and raised funds to replenish our kitty. Shannon Ewing was a great auctioneer.



Besides Spring Showers (no snow, PLEASE), April, May and June will also bring many fundraising events for our Auxiliaries. Good luck in the weather holding up.

June will bring the election of new officers in our Auxiliaries. Thank

you to all for a great year. We look forward to seeing many of you at Convention. Have a safe, happy summer.

Barbara Liona  
Chapter President

## South East

Greetings from South East Chapter!

2018 began with our February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting held in South Amboy. Resumes for the Chapter Charity were read. There were four worthy choices. The winner is Steve and Diane Kanka who were nominated by Our Lady of Victory Auxiliary. Vice President Kathy Donahue filling in for President Diane Kulbacki thanked South Amboy for their hospitality.

Our Chaplain, Father William Smith, led us in an Evening of Reflection on March 15<sup>th</sup> at his parish St. Anthony of Padua in Port Reading. Father began the evening with Mass. He then gave a talk about all the ways the Columbi-



Shown: Lois Ann Smith, St. Bernadette's President; Fr. Smith & Diane Kulbacki, SE President

ettes perform charitable works. We thank Father Smith for all the time and thought he puts into his presentation. Don Bosco Auxiliary provided a meal and dessert afterwards while we enjoyed the camaraderie of our sister Columbiettes. It was a lovely way to spend the evening.

South East Chapter held a Major Degree at St. Bernadette's in Parlin on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Our honoree was Father James Hagerman, pastor of St. Bernadette's Church. We had 31 ladies make their Major that day.

Our thanks to Ceremonial Chairperson Yvonne Burdyski, the degree team, the ladies of St. Bernadette's and everyone who helped make the day a success.



Ladies at Major Degree





Our April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting was held at St. Agnes Church in the Atlantic Highlands. This was our annual baby shower. The Columbiettes donated many beautiful and useful items to benefit the Good Counsel Homes. Tara Ingebritsen from Good Counsel spoke to us before our meeting explaining the program. She was very grateful for all our donations as they do not receive any government funding. It was a good thing she brought a large van to bring everything home!



Shown: Chapter President Diane Kulbacki, Good Counsel Homes Representative Tara Ingebritsen and Vincent T. Lombardi President Ann Dimaira

President Diane thanked Vincent T. Lombardi for hosting the meeting and the refreshments.

South East Chapter is very proud of our President Diane Kulbacki for winning the 2018 Charity Award in the Corporate Ethics/Business category. The award will be presented to Diane at the Charity Awards Luncheon on April 29<sup>th</sup> at Pierre's in South Brunswick.

Our next meeting will be on May

17<sup>th</sup> at St. Lawrence in Laurence Harbor. This will include our May Crowning which is always an important part of our Columbiette calendar.

The officers and members of South East Chapter wish all mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers a very Happy Mother's Day! We look forward to seeing all our Sister Columbiettes at the State Convention in June!

Submitted by  
Kathy Donahue  
Publicity Chairperson



Shown: Members of Vincent T. Lombardi (Photos by Maureen O'Brien)





## Western

Western Chapter Columbiettes will host a First and Major Degree at the St. Anthony's PVCC Hall in Butler, Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup> in honor of Father William Smith. Please let Janet Tussey know if you are attending.

April 21, 2018—One-day retreat at \$75/pp. Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be provided. Chairperson is Barbara Ann Lucarelli, Past Supreme President.

April 29, 2018—State Charity Awards Luncheon at Pierre's in South Brunswick. Cost is \$40/pp. The State Charity drawing will be

## South West

Happy Spring!! (Spring??) South West Chapter's auxiliaries have been very busy. Through the holiday season, all of the auxiliaries had Christmas parties and donated toys/gifts to needy families.

Immaculate Conception had a Christmas Party for "Special" adults and children. Our Lady of Peace, North Brunswick, held a Health Fair in January that was a big hit. They are also having their 8<sup>th</sup> annual Indoor Garage Sale. Hopewell continues to sell poinsettia plants at Christmas and plants for Easter as fundraisers. St. Augustine of Canterbury hosted a "Tea" last month that was a big success. St. Cecelia's sold wreaths and grave blankets at

that day also.

Western Chapter Columbiettes wish all a very "Healthy, Happy Mother's Day!" and hope to see you at Convention in June.

God bless you all!

Barbara Schounnot



Christmas.

South West Chapter will be hosting a Major Degree on April 19<sup>th</sup> at St. Augustine of Canterbury church in Kendall Park. All of our auxiliaries have been hard at work recruiting new members to their auxiliaries.

Nancy Lee from Hopewell auxiliary will be one of the recipients at the Charity Award Luncheon on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Looking forward to the New Jersey State Convention in June and the Supreme Convention in August in Orlando, Florida.

God Bless!

Mary Ann Sweet  
South West Chapter President



## Mid West

Warm Greetings from Mid West Chapter Columbiettes!

Mid West Chapter began the Columbian year with the installation of Officers In September. It was an honor to have State President Vicki Bird install our Officers for the coming year. The Sgt. John F. Basilone Columbiettes graciously hosted the evening.

On October 22, 2017 Mid West held a First and Major Degree at the Union Knights of Columbus. The Degree was in honor of deceased member and past Mid West Chapter president, Marge Furner. Her family was presented with a bronze Columbiettes grave marker. We had 42 ladies join our ranks and receive a Major Degree.

Our November meeting was hosted by our Somerville auxiliary where we all enjoyed fellowship and a spirited brown bag auction.

The February meeting was hosted by our Millstone Valley auxiliary and everyone participated in our annual Baby Shower with generous donations for Great Expectations.

Our Warren auxiliary will host our April meeting along with our annual tricky tray and we will present our slate of officers for 2018-2019. In June, we'll be meeting at our Msgr. Coyle Auxiliary and will finalize our preparations for the annual convention.

I would like to thank my Board of Officers and each of the Mid West auxiliaries for their support and continued dedication this year. On behalf of Mid West Chapter, I extend wishes for a peaceful and blessed summer to all my sister Columbiettes and their families.

—Mia Sena  
President Mid West Chapter





## News from our State Auxiliaries

### Parsippany

Dear Sister Columbiettes:

January, 2018 saw the Columbiettes of Parsippany begin, with pride, their 63<sup>rd</sup> year of community, charity and spiritual works.

In February we again held our meeting geared to opening our hearts and we donated to 26 various charities as requested by our members. It was a beautiful feeling as you can see by the photo - we were all so very happy.



With the cold winter lasting so long we collected hats, gloves, scarves and food for those in need. Our Cakeless cake sale is

now in progress and the profits will go to our three churches to help provide First Communion outfits for children as well as funds for family celebrations. Each April we have a baby shower for a young lady and this year ours will be sure to make a mom and baby very happy. Parsippany ladies are very generous.

Of course our ongoing activities continue: Bingo at an Assisted Living Facility, Ice Cream at the Firemen's Home in Boonton, an Altar Server party and our Pillow Sales continue to be a successful source of income.

We look forward to the next few months—the State Convention and our participation in the Tank Pull. We are blessed and wish the same to all our sisters and their families.

Fran Veit

### Regina Mundi

Happy Spring Sister Columbiettes!

We had a delightful Christmas hobby/party as we welcomed our NINE new members. We are GROWING!!! Our Charity "Smile Train" fund is building along with saving those tabs, and bringing in our shoebox and book bag items. We do not forget our pennies too!

We danced the day away at our Valentine ♥ Dance held in February. What a terrific committee headed up this affair. In March we had another First Degree with five new gals joining our Auxiliary. We are very excited to embrace our new members along with our faithful group of wonderful gals.



Thanks go to our Chapter and State Officers who are always so helpful throughout the year. We are also busy helping the Convention Committee be creative with lots of new projects. In April there will be eight members taking their Major in Parlin, NJ at St Bernadette's. We are very pleased and proud of these women. We will be working together putting new baby clothes into baby bags at our April meeting. These clothes will be given to Sister Anne Maroney at St Mary's outreach program. She will distribute them to unwed mothers and needy families.

## Saint Anthony's

On December 8<sup>th</sup> St. Anthony's Columbiettes held our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Soup-er Bowl. There were a total of 10 different soups for people to enjoy. Florence Cartagena and Melanie Ernest did a wonderful job organizing the event and our members who cooked surely made many people happy with the delicious selections to choose from.

Our Annual Christmas dinner for the Columbiettes was held on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at Bella Sera restaurant in Bloomingdale, NJ. Lisa Roberts and Cathe Nicholson organized a wonderful event for 20 of our members in attendance. New games and lots of laughs were had that evening. It was a great way to start the week of all the holiday festivities.

Kim Bellantoni and Barbara

In May we will have a new slate of officers voted on for the 2018-2019 Columbiette year. In June we will have an installation ceremony. We are very busy and pleased to give back to our community in helping so many in need.

Have a wonderful summer with many blessings. Regina Mundi Team

Kathy Mortimer /President



Schounnot were busy once again this year selling our Palm Crosses. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to meet with the parishioners of our parish while selling the Palm Crosses after each of the Masses both in January and February. Thank you to Kim & Barbara for another successful year.

A few of our members attended the NJ State Murder Mystery Fundraiser. What a fun time helping "Lucy, Ricky, Ethel & Fred" try to solve a crime. Congrats to Cathe Nicholson who won the beautiful quilt that our State President Vicki Bird created for the event.

Florence Cartagena & Lisa Roberts invited all First Holy Communion candidates and their families to enjoy a breakfast on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Knights' Palm Sunday



Breakfast. We have been holding this event for some time now and families are thrilled when each of the children are given a keepsake of the primary prayers, just as their older siblings have in the past.



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

St. Anthony's would like to welcome 3 new members who, on

## Our Lady of Victory

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

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

On Feb. 19, 1961, Our Lady of Victory Columbiettes was instituted.

April 15<sup>th</sup>, made their Major Degree at the Western Chapter Degree ceremony.

In June we will be holding our annual Pot O' Gold Drawing. If you are feeling like you have lady luck on your side, please contact Florence Cartagena for your chances.

St. Anthony's is looking forward to our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We were instituted on July 15, 1958 and we are very fortunate to still have one of our Charter Members, Theresa Shenise, with us. We will be celebrating with a Tea Party on Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at the Glen Burn Estates in Riverdale, NJ. We will be dressing in our finest hats and gloves for this wonderful occasion.

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

Submitted by  
Cathe Nicholson

We celebrated our 57th Anniversary at our February meeting.

Our Lenten Fish Fry runs on Fridays during Lent along with our Brother Knights. We set the hall, prepped the Salad Bar and also the Dessert Table. Our Brother Knights manned the kitchen and did the cooking for this annual event during Lent.



The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual OLV Easter Friendship Meal was held. This is a meal provided Free of Charge for anyone who would like some friendly company. A monetary donation was made by our auxiliary for this worthwhile and humanitarian event.

A monetary donation to the Knights was made for the Easter baskets they distribute to needy families.

April 19<sup>th</sup> was our Chapter's Baby Shower.

Our Sisters in Service Dinner held April 29<sup>th</sup> is in honor of our Religious Sisters for their community service. At this event, Mass is given by Father Ken, our Chaplain, and a dinner is enjoyed for the Sisters that join us. Each Sister receives a gift bag with some treats. The afternoon is enjoyed by all.

Before our May meeting, Father Ken recites Mass then we crown

## Somerville

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

Happy Spring! I hope his 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



our Blessed Mother. After our meeting, we work on our tab tops and ready our backpacks for Convention.

May 10<sup>th</sup> a fundraiser was held at Texas Roadhouse.

At our June meeting, members participate in a drawing. The money raised is donated to our Charity.

We look forward to seeing many of you at Convention.

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

Liza Palestrini  
Secretary

support our shower by providing beautiful hand-knitted baby hats, sweaters, and blankets. The seniors are always excited to have us visit!

We have held several "shake-a-can" weekends over the course of this Columbian year from October 2017 - February 2018 at four of our five parishes to support the NJSCC Pennies from Heaven Campaign.



Besides our own activities, we have also been working with our Brother Knights. We marched together in the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

## Bishop Navagh

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

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

On February 26<sup>th</sup> we held our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Altar Server Appreciation Day. We had over 90 people which included the servers and their

For our June meeting, we will pack donations for Convention and party!!

Blessings from Somerville

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

On March 3<sup>rd</sup> we held our Lenten Friday Baked Potato Night - we served over 172 potatoes complete with a "fix-in" bar. No one left the hall hungry! On March 8<sup>th</sup> we had 2 ladies attend the Western Chapter Major Degree at General Judson in Vernon. On March 19<sup>th</sup> we had 11 members join the town-wide Grains of Hope food packing event to feed the hungry and those in Haiti. In that afternoon we helped pack 150,276 meals! It was a fun and rewarding afternoon. On March 31<sup>st</sup> we joined the Pequannock Knights of Columbus for a Lenten Stations of the Cross at Holy Spirit Church in Pequannock.

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

In April we held our annual Spring flower baskets and flat sale - 50% of this fundraiser will also go to our Adopt-A-Family to make their summer a little cheerier. We are hoping for a very successful sale. The





baskets/flowers will be picked-up the week before Mother's Day. On April 1<sup>st</sup> we helped Western Chapter at an Applebee's Pancake Breakfast in Butler.

We are making plans for our annual baby shower. This is always a fun afternoon and the expected mother is thrilled by our generosity. A light lunch will be served.

We will be having our May crowning at our May meeting and we will be selecting a scholarship winner from the student's essays following the meeting. We are actively selling \$1.00 tickets for our Big Raffle which will be drawn on Memorial Day. We will also be marching in the town's parade with the Knights and afterward enjoy a picnic with

## Saint James

The New Year started quite cold but St. James got heated up!

In February, together with our Knights, we held our Annual Corporate Communion Mass at St. James Church. This was followed with a continental breakfast. Once again, we assisted our Brother Knights with their Friday Lenten Dinners. Each week, we set tables and provided desserts.

In March, we heated the ovens as we held our "Bakeless Cake Sale."

In April, we held a baby shower for the benefit of a Catholic Charities' Right to Life organization and one

our families at the hall.

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

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

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

member will step up for her Major Degree at the South West Chapter exemplification.

A host of activities are scheduled for May. We will present gifts to our Parishes' First Communicants and honor a Monroe Township High School Senior at their 23rd Annual Awards Program. At our meeting, we will honor our Blessed Mother with our traditional May Crowning ceremony and enjoy a "Pot Luck Supper" to which members bring their special culinary delights. On Memorial Day, we will march with our Brother Knights in the Jamesburg Parade to honor



those who gave their lives for our country.

In June, we will "Shake the Can" for vocations after parish Masses. Then, you will find us donned in our flowery hats and gloves as we host our Annual Tea Party. Lastly, we will award our selected Good Student and Humanitarian honorees at our monthly meeting.

Donations to the St. James Soup and Fellowship continue as well as

### Immaculate Conception

In February 109 second grade students made their First Penance. We presented each student with a cross plaque of the Act of Contrition as a remembrance of their Sacrament.

Member's celebrated Mass together on February 25<sup>th</sup> at our Annual Corporate Communion. A delicious brunch followed in the school cafeteria. We use this time to share Christ in our lives and to sit and relax and enjoy each other's company.

We held a green carnation and rosary decal sale the weekend of March 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> in honor of St. Patrick. Even though the event was almost a full week before St. Patrick's day we sold all our green carnations.

We began and ended Lent by working with our Knights at their annual fish fries. We cleaned and

collecting back packs, school supplies, personal items and tab tops for the State Convention.

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

-Carol Bohinski, Immediate Past President

chopped all the vegetables for the salad bar and baked delicious goodies for the desert table. The fish fries are well attended and this year we were instrumental in serving a record breaking number of dinners, especially after the snow storms.

Members made a Palm Sunday visit to a local nursing home. Each resident received a visit from the Easter Bunny and was given a little stuffed bunny gift just in time for Easter. This is an event that brings some joy to the residents and we have a good time visiting. Thank you Easter Bunny.





Our Annual Scramble will be held on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Doors open 6:00 pm and calling starts at 7:30 pm. This is our biggest fundraiser and we work hard all year to make it a success.

We are planning a bus trip to Hunterdon County Playhouse to

### **Don Bosco—Newton**

Our annual traditional social gathering was held on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, for dinner and a show in Hackettstown. We first enjoyed a delicious meal at Bea McNally's Irish Pub followed by NEWSIES, a Disney Musical (from Broadway). Although, Mother Nature tried to keep us from attending the event due to the snow, those who weathered the storm had an enjoyable time.

On Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> the Columbiettes and Knights of Columbus members Ed Drelich and Santa (Jerry Woodring) entertained the residents of Barn Hill, Valley View, Ave Care and the Homestead nursing homes with Christmas carols. Thanks to the generosity of the



see Nunsense starring Joyce DeWitt in August. The trip includes lunch and is open to the parish. It is the first time we are planning an event of this kind and hope it is a great success.

Columbiettes and Knights over 300 pairs of socks were donated to the residents.

In December we remember the Troops. The Don Bosco Columbiettes #7784 have been collecting blank note cards and pens for our service men and women since 2014. To date, we have sent 21 packages to an organization called "For the Troops" who in turn pass them on to the troops where they are stationed. The troops can then write home to their loved ones. This simple act brings a little cheer to all.

A number of Columbiettes gathered the weekend of January 5-7<sup>th</sup>, to attend the "Jesus, Lover of Women" retreat held at the Sacred Heart Retreat Center in Newton. Several ladies stayed the entire weekend while others met for only the Saturday segment. Private counseling sessions, confession, Mass, and seminars were some of the opportunities made available



to attendees. All meals were provided. This worthwhile annual event is open to all women. Sacred Heart Retreat Center also has a weekend retreat for women in June.

In February the Columbiettes and Squirettes had a Band-Aid Drive in which we collected over 250 boxes of children's band-aids. These boxes are distributed to the Robert Wood Johnson Children's Cancer Center. A Band-Aid is usually viewed primarily as a method for covering a wound, but for a child with cancer, it also says... "You are special" Chemotherapy drugs are needle injected through a "port" surgically implanted in the child's chest. After this frightening process, the young child can look through the band-aid box to select a "reward sticker" for their bravery and to brighten their day. This activity provides a sense of control in a world that is otherwise the opposite for them.

On March 9th we hosted our first Lenten dinner at Saint Joseph Church's Community Center from 5:00-6:45 pm. The mission was to give parishioners the opportunity to have dinner and then attend the Stations of the Cross at 7:00 pm in Church. The dinner selection was either fish and chips or pasta, eggplant and salad. Beverages in-

cluded tea, coffee, and water. Dessert was also included. "To-go" orders were available upon request.

During lent we held a Palm Cross Fundraiser which was a success. With the purchases and donations we are happy to be giving once again \$500 to the Little Sisters of the Poor for their St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly in Totowa, NJ.

We introduced having guest speakers a few times this year to change the meeting structure and to give the meeting a new dynamic. We had a Salesian sister, Sr. Karen Dunn, (who we adopted) give us a talk on her novitiate. In May we will be having a talk on Hospice Care from a Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice Center representative.

At our March meeting we collected \$245 worth of gift cards to donate to Manna House, a local food kitchen which feeds those in need.





On Sunday, March 11th, the Western Chapter held their Communion Breakfast at the Lafayette House where a group of the Columbiettes gathered for Mass, brunch, and fellowship.

On Saturday, March 17th our Columbiettes "Let's all be Irish for the day" came out as we marched in the St. Patrick's Day parade in the Newton center. We dressed in our finest green and handed out candy along the parade route to the children. The cold weather did not keep the spectators from joining us.



On Friday, March 23rd we hosted a pizza fundraiser at the Villa Capri Restaurant in Newton. The funds help us raise money for scholarships and local charities. Villa Capri donates \$1 for every pizza sold all day on that Friday. This year we received \$325 from the pizzas sold.

On Saturday, April 14th we hosted an Applebee's Flapjack fundraiser in Newton from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. It's a breakfast that includes scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage and a drink.



On Monday, April 16th, the Columbiettes hosted a dinner for the migrant workers at the community center of St. Joseph Church.



Submitted by  
Miriam Montagne, President  
Don Bosco Newton #7784





## Father Carey

Our auxiliary started 2018 by assisting our Brother Knights with their Lenten Fish Fries. We helped with food preparation, serving, clean up and donating desserts.

In February, some of our members attended an Evening of Reflection entitled "From Couch Potato to Super Hero" with Motivational Speaker Colleen Kelly-Rayner at St. Andrew Church in Avenel. Our Southeast Chapter held an Evening of Recollection in March at St. Anthony of Padua in Port Reading. Our Chapter Chaplain, Father Smith, celebrated Mass and gave a talk on the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.

At our March meeting, our auxiliary celebrated its 20th Anniversary with members bringing their favorite dish and sharing the recipe so a

book can be put together with all the recipes. On April 8th, one of our members made her Major Degree at St. Bernadette in Parlin.

The month of May has our auxiliary joining our BUDDY KNIGHTS with the Crowning of the Blessed Mother at our Council Hall. On May 24th, President Linda Orosz will be attending the Senior Awards Night at Carteret High School and presenting a \$200 Scholarship to a Senior Girl.

At our June meeting, the ladies will bring in a food/dessert for our Pot Luck Dinner.

Have a beautiful and a safe summer!

Linda Orosz, President

## Our Lady of Peace—North Brunswick

Our Lady of Peace Columbiettes in North Brunswick are VERY proud of our fundraising success over the last 7 years with our Indoor Garage Sale and our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Event was an overwhelming success once again.



Each year we raise funds for someone in our community that can use our help and support. Over these years we have raised money to support children in need of financial support and last year we raised funds for an army veteran who was wheel-chair bound and needed leg braces to allow him to walk again and a have a new lease on life.

For our 8th annual event, we chose 13-year-old Mikey Richert as our IGS sponsor. In late 2014,



Mikey was hit in the head while playing baseball. After being diagnosed with a brain tumor, Mikey has been enduring years of brain surgeries, chemotherapy, and radiation. All the medical treatments left him with hearing loss but insurance will not pay for hearing aids that would give this boy once again the chance to hear normal conversations.



8th Annual Indoor Garage Sale: It was a huge success comprising of an indoor garage sale, bake sale, raffles and tricky tray. A lot of hard work but a lot of fun for a great cause! We captured the front page of our local township newspaper and inside the paper even more valuable space showing 3 more large pictures of our event. More important we far exceeded our goal of helping Mikey's family to have his hearing aid needs met and so much more than that in support for this terrific boy and his family! Mikey continues to face medical challenges and we are glad we made even the small difference we could.

Memorial Flower Campaign: The Columbiettes adorned Our Lady of

Peace Church during the 2016 and 2017 Christmas seasons with over 100 poinsettias inside the Church and surrounding our glorious altar. This campaign which began in 2016 was a huge success and our parish community overwhelmingly continued to honor their loved ones into 2017 with cash donations designating each flower as an offering. We carried this forward in our goal for 'beautifying our Church' into the 2018 Easter season by adorning our outside entrance with palms on Palm Sunday and donating a generous cash contribution to our Parish Priest for the purchase of the lilies to adorn the inside, honoring all who contributed to the campaign. Again our Church looked magnificent and our Columbiettes with the parish community are always looking for ways to spread the faith and what can be a more beautiful way than with flowers and honoring our loved ones and the Lord!

Since the fall Echo edition, our auxiliary has been involved in many activities including our annual welcome back and holiday socials, assisting the Knights with the Christmas Family Festival, hosting our first community Health Fair, supporting the second annual Special Needs event, managing our Parish's CCD Easter candy fundraiser, working our 3 Parish fish dinners . . . . And upcoming are two special events for us: Our 20<sup>th</sup>



Anniversary as Columbiettes in 2018 where we have grown from 15 to close to 100 members! . . . and in 2019 it will be the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Parish and the 50<sup>th</sup>

## Saint Bernadette's

Most of us were able to attend the annual Women's Organization Christmas Party at Pulcinella's Restaurant. The combined celebration allows those who belong to two or three organizations a little freer time during the holidays!

We had a table attend St. Bartholomew's wonderful Christmas Tea where hats and gloves are collected to support the PIC-C Program in New Brunswick. Delightful stories accompany this relaxing afternoon and support our Sister Columbiettes.

Collecting for the annual South East Chapter BirthRight Baby Shower was opened up to our parish and several donated needed gifts to join the ones we collected at our auxiliary. They will be brought to St. Agnes Church for our Chapter meeting and distributed to them by Vincent T. Lombardi Auxiliary in Atlantic Highlands.

Preparing for our Third Annual Tea Party brought members out to have a good time preparing gifts and favors and share some comradery. While we had a nominal turnout this was an enjoyable afternoon with all homemade finger sandwiches and desserts. A hat

ordination anniversary of our Parish Pastor—a special event as he will be retiring at the end of the year.

contest is always the culmination and all attendees (I cannot say ladies this year) get to vote on the winners!

Our Auxiliary hosted the Major Degree on Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup> where approximately 140 joined us and 31 First Degree members received their Major Degree. Everyone commented on the delicious sandwiches and homemade salads. Our Honoree this year was Rev. James W. Hagerman, our Chaplain and we thank him for all of his assistance and encouragement over the years.



State Officers in Attendance



Attendees at Major Degree





Shown: Lilly Zammit, Treasurer, Carla Flores, Maria Zamora, Maria Rotger, Mavis Pozentaa, Manique Feldano, Rev. James W Hagerman, Chaplain and South East Chapter Major Degree Honoree, Dottie Gallagher, Silvia Ruiz, Kathleen Farrell, Mary Alice Maher, Lois Ann Smith, President. (photos by Maureen O'Brien)

Members of our Auxiliary and others will attend the NJSCC Retreat at San Alfonso and this is always a most relaxing and informative "Retreat" to put us in touch with where "God and Ocean" come together!

We are looking forward to the Charity Luncheon where our own South East Chapter President, Diane Kulbacki, will receive the award for Corporate/Ethics. Congratulations to her and Brunswick Funeral Home for all that they do for the community!

Immediately following the Charity Luncheon some are attending the Annual Sisters in Service Celebration held at Our Lady of Victory Auxiliary. Father Ken Murphy always gives such a heartwarming and sincere homily directed entirely to these very dedicated nuns.

Our May Crowning and elections are coming up at our May meeting and Installation of Officers will be held during our Memorial Mass in June as well as our Third Annual Scholarship Presentation.

The 62<sup>nd</sup> Convention at Embassy Suites will give us a chance to interact with our sisters from all over the state and the convention committee has been quite busy. Our backpacks and toiletry bags are ready to go as well as tab tops.

We have already begun assisting with the 30<sup>th</sup> year of Community Vacation Bible School which will be held from July 30 – August 3 at St. Bernadette Lourdes Center. Anyone may attend and preparing the crafts for Splash Canyon – God's Promises for Life's Wild Ride! There are six churches involved this year and this is where you see "ecumenical" in action! The program could not exist if it weren't for all of the area churches coming together to present this program.

Thanks to our Sister Columbiettes for always remembering that clear pretzel/cheese ball jugs are always in need and saving them during the year for the program.

We pray all of our Sisters had a Blessed Easter and continue to do so during this Easter Season and wish you and yours a summer full of relaxation and peace! (With perhaps a little planning for your next Columbian Year!) May God bless you all and all of your ministries!!!



## Millstone Valley

Millstone Valley held a soup and Irish soda bread sale during the Millstone Valley Knights Fish Fry dinner right before Easter. The response was good, and the Irish soda bread was the hit of the sale! This is a regular event at the Fish Fry, and quite a hit with the people who come! Also, our new banner was displayed for the first time at the dinner. We received a number of compliments on it!

We added a new position to the Auxiliary—that of historian! And one of our new members has gladly offered to fulfill it. Thank you, Rachel!

We will be giving out a rosary and a prayer card to each of our new First Communicants. This will be done at each of the final practices the Saturday before their Communions on Sunday. We have done this for the last few years, and find the children, as well as their par-

ents, are very happy with this acknowledgement of their First Communion.

The Millstone Valley Knights will be participating in the charity collection on April 21, and many of the Columbiettes will be aiding them in their collection.

We will be having a Gold Sale fund raiser on May 16 starting at 5:30 in the Hospitality Room of St. Joseph's Church. If anyone is interested, you are more than welcome! The person who buys the gold, will also buy silver and diamonds. We have done this before, and all who sold their gold were pleased with the amount they received.

The year will be wrapped up with an ice cream social after our June meeting! Hurry up summer!!

Linda Kenyhercz

## Our Lady of Perpetual Help—Jersey City

Our Lady of Perpetual Help has been busy these past months with helping out not just our own food drive but also working with the parish-wide events such as Going Away party for our former Pastor Fr. Sullivan. It was a grandiose and big celebration with all ethnic groups of the Parish attending and enjoying sumptuous meal and camaraderie.





The next month we also had a parish wide event this time to welcome Fr. Hyatt our new Pastor. This one was even more crowded with a reception after each of the four Masses. More than 900 people in batches came over to celebrate his birthday as well. The Feast of St. Aedan our Patron was another hectic celebration. The Columbiettes set up, served and cleaned up after the party.



Recently we had a Mass for the Unborn, but the Baby Shower was postponed due to another fundraising activity.

Well, finally Spring is here I think if Mr. snowman will not bother us again.

Shown below are our ladies at the Major Degree held on Sunday, April 15th at St. Bernadette's.



Submitted by Naty Caballero  
Publicity Chair

## Saint John's

St. John's Council Columbiettes welcomed the year 2018 with a Post-Holiday dinner at a local restaurant. Not only did we have a great turnout of our Sister Columbiettes but a few of our Brother Knights came and our Grand Knight even joined us for dinner!

As the season of Lent approached we began preparing for our first ever "Meatless Spud-Tacular" to be held on one of the Friday nights during Lent.

April is usually the month when we

have our "Garden Tea Party", however this year we wanted to do something different so we had a "Spring Tricky-Tray" with designer handbags as our grand prize awards.

The lovely month of May is the time we vote on our slate of officers for the upcoming new year, 2018-2019 and also vote on the charities that we will support with the money we have raised during the year.

As June fast approaches, we al-



ways look forward to the annual convention but this year especially since Central Chapter (which St. John's is part of) are the hosts this year! Much planning and organizing has been done starting last year to make this convention ONE OF THE BEST EVER!!

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

### **Sgt. John F. Basilone**

The Sgt. John Basilone Columbiettes #13264 kicked off the year by once again marching in the annual John Basilone Parade in September. We were happy to install three new members to our auxiliary receiving their first and major degrees. They are very enthusiastic and are bringing fresh new ideas for our charity goals.

Throughout the year we continue to assist our Knights by supporting them with their annual fall mum sale, and monthly pancake breakfasts including a special Veteran's Memorial Breakfast and sending them our encouraging thoughts and prayers. We hosted a coffee and dessert reception after the All Souls' Mass in November and donated a Thanksgiving dinner to a local family. Other activities and donations included, collecting for a coat and blanket Drive, joining St.

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 Elwell  
Past President

Ann's School for the Halloween Trunk or Treat Parade giving out tokens and treats to all the children, and donating a Thanksgiving Dinner to a parish family.



In lieu of our December meeting we had a holiday social and ornament exchange. We all donated wrapped gifts for an underprivileged family with elementary aged children and their parents to be distributed at Christmas. A few of our sisters assisted KOC with the annual sale of Christmas wreaths and decorating Christmas trees for St. Ann's Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony memorializing the de-



ceased as well as the annual Breakfast with Santa.

Visiting the nursing home for special occasions has been a personal reward for a few of our sisters.



Spring events include a donation of community Easter baskets and a dinner for a local family, hosting of the Confirmation reception for approximately 50 candidates and pictures with the Bishop and participating in the May Crowning.



### Vincent T. Lombardi

Continuing our tradition of helping out wherever and whenever we can, the past few months have been busy ones for the members of Vincent T. Lombardi.

Back in November we held a membership drive along with the VTL Knights. The drive resulted in four new members. Thanks to the hos-

We are in process of donating puzzles to the adult day care facilities, along with clothing and stuffed animals to the local pregnancy aid center. Wrapping up the year we are preparing for our annual convention and our auxiliary end of year social.

Shown below are attendees at the Degree Ceremony in Union on October 22, 2017



We wish everyone an enjoyable summer and look forward to a great start to a new Columbian year in the fall.

pitality of the Fr. Donnelly Knights, we were able to hold a First Degree at OLPH. In April two of the members, Susan Fischer and Louise Herbert, were able to make their Major Degree. We recently held another membership drive and are hoping to have a First Degree at our next meeting.



Shown above are new members Susan Fischer and Louise Herbert at their Major Degree April 8th at St. Bernadette's.

On December 9th, along with the Knights, we helped out at the Life Teen Dinner and Gift Auction at St. Mary's. The next week the Knights held their annual Family Dinner. This year local military families were invited, and there was a special appearance by Santa Claus. On Christmas we again played "Santa's Elves" and helped Santa hand out toys to hospitalized children at Monmouth Medical Center. Also on Christmas Day we helped out at the St. Mary's Christmas Day Dinner.



Shown above is President Ann Dimaira, along with other members,

receiving a monetary donation from VTL Grand Knight Colin Casey, and special guest Santa Claus, at the Knight's Annual Family Christmas Dinner.

Although we did not meet in January, we did get together for the Past President Dinner in honor of Mary Vernarelli. We were honored to have State President Vicki Bird, our District Deputy Kathy Jessen, and St. Bernadette President Lois Ann Smith as our special guests.

We have gotten quite the reputation for our decorating skills. We have decorated for two events given by the Fr. Donnelly Knights- an Italian Night and a St. Patrick's Day Dinner/Dance, and they have asked us to decorate for their upcoming Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast.

Coming up we will be hosting the Chapter Baby Shower, and are planning another fundraiser at the First Avenue Playhouse.

And . . . thanks to many prayers to St. Matthew, the Patron Saint of Tax Collectors, we finally heard back from the IRS and are pleased to announce we have retained our Tax-exempt status!

Mary Vernarelli  
Past President  
Vincent T. Lombardi #6552



## Warren

Warren Council 474 Columbiettes celebrated the Christmas season by assisting our Brother Knights in packaging 400 bags of food for distribution to our needy Seniors. The next day several sisters attended our Catholic Charities Gift Distribution for our needy children. Over 398 Christmas presents were given out to the moms and dads of our most vulnerable and poor children. It was a very heartwarming experience. That same day at noon several sister Columbiettes celebrated Christmas with a lovely luncheon at an Italian Restaurant and exchanged token gifts.

The very next day our Brother Knights held a breakfast and not only did Santa Claus appear, but, Mrs. Claus (our very own sister Columbiette Ruth Martin) made an appearance as well.

January 10 saw a First Degree ceremony in which we brought in two new members.

Our council has been instrumental in donating to our local Bridge Ministry, which is a ministry for the homeless and those at risk for homelessness. With our Pastor we will be starting our own ministry called "blessing in a bag." Our hope is to collect items from our parish family three times a year and distribute to the most vulnerable and marginalized of our local community.

On the weekend of January 27 and 28 a parish collection of food and basic items of necessity took place and over five carloads of items were collected. Following is an excerpt from the bulletin insert:

Pope Francis, on November 19, 2017 (World Day of the Poor), has reminded us to hear the voices of our brothers and sisters who are poor, sick, lost, marginalized, and disenfranchised. He stated, **"blessed, therefore, are the open hands that embrace the poor and help them: they are hands that bring hope."** Jesus, in his Gospel messages, calls all of his followers to have **compassion for the poor, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and stand with the sick.** Pope Francis says **"the poor are not a problem: they are a resource from which to draw as we strive to accept and practice in our lives the essence of the Gospel."**

In January, several sister Columbiettes toured The St. Anne Center, Grandma's house, home for single moms with infants or children in Phillipsburg in hopes to decorate a bedroom, but the rooms were already taken. We made a monetary donation and will have our Columbiette council name engraved on a nameplate.

On February 10 and 11, we held our annual Loaf Cake Sale and brought in over \$625. We should probably check all our parishioners



for diabetes (only kidding).

We will be busy working with our Brother Knights at our Fish Fry Dinners during Lent baking and serving desserts. Sr. Claire from the Sisters of Jesus our Hope was our guest speaker at our February meeting. She focused on the Lenten season. In March we prepared 45 Easter Baskets for the less fortunate children in our community affiliated with Catholic charities and had Sr. Michaelita, a Sister of Mercy, address our membership on the Corporal Works of

### Saint Cecilia's

Our auxiliary has been quite busy over the last five months. We continue to fundraise conducting four fundraisers: 1) calendar raffle for the period November 1, 2017 through January 31, 2018, 2) sold wreaths and grave blankets for the Christmas season, 3) held a scrap-booking event in February and 4) a fund-raiser at Confectionally Yours.

These events have helped us to raise monies for various charities. Some to name a few are the food bank for South Brunswick, March of Dimes, a family in need from our parish, and the Antonia Marie Foundation.

At this time of the year, we award a \$100 scholarship to a young lady who is graduating high school. This year we had five deserving candidates.

Mercy which is our theme for this and next year.

An angel pin sale was held again in March at our sister church, and we sold over \$200 worth of pins.

We still have plenty of work to do in the remaining Columbiette year and next, but we are looking forward to it.

Blessings to all of you.

Submitted by Judy Leone  
President

We have also been involved with our Knights of Columbus. We assisted them at two of their events that they ran this year - the Retro Night dance and St. Patrick's Day dance.

At the end of April, the Knights of Columbus run a donation drive for the citizens in need in our community, and again we will be at their side.

We are a very active auxiliary and growing.

God bless,

Karen  
Williams  
President

*Give  
THANKS  
to the Lord  
for He is good; His love endures forever.*

-1 Chronicles 16:34





## Leisure Village West

We started off with the Christmas party in December with our brother Knights. What a great night it was. We had a small grab bag for who ever wanted to join in. Next year I believe it will grow with the word getting out we are an active group!

January, we held another First Degree at our meeting to welcome another 6 to our growing family. We are now standing proudly at 62 members up from the 40 we started the year with. In May we will have another opportunity to add more members at our annual club day in the village.

We tried two new fundraisers so far this year and both were a great success. Our soup night in February was very well received with over 21 different soups. We had salad, bread and desserts and to our surprise we had over 100 people join us for dinner. Next year we will hold it in January and will add some entertainment to the list. Our second new fundraiser was Palm Crosses. First time out we sold 60 crosses and everyone who

received them loved them. We got quite a few thank you notes from the sale. Next year we hope it will be bigger and better since we made some mistakes and now know how to overcome them.

In May along with our club day in the village we will have our annual Mother's Day Plant sale. June will be installation of officers. We have so much planned for the new year that we will be meeting over the summer. We will try to pull off a summer BBQ with the Knights, plan our annual Card Party and we are planning to have an Octoberfest. So, we will be busy from now to our next reporting. LOL. I am also happy to say that of the 22 new members, all but one has made her Major Degree. I am so happy and proud of Leisure Village Columbiettes.

From all of us here in the "village" we wish you a very happy, healthy and safe summer.

Kathleen Robinson  
President #9134

## Saint Maximilian Kolbe

Forty-three candidates of the Southern Chapter Auxiliaries received Major Degrees on February 25th, at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish. Pastor Steven Piga, honoree, offered prayers and blessings to members and guests.

Our auxiliary has been assisting our Brother Knights this Lenten season. We have been helping prepare and serve Lenten lunches every Friday during Lent. We have also been involved in the Holy Thursday service, as well as the procession with the Knights of Co-



lumbus for the Pascal candle service on Holy Saturday. We have planned a bus trip on April 25th to Lancaster, PA to see the play "Jesus" at the state theater. This trip is a fundraiser for our parish by our auxiliary.

## Father Cannon

The Columbiettes of Father Cannon Council 2607 Auxiliary are looking forward to a busy Spring! They are holding their first Chicken Dinner in April, are working with their brother Knights on a Lenten Fish Bake in March, and the Auxiliary conducts Bake Sales at the monthly Knight's Breakfasts.

## Long Valley

Over the last several months, we have had several very successful fundraising events this year, including an Avon fundraiser in December, a Yankee Candle sale, a Charming Charlie event, our Annual Christmas Cookie sale, a fundraiser with Mama's Pizza and Restaurant, and our Wonders of Chocolate event (our biggest event of the year) full of chocolates, music, and a silent auction. Planning is underway for our major fundraiser, a Mardi Gras Party, just like our Wonders of Chocolate this



Lucille Iasiello  
President of St Maximilian Kolbe  
Auxiliary

They have Clean Communities cleanup events scheduled in April and May, and they will be celebrating Mass on June 3<sup>rd</sup> in honor of their one year Auxiliary Anniversary, followed by a breakfast served by their brother Knights.



year, but with a Mardi Gras theme. Pictures shown above are from the Wonders of Chocolate fundraiser.

In December we helped our brother Knights with their Annual Charity Auction. Every year we help with set-up, serving, and selling of raffle tickets. The event was very successful.

Our ongoing project of crocheting of scarves to keep the clients of Father English Center warm during the winter months is ongoing. Last



year we donated 79 scarves. Our members have already begun crocheting for this year's donation. Any donations of extra yarn for us to continue this mission are always appreciated.

In January we brought special gifts to the Sisters at Assumption College. An afternoon was spent with the Sisters that was enjoyed by all that attended. They always love our holiday visit and appreciate our fulfilling of their special needs.



In January we collected PJs and Books for a local annual collection for Project Pajama with used books that were collected being donated to Father English Center. In April we conducted our second "Undie Sunday" to collect underwear and feminine hygiene products to be donated to Father English Center and Operation Chillout, a locally started organization that supports homeless veterans in NJ, PA, and RI.

In March we had our second joint membership drive/hospitality event with the Knights at the second of our three parishes. This event was used to help bring to the attention of the congregation

the existence and activities of both groups. It was a very successful event with several women expressing interest in membership and one filling out an application. We are hoping to repeat this again in the fall. This year we added three new members to our Auxiliary and two members received their Major Degree. New Major Degree recipient Joanne Lee, Treasurer Carol Guedez, Major Degree Committee Marge Sanders, new member and Major Degree recipient Marjorie Ratcliffe are shown below.



In June we look forward to awarding at least one scholarship to a deserving high school student who is a member of one of our three parishes. We wish all of our high school students the best of luck as they begin the next phase of their growth and hope that they find comfort in getting to know our Lord in a closer way.

Each month we visit with the veterans at the Lyons VA Hospital. The visits each month bring joy to the members of the ward which we visit. We have celebrated Christmas, Valentines, and Easter with our vets and have received



support from one of our local Dominos Restaurants that has donated pizzas for some of our visits.

The Long Valley Columbiettes hope that everyone has a safe and healthy summer with family and friends. During the summer we hope that you will also join us in August as we help to raise money for Operation Chillout to continue their work in supporting our veterans. On August 11<sup>th</sup> at Vasa Park

in Budd Lake we will be helping with VetsSummerFest, a day long music and vendor show perfect for families. Visit <http://vetssummerfest.org/> for more information about this fun filled day.

Lucie Cohn, President  
Long Valley Columbiettes #10409

## Updates to the State Directory As of April 2018

Page	Correction
29	Linda-Susan Gitto's address is now: 8701 Evergreen Circle, Breiningsville, PA 18031
36	email for Barbara Rymer has changed to: Barb.columbiettes@gmail.com
42	Angela Greenwald's Phone Number is now: 302-757-3952
45	Sentinel information changed to Mary Kubisky

Updated State Directories can be found at [www.njcolumbiettes.com](http://www.njcolumbiettes.com)





## A Note From The Editor

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

Hope that you enjoyed reading this issue of the Echo. It has truly been a pleasure to read your submissions while inserting text and images on the many pages. God bless you for your generosity and love toward those less fortunate!

Thank you to everyone who submitted articles. Also, special thanks to Maureen O'Brien who sent in many of the pictures contained in the booklet. She certainly is adept at using her camera and gracious in donating her time to this effort.

It would be wonderful to have 100% participation for the 2018 winter edition. Submissions can be e-mailed to: [echonewsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:echonewsletter@hotmail.com). Microsoft Word files are the easiest to manipulate when inserting into the publication. If you do not have the ability to e-mail files, you may mail reports to me at: 104 George Hill Road, Branchville, NJ 07826. If you have any questions, please call at (973) 702-7610.

An electronic version (.pdf file) can be downloaded from our state website at: [www.njcolumbiettes.com](http://www.njcolumbiettes.com). Please let all of your members know of this availability.

Looking forward to seeing you at the State Convention.

Happy Mother's Day! God bless our military members—living and deceased!





### Prayer to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

O Most Blessed Mother, heart of love, heart of mercy, ever listening, caring, consoling, hear our prayer. As your children, we implore your intercession with Jesus your Son. Receive with understanding and compassion the petitions we place before you today, especially ...(*special intention*).

We are comforted in knowing your heart is ever open to those who ask for your prayer. We trust to your gentle care and intercession, those whom we love and who are sick or lonely or hurting. Help all of us, Holy Mother, to bear our burdens in this life until we may share eternal life and peace with God forever.

Amen.

