



Little Ways of Love

*New Jersey State Council
Columbiettes*



*Echo
Spring Edition 2021*



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Cover page	1
Table of Contents	2
Message from State President-Elena McFarland	4
SOS Hail Mary Campaign for World Peace.....	5
Immediate Past State President—Victoria Bird.....	6
State Financial Secretary—Kathleen Donahue	7
Treasurer, Donna Lewandowski	7
State Advocate—Cathe Nicholson.....	8
Badges & Jewelry.....	9
Recruitment and Retention.....	10
Ronald McDonald House—Tab Tops.....	11
Historian/Pictures	11
Memorial Fund, Greeting Card and Business Card	12
Vocations—Pennies from Heaven	13
Websites	13
Convention	14
News from Our State Chapters	15
Western Chapter.....	25
South East Chapter	16
South West Chapter	18
News from Our State Auxiliaries	20
Bishop Navagh.....	20
Don Bosco—Newton	21
Father Cannon	23
Immaculate Conception—Spotswood	24



TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

Long Valley	26
Millstone Valley	29
Parsippany	31
Our Lady of Peace—North Brunswick	31
Our Lady of Perpetual Help—Jersey City	33
Our Lady of Victory	34
Santa Maria	36
Sgt John F. Basilone	37
St. Ann	38
St. Anthony's	39
St. Bartholomew	39
St. Bernadette	42
St. James	44
St. John's	47
St. Philip the Apostle	48
South Amboy	50
Vincent T. Lombardi	51
Warren	54
State Directory Updates	55
A Note From the Editor	56





New Jersey State Council Columbiettes

Message from State President

Happy Easter!!

I hope everyone enjoyed the Lenten Season and Easter Sunday whether you were praying from home and visiting family via online social meetings or attending small family gatherings.

Here we are a year later and I thought we would be telling funny stories about our time in quarantine. Sadly, we are still experiencing days of uncertainty with the COVID-19 Pandemic. Many people have received their COVID-19 shots and hopefully it will bring us resistance to the virus. Many of you are still be working from home, maintaining social distancing in public places and of course wearing masks. I am proud to say we are still surviving!!

Due to the continued COVID-19 pandemic, the NJ Columbi-ette State Board of Officers will again this year, allow email acceptance of submissions, and adjustments to requirements for awards. Annual officer elections may also be

conducted via online social meetings or email. Information has been and will continue to be passed on to Auxiliary and Chapter Presidents to share with everyone. We are adjusting to the times and want to see our order thrive during a tough time. **WE ARE COLUMBIETTE STRONG!!**

I am happy to say that in March we have received permission from the Embassy Suites to gather at 50% capacity, with some limitations, for our 2021 Annual NJ Columbi-ette Convention. The hotel management team is very excited as we will be the first convention at the hotel in over a year!! As you are aware we are moving forward with a one-day convention. This was a very difficult decision for me as State President, but your safety comes first. Due to NJ Department of Health COVID Guidelines the hotel restaurant is still very limited and serving meals to a group our size would not be feasible in the restaurant area. I wanted to ensure everyone would be safe



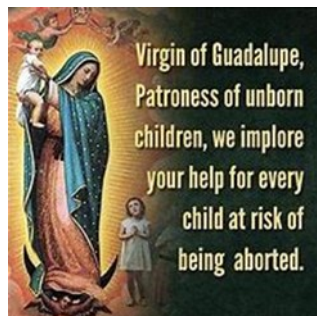


and strict guidelines are followed. We are offering a hybrid model so everyone can be included in our 2021 Convention. If you are uncomfortable with the in-person meeting, please join us online!!

As we head toward May I would like to wish all Mothers, Grandmothers, Godmothers, Aunts and Honorary Mothers a very Happy Mother's

Day! Stay safe, stay happy, pray often and know I am thinking and praying for you every day!!

With the guidance of St. Therese may our little acts of kindness create great love.
Elena McFarland
State President



SUB—Save Unborn Babies

Hail Mary Campaign to Save Unborn Babies from Abortion

Thank you to everyone who supported the campaign to seek our Blessed Mother's intercession to save unborn babies from abortion by helping to pray ONE MILLION HAIL

MARYS.

As of April, we have reached over one and a half million Hail Marys and are hoping to reach a grand total of close to two million by May 31st which is the end of the campaign. The final tally will be posted on the website at:
www.donboscocolumbiettes.weebly.com.

God bless you all! Please continue to pray the Rosary whenever you can.





Immediate Past State President—Victoria Bird

Prayer has brought us through this past year and prayer will continue to get us through anything that comes our way. Know that my prayers are with all of you each and every day.

Some reminders:

Welcome Seeds

If you had **new** members participate in the new Initiation Ceremony (or took their First Degree) since July 2020 and you have not sent in the Welcome Seed form to me, please do so. Since July 2020, I have sent out 17 Welcome Seed letters and packets.

Founders Award

The deadline for the Founders Award is June 1, 2021. Please fill out the form, form even if you only increased your membership by one member, so that your auxiliary can be rec-

ognized as growing, even during a pandemic.

I want to wish all my Sister Columbiettes a safe and healthy Spring and Summer! Looking forward to seeing many of you at the State Convention in June.

May the Holy Family bless each of you and your families.



Vicki Bird
Immediate Past State President



Finacial Secretary—Kathleen Donahue

Spring has finally arrived! It is a time of new beginnings. Christ rose on Easter Sunday to bring us all the promise of eternal life. Mother Nature is hard at work brightening our world with her colorful blooms. The birds are singing their cheerful song. We are filled with new hope!

As more of us are receiving the COVID vaccine, we look forward to things returning to normal. Things that we used to take for granted like going to

church, Columbiette meetings and out to dinner with friends took on more meaning when we were no longer able to do them. Hopefully, we will soon be doing all that and more.

I look forward to seeing many of my Sister Columbiettes at our State Convention in June.

I will continue to pray that you remain safe and well.

Kathy Donahue
NJ State Financial Secretary

Treasurer—Donna Lewandowski

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

Even with the continuation of the pandemic...this year is flying by. I am so looking forward to our up-coming convention and God willing it will all go off without a hitch.

Thank you for your trust in me as your Treasurer for the last two years and I look forward

to continuing my service to you and my church community.

Happy Mother's Day and Happy Spring. Stay well!

See you all soon,

Donna Lewandowski
NJ State Treasurer





State Advocate—Cathe Nicholson

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

*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. So happy we will be able to get together again in person. Keeping everyone in my prayers for health and safety in the coming months.



Badges & Jewelry

Badges

The name badge program is temporarily suspended. Our manufacturer closed the business when COVID 19 hit and has not reopened. I will let you know if they open up or if we find a new company to take over.

Thank you to everyone who supported this program by buying name badges.

Jewelry

The Columbiette jewelry will not be brought to and sold at the State convention in June this year.

However, pictures of the jewelry and an order form are available on the State's website at njcolumbiettes.com under the logo wear tab. If you are interested in any of the items, you may place an order by June 20, 2021 and I will bring your order to convention for pickup. Checks may be made payable to NJ State Council Columbiettes.

If you have any questions, please contact me at columbietteskathy@yahoo.com or call me at 732-826-3881 (home) or 732-824-1135 (cell).

Kathy Donahue
Chairperson





Recruitment Program WIN \$100

Columbiettes to be eligible to enter this drawing all you need to do is sign up three (3) or more new members, provided they take their First Degree prior to the State Convention.

Deadline date to enter is June 15th. All Columbiettes are eligible to enter this RECRUITMENT PROGRAM. You can e-mail me the information.

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT
NAME OF MEMBER SPONSORING THREE MEM-
BER AND THE NAMES OF THE MEMBERS
VERIFICATION: FINANCIAL SECRETARY

_____ Date: _____

Sandra Bohinski, Chair
Bosgeneral@aol.com
732-521-3012

Retention Month

November is our Columbiette Retention Month. Our Auxiliaries were asked to contact their inactive members asking them to come out to the meeting and hopefully their return will be permanent. You can e-mail me the information.

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
NUMBER OF MEMBERS WHO REGULARLY AT-
TEND MEETINGS
NUMBER OF INACTIVE MEMBERS ATTENDING

Sandra Bohinski, Chair
Bosgeneral@aol.com
732-521-3012



Ronald McDonald House—Tab Tops

Approximately sixteen years ago we started collecting tab tops for the Ronald McDonald House.

A house that was built by love. A home away from home for families who have medically fragile children who are being treated at nearby hospitals. There is no easier way to help them but by collecting tab tops. It does not cost anything; they are easy to store, and they add up quickly.

In addition to donating to the Camden house over 300,00 were donated to the house in New Brunswick. Can you imagine how many we have collected throughout the years?

Due to the conditions this year, I am asking that you

PLEASE bring your tab tops to the Convention in the recyclable paper leaf bags. They are much more durable. If you do not have access to these bags, I ask that you double up on your large paper grocery bags to bring them.

In the previous years, we had the time and space to transfer them to these types of bags but unfortunately we cannot do so this year. Remember the words of Fran Corcione, *“if you can’t lift them, we can’t lift them”*.

Sandra Bohinski
Chair

Historian/Pictures

Please send any photos that you have for the State Histo-

rian to Nicole Markus at Nicole.markus92@gmail.com.





Memorial Fund, Greeting Card & Business Card

Thank you to everyone who has requested cards and business card enclosures. Almost 300 cards have been requested as of this writing.

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

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

tomorrow, I keep track of all requests and payments.

Memorial Fund Card Enclosures are also available. Like the Greeting Cards, the Card Enclosures may be ordered for any occasion. These are a business card size printed on both sides and can be inserted into your own store-bought greeting card. The suggested donation is \$5.00 per enclosure card.

I look forward to fulfilling all your orders.

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

Kathy Jessen

Chair, NJSCC Greeting Card and Business Card Enclosure Program

Contact Information:

Email-

kjessen5@optonline.net

Cell/Text- 732-261-7490/

Home Phone 732-721-2522





Vocations—Pennies from Heaven

Please remember to keep saving those pennies especially during this pandemic. This will enhance our Vocation program and we may then be able to give our Seminarian/Postulants a large check to help them in their studies. The Pennies check is due on or before June 1st, one check please and to New Jersey State Council Columbiettes. All amounts big and small are acceptable. If you want to send it earlier than the due date, that would be great.

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

REMEMBER TO SEND IN YOUR SELECTION OF SEMINARIAN/POSTULANT TO ME BY April 15 OR EARLIER IF POSSIBLE. ALSO INCLUDE THE ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS AND EMAILS.

Thank you, Lorraine Noger, Chairperson.

If you have any questions, let me know. 732-495-1958



Websites

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

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



Convention

Come Sail Away to the 65th Annual NJ State Council
Columbiette Convention
aboard the S.S. Columbiette
June 26, 2021
Embassy Suites, Piscataway, New Jersey





News from our State Chapters

Western

Happy Spring, Happy Easter, and Happy Mother's Day to all of our Sister Columbiettes.

I am continually amazed at how our sisters continue to excel at everything that they are doing to help those in need in our parishes, communities, and the world at large especially during these unprecedented times. Whether it is doing simple things such as picking up the phone to see how someone is doing, praying for those in need of prayers, creating Easter baskets, distributing food, collecting pajamas, books, underwear, toiletries, or other clothing articles, we are making a positive impact for those around us.

While it has been sad to see some of our normal fundraising activities, such as our Christmas Tricky Tray, cancelled, our members have stepped up to find new ways to raise funds. When some of our expenses also disappeared this year due to meeting virtually, our members found new ways to help such as making a donation to the Pennies from Heaven campaign.

I was also pleased when our membership voted positively to recognize young women that would be earning their Eagle Scout Award in addition to those that earn their Girl Scout Gold Awards now that young ladies can earn the Eagle Scout Award. Hopefully we will see lots of girls earn both of these prestigious awards.

We are looking forward to meeting in person again in the Fall.

Stay healthy and safe,
Lucie Cohn
President Western Chapter



South East

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

Even with the pandemic milestones were achieved in our Chapter:

- Our Lady of Victory – 60 years!
- Don Bosco – 52 years!
- St Lawrence – 29 years!
- Our Lady of Peace – 25 years!
- Father Carey – 23 years!
- St Bartholomew's – 22 years!
- St Bernadette's – 20 years!
- Vincent T Lombardi – 11 years!
- South Amboy – 9 years!

Congratulations to all auxiliaries!

Our next Chapter Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 21st via ZOOM!. At this meeting we will be selecting our Chapter Charity for the 2022 convention and our Seminarian or Postulant for next year.

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

Our Chapter Right to Life Baby Shower will be held on Sunday, May 16th. New items from a requested list (due to COVID-19) from Life Choices will be accepted using the "drive through" system. Hosted by St Bernadette Auxiliary, the donations will be collected in front of Lourdes Center from 10:30 a.m. through 12:30 p.m. Auxiliary members, socially distancing, will transfer these donations from your car to the vehicle that will be transporting your generosity the following day to Metuchen.

Our June meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 16, 2021



when elections will be held for the 2021-2022 Columbian Year.

An update on our Charity Recipient from last year, Sienna Smith, who suffers from an extremely rare form of brain cancer, is presently in remission! She is doing remarkably well and is gifted in art. She recently visited a tattoo artist and he taught and allowed Sienna to place a tattoo on one of his toes! She is truly blessed!!!

We are looking forward to (in an unusual way this year) our 65th Convention on the High Seas!

Hopefully we will be able to meet in a healthy and “feel safe” near future! That will come after vaccines have been received and continued CDC guidelines have been followed...as they change.

With prayers for a safe and as normal as is possible summer to ALL of my Sister Columbiettes and God’s Blessings, always. Please know that you ALL are in our prayers!

Lois Ann Smith, Publicity
South East Chapter



South West

South West Chapter welcomes and congratulates all new members and the members who are now fully initiated by participating in the new Initiation Ceremony.

We are pleased to announce that our 2020 recipient of Vocational Funding is Seminarian Peter Tran. We pray for him as he continues to follow his path to ordination and are very grateful for his answer to the Lord's call to enter the priesthood.

We are also pleased to submit The Midland Foundation, a private special education school for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as our Charity recipient.

Our members continue to stay positive and move forward trying as best we can to be involved in our Columbiettes activities in the safest way possible. We join together through virtual meetings as we "see" each other on zoom and reflect on the bond that we share as Columbiettes. Even though the Chapter has not met in person this year, we are grateful that we are still able

to meet and pray together through Zoom. Although it is not the same as being together physically, we still feel the camaraderie as Sister Columbiettes and realize the connection we have through our common ideals.

While maintaining the COVID 19 protocols, we have been involved in activities such as fund raisers, food donations and distributions, continuing charitable donations and assisting and uniting with our Brother Knights. We strive to do as much as we can to continue our support for our designated charities in the hopes that we can alleviate some of the impact of the COVID pandemic.

We have found sources of resilience through our faith, our prayers and the bond that we share. We are grateful for the leadership of our State and Supreme Officers who are doing a great job in helping us to keep a positive attitude in anticipation of a more normal Columbiette year ahead. We pray for all our leaders, our members and for all affected by this pandemic.



Thank you very much to Elena McFarland and the State Officers for their guidance. It was most encouraging to have them leading us through this unprecedented year.

Thank you very much to the Officers of South West Chapter. They were always willing to take up the challenge of doing things in the “new” way and were very influential in the ability of the Chapter to continue to function in this most challenging year. Thank you to all the Auxiliary Presidents and all our South West Chapter Sister Columbiettes for their faithfulness in attending the meetings, staying positive and moving forward. The dedication of all has made this year truly memorable.

With the rollout of the vaccines and the changes in protocol, we are hopeful that we can begin to anticipate resuming our activities in the new Columbiette year. We look forward to making future plans and know that we have the strength to continue on in the hopes of a better tomorrow.

We are anticipating the arrival of the warmer weather and the

blooming flowers with optimism in a re-birth of a happier, calmer and safer summer season. Due to our experiences, we realize that we are tougher than we ever thought we could be and wiser than before.

May each of you have a quiet moment to reflect on how lucky you are for all of God’s blessings in your lives and may you be grateful for the resilience to persevere with the help of God’s grace.

We continue to pray to our Blessed Mother to guide us and give us strength as we anticipate the end of this horrific pandemic. We pray that all will remain safe and healthy so we will be able to gather together and rejoice in prayerful thanksgiving when this virus is defeated.

May you enjoy a Happy and Blessed Mother’s Day in prayerful remembrance of all mothers especially Mary, our Blessed Mother and may you have a relaxing and fun filled summer with your family.

Ann Fletcher, President
South West Chapter





News from our State Auxiliaries

Bishop Navagh

Due to the pandemic, our meetings from November 2020 through March 2021 have been held virtually, using Zoom. Our members are getting used to using Zoom and meeting attendance has been very good.

Our Chaplain, Father David Monteleone, said Mass for our Deceased Members of the Columbiettes and Knights of Columbus on December 7th. The names of our deceased members were read at the end of the Prayer of the Faithful. It was heartwarming to see so many Columbiettes and Knights attend this Mass to honor our sisters and brothers who are no longer with us. We hope attendance at this Mass in 2021 will be even better than last year.

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

to thank our altar servers for their service to our 3 churches. We could not host the party this year due to the pandemic. We will plan it for next year.

We provided a ham and all the trimmings for Easter dinner to our Adopt-A-Family in March. Our Adopt-A-Family consists of a young widow and her 5 young children. Our members have donated canned goods, paper products and gift cards to the local supermarket. We also gave them some Chocolate bunnies and an Easter basket full of candy.

Although we could not attend the Grains of Hope event in person, we did make a donation as we do every year. Another one of our fundraising events, our Spring Flower Sale will not happen this year due to some issues with the florist. We hope we will be on track to participate in/hold both of these events next year.

Our new Angel Pins Chairwoman, Vicki Pignone, had a very successful Angel Pin sale in February. She set up a table outside the Church and sold





the pins and other jewelry after Saturday evening Mass. It was so successful she is planning to sell the pins after all the Masses at our 2 other Churches in April and May. We have several events in the planning stages for the rest of the year, To Go Fish Fry, Shake a Can fundraiser, Me-

morial Day Parade/Picnic with the Knights and our Holy Spirit Scholarship Essay Contest.

We are all praying for an end to this pandemic so we can get back to doing all of our small acts of kindness.

Don Bosco—Newton

Each year we look for signs of Spring, be it birds, buds on trees and longer daylight time, but this Spring we are seeing different signs that Spring 2021 is here. More people are starting to emerge from their home with confidence. We are awaking from that long sleep, called Covid 19. Many have already been fully vaccinated and are planning wonderful events to be with family and friends.

During those dark days of winter the Don Bosco Columbiettes followed the CDC guideline by staying home, meeting monthly on Zoom, and calling and emailing to check in on each other. Late

in Fall the Knights and the Sisters of Don Bosco #7784 sponsored a Right To Life Rally at the Green in Newton, New Jersey. There were more than 20 members who stood around the Green carrying signs against abortion. A week later the Sisters conducted an outdoor rally at St. Paul's Abbey to raise awareness to praying the Rosary.

In November there was an opportunity for us to help the Knights in their annual Diaper Drive. Birth Haven, a local organization that provides shelter, support, and education for homeless pregnant women and girls, was the receipt of



many boxes of diapers for the young babies. We again joined the Knights for a mass celebration for all of our deceased members.

It has always been a December tradition for the Sisters of Don Bosco to go caroling to the four local nursing homes. While there we would donate white socks for the residents. Sadly, because of Covid we were not able to sing for the residents BUT Covid 19 didn't stop us from collecting 320 pairs of socks, which the nursing homes were very grateful for the donation. Members again sent boxes of gloves, hats, scarves, mittens and socks to Sister Mary Ann, in North Dakota, who runs an Indian reservation, which we have adopted.

On January 29, Our Lady Queen of Peace, in Branchville, a local church where many members attend, had a Right to Life Mass and march. After Mass members walked throughout the town praying the Rosary and bringing awareness to Right to Life. NJ State Police provided an escort to ensure safety for all.

Bishop Kevin Sweeney served Mass.

Another organization we have been able to help during the Covid is "For The Troops." Anne Kappelmeier has been our chairwoman for this project. Each month she collects pens, cards, notepads and stationery for the troops and sends it to the troops so they can write to their family and friends.

In March we had our first fundraiser in more than 13 months. A local pizzeria donated \$1.00 for every pizza pie that was sold on the Friday before Palm Sunday. We earned \$225.00, and a local patron gave us \$5.00 so we were able to add \$230.00 to our treasury.

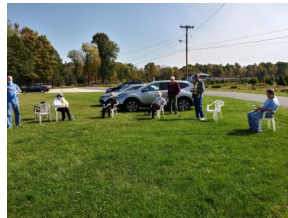
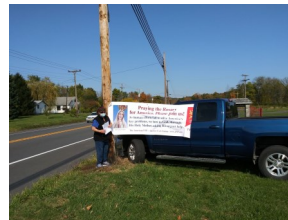
For Easter, the young children in St. Joseph's Faith Formation and children at Reverend Brown, in grades kindergarten through 4th, were given magnet crosses.

We have reached our goal of saying one million Hail Mary's this year, and we will continue to count Hail Mary's



until late June. The count as of April 14, is 1,509,325. Thank you to all that have helped us reach our goal. The attendance at our monthly Zoom meetings has been increasing each month. Many of my Sisters are proud to have conquered the art of getting on Zoom. As I am composing our article an email has been sent that in person meetings are coming back. Stay tuned.

God Bless You.
Pam Raynor



Father Cannon

Our Auxiliary continues to meet virtually using Zoom each month to keep our members energized, connected, and looking ahead to better times! We worked closely with our brother Knights on two annual activities, The 40 Cans for 40 Days of Lent, and the Lenten Takeout Fish

Bake. Both events were conducted safely and with great support from the Parish. We are now conducting a membership drive and hope to have great participation at the May Initiation Ceremony. Best wishes for a healthy Spring to all of our sister Columbiettes!





Immaculate Conception—Spotswood

COVID-19 continued to curtail our activities as our Columbiette year moved forward.

We helped with our Parish Christmas Tree display by checking to make sure 100 strings of lights were still operational and ready to string on the trees. On the day of the 100 tree installation we supplied the workers with coffee, water, pastries, and doughnuts. We were also there to supply hospitality when the trees were taken down. We purchased a tree dedicated to all our past and present Columbiettes. The display is a beautiful scene for the celebration of Christmas and a glittering backdrop to our Parish Manger.

Since we were unable to meet in person for our monthly meetings, our tech savvy member set us up for Zoom meetings. It was great to be able to hold a meeting from the comfort and safety of our homes. For those who did not have a computer they called into the meetings. It was especially joyful to welcome a few

members who, due to health issues, were not able to attend a regular in person meeting in a long time. We are planning on continuing to offer this service to them.

For Valentine's Day we had a card writing campaign. Over 100 Valentine's Day cards were hand signed and delivered to a few of our local nursing facilities to let those seniors know that even though they couldn't have visitors they were not forgotten.

As the year progressed and more things were opening, we were able to present over 60 crosses to our parish second graders. In February, at two penance services, each child received an Act of Contrition cross in remembrance of their First Penance. Distribution was done with social distancing and no contact to keep everyone safe. The students and parents were genuinely excited to receive their special gift.



In the past, on Palm Sunday, we would visit our Sister Columbiettes with the Easter Bunny in their nursing home but COVID is prohibited us from doing that. So this year we wrapped seven dozen little plush bunnies, one for each resident and staff and delivered them to the nursing home for safe distribution.

We were also able to deliver 24 Easter Baskets to our local food pantry for those who are using the pantry as a way to keep their families fed. Each basket contained a chocolate bunny, crayons, chalk, bubbles, a coloring book and other fun items.

The weekend before St. Patrick's Day we held our only fundraiser for the year. We sold green carnations before and after all our weekend masses. It was truly a successful event even in the face of the pandemic which reduced the number of people attending mass. Our many thanks to St. Patrick for a sellout fundraiser.

As in many years past, the Columbiettes assisted our brother Knights at their Annual Fish Fries. This year was no different except there was no in person dining, all dinners were exclusively take-out. We were there to take orders, pack the orders, and make calls to people to come inside and pick up their food. The fish fries were a success and all six weeks went smoothly. It was especially nice to be able to be together for some socializing and some comradery.

In preparation for Holy Week and Easter we worked with our pastor in cleaning up and mulching around the church. Along with the help of a few Knights, the Boy Scouts, and other parishioners, numerous bags of leaves were raked and a dump truck of mulch was spread over the expansive grounds in front of our school and church. Mary blessed us with a beautiful day to do the work.



As the end of the Columbiette year approaches we look forward to our Annual Convention with great anticipation as our Vice President, Nadine Lecorchick becomes State President. Congratulations to our Sister and we will be there in person to witness and celebrate her installation.



Immaculate Conception
Christmas Tree Display 2020

Long Valley

Happy Spring Time Sister Columbiettes!

Spring time is a lovely reminder of how things can start new. It can be a time to have a fresh start! We are reminded on how beautiful life is and how God can give us inspiration, whether you are looking for it or not! God gives us what we can handle. So, if there is something we think we can't do, God is there believing in us and knows we can handle any situation.

COVID is still among us. While guidelines have changed and restrictions are being lifted, the Long Valley Columbiettes have had to find some new ways of helping our community. We were able to do some of our regular events/fundraising, and other times, we had to come up with clever ideas and tried new things.

From our last ECHO Submission, we were getting ready



for the Christmas season. Things were looking questionable as we continued to deal with restrictions. We had worked with our Brother Knights of Columbus and together we hosted a new event this year, which was so successful and will hopefully continue to be for years to come: We hosted two Christmas photos sessions. Sister Patrice Schaffer and myself, who are photographers in our spare time, took Christmas photos for anyone who didn't want to travel to the Mall or who couldn't afford professional photos for Christmas cards this past year. We had different style backdrops and props to help make their session fun and appropriate for families, children, and yes... even animals! While the sessions were free, we did ask for any donations, and we were so blessed to have raised \$800. It really was such a great way to bring the Christmas season in full bloom.



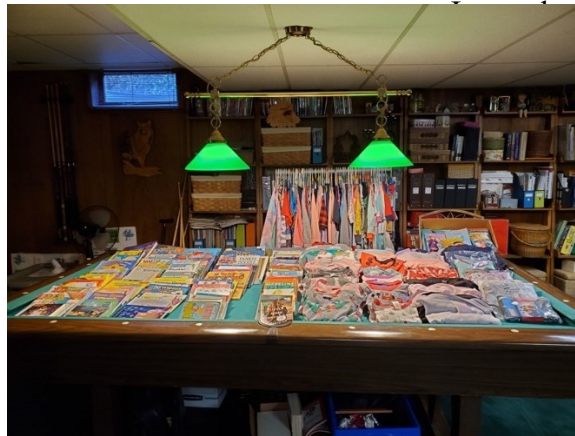
We also had to work around one of our biggest sales towards the end of the year, which is our "Christmas Cookie Sale." Due to Covid, we had to cancel it. But instead of this, we came up with an idea to try to sell Christmas Tree Ornaments. We had many different styles, including unbreakable Christmas balls, Irish crosses, and ones that had beautiful sayings on them. We did a great job selling them as we only had a handful left and made about \$100 in sales.





Now one of our two main collections, we do during the year, happened during the last 2 weekends of January. The Pajama Program collects new pajamas for kids (sized from newborn to teens) along with new books that are donated to children who are in need because each kid deserves to have a good night sleep! We were so fortunate to collect 100 sets of pajamas and 159 books. Our second collection will be happening in the upcoming weeks in April. We are collecting Underwear and Feminine/Toiletries to benefit the Father English Center. After we have our collection, we will be sure to give you the total amount!

We continue to try to find new ways to help our community and also to raise funds. We had a fundraiser at one of our local Fine Cuisine Restaurants. While trying to raise funds, we were also helping to support a local business. The Columbiettes leveraged social media, had our priests make announcements during masses, and made flyers for all to know about our fundraiser. For two days, our community could either show and bring in the flyer or personally let the restaurant know through word of mouth, that they were there for our fundraiser. We were able to make \$150. A huge success!



attempt at some-
this year, our Long
ters donated Easter
be sold. We had 21
of all different
izes, and prices. We
ised on our Website
ook that we were
se beautiful baskets.
re getting closer to
did not have as
ires as we had
The start of the
weekend right before Easter



is when we got our messages. 16 out of the 21 baskets were sold and delivered, and we were able to collect \$350. The picture shown is some baskets that we created!



While Covid is still around, I have to say how proud I am of the Long Valley Auxiliary. We successfully have raised mon-

ey and helped our Community, while trying out new things. It can be scary to try new things, especially when the world is in a Pandemic. However, while following guidelines and trying to find new ways of helping people out, we successfully had a great year! We strive and continue to succeed! While things were up in the air, and we were questioning what the outcome would be, we knew God was there all along, behind us...knowing we could succeed!

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

With love,

Laura Bigos, President
Long Valley Columbiettes

Millstone Valley

We proudly celebrated the 17 year anniversary of our Auxiliary in January. To start the New Year, our Auxiliary President began a fun and spiritual practice of emailing us an "Epiphany Star Word of the Week". Each week she emails a randomly selected word from her deck of 52 cards as well as a few inspirational comments about the word. Some of the words have included guidance, patience and forgiveness. This weekly activity has





helped us realize God's daily presence in our lives!

We were busy this winter helping our fellow Knights of Columbus members at their Annual Pasta Dinner in February and Crab Cake Dinner in March. Both were grab 'n go events this year. We cooked many pounds of pasta to feed over 300 guests and helped package 200 crab cake meals! These dinners are big hits each year and raise money for the youth of our Parish.

We were honored to host the Midwest chapter meeting in February. Since we could not meet in-person to collect items to donate to the Sisters of St. Joseph's (SSJ) Neighborhood Center in Camden, we asked auxiliaries to send monetary donations instead. This center offers much needed assistance to their community including classes, a prayer group and food pantry. This is a charity that is near and dear to our hearts since a previous member of our Auxiliary, Sister Colleen Gibson along with her fellow Sisters of St. Joseph's opened this center.

We are excited to host our first ever virtual rosary for our Midwest chapter members. This will take place on Sunday evenings during the month of May. We will also continue our tradition of presenting the First Communicants with a gift bag (with rosary beads, a prayer card and a handmade bookmark). This year there will be 45 young boys and girls who will receive First Communion in our Parish. We are grateful to our Auxiliary members who are catechists and help prepare these children to receive their Sacraments.

Many thanks to our Auxiliary members who organized a few fundraising activities! Because of their efforts and the generosity of our Auxiliary and parish members, we are able to donate money to some very worthy organizations. As we wrap up another year, many of our members continue their pandemic efforts by reaching out to homebound parishioners, preparing meals, making handmade cards, sewing masks and volunteering at parish events. We are grateful for each other and our good health during these challenging times.



Parsippany

Dear Sister Columbiettes:

As we look forward to spring with hope in our hearts that we can get back to keeping active in person, we say hello from Parsippany Columbiettes. We are all making contributions based on the needs of those people we know are having difficulties during this pandemic. As a group we continue to meet via zoom and have made several donations to Compassionate Care, including blankets, masks, socks, etc.

We have also donated to our three churches including Shop Rite gift cards to help with the food pantries. We have applied and received approval for our very special TEA but of course must wait to see what regulations are in place. A special event and our primary fund raiser it helps with our ability to assist others.

Blessing to all in the coming months with spring providing new life, color and warmth to all.

Fran Veit
Parsippany

Our Lady of Peace—North Brunswick

The Columbiettes of Our Lady of Peace #11378 North Brunswick are in the process of receiving applications for the “Spirit of the Columbiettes Community Service Scholarship”. Once all applications are received and reviewed, a vote will select the 2 winners. A monetary award and certificate is given to 2 high school seniors in the Parish Community in recognition of outstanding community service.

Our Lady of Peace Columbiettes continue to volunteer at the North Brunswick Food Bank on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Since the



pandemic started the Columbiettes have supported the Food Bank to provide essential food to the needy. We currently have approximately 10 sisters who volunteer weekly.

We continue to have our monthly meetings via Zoom. We have an average of 30 sisters who attend these monthly meetings. We have been very successful in handling the business needs of our Auxiliary during these difficult times. We plan to have an in person meeting in May following NJ State and Supreme regulations.

Our Lady of Peace Columbiettes held a fundraiser in March 2021 to benefit the North Brunswick First Aid and Rescue Squad. The money was raised through the Columbiettes efforts selling “My Grandma’s Coffee Cakes” to church parishioners as well as the North Brunswick community.



Nancy Kuchler and Karen Cronin preparing to deliver My Grandma Coffee Cakes via curbside pick-up at our parish center.

The North Brunswick First Aid and Rescue Squad was chosen as the recipient of this fundraiser because of their outstanding response to the overwhelming number of emergency calls in our community during this past pandemic year.



Our Lady of Perpetual Help—Jersey City

Greetings from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Jersey City



Happy Easter to all. Christ is truly risen! Alleluia. We all experienced a somewhat year long Lenten journey with the pandemic but God in His Wisdom will show us His glorious plan unfold in His own time.

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

Meanwhile our OLPH sister Columbiettes have been busy with monthly virtual meetings and sharing helping hands in our Parish with Lenten food drive and Palm distribution during Palm Sunday. We also participated in the scarves project for women in need.

Other projects like renewal of marriage vows was postponed till next year. On April 11 we will hold a virtual Communion Breakfast after the meeting.

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





Special thanks and appreciation to our Officers and committed members for their dedication. Thanks to our DD Joan Winant for her guidance and update on State level matters.

Let's continue praying to God to unlock now the blessings upon us all and bestow consolation and strength to the families of the late Past State President Barbara Lasek, Lillian Holmes, and Rosemary Nafus. We miss them so much. May they Rest In Peace. Amen.

Submitted by: Naty Caballero
OLPH Publicity Chair

Our Lady of Victory

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

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

In February 1961, Our Lady of Victory Columbiettes was instituted. We celebrated our 60th Anniversary at our February meeting with appetizers and cake. We had a Lenten Service at our meeting as well.

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

At our March meeting, we celebrated St. Patrick's Day and Easter. We had a Spring and Easter Tricky Tray with the members in attendance and the profit going into our treasury. Also, a monetary donation to the Knights was made for a much needed and expensive repair to the building.



In April, the Annual Our Lady of Victory's Friendship Meal was a take-out/delivery only meal this year. This is a meal is provided Free of Charge for anyone who is in need whether it be a brief visit with the outside world in these unprecedented times or someone in need of a holiday meal. A monetary donation was made by our auxiliary for this worthwhile and humanitarian event. Some members of our auxiliary worked this event as well. Also in April, the nominating committee announces the slate of officers for the coming year.

At our May meeting, the election of officers will take place as well as our May Crowning. After our meeting, we work on our tab tops and ready our backpacks for distribution at Convention. Also, in May was our Chapter's Drive-Up Baby Shower. We donated baby items such as bibs, clothing, etc.

At our June meeting, we will have a dinner and Tricky Tray for our members. June's Family and Friends Tricky Tray features prizes donated from our members that are gifts that are only new items. The money raised is donated to a designated charity. Memorial Services were held at our meetings throughout this year for deceased members.

Finally, our Lady of Victory Columbiettes wishes our Sister Columbiettes a Happy, Healthy, Safe and Fun Summer!

Liza Palestrini
Secretary



Santa Maria

April 2021 One year of Covid

Spring is upon us and we are emerging from our quarantine state – anxious to interact. Zoom has become second-nature to us, as we have conducted our meetings, the chapter meetings and the upcoming convention for 2021. The Santa Maria #1179 group has been busy having fund raising activities. In our fall campaign we sold Rada knives and this spring, we sold Dutch Mill Bulbs. We anticipate enrolling new members in April, connecting with the Ronald McDonald house in Camden, and providing good will to our parish members. We wish our fellow Columbiettes a wonderful Spring and Summer.

Sgt John F. Basilone

Sgt. John F. Basilone Auxiliary continues to pray for all our sister Columbiette members and their families. We ask the Blessed Mary to watch over those who have succumbed to illness and loss.

Our auxiliaries have been challenged to meet charitable works and functions as a united organization.

We have been fortunate to participate in the closed car Basilone parade in September, and although our businesses have suffered income they were kind enough to donate to continue donations for our adopted families and supplied full course dinners to them. Our members have contributed by buying clothes and toys and making baskets for the community as well.



We are looking forward to meeting our sisters in person and enjoying our usual activities in the coming months.

May peace and health be with you all.





St. Ann

We may have been hit with several snow storms this winter, but that doesn't keep St. Ann's Auxiliary down. Our members donated generously to many causes, including food drives to our three parishes for Christmas and Easter; toys for the Knight's Toys for Tots collection, and donations to Shelter Resources and New Hope. Also for both Christmas and Easter, we wrote nearly one hundred cards for local veterans and Little Sisters for the Poor. It was good for both their recipients, and for us to get together and see each other in person to write them!

We're also eager to help our brother Knights in all their events, which includes their eagerly awaited Irish Night that had been canceled last year. It was an evening of good food and Irish step dancing, plus some of our members took to the streets of Newark to help distribute meals to the community.

We've started to collect unused eyeglasses for donation, and our "Flower Power" fundraiser is underway to sell seeds and bulbs. The year has just started, but we have a lot in the works for the coming months!



Filing out Christmas cards for Veteran's Home and Little Sisters of the Poor



St. Anthony's

St. Anthony's Columbiettes has been busy even during a pandemic. We have been holding our meeting via Zoom and so happy to see members who were unable to attend previously, have now been able to join our meetings. It truly has been great to catch up with everyone, even if it is on a computer screen. We held our annual Palm Cross fundraiser, which was a great success. It was wonderful, even during these times, to be able to continue at least one of our traditions. During this time, we have held two 10 week club raffles. It is always fun to wait for that winning phone call. Even though some of us are still waiting. I'm looking forward to seeing some of our Sister Columbiettes, in person, at our State Convention. Praying we all remain safe and healthy in these uncertain times. Wishing you all a wonderful and blessed Mother's Day and a Happy and Healthy Spring and Summer.

St. Bartholomew

The St. Bartholomew Columbiettes of East Brunswick have continued to keep busy and safe.

In December we participated in our church Advent outdoor celebration. We had activities and a raffle for the children. We had a mini membership drive handing out small note cards to the women with Columbiette information, a poem about enjoying a cup of tea along with a Christmas tea bag attached. We welcomed four members as a result.

We have an ongoing fundraiser of beaded mask holders in two lengths. The shorter kid's length ones are \$5 and the longer ones are \$10. We will mail them for an additional \$1 to help defray postage costs. To order, please call Diane at 732 896-6558.



Beaded mask holders

At our December meeting we adopted three classes from the Catholic Charities run preK in New Brunswick. Rather than having a grab bag at our meeting, our members purchased gifts for the children at the pre-school. We were given their Christmas wishes by the school. The gifts were distributed at their Christmas party.

We opted not to meet in January as it was too close to the holidays and we didn't want to take any chances with members that may have been in large groups celebrating.

On January 24 we joined together for our Corporate Communion mass in honor of our living and deceased members and our 22 Anniversary. Following the mass members put together over 300 snack bags including a drink, granola bars and fruit cups which were distributed to Elijah's Promise Soup Kitchen in New Brunswick and three soup kitchens in Asbury Park.

At our February meeting we discussed Lent and almsgiving. We learned about how pretzels are tied to Lent and let the members enjoy fresh hot pretzels after we recited the pretzel prayer. A Valentine candy game was enjoyed following the meeting.



In March we learned about the Garden of Gethsemane. Prayer cards with olive wood crosses on them brought back from the Garden of Gethsemane in Israel were given to each of our members and then we painted rocks for our gardens after our meeting. Because we social distance at our meetings, we opted to do our Easter projects in small groups. On March 14 we had seven ladies put together 230 snack filled mugs and 88 small treat bags for the families served by the St. James soup kitchen in Edison. On March 21, nine women put together 23 Easter baskets which will go to the Laurie Haven shelter in Edison and Naomi's Way in New Brunswick. In addition, 54 treat bags were made to be distributed by the Sisters of Charity soup kitchen in Asbury Park.



Easter basket making

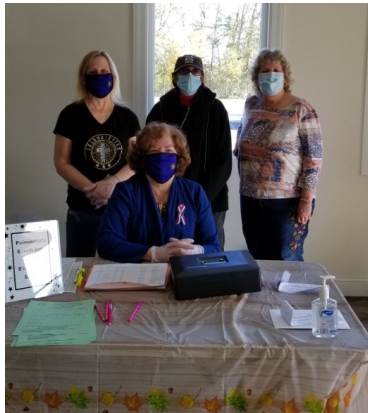
St. Barts Church has not been publishing bulletins but we are thankful for Fr. James and his internet abilities. He has been very helpful in posting our membership announcements and we are pleased to say we welcomed another new member in March. We continue to keep all of our members informed of our upcoming activities and various ways they can get involved through emails and the USPS.

Submitted by
Diane Kulbacki, President
732 896-6558



St. Bernadette

In November, we held our Annual Soup Sale. Orders for quarts of Chicken Noodle or Beef Vegetable are taken in advance and at the door. We were unsure if this would be well received given the pandemic, but luckily it was again very successful. We donated twenty four quarts of soup to local families, in addition to our sales. We look forward to doing it again next year.



We also held our Poinsettia Sale at the end of November. Orders are taken in advance and we have a designated pickup time. We received a few new customers this year in addition to the regulars. This is always our indication that Christmas is soon approaching! November was a busy month. We donated food items for Thanksgiving baskets and Shop Rite gift cards to our Social Concerns committee for distribution to local families.

We held a successful Bake Sale in December. Again, we were unsure how this would go over but we did very well. We baked less than usual but we had very little leftover with enough variety to go around.

Student Good Citizen Award applications were sent to South Amboy High School, Sayreville War Memorial High School, Old Bridge High School, Mater Dei Prep and Bishop Ahr High School. The committee will select a candidate for submission to



NJ State Council Columbiettes. Normally we invite the candidate to our Memorial Mass, Installation of Officers and social in June. This year we will just send the information via the mail.

We cancelled our December and January meetings due to the Supreme order of no meetings. In February we began meeting via Zoom and members were able to call in or view in. Our members were excited to begin meeting again and I can now state that I have learned a new skill in running a Zoom.

In January we donated 5 bags of baby/children's clothing, diapers, toys, adult clothes, baby blankets, pens and toiletry bags to Madonna House in Neptune through a program run by Mater Dei Prep and coordinated by a local high school girl. I was lucky to see information on Facebook about this and I was extremely happy to donate some items that were taking up space in my house.

We held our Shake the Can for Vocations drive after all Masses the weekend of March 13 and 14. This was our second Shake the Can in the pandemic. We set up a soup pot for donations to be dropped in, and members stood outside with collection cans. We still managed to collect a nice amount while keeping our distance. After Shake the Can on March 14th, we went over to our meeting room and hooked up the TV and computer to view the First and Major Degree Initiation Ceremony with one new member who joined that day. She found the ceremony beautiful and we are happy to welcome her aboard! It remains to be seen if any of our other pending candidates will be able to view this ceremony, but we continue to communicate with them.

In March, we donated food and gift cards to our Social Concerns Ministry for Easter distribution.

St. Bernadette Columbiettes has offered to host our South East Chapter Baby Shower this year. We will be collecting new baby/children's summer clothes, diapers, wipes, and gift cards from our auxiliaries and from our parish to benefit Life Choices. Items will be dropped off on Sunday and delivered to Life Choices on



Monday.

We must once again cancel our 5th Annual Tea Party. We will be ready for this event in 2022!

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

Kathy Jessen, President

St. James

As we prepared activities scheduled for the second half of this Columbian year, we doubted much could be accomplished for our mission “To Feed the Hungry” or assist others in need. Many planned events were cancelled or restructured as mitigation restrictions continued to be in effect. We accepted the fact monthly business meetings would continue to be held virtually. We understood our limitations in what we could do and we resolved to do our best. Then, our Columbiette spirit caught fire. Acknowledging our limitations brought ideas; those ideas spurred creativity; and, creativity bore positive results.

Each “new way” raised our spirits and gave rebirth to our “can do” Columbiette convictions. We understood that our unity in purpose is truly rooted in our Faith, friendship, and respect for one another. Visuals were created to assist members during meetings and games played during our “social times”. All designed to keep us united. United, St. James Columbiettes:

- Donated, in January, to our local food banks: The Deacon’s Pantry in Jamesburg and the New Life Food Bank in Helmetta.



- Held our Bake Less Cake Sale fund raiser to help us continue our charitable giving.
- Attended, in-person or virtually, our Annual Corporate Communion Mass at St. James Church in Jamesburg on February 14th. This was held in conjunction with our Brother Knights of Columbus.
- Throughout Lent and for the 46th consecutive year, assisted our Brother Knights with their weekly "Fish Frys". Each Friday, pre-ordered dinners were served on a take-out basis only and we donated the desserts.
- Donated an Easter "food" basket to a needy family from each of our parishes: Holy Trinity Church in Helmetta and St. James Church in Jamesburg. Baskets contained supermarket gift cards as to be compliant with health safety factors. This proved providential as the families were pleased they could purchase foods they prefer and when most needed.
- Hosted our "Showers of Love for Baby" following our April Business Meeting. This was a baby shower to benefit Life Choices Resource Center in Metuchen. Donated gifts from members were displayed and "Q & A games" were played.
- Continuing with our mission for the year, collected supermarket gift cards from February to April for our two local food banks charities.
- Encouraged members and friends to "Spring clean" their closets and donate unworn or "gently worn" shoes. All shoes collected during this drive will be donated to "Soles for Souls" in June.
- Gave congratulatory gifts to our Parishes' 43 First Holy Communicants.
- Granted a scholarship to our chosen Monroe Township High School graduating student during the High School's "26th Annual Awards Night".



- Are preparing back packs and personal item bags for donations to Catholic Charities as well as tab tops for the Ronald McDonald House. All will be donated at our State Council Convention in June.
- Are planning our May Meeting which will include our Annual Crowning Ceremony of Our Blessed Mother and a recitation of the rosary in Her honor. Our Brother Knights are invited to attend. We are planning for an in-person event, our first in 14 months; however, we are prepared to hold all virtually, if necessary.
- Will march on Memorial Day with our Brother Knights in the Jamesburg Parade to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice to our country.
- In June, will award a scholarship and memorable gift to our Auxiliary's "Good Student" (a high school graduating female and parishioner who excels in grades, community spirit and church volunteerism), install our newly elected Officers, and rejoice in our unity of Faith, spirit, and sisterhood.

To all our Sisters, from St. James Columbiettes, *"Best wishes for a healthy, happy, peaceful, and safe summer - full of God's love and sunshine. We look forward to being with you at events in the near future."*

Carol Bohinski, President



St. John's

We began the new year with hope and promise that this year will be a much better year than the one we left behind.

Many things changed, yet many things stay the same, such as what a Columbiette Council stands for and represents. Our symbol has Three White Stars which represent Faith, Hope and Charity. Of these three, we are told the greatest is Charity. In following this principle of Charity, we had a food drive at our October meeting and we received enough food to be equally distributed to the food pantries of the churches we support, St Mary's Church in Dumont and St John's Parish in Bergenfield.

We became involved in two new charities, Hope Scarves and Soles4Souls. Hope Scarves is a non-profit

Organization that takes donated scarves for women and children who have cancer or are cancer survivors. They only accept scarves large enough so they can wrap

around their heads. Please visit their website hopescarves.org to find out more about this wonderful organization.

Our other charity is Soles4Souls. This is also a non-profit organization, since 2006 Soles4Souls has distributed more than 35 million pairs of shoes in 127 countries and kept close to 50 million pounds of textiles out of landfills. To learn more about this organization you can visit their website at soles4souls.org.

I am happy to report that both of the above "charity drives" were a big success! We collected 72 scarves and over 400 pairs of shoes!





This past year and these months in our new year have been challenging for all of us, but, we have proven that together, we do many great things! Let us continue to stay safe, be well and continue to pray for one another. Wishing all a very happy and blessed Spring & Summer.



Peace,
Roberta Elwell
Past President
St John's Council 1345 –



St. Philip the Apostle

OUR COMPASSION OVERFLOWS

“Compassion is understanding the troubles of others, coupled with an urgent desire to help.”

The St. Philips Columbiettes, Chapter 11671 in Clifton, N.J. continue to serve the city of Clifton and nearby communities with love and compassion.

Under the guidance of President Denise Attoinese, the sisters collected 200 blankets for the homeless community in local neighborhoods. Along with the blankets, we also collected hats, scarves, gloves, mittens and socks for those less fortunate. Cathy Murtha and members of her blanket



ministry donated many of their beautiful handmade items for this worthwhile winter endeavor.

Past President Sharon Festa organized a coat and sock drive at St. Philips. We collected 216 coats and 165 pairs of socks which were donated to St. Mary's Family Center in Passaic for disadvantaged members of the community.

Jeanne Brooks continues to organize the monthly food drive for the Father English Food Pantry in Paterson. We have collected over a thousand dollars worth of non-perishable food for families throughout nearby communities.

Although we have been unable to meet in person during these trying times, our commitment to serve the needs of our fellow brothers and sisters never wanes...we epitomize love in action.

Stay safe sisters,
Jackie Wozniak
Vice President



South Amboy

Happy spring to all!

After celebrating a most blessed Easter!

We are looking forward to a continued path of
gratefulness, kindness and compassion to
each and all. Let us be more patient with one
another, and begin again to share more time with others.

We are happy to announce that our past three events were
successful!

Knights of Columbus sponsored a Drive thru Irish breakfast on
3/14/21,

A Fish Fry Drive thru on 3/26/21 and an Easter egg hunt on
3/28/21.

Thank you all who assisted in making our events possible,
and look forward to doing more in the future.

Thank you and God Bless all!

Vicki Dante Lattanzi

President

South Amboy, NJ #426



Vincent T. Lombardi

Spring is always a good time for reflection. We say goodbye to the dark, dreary days of winter and welcome the longer, warmer days of summer. Birds are singing and flowers are blooming. There is a sense of hope in the air. This would normally be a “change of seasons” for the Columbiettes, too-the nomination and election of new officers.

Here at Vincent T. Lombardi, we decided to continue with the current slate of officers. Even though we have not been able to perform many of the good deeds we are known for (handing out Christmas gifts to pediatric patients at Monmouth Medical Center, awarding scholarships, helping the Knights at their various functions), there is one thing we can do-PRAY! We pray for those affected by the pandemic, whether it be through illness or loss of a job/income. And of course we pray for the end of the pandemic itself.

Have a Blessed summer, and stay safe!

Submitted by
Mary Vernarelli
Vice President VTL Columbiettes



THE CORONAVIRUS *Deliverance Prayer*

In the Name of Jesus,
And by his Most Precious Blood,
With your oceans of Mercy, Lord,
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
COVID-19 and any other forms of infectious diseases,
I order you to be

Disabled,
Discharged,
And defeated!

Take your hands off of me,

My family,
My property,
My finances,
My work,
My parish,
My Church,
My community,
My state,
My country,
And the world!

You, COVID-19 and all other infectious diseases,
Are hereby disabled, discharged, and defeated,

In the Holy Name of Jesus,
By His Most Precious Blood,
By the overflowing Mercy of God's love,
And by the power of the Holy Spirit!
Amen and Amen!

By Bishop David L. Ricken
Divine Mercy Sunday 2020



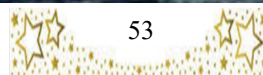
Diocese of
Green Bay



"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"

MATTHEW 6:25-26

Woman's Day





Warren

Greetings from Warren County #474 NJ!

Our Advent and Christmas season started with our assistance to our Brother Knights. We filled over 120 bags of food for the needy seniors in our local area. Due to the Pandemic, we were restricted in the number of Columbiettes and Knights that could participate.

Sadly, we were able to neither meet in December nor hold our annual Christmas celebration in which we exchanged gifts and had a great meal with our sisters. We were able to send Christmas gifts to our two churches and Sister Anna Palka.

In January we held our first ZOOM meeting. Several of our members did not attend because of lack of knowledge of Zoom. Because we were restricted in what we could do we did not hold a meeting in February.

March brought us together via ZOOM again, this time with more in attendance. YAY!

On March 11 we celebrated our 10th anniversary as a Columbiette Charter. We were not able to hold a special Mass nor attend a luncheon like we usually do, but at least our church bulletin highlighted our special event and several Columbiettes were in attendance at Mass together. Ordinarily in March we would gather after our in person meeting, form a line, and fill empty Easter baskets with grass, toys and candies for the children. But, because of no in person meeting, we were able to collect prepared Easter Baskets for the needy children of Catholic Charities. In fact, 40 to be exact all by our Columbiette Membership. We held our annual collection at both of our Churches for our Seminarians and Postulants of our Diocese on March 13 and 14. We attended Stations of the Cross in Church as part of our spiritual journey this Lenten season.



April will bring us an indoor meeting where we discuss future fundraisers and a possible bake sale in May at our Sister Church. We will also discuss the possibility of our convention this year.

In June, golf tournament season will begin and of course we will once again make our monetary donation to them as well as other charitable donations agreed and voted upon by membership.

Hoping for a beautiful spring and end to this pandemic so our lives as Columbiettes can return to normal.

Blessings to all of you.

Bev Redondo
Bev Redondo, President Warren Council 474

State Directory Updates

Any updates to the New Jersey State Directory should be sent to Michele Ewing at nmewingrn@comcast.net. The online edition of the New Jersey State Directory will be available shortly on the state website at: www.njcolumbiettes.com.



A Note From the Editor

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

Thank you to everyone who submitted articles and photos for this publication.

Unfortunately, due to the high cost of printing the ECHO, printed subscriptions are no longer available. However, it is possible to have the booklet electronically sent to you via your auxiliary president and/or other officials who receive it. Additionally, it is posted as a .PDF file on the state website at: www.njcolumbiettes.com. Please share this availability with your members.

Before you know it the deadline for the fall edition (November 15, 2021) will be here. Submissions can be e-mailed to: echonewsletter@hotmail.com. Microsoft Word files are the easiest to manipulate when inserting into the publication. Please do not send PDFs as they must be retyped and any photos that are included in the file cannot be copied. If you do not have the ability to e-mail files, you may mail reports to me at: 22 Nancy Terrace, Hackettstown, NJ 07840. If you have any questions, please call at (973) 699-6793. Hopefully, our fall issue will have representation from all auxiliaries.

Thank you. Stay healthy and safe.

Lucie Cohn

Lucie Cohn, Editor
22 Nancy Ter.
Hackettstown, NJ 07840

Email: echonewsletter@hotmail.com

