



New Jersey State Council Columbiettes

Echo



Spring Edition 2019



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*PRAYER FOR PEACE
IN OUR FAMILIES*

Let us pray
[for peace in our families]

Father,
help us to live as the Holy Family,
united in respect and love.
Bring us to the joy and peace of Your
eternal home.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your
Son,
Who lives and reigns with You and the
Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

New Saint Joseph Sunday Missal





New Jersey State Council Columbiettes

Message from State President

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:

In March, Major Degrees were held by South East, South West, Southern and Western Chapters - very busy time for the Chapter Ceremonials Chairladies, Major Degree and Degree Equipment teams! Your dedication to our Order is greatly appreciated!

Attending Southern Chapter's Major Degree from Delaware was Supreme Director Pat Vahlsing, State President Linda Darling, Immediate Past President Mary Lou Bush, and sister Columbiettes. They brought

four candidates to take their Major Degree. It was with great pleasure that New Jersey was able to accommodate our sisters from Delaware.

On April 5th - 7th was the weekend retreat at San Alfonso's. It was a wonderful weekend, where those who attended were able to relax and rejuvenate their spiritual life.

On April 28th, we honored three outstanding women for their work in Social Welfare, Family Unity and Humanity.

It is amazing how fast the past two years have flown by! This is my last submission for the Echo as State President. I have enjoyed these past two years meeting so many of my sister Columbiettes throughout



the state. Your enthusiasm and dedication to our Order is amazing. Your creativity and ingenuity make each of New Jersey's Auxiliaries and Chapters unique.

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

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

On the calendar we are celebrating the month of May. As a Church during the month of May we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. For Columbiettes, Mary is the first patron saint of the Order. Ask her maternal intercession in all you do as Columbiettes.

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

May you be blessed by Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Father Bill Smith, K.C.H.S.
State Chaplain



Immediate Past State President—Lisa Roberts

Hello to all my sister Columbiettes of NJ!!!

Happy Spring to all!!! I wish other than the calendar giving us the schedule for this season, the actual weather demonstrated the great splendor of the season. I am sure it is soon to come. Hoping all had a Blessed Easter, a Wonderful Mother's Day and will soon enjoy a Father's Day shared with family and friends.

I just returned home this afternoon from attending the 4th Annual Charity Awards Luncheon. What a spectacular day giving tribute to Catholic Women who give of themselves in such unselfish ways. The charitable, humanitarian and faith-filled ways that these ladies one and all have given of their time, talent and treasure is something we all should emulate.

It won't be long and we will all be gathered at our state convention in June. This is where we see the fruits of all our labors shine. I look forward to seeing many of you as we give recognition to all and give fellowship through faith and charity to the worthy recipients of the Charity Raffle monies, tab tops, backpacks, shoebox/bag ministry, humanitarian and student good citizen winners. Remember that it is because of all of you that these endeavors we seek are accomplished.

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 1st - Remember "If you complete the form - you will receive the award" that you all deserve. The Founders Award is also due June 1st - this awards your auxiliary for growth in membership. All forms can be found on our website: 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.

I am happy to report that we are continuing to support the wounded veterans in NJ. Once again the NJ State Council Columbiettes will be pulling the 85,000 lbs. tank. The Tank Pull will be held on Sunday, June 23rd. Additional details can be found in the Leaders 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.

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



State Vice President—Elena McFarland

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

Spring is finally here!!! After a cold wet winter, it is wonderfully uplifting to see the flowers in bloom. I am looking forward to seeing all of my sister Columbiettes at Convention and hearing all the wonderful

works of charity you have done throughout 2018-2019.

May you have a wonderful spring!

Elena McFarland
State Vice President

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.

the New Jersey State Convention in June. 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

I look forward to spending many more adventures with you all and look forward to seeing you all at





State Financial Secretary—Frances Corcione

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

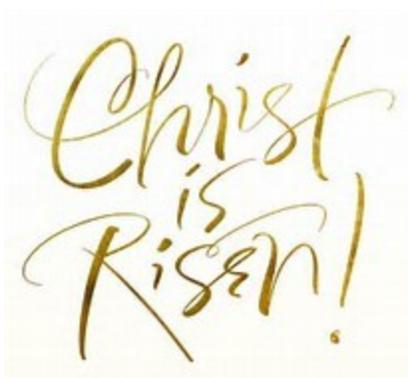
Families working together.

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

Sincerely,

Frances Corcione

I wish you all a very safe and happy spring!



State Treasurer—Kathleen Donahue

I hope that everyone had a happy and blessed Easter! This season reminds us of everything Our Lord suffered thru to give us a new life. Is it a coincidence that it takes place during spring when nature renews itself? I think not. It's meant to be a reminder of how beautiful life can be when we live it in harmony with God.

I wish all the mothers, grandmothers and great grandmothers a very Happy Mother's Day! Our Blessed Virgin Mary served as a powerful example during Christ's passion

and death of the love a mother bears for her Son. Though her heart was breaking, she stayed with Him every second of His journey to His death on the cross. The Rosary is the perfect way to stay close to her.

It has been my privilege to serve as the State Treasurer for these past two years. I wish to thank the other members of the Board for their friendship and support.

Kathy Donahue
NJ State Treasurer





State Advocate—Donna Lewandowski

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

Another season is here and almost gone. Time stands still for no man. I hope this finds you all well and in strong preparation for our upcoming convention.

I am looking forward to seeing you all again. It has been a very busy year for many of us, but please remember to spend time with fam-

ily and friends, for one day we will all be gone.

As your State Advocate, I hope you have found time to be the voice of someone who is unable to advocate for themselves and possibly made a difference in their lives.

May God bless you all with His love,
Donna Lewandowski

State Sentinel—Catherine Nicholson

I hope you had wonderful holiday seasons. It's such a great time to get together with the family and make wonderful memories and relive the old ones as well.

Wishing all the joys that 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.

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

Convention Committee

**CONVENTION IS ONLY
WEEKS AWAY!!!**

It's hard to believe that June is coming at us like a freight train!!! Your Convention Committee is hard at work in planning a wonderful Convention for all of you! Be sure to come dressed in your Munchkin blues for Friday night! Any and all Wizard of Oz costumes are also welcome. Following the Friday night business session be sure to join us in the "Emerald City" for Hospitality. Prizes will be awarded for favorite costumes in the theme of the Wizard of Oz of course! Saturday is a jam-packed day with our Charity and Seminar presentations along with visits from the various Dioceses while picking up the backpacks and toiletries then leading right into the election of the new Board of Officers. Mass and Officer Installation will be celebrated at 5 PM. Be ready for a wonderful time at the Banquet at 8 PM followed by the "State Fair" Slumber Party. We are promising lots of fun, friendship and a fantastic time.

We still do need your help though! Please send in your pictures! We are looking for pictures of everyone to be used throughout the Convention. Thanks to those who have sent them in already. You can either send to Michele in the mail, via text message or through e-mail. Hoping to see either pictures of you with your family or your Columbiette family. Chapter Presidents and all State Officers are also encouraged to send individual pictures if possible.

Don't forget your raffle items! Express packs of tickets are still being purchased. Encourage those members not able to attend to also consider buying tickets to help support the Convention.

Looking forward to seeing you all! Please contact Michele for any questions or concerns at 267-847-0667 or nmewingrn@comcast.net See you soon!

Michele and Kathleen and the Southern Chapter Convention Committee





Badges & Jewelry

Columbiette name badges are available in white with blue lettering, blue with white lettering, white with red lettering and red with white lettering. They come in magnet or pin backs. They would be a wonderful way to let everyone at the State Convention know who you are! The badges include your name, title (if you have one), auxiliary name and number and the city where your auxiliary is located.



We are still selling Columbiette jewelry. Items include necklaces, pins, bracelets and key rings. We also have travel card cases. Be honest. Is yours cracked or broken? If it is, isn't it time to treat yourself to a new one? I will have a table at the State Convention at the Embassy Suites in Piscataway on June 21-22. Stop by and say hello and check out the items.

Kathy Donahue
Chairperson

Charity Awards Luncheon

The New Jersey State Council was privileged to honor six Catholic women at the Charity Awards Luncheon. It was held on April 28th at Pierre's of South Brunswick.

They are:

HONOREES

- **Lisa Hummell** for her work in **Social Welfare**. Lisa tirelessly gives her time to aid Veterans, needy families and the homeless in her community and area of Philipsburg, NJ. Warren Columbiettes submitted her nomination.
- **Carie McCay-Diaz** for her work for **Family Unity**. Her "Carie Cares" Ministry assists families struggling with drug addiction, diseases, and educational development. Helen Judge, President of Santa Maria Columbiettes submitted her nomination.
- **Jessica Gibbons** for her work for **Humanity**. Jessica donates much of her time to pro-life concerns and working for the Right to Life Organization. For over a 5 year period, Jessica spent every weekend for 6 months, raising funds for the Middlesex County Right to Life Organization. St. James Columbiettes submitted her nomination.





RECOGNITIONS with Honor

- *Linda Capobiano* for Social Welfare. She was nominated by St. Maximilian Kolbe Columbiettes.
- *Linda Repici* for Social Welfare. She was nominated by Father Emil J. Kapaun Columbiettes.
- *Laura Sullivan* for Family Unity. She was nominated by Sgt. John F. Basilone Columbiettes.

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



Charity Award Honorees with State President Vicki Bird and Co-Hosts (pictures courtesy of Maureen O'Brien)

The NJ State Council Columbiettes is proud 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. They rightfully deserve to be honored and appreciated.

We were honored to have Father Michael Fragoso, Pastor of St. James Church in Jamesburg, bless the honoree awards and address the group.

During the luncheon festivities, Laura Labetti, Chairlady of the State’s Charity Raffle, conducted the State Charity Raffle in which three winning tickets were drawn and Hap Ortutay entertained with melodies.

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

Carol Bohinski, Chairlady
Mary Ann Sweet, Co-Chairlady



Raffle Pull



Recruitment and Retention

Before you know it Convention time will be here. I just want to remind you that if you haven't sent your forms in for our programs there is still time to do so.

- Recruitment Program - Any member who has sponsored three or more members will have their names entered in a drawing for \$100.00. The members must take their First Degree prior to our State Convention. There is still time to recruit new members and have your name entered in this drawing. Please see your President for the entry form. If you recruited six members your name is entered twice.
- Retention Award - November was Retention month. We asked for our Auxiliaries to contact those members who haven't attended a meeting in a while. Those Auxiliaries who reached out and had inactive members attend their meeting will have their names entered for a monetary award.

Both of these entry forms can be found in your Leaders Guide and Information Handbook.

Although most of us will not have meetings during the summer months, it does not mean that we should take a rest from having a membership drive. Just think how great it would be starting off in September with new members.

We are very happy to report that we will soon be inducting a new Auxiliary - Star of the Sea #371 in Bayonne. We also have another Council that will hopefully join us soon as well. Please say prayers that both will come to fruition.

Always remember - you won't know if someone wants to join unless you ask them.

Sandra Bohinski

Ronald McDonald House—Tab Tops

It just takes one moment to twist off that tab top and a little cup to store them but does so much to help those in need. The tabs are recycled and staples such as bread, eggs, milk, etc. are brought for the families in the house. The children with their families come from near and far. It's their home away from home. The house is

referred to as a "House that Love Built" and just think what a great feeling it is that you were a contributor.

If possible when the tab tops are brought to the Convention could you please place them in paper leaf bags; they are so much sturdier than plastic bags. Please only





partially fill them. In the words of Fran Corcione, "If you can't lift them, we can't lift them." Please remember this.

Thank you for your support in this most worthwhile project.

Sandra Bohinski
Chairlady

Memorial Fund, Greeting Card and Business Card Enclosure Program

Thank you to everyone who has requested cards and business card enclosures to be used in your personal correspondence. Over 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. A sample was included in the Winter Echo. 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. I'd love to hear from you.

Kathy Jessen





T-Shirts/Logo Wear

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!! A sample of the BLING Shirt is shown in the right column.

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!!



Elena McFarland
Club Shirt Chairman

Vocations—Pennies from Heaven

Please remember to keep saving those pennies, this will enhance our Vocation program and we may then be able to give our seminarians/postulants a larger check to help them in their studies.

The Pennies check is due on or before June 1st, one check please and payable to NJSCC. 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 see the gifts given out on Saturday morning to the seminarians/postulants.

Lorraine Noger
Vocation Chairperson

State Retreat

**San Alfonso Retreat House
"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 for the year being "The Call to Holiness."

We had **54** ladies in attendance. I am already planning for next year. The date will be **April 24 - 26, 2020**. 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.



The retreat weekend is open to our Sister Columbiettes, relatives and your friends.

May our Blessed Mother shower you with Her Love Always!

Special thanks to all who attended this weekend. I am looking forward to seeing you next year.

Barbara Ann Lucarelli
(bannlucarelli@aol.com)

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

News from our State Chapters

Central

Central Chapter Columbiettes started our sixty-first year with a Penny Auction. All who attended the meeting had a good time.

All member auxiliaries Regina Mundi, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. John, and St. Philip the Apostle have all been busy as bees with their activities. Since our meetings are at the end of the months of April, May and June, we will be crowning our Blessed Mother at our April meeting.

Christ has Risen! He is Truly Risen; both Eastern Rite and Western are within a week of each other this year. We also would like to extend

Our Blessed Mother's prayers and Guidance upon all sister Columbiettes for Mother's Day and our Brother Knights, for Father's Day. May Our Patronesses keep you all in their constant care. See you all in June at Convention, the Good Lord willing.





Western

Western Chapter Columbiettes held a First and Major Degree at Saint Francis DeSales in Vernon on Sunday, March 31st. Six ladies took their First Degree and fourteen ladies took their Major. It was a beautiful day. The event was held in honor of Father Christopher Barkhausen. Janet Tussey did a great job as usual!



On April 1-4 we had a fundraiser at all three of the Thatcher McGhee restaurants with 20% of each bill for food and drinks donated to Western Chapter. Thanks to Ann Taggart for a very successful event.

Our next Chapter meeting will be

South East

On November 15th we received notification that our South East Chapter Meeting would be cancelled due to a deluge of "snow!" It was re-scheduled for Thursday, November 29th and brought out many South East Chapter sisters for our Annual Christmas Party and Tricky Tray. An array of Christmas sweaters and colors could be seen

on May 1, 2019 at Don Bosco in Newton along with our May Crowning. June 5th will be held at Parsippany which will include election of officers.

Upcoming events are:

- State Convention (June 21-23, 2019) which will be held at the Embassy Suites, Piscataway
- State Charity Operation Chillout for 2019 Convention—chosen by the Long Valley Columbiettes. Support Homeless Vets by offering water and clothes and hotel rooms in New Jersey, Northeast Pennsylvania and Coastal Rhode Island.

Hope to see you all at convention!

Western Chapter Columbiettes extend our best wishes to all for a healthy, happy Mother's Day.

Submitted by:
Barbara Schounnot

and a great time to renew acquaintances as this is the most popular event of our Year! This event, chaired by Nancy Fallon and Meg Zadlock, brings in enough funds to support all of our charities and ministries for the entire year! Seminarian, Memorial Fund donations, convention hospitality, raffle gifts, etc. are all funded by this one



event! Great job, once again, Nancy and Meg! And, thanks, too, to the Auxiliaries who donated the baskets and items to be raffled off and those who purchased tickets to support this worthwhile event! And, of course, to all of the winners! Thank you Our Lady of Victory for hosting and for the delicious food as well!

Thursday, February 21st – we gathered at Father Carey Auxiliary. Our Catholic Action Chair, Mary Vernarelli led us in a very spiritual service.

Auxiliaries reported on upcoming events with flyers for those interested in attending or for more information.

SE Charity Nominations were presented for the 2020 Convention Presentation. Nominations were as follows:

- Carmine Cruz – Our Lady of Peace, Fords
- Broehl Saginor – St Bartholomew, East Brunswick
- Andrea Kobestofucto – Our Lady of Victory, Sayreville
- Michelle Schoarts – South Amboy Auxiliary
- Barn for the Poor – Vincent T Lombardi

ALL worthy and heart wrenching presentations made it difficult to select just one as our Chapter Recipient and the count between all five (5) nominations was extremely close. St Bartholomew's candidate

was selected as the 2020 South East Chapter Recipient! God bless them all!

Our Chaplain, Father Bill Smith, informed us that due to his schedule this year there would not be an Evening of Recollection but that he would try to have a service in the fall. We all look forward to that! His services during Lent truly help us to reflect upon the Season! He asked us to pray for the issues in our Church – Bishops meeting with the Pope – for them to be open to the Holy Spirit and pray for those abused by clergy. Father Bill will have a reflection for us in the fall.

Sunday, February 24th brought about another First Degree Ceremony where 13 candidates became members! Congratulations and Welcome!

Right to Life Chair, Lisa Vicino, reported on the New Jersey Aid to Dying for the terminally ill S1072, which is up for a vote and A1504 waiting for the full assembly to vote. She requested members to contact their representatives and please vote Pro-Life with the vague language on the Unborn Child Protection Act. She also reported on the “9 Days for Life” sponsored by the U.S. Council of Bishops which was held in January.

Our seminarian, Gilbert Starcher, who is in his Third Year Theology at Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall will remain our



Chapter seminarian until he is ordained. May God continue to bless him in his calling...we need more priests and nuns.

Our Chapter Major Degree, held on Sunday, March 10th at St Lawrence, was a beautiful day with our very meaningful ceremony. Our Prestigious NJSCC Past President Lorraine Noger was our Honoree! Many thanks to the Degree Team led by Yvonne Burdynski and Equipment Chairs Mary Ruth Muehlbauer and Irene Klar! Irene will be moving to Massachusetts in April and we wish her all the best! She will be missed as she has been a very active member since joining the Columbiettes in her Auxiliary (Our Lady of Peace in Fords), holding many offices including President, and with our precious equipment for our Major Degree! Good Luck, Irene and God Bless!

Many from our Chapter will join at San Alfonso Retreat House for our NJSCC Annual Retreat. This event, sponsored by our very own Barbara Ann Lucarelli, will be held this year from April 5-7, 2019. There is still room and a one-day on Saturday event is available again this year! Join us on the beach at 2:00 for the Rosary!

April brings us to our "Right to Life" Baby Shower this year being hosted by South Amboy Auxiliary on the 25th. Their Auxiliary has se-

lected "Life Choices" in Metuchen as the recipient of our donations. Mothers choosing life over abortion, sometimes with the aid of the Ultra Sound Machine donated by the New Jersey State Council Knights of Columbus, reinforces God's Plan for life from conception!



Vincent T Lombardi will be hosting our Memorial Mass and May Crowning this year and we all look forward to these annual events which enrich our spirits and souls and gives us a time to reflect on those sister Columbiettes we have lost as well as remembering Our Blessed Mother, our Patroness, with flowers and song.

June will bring us together once more with our sisters at our 63rd Annual Convention in Somerset at the Embassy Suites where besides business, friendships will be rekindled. We understand that the Munchkins love any shade of blue so there should be an array of blues on Friday!

And, the "State Fair Slumber Party" on Saturday Evening following the



Banquet may find a few sleepy-heads present. In pajamas of course....

We cannot wait to see the photos sent in of "Families" which will keep those sleepyheads awake!

South West

The South West Chapter was very active this new year.

Our Chapter's Charity designee, Maria Jones, founder of JISU (Joy in Siblings United) was our guest speaker at our February meeting. We were pleased to meet her and learn of all the good works she and her foundation do to serve children separated from their families while in foster care. Their mission is to keep siblings connected or reconnect them so the family unity is maintained. After our business meeting, we held our Chapter Tricky Tray which was cancelled in November 2018 due to inclement weather.

On March 21st, our newly organized Degree Team held a Major Degree Exemplification with 14 initiates at St. Cecilia Church in Monmouth Junction. The Degree was in honor of Father Michael Fragoso, Pastor of St. James Church in Jamesburg.

The Chapter is pleased to announce that our 2019 recipient of Vocational Funding, which will be presented at the NJ State Council

South East Chapter wishes all our Sister Columbiettes a very Blessed Easter and a safe and memorable summer!

Lois Ann Smith, Publicity

Convention, is Sister Elena Pearce. She is a novice with the Sisters of Christian Charity in Mendham, NJ. Sister Elena is the daughter of our Chapter's Treasurer, Evelyn Pearce. Our joy is doubled.

In June, we will be finalizing this year's business and electing our Board of Officers for next year. We look forward to seeing all at the State Annual Convention.

Pictured above are South West



Officers and members with Father Michael Fragoso, Vicki Bird and Father Bill Smith at Major Degree (Picture courtesy of Maureen O'Brien)

I wish to thank our Chapter Board of Officers for all their assistance to me this year. I congratulate our Auxiliaries for all the good works





they held or are planning to hold. From “Dressing for Success,” care packages to our soldiers in the Mid-East, assisting the homeless, flower sales, to Tricky Trays, our Auxiliaries were intent on and successful helping others.

South West Chapter wishes all our members a blessed and healthy summer.

-Carol Bohinski, President

Mid West

Spring Greetings from Mid West Chapter Columbiettes!

The spring season has brought budding flowers and many blessings for the sisters of Mid West Chapter. All our auxiliaries have been busy assisting their Knights and working on many parish and community ministries. In February we enjoyed playing the ‘Bring-A-Pound’ game at our Chapter meeting hosted by our Millstone Valley Auxiliary. On March 31, 2019, we attended a beefsteak fundraiser hosted by Fran Corcione at the Union Knights of Columbus. The event raised \$2,100 for the Let Them Be Little Foundation to support children with rare diseases.



Our April Chapter meeting brought us to our Warren Auxiliary where

we held a baby shower to benefit the Grandma’s House charity in Phillipsburg, NJ helping pregnant homeless women.

On April 28, 2019, we also attended the annual State Charity Awards Luncheon where Lisa Hummell, nominated by our Warren Auxiliary, received an honor for her work in Social Welfare, and Laura Sullivan, nominated by our Sgt. John F. Basilone Auxiliary received honorary recognition for her work in Family Unity. We were also delighted to learn that Pat Taylor from Warren Auxiliary was a charity raffle winner. We are looking forward to holding our June Chapter meeting at our Union Auxiliary where we will collect shelf-stable food items for the Rutgers University Student Pantry and we will also 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 dedication. It has been one of my greatest honors to be your Chapter President for the past two years. 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

Southern

Southern Chapter welcomed 2019 with many jobs ahead of us. Many of our Auxiliaries are busy working on the Convention. Things are falling into place and a good time should be had by all.

February and March were busy putting together our Degree team. Thanks to the help of many Auxiliaries, our Major Degree on March 24th was beautiful.



Santa Maria hosted our March meeting followed by a Bottle Auction. We had a very enjoyable evening listening to our Auctioneer haggle to get as much as she could for each gift bag.

Our May meeting will be at St. Francis in Swedesboro, where we will vote for our new Chapter Board for 2019-2020.

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 installation of new officers in our Auxiliaries.

Thank you to all my sister Columbiettes for a great two years. I could not have done it without all of you. I look forward to seeing many of you at Convention. Have a safe, happy summer.

God Bless.

Barbara Liona
Chapter President





News from our State Auxiliaries

Parsippany

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

The Columbiettes of Parsippany have been on the go throughout all the months of the year. Some of our very talented ladies have been knitting lap blankets for those in need at a Dover Hospice. These blankets are distributed from time to time and much appreciated by the hospice. Anita P. and Connie K. are shown with some of their work. They recently visited Hope House as well, bringing hats, gloves and scarves for those in need.



Every year we celebrate with our Altar Servers, serving lunch and thanking them for serving. On an ongoing basis we continue the mailing of cards to shut-ins whose

names are provided by our three churches. Children's books and games have been collected for children with cancer and we plan to continue this project. Last October our ladies, as well as some family members, had an Ice Cream Social at the Firemen's Home in Boonton. The photo (bottom of page) does not do justice to the smiles of gratitude on the gentlemen's faces. Also, in October we held our annual, and major fund raiser, our TEA. This year the Garden Party Tea was a great success with questions about next year already....October 19th is in planning stages.

Our successful Cakeless Cake Sale will allow us to assist three children receiving First Communion to purchase a complete Communion outfit of their choice and celebrate with family as well.

In February we held our "Have a Heart" meeting and the membership made donations to approximately 40 charities of the ladies choosing. Leaving that meeting with smiles and happy hearts.





Our big news is the First Degree held in Parsippany for 16 ladies – 14 joining Parsippany Columbiettes. Another proud moment and we welcome and congratulate all these ladies.

Continuing our Hail Mary's, we wish all our sister Columbiettes a Happy and Blessed spring and summer.

Fran Veit

Saint Anthony's

On December 7th, St. Anthony's Columbiettes held our 5th Annual Soup-er Bowl. There were a total of 12 different soups for people to enjoy. Debbie Wickham and Cathe Nicholson 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 went back to the traditional Pot Luck dinner this year. The members in attendance had a great time laughing together while trying all of the delicious meals everyone cooked. Thank you to Debbie for putting together a great night for all.

Kim Bellantoni and Barbara 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 February and March. Thank you to Kim & Barbara for another successful year.

March was a busy night as we held

our Baked Potato night on March 20th. The night before the fundraiser, we were all busy cleaning potatoes (with special help from our "professional" potato cleaner Joe) and getting the room ready. The night of the event was most successful and everyone left with a full belly from the delicious potatoes and all the fixins'. Thank you to Ann Taggart and Joan Taggart for another successful fundraiser.

Debbie Wickham & Lisa Roberts invited all First Holy Communion candidates and their families to enjoy a breakfast on April 14, 2019 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.

June is a busy month for St. Anthony's. We will be holding our Annual Pocketbook Bingo on June 7th. If you would like to join us, please feel free to contact Cathe for your tickets. We will be holding our annual Pot O' Gold Drawing on June 18th. If you are feeling like you have Lady Luck on your side,

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 February 19, 1961, Our Lady of Victory Columbiettes was instituted. We celebrated our 58th Anniversary at our February meeting.

Our Lenten Fish Fry begins on Ash Wednesday and then runs on Fridays during Lent along with our Brother Knights. We set the hall, prep the Salad Bar and also the Dessert Table. Our Brother Knights man the kitchen and do the cooking for this annual event during Lent.

Our 13th Annual Sisters in Service Dinner was held March 31st 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 en-

please contact Debbie Wickham for your chances.

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

joyed for the Sisters that join us. Each Sister receives a gift bag with some treats. The afternoon was enjoyed by all.



The 14th Annual OLV Easter Friendship Meal was held on April 13th. 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 which they distribute to needy families.

April 25th was our Chapter's Baby Shower. We donated items such



as bibs, rattles, pacifiers, blankets, outfits, etc.

Before our May meeting, Father Ken recites Mass then we crown our Blessed Mother. After our meeting, we work on our tab tops and ready our backpacks for Convention.

May 9th a fundraiser was held at Texas Roadhouse.

Bishop Navagh

On Sunday December 9th some of the Columbiettes helped serve breakfast at the annual Holy Spirit School's Santa Breakfast. We sold many Angel Pins that morning. We continued with our Pajama & Book Program and as of this date we have collected over 275 pajamas and over 250 books.

In January we visited the Little Sisters of the Poor Home in Totowa to play Bingo. For some of our newer Sister Columbiettes it was their first time and they had a blast helping the residents with the Bingo cards. Every resident left with a small token (Some left with more than one!). We also supplied treats to eat as well. It was very rewarding to see the residents truly enjoy such a great afternoon. They can't wait until we return next year!

We welcomed six (6) new ladies into our Auxiliary. Our membership

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

is growing stronger with each membership drive we hold. Marybeth Doyle, my Vice President and Membership Chair, does a fantastic job.

On February 24th we held our 6th Annual Altar Server Appreciation Day. We had over 88 people which included the servers and their families. Each altar server was given a small gift from our auxiliary which was a Altar Server Pin and certificate of appreciation. Everyone enjoyed pizza, snacks, soda and water. The boys and girls participated in Bible Jeopardy. A fun time was had by all.

On March 24th we had 24 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 thousands of meals! It was a fun and rewarding afternoon.





During the month of March we collected many bags of food and gift cards for our Adopt-A-Family. Their Easter meal is complete with plenty of left over cans and boxes of food.

On April 4th we held our Lenten Fish Fry cooked by Tastefully British – we served over 139 dinners (fish and chicken) to many people – some of which where “take out” orders. The fish/chicken was delicious. No one left the hall hungry!

In April/May we will once again be holding our annual spring flower baskets and flat sale – 50% of this fundraiser will also go to our Adopt-A-Family to help out wherever needed. We are hoping for another successful sale. The baskets/flowers will be picked-up the week before Mother’s Day.

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 will also be marching in the town’s parade with the Knights of Columbus and afterward enjoy a picnic with our fami-

Saint James

St. James began the new year with many plans and events.

On February 10th, together with our Knights, we held our Annual Corporate Communion Mass at St. James Church. This was followed

lies at the hall.

June will bring our annual carnival at Holy Spirit Church in Pequannock. Our duties including helping in the kitchen and in some of the food booths.

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!

We are looking forward to our first ever – tricky tray – October 11th. This is a first for us as a event – hoping it is a huge success!

Bishop Navagh wishes all Sister Columbiettes a Happy Spring and a relaxing summer. Till next time

God is Good!

Mary Kubisky, President
Bishop Navagh

with a continental breakfast. At our monthly meeting, we learned how to detect and avoid telephone scams from our guest speaker, Melanie Hazim from the NJ Department of Community Affairs. Once again, we assisted our Brother





Knights with their Friday Lenten Dinners. Each week, we set tables and provide desserts.

In March, we heated the ovens and held our "Bakeless Cake Sale" and one member stepped up to her Major Degree at the South West Chapter Exemplification.

Nine members attended the Weekend Retreat at San Alfonso Retreat House in West End. It was a beautiful and spiritual experience for all.

At our April meeting, we held a baby shower to benefit the Catholic Charities' Right to Life Organization and were addressed by Laura Vetter, Nutritionist at St. Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick. She spoke on proper eating habits. We will "Shake the Can" for vocations after parish Masses on April 27th and 28th. Also, we are honored to have our nominee, Jessica Gibbons, be honored for her humanity and work for the Middlesex Right to Life Organization at the State Charity Awards Luncheon.

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 24th 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 mem-

bers bring their special culinary delights. On Memorial Day, we will march with our Brother Knights in the Jamesburg Parade to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice to our country.

In June, you will find us donned in our best flowery hats and gloves as we host our Annual Tea Party. Lastly, we will award our chosen Good Student and Humanitarian honorees at our monthly meeting.

Continuing are our collections of back packs, school supplies, personal items and tab tops for the State Convention. Continuing are our efforts to help the homeless.

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

-Carol Bohinski, President



NJ State Officers at St. James (courtesy of Maureen O'Brien)





Shown below: St. James' members with Knights of Columbus

Shown above: St. James' members with State Officers at Christmas

(photos courtesy of Maureen O'Brien)



Immaculate Conception

Our New Year began assisting our Pastor, Msgr. Joe Curry, with taking down the Immaculate Conception Parish's first Christmas Tree Fundraiser. The lights from the 97 evergreen tree display were removed from the trees and packed away for next year. Coffee, hot chocolate, doughnuts and bagels were served to the workers who removed the trees for recycling.

We presented 89 students of our parish with a cross plaque of the Act of Contrition as a remembrance of their First Penance. How sweet it is to share the cele-

bration of this sacrament with these wonderful children.

On March 7th we held our Annual Corporate Communion followed by a luncheon. Our guest speaker explained the practice of yoga and how relaxation and meditation can enhance our spiritual life as well as bring physical well-being.

The luck of St. Patrick was with us as we held our Annual Green Carnation sale the weekend of St. Patrick's Day. We sold Pray for Our Nation car magnets and sold all of our beautiful green carna-





tions.



We began and ended Lent by working with our Knights at their annual fish fries. For six weeks we cleaned and chopped the vegetables to be served on the salad bar and baked delicious items for the dessert table. We also helped on the nights of the fish fries by setting up and maintaining the salad bar and desserts and taking food orders.

Members made a Palm Sunday visit to a local nursing home. Resi-

Don Bosco—Newton

Our annual traditional social gathering was held on Saturday, December 1st, for dinner and a show in Hackettstown. We first enjoyed a delicious meal at Bea McNally's Irish Pub followed by Annie, the Musical. All who were there would agree that the dinner and show was a great way to begin the Christmas season.

On Saturday, December 15th the Columbiettes, Knights of Columbus and Squirettes entertained the

residents received a gift of a little stuffed bunny along with a visit from the Easter Bunny. This event brings some joy and big smiles to the residents and we have a good time visiting. Thank you Easter Bunny.



We shared the Good News of Easter by making and donating 42 Easter Baskets filled with toys and goodies. The baskets were donated to our local CUP food pantry in Spotswood and the food pantry in New Brunswick.



residents of Barn Hill, Valley View, Ave Care and the Homestead nursing homes with Christmas carols. Thanks to the generosity of the Columbiettes, Knights and

Squirettes over 300 pairs of socks were donated to the residents. A great time was had by all.



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 22 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.

Several Columbiettes gathered the weekend of January 4-6, to attend the "My Peace I Give You" women's retreat held at the Sacred Heart Retreat Center in Newton. Some 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 annual event is open to all women to help restore, renew and refresh the whole body. Sacred Heart Retreat Center also has a weekend retreat for women in June.

In February the Columbiettes and Squirettes had their annual Band-Aid Drive for the Children's hospital. We collected a total of 325 boxes with the help of our parishioners. The total number of Band-Aids was 7,292. Think of all the smiles we helped create.

On March 11th, a number of Columbiettes (6) helped move the St. Joseph Thrift Shop from the basement of the church to a building across the street that was once a convent. Many hands make light work.

On Saturday, March 16th our Columbiettes 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. Many spectators young and old gathered on the sidewalks to watch the annual march.



On March 31st we had one First Degree candidate, and Six Major Degree candidates join the Columbiettes organization at the St. Francis de Sales in Vernon.



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

At our April 1st Auxiliary meeting we invited Janice Pasculli, an attorney specializing in Elder law, to speak to our sister Columbiettes. Janice is local to the area and a parishioner of St. Joseph Church. She is very knowledgeable and informative. She had the ladies engaged with her presentation and wanting more.

On Sunday, April 7th the Knights had a Wives' Appreciation Brunch for the Columbiette spouses and widows at the Lafayette House in Lafayette. The Grand Knight gave each of the women a corsage and a chocolate bunny. All had a lovely time.

On Friday, April 12th we hosted a pizza fundraiser at the Villa Capri Restaurant in Newton. The funds help the Columbiettes raise money for scholarships and local charities. Villa Capri donates \$1 for every pizza sold all day on that Friday.

Our last fundraiser of the year was held on May 18th at Applebee's in Newton where a number of Columbiettes volunteered to assist in serving, washing dishes, bussing tables, etc. This was another fun time for everyone.



We will hold a May Crowning in the rose garden at St. Joseph Church on Sunday, May 19th. A First Communicant from our parish will have the honor of crowning Mary.

Members will donate baby items for Birth Haven at our June 3rd meeting and a baby "sprinkle" will be held for one of our members who is expecting a baby boy. Also in June, we will once again be presenting three scholarships: two



to local female graduating seniors for \$500 and \$250 based on community service and one scholarship for \$150 to a female 8th grade student who best exemplifies those qualities of our patronesses: Our Blessed Mother, St. Theresa and St. Joan of Arc.



Our Squirette Circlette of Mary's Angels is doing well. We just celebrated our sixth anniversary on March 13th. Each meeting has a special theme which covers religious, social, craft and athletic segments. This past March our meeting was held at the Sacred Heart Retreat Center in Newton where the novices spoke about and answered questions concerning their religious life. We prayed devotionals in the chapel, said the Stations of

the Cross and took a tour of the facility. This was followed by a pizza dinner. The Squirettes are excited to return again next year.

Finally, our Hail Mary Campaign to pray one million Hail Marys to seek Our Blessed Mother's intercession in obtaining world peace is coming to a close. With the help of our prayer warriors, we have already surpassed our goal of one million Hail Marys and will continue to tally all prayers until the end of May. Remember, May is the month dedicated to our Blessed Mother so keep praying your Rosary. May God bless everyone who participated in this campaign and may our Blessed Mother wrap all of us in her mantle of protection.

Miriam Montagne
President

Our Lady of Peace—North Brunswick

The Our Lady of Peace Columbiettes #11378 started the New Year with our Annual Christmas social in January. Our sisters had a very enjoyable evening of relaxation and fellowship.

Many events are happening at Our Lady of Peace of North Brunswick as the Parish celebrates its 50th Anniversary. One of these events was a trivia night sponsored by the Columbiettes on February 23rd. Over 160 attendees enjoyed a great night of fun. Prizes were

awarded to teams with the highest number of correct answers.

The Our Lady of Peace Church fish dinners were held on March 15th, 29th and April 15th. The Columbiettes volunteered many hours helping to prepare and serve the dinners. Our fish dinners are also known as "Father John's World Famous Fish Dinners." The dinners were well attended with over 300 attendees at the March 29th dinner.





On March 21st, St Cecilia's in Monmouth Junction hosted the Major Degree. Our Lady of Peace Columbiettes #11378 had six sisters participate in the ceremony. We Congratulate Debbie Bonura, Anne Brown, Fay Colligan, Pat Egan, Carol Lagowski and Fran Marrone on attaining their Major Degree. Many sisters from OLOP were joined by our District Deputy Roseanne Brady at the ceremony as they came to support these wonderful ladies in their advancement.

financial support. We also served food for the vendors and attendees and had a Tricky Tray and 50/50 raffles. This very successful event was well attended by vendors and shoppers alike.



The Columbiettes held their 9th Annual Indoor Garage and Bake Sale on April 6th. This year we sponsored the Santiago Sisters who have lost both their parents in the past several years. The fundraiser was to provide them with



GIVE Thanks
with a
GRATEFUL Heart





Saint Bernadette's

November brought us together to write out Christmas cards (in English and Spanish) and Chanukah Cards for ALL of the residents of The Venetian Care and Rehabilitation Center. We continually donate used cards as well as those cards requesting a donation to them to use in their Activities Department for crafts. The two (2) women that we have adopted there receive cards from each one of us and some small gifts. Unfortunately, these two (2) women have NO family except those at the facility.

Our December "Pot Luck" Dinner was a huge success, especially if you don't count the calories! This gave us the opportunity to actually sit down and visit with one another. Especially since we had new members join us in the fall and it was nice to get to know them. WE are so blessed to have new, enthusiastic members!

In December many participated in the "Family Walk to Bethlehem" which next year will be called the "Advent Family Walk to Bethlehem." ALL of the churches we visited themed their services to Advent, which was very appropriate! We had a little over 50 participants which was fantastic for the first time. Some pilgrims joined us along the way. We hosted our Poinsettia Sale and had our Annual Bake Sale with homemade dog treats as well for sale for our

little fuzzy friends!

This year we hosted the "Women's Organization Christmas Party" and it was a huge success with 40 attendees, the largest number in quite a while. Good food, good friends and songs as well as shared symbolisms were enjoyed by all who attended, I hope!

In lieu of a grab bag we collected ShopRite Food Cards to be donated to St Bernadette Social Concerns Ministry.

January brought us beginning our year in a spiritual way. We sponsored the "9 Days for Life" initiated by the US Counsel of Bishops which was led by our own Lisa Vicino, VP and Respect Life Chair. Permission was granted by the Praise and Worship Prayer Group for her to begin at their January meeting which was attended by about 45 people! Handouts were given to participate in this daily journey, online information and a beautiful Rosary with devotions for life was distributed to all who wished to continue. Lisa brought string rosaries for those who didn't have their rosaries with them or who wished to pass them forward!

Our Membership Drive brought nine (9) interested ladies but only five (5) were able to attend the First Degree sponsored by South Amboy Auxiliary on February 24th:





Jeanne Del Giudice, Mary Keller, Sherene Ranasinghe, Janet Tucker, and Messie Tucker. Availability is always precious in this day and age!

Our Brother Knights had us assisting them at their Pancake Breakfast which was very delicious.

We continually volunteer to place inserts in the bulletins when needed and we have so many volunteers on some occasions that we are truly done in minutes!

March 10th at St Lawrence brought eight (8) of our Sisters into full membership in our organization! They are a blessing to our organization! Jeanne Del Giudice, Mary Keller, Deborah Marquez, Anamika Panna, Sherene Ranasinghe, Janet Tucker, Messie Tucker, and Tina Tucker. ALL of these ladies have already been volunteering and showing the spirit of Columbianism!

On March 16th & 17th we held a Bake Sale for our Brother Knights donating all of the proceeds to their ministries.

Also on March 17th we celebrated the retirement of our Deacon Donald Zampella with a reception and the Columbiettes provided and served the liquid refreshments.

Many attended the Afternoon of Reflection sponsored by The Catholic Daughters of the Americas

which has been open to all for years. It was an uplifting of LENT with hymns, the Rosary, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Reconciliation, and Benediction. Msgr. Andrew Szaroleta was our Spiritual Leader!

A Knights of Columbus Fundraiser for Brother Knight Chris Duffett had us supplying over 350 home baked cupcakes to be served for dessert! And, a basket donation for the Tricky Tray.

We have already completed the favors for our Fourth Annual Tricky Tray to be held on Sunday, May 5th at 2:00 p.m. and we are hoping to see many of you there! It is a great and relaxing afternoon with tea sandwiches and desserts!

We will hold our May Crowning and be ushering for the Holy Name Society when they have their Communion Breakfast on May 19th.

Beginning preparations for this year's Community Vacation Bible School "Miraculous Mission: Jesus Saves the World" are underway. It takes many hands to cut and prepare the crafts and then more hands the week of. This year's program will be July 8th through 12th!

Prior to our June Meeting we will hold our Memorial Mass in the Chapel at church with our Installation of Officers. Our Fourth Scholarship will be presented at that time and then fellowship





following! This is a great way to end our year!

Perhaps our paths will cross at other events around the state – NJSCC Charity Luncheon, St Bartholomew’s Wine Tasting, Sisters In Service or just in church!!!

Millstone Valley

We proudly celebrated the 15 year anniversary of our auxiliary with a special Mass on January 20th and luncheon on February 10th. About 20 members attended the luncheon at the Stage House Tavern. It was a great time to reflect on our past experiences and look toward the future of our auxiliary!



We were busy this winter helping out with several Parish activities. We helped our fellow Knights of Columbus members at their Annual Pasta Dinner in January. We set-up, decorated and cooked many pounds of pasta! The Pasta Dinner is a big hit each year and raises money for the youth of our parish.

In February, we joined efforts with

We look forward to seeing you ALL at Convention and pray you all have a Blessed Easter, and Mother’s Day.

Lois Ann Smith, President

the Knights of Columbus and the Paul Gubitosi Charitable Fund to collect personal care items for the Feeding Hands Food Pantry in Somerset County. The St. Joseph’s parishioners supported our efforts by donating almost 2,100 personal care products. In addition, we donated \$150 to the pantry.

To continue our fundraising efforts, we prepared and sold homemade soups and Irish soda bread at the Annual Parish Fish Fry in March. This is one of the fundraising activities we do each year. In June we look forward to choosing our favorite charities and local organizations to which to donate our fundraising monies.

In May, we will continue our tradition of presenting the First Communicants with Rosary beads and prayer cards. This year there will be about 40 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.



We participated in our Parish's Annual Ministry recruiting event in March and look forward to initiating several new members in May. We will end the year with our

yummy ice cream social!

We look forward to seeing our sister Columbiettes at the June convention!

Our Lady of Perpetual Help—Jersey City

Happy Spring everyone! What a blessing to see the sun and the flowers and the leaves slowly turning green again! Even the birds start singing.

In Jersey City our Auxiliary sponsored a Mass for the Unborn. What could be more symbolic of spring and Easter to honor the new life of a beautiful baby soon to enter our world. We are sending a message to our Parish to welcome babies and give them a chance to inhabit the earth as God intends. They are the hope of the Church and our country!

It is sad to see what is happening in recent days about abortion within the womb and even after

birth. Surely God is not happy. Let us console our God by doing even little acts of appreciation for new life—His precious gift to us. Please continue praying for our lawmakers to convert.

Summer is coming up before we know it. Time for vacation and beaches. Let us rest up and regain vigor to start another Columbian year in September. Let us not grow weary of doing what is good. Let us invite more ladies to join us and renew our spirits with new faces and new ideas. Praise God!

Submitted by: Naty Caballero
Long live the Columbiettes!



OLPH Columbiettes sponsored a Mass for the Unborn at St Aedan Church 3/24/19



Saint John's

St John's Council Columbiettes welcomed the new year 2019 with a Post-Holiday dinner at a favorite local restaurant. This is always such a wonderful get together after the holidays and many of our Brother Knights, along with our Grand Knight joined us.

As we entered into our Lenten Journey we joined our Brother Knights in hosting a Friday Night Lenten Dinner.

The month of March was an "extremely" busy time for us as we were making baskets and getting ready for our April "Spring Time Tricky-Tray."

The lovely month of May is the time we vote on the slate of new officers for the year, 2019-2020 and vote on the charities we will support with the money we raised during the year.

Sgt. John F. Basilone

Sister Columbiettes,

"Thank you" to the members of our Auxiliary for their support and efforts.

Our Columbian year starts with The Basilone Parade in September. We honor a war hero born in Raritan.

Through fall, winter and spring we assist and support our Knights

As June fast approaches, we always look forward to the annual convention and getting together with our sister Columbiettes from all over the State of New Jersey and hear about all of the activities they had with their own auxiliaries.

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.

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-St John's Council
1345 Dumont-Bergenfield

with many related fund raisers and functions.

We serve at breakfasts for Veteran's Day, "Breakfast with Santa," Valentine's Day and Mother's Day. Join them for





their food drive, wreath sale, tree decorating for the Advent lighting ceremony, and the mum sale. In March the Knights held a dinner and comedy night with Uncle Floyd. We served over 200 people and enjoyed a great show.



In addition our auxiliary participates in an annual Halloween parade at the school, hosts a reception for the parish community after the All Soul's evening Mass and hosts the reception for Confirmation recipients of St. Ann's and Holy Trinity. We served approximately 300 people.



Our group donates food, clothing, toiletries, puzzles etc. to Elijah's

Union

The Union sisters had a great year. We celebrated our 10th Anniversary!

We have family dinner every month with our Knights.

Twelve (12) women just joined our ranks of sisterhood.

Promise Food Kitchen, Bridgewater Senior Center, Pregnancy Aid Center, Brahma House and the Somerset Food Bank. Throughout the year our donations to community families always consist of clothing, dinner and gift baskets to children for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.



Let us pray for all the victims of natural disaster, those suffering

from illness and so many to overcome addiction.

Peace and Blessing to all!
Happy Easter!

Barb Rymer, President

We raise money all year and give to many charities.

UNION COLUMBIETTES
HAPPY SPRING
MAY THE HOLY FAMILY WATCH
OVER YOUR FAMILY





Long Valley

The Long Valley Columbiettes have had a lot of fun this year.

This year we welcomed two new members to our Auxiliary, Patrice Schaffer in October and Laura Bigos in March. In March, Laura and member Erin Wojciechowski made their Major Degree. Welcome and Congratulations to Patrice, Laura, and Erin.



Each year a group of our members use some of their spare time to crochet or knit scarves to keep the clients of Father English Center warm during the winter months. This past November 99 scarves were donated. To support this effort we have received donations of yarn from several generous parishioners. Any additional donations of extra yarn for us to continue this mission are always appreciated.

December was a busy month for us. We donated a gift basket to our Brother Knights for their Annual

Charity Auction on December 1 and helped with set-up, serving, and selling of event and raffle tickets.

On December 5th we hosted the Western Chapter Meeting and Tricky Tray at St. Mark's. We had a great turnout and comments that we received were all very positive. We hope to be able to do this again in the future.

On December 8th we hosted a luncheon for the Long Valley Historical Society's Holiday House Tour. The luncheon gave us an opportunity to show off our recently renovated Church and introduced people to the Columbiettes. Our guests loved the homemade vegetable soup that we served along with sandwiches and deserts.



On December 15th and 16th we held our Annual Christmas Cookie Sale. Our parishioners look forward to the opportunity to buy different homemade cookies from us for Christmas and this year was no different. This year we only had a few items left over which we used



at our next Auxiliary meeting – and a delicious meeting that was. After that holiday meeting, the attendees enjoyed an ornament exchange and those that participated brought home very beautiful ornaments to adorn their Christmas trees.



In January we held our annual collection of PJs and Books for the Warren County Pajama Project with used books that were collected being donated to Father English Center. The new PJs and books went to children in the Warren County foster system where many children enter the system with nothing but the clothes on their backs.



In January we also visited with the nuns at Assumption College bringing them Christmas gifts and having a wonderful post-Christmas social. They always look forward to our visit as we look forward to visiting them and bringing them cheer.

In April we held our annual “Undie Sunday” collection to gather underwear and feminine hygiene products to be donated to Father English Center with any men’s T-shirts going to Operation Chillout.



With our collections, each year we are able to collect more than the previous year. Next year, the hope is that we will be able to hold our collections over two weekends instead of just one and in that way we will be able to have an even bigger impact than we have right now.

In March we were supposed to have our Annual Wonders of Chocolate – Mardi Gras Party, but with several snowstorms occurring in the weeks leading up to the planned event and on the day of the event, we had to cancel this event.. (Plans are already underway for next year’s party.) To make



up for the lost revenue from this event, our members really rallied quickly and we had a very successful Palm Sunday Bake Sale at one of our three parishes. The event was a huge success leaving us with only 1 or 2 cakes and a few cupcakes left over. We have already been asked to repeat this Bake Sale next year.

Each month we continue to visit our veterans at the Lyons VA Hospital. The visits bring joy to the members of the ward which we visit. In recent months we have celebrated Thanksgiving, Christmas, St. Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, and Easter with our vets. We bring them food treats and little gifts. We socialize and play games with them.

In May we will be marching in a local Memorial Day Parade behind our own Columbiettes banner for the first time. In previous years, we

Vincent T. Lombardi

December is always a busy month for those of us at Vincent T. Lombardi. We continued our tradition of playing Santa's Elves and assisted the Knights in handing out Christmas gifts to pediatric patients at Monmouth Medical Center. This is always a very rewarding experience for those who participate. We also attended the Knights' family Christmas dinner. And for the first time this year, we

always marched behind the K of C banner. This will be a very exciting time for us allowing us to show off the Columbiettes spirit.

This August we will be helping with Operation Chillout's VetsSummerFest. Please join us at VetsSummerFest on August 10th from 11AM to 8PM at Vasa Park in Budd Lake to help support our homeless vets. We will have music, a car show, and bike run. For more information, please see <https://vetssummerfest.org>. We are looking for vendors to participate as well.

The Long Valley Columbiettes hope that everyone has a safe and healthy summer with family and friends and look forward to seeing everyone in the fall.

Lucie Cohn, President
Long Valley Columbiettes #10419

"adopted" a local family in need. We bought and wrapped gifts for the family. We also sent cards to members of the military.

In January some of our members attended the Country/Western dance held by the Fr. Donnelly Knights. Our very talented members are often called upon by Fr. Donnelly to help decorate and set up for their events. As a Thank





You, Fr. Donnelly gifted us with a donation to be used for purchasing a banner. We also attended their St. Patrick's Day Dance. In February we nominated the Barn for the Poorest of the Poor as our Chapter charity. This is a cause very near and dear to our hearts as it was founded by Barney Welch, father of our President, Ann Dimaira.

In April we will join with the Lombardi Knights as they hand out water to runners in the NJ Marathon. We will also walk alongside the Knights in the Middletown Me-

Warren

The Christmas season was celebrated with good cheer and food at a local Italian restaurant. Gifts were exchanged and there was much fun and laughter. We assisted our Brother Knights in packaging food for the holiday season to our needy seniors; over 400 bags were packed in under 30 minutes. That is a lot of bodies and arms! Soon after that, several Columbiettes participated in the annual Christmas Party for the needy children of our Catholic Charities Social Service Center and Food Pantry. Gifts were purchased and assistance was provided in distributing the gifts to the parents of the children. Some in tears and some with such joy on their faces as their children will have a nice Christmas.

At our meeting in January, we held

memorial Day Parade. And in May we will be hosting the Chapter meeting, where we will be doing a May Crowning and Mass.

Mary Vernarelli



a First Degree welcoming two new members. We held our annual collection at both our Parishes for the postulants and seminarians, and collected \$1000. In February, we wore Red at our meetings and had prizes for those in color. Our Loaf cake sale garnered us \$616.

Prior to our March meeting on the 13th we attended our Parish Lenten Mission Service, wore green that evening to the meeting, offered a pot of gold to one lucky person and also awarded token gifts to those wearing green. March was busy with the Lenten Fish Fries held by our Brother Knights; we set tables, baked treats and served the treats at the dinners. We donated to our Augustinian Recollect Sisters to assist them in paying their heating bills and donated to our postulant. We



are purchasing pins for our First Holy Communion recipients and are donating to our Parish Golf Outing.

At our April meeting we made over 45 Easter Baskets filled with candy and toys for our needy children, gave a \$100 donation to our Blessing in the Bag ministry to purchase needed items for the homeless and marginalized of our commu-

Saint Cecilia's

In the short six years that we have been chartered, St. Cecilia's Auxiliary has accomplished some fabulous things. We have been able to hold some very profitable fundraisers (crafting events in the fall and spring, calendar raffles, wreath sales, etc.) in order to help a multitude of organizations, both national and locally, along with helping a parishioner as well as our parish as a whole.

During the Lenten season on Friday, April 12th, we participated in the Stations of the Cross that was based on Mother Mary and hosted the Lenten dinner that night also.

We have had membership drives which have brought in new members. We have held First Degree ceremonies. In March, along with the Immaculate Conception Auxiliary, we co-hosted the Southwest Chapter Major Degree which had 11 members take their Major Degree. St. Cecilia's had four mem-

nity, we will assist our Brother Knights at their Shake the Can activity this month and will hold another bake sale in May. You will have to stay tuned for that information in the next ECHO article.

Blessings to all for a lovely Spring and Summer.

Submitted by: Judy Leone, President

bers take their Degree that evening. We are very proud of our members.

We are coming to the end of another year, and I am glad to announce that we have a full slate of officers for the upcoming year – some returning, others new to the position. With the new officers, St. Cecilia's can continue our good works of charity.

Submitted by:
Karen A. Williams, President





Leisure Village West

The winter is finally over, and spring has sprung!!!

Our Christmas Party with the Knights and the giving tree for the Joint Bases was more than we expected. This year we received a list from the Joint Base for items that the children wanted. Knowing that they will be receiving toys and coats, hats and scarfs we wanted to do something special for them. We received a list of over 80 children who wanted such little things for Christmas it would break your heart. The older children asked for chapter books and art sets while the younger wanted coloring books, crayons and clay. It brought tears to our eyes reading the list that we made sure each one got at least two items from their list.



January brought our annual soup dinner. It was a huge success last year, but we lost the edge going in January so next year we will try March to see if that's better. Too many snow birds in the village for January.

We will have our installation of officers at our June meeting and we are planning a BBQ this summer.

From all of us at Leisure Village West we would like to wish everyone a safe and happy summer, see you in September.

Kathleen Robinson, President

Saint Maximilian Kolbe

Saint Maximilian Kolbe Columbiettes have been working very close with our Brother Knights.

We attended a Mass for All Souls in November.

We had a Sweet and Treat fund raiser, where our ladies did all the baking. Fun was had by all.

We also worked with our Brother Knights at their Communion Breakfast and also helped them sell Roses for Life. We also sold tickets for Soup & Sandwich.

We sold tickets for The Jersey Four and helped out serving. Everyone had great fun!





We had a great time working our Lenten Luncheons with the Knights and all the ladies did the baking. On Holy Thursday we had three Columbiettes have their feet washed.

Our Easter Vigil Mass had the Columbiettes and Our Brother

Santa Maria

The ladies have been working hard in our group to recruit new members, raise awareness and funds. We held a successful 1st soft pretzel sale, and our 2nd annual Evening by Candlelight in early December to prepare for the holiday season.

Two new members joined in February. Two more in March! Meetings began for the state convention, as our chapter will be hosting and we are very new and learning.

We continue to provide assistance to our parish alongside our Knights. We donated a Chocolate basket to the school as part of their fundraiser, and we attended Stations of the Cross with the Knights, and will hold a Mother's Day Tea for the ladies of the parish in May.

Our nominee was chosen for the Charity Award Family Unity, Carie Lynne McCay -Diaz. We honored her on 4/28/19 at Pierre's in Monmouth Junction, NJ. We are establishing a scholarship fund to assist our elementary school. Hoping to

Knights do the Candle Light Procession.

We're looking forward to our Convention in June.

Patricia Guerin
President

see you all at the convention as we prepare to do our best and enjoy the convention. Happy Spring and May God bless all our endeavors.





Father Cannon

Father Cannon Council Columbiettes St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish

Greetings, Everyone! We have had a busy winter/early spring!

Here are highlights of our activities:

- Our Auxiliary held a raffle of a donated Last Supper Tapestry in which all proceeds benefited the local Cornerstone Women's Center. The funds that were raised enabled the Auxiliary to purchase two car seats for women seeking assistance from the Center.



- We hold Bake Sales at the monthly Knights Pancake Breakfasts – both having become Parish and community favorites!
- We conducted another First Degree Ceremony to welcome four new members, two of whom were able to participate

in our Southern Chapter Major Degree Ceremony.

- We worked side-by-side with our Knights in sponsoring the Annual Lenten Fish Dinner on April 12th in the parish hall. A tasty dinner - baked cod, perogies, coleslaw, roll and dessert – were offered. The Franciscan Mystery Players performed a living meditation on the Passion of Christ immediately after the dinner in the church.



We are making plans for our Annual Chicken Takeout Dinner which will be held on June 7th in the Parish Hall.

Happy Summer to our Sister Columbiettes!

Angela Greenwald, President





State Directory Updates

Please note that all updates have been made directly to the online edition of the New Jersey State Directory. This publication can be seen by visiting the state website at: www.njcolumbiettes.com.

A Note From the Editor

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

Once again, I am impressed with all the acts of love and kindness which are performed throughout the year by the Columbiettes. This great organization which honors our patronesses (Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Theresa and St. Joan of Arc) stands out as truly Catholic, while promoting our goals of the spiritual, social and charitable welfare of our members.

Thank you to everyone who submitted articles for this publication and, as always, special thanks to Maureen O'Brien who contributed pictures from various functions.

As you are aware, printed copies of the *Echo* are no longer available as a subscription. 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.

If you have not submitted anything to the *Echo* in a while, please consider sending an article in for the 2019 winter edition. Submissions can be e-mailed to: echonewsletter@hotmail.com. Microsoft Word files are the easiest to manipulate when inserting into the publication. Pictures of your activities are also fun to see!

Hail Mary Campaign for World Peace

Thank you to everyone who supported the One Million Hail Marys Campaign petitioning our Blessed Mother to intercede in obtaining world peace. Our goal has been reached but we will continue to accept Hail Marys at: hailmarysforpeace@gmail.com until May 31st. 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.





**Mary Ann Stanek, Editor
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