



WHISPERS OF FAITH



Don Bosco #7784

Grand Knight's Message

SK Anthony Caroleo

Merry Christmas!

By the time this article is in print, our churches, homes and neighborhoods will be decorated with Christmas lights, decorated trees, blow-up Santa's and snow men. When my wife and I go around looking at the decorations at night, we also focus on how many times we see the Holy Family out there on front lawns; but unfortunately, our society spends too much time, effort and money on the secular Christmas rather than celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior. So let us continue the Catholic and Christian tradition of celebrating Jesus' birth we all grew up celebrating. My wife and I will be placing the Holy Family in the very front of our house. We'll be placing our Creche in a place of honor inside our home, and we will be saying Merry Christmas!

On November 17th, in a remarkable demonstration of community engagement and philanthropy, the Don Bosco Council #7784 of the Knights of Columbus collaborated with NJ State and Supreme Councils of the Knights of Columbus to fully fund the purchase of a new 3D Ultrasound Machine for Today's Choice Women's Center, a faith-based women's health clinic in Newton, NJ. This initiative underscores the Knights of Columbus' unwavering commitment to supporting organizations that champion the sanctity of life.

The Don Bosco Knights of Columbus Council has a busy schedule to close out 2023.

- The "Keep Christ in Christmas" signs and billboards are up.
- We will be distributing Christmas gifts to a group of intellectually disabled residents at Catholic Charities facilities in the Paterson Diocese.
- We will be supporting the food pantries at St. Joseph's, Good Shepherd, and Our Lady Queen of Peace parishes.

President's Message

Mary Ann Stanek

Dear Columbiette Sisters,

As we watch TV or listen to the radio, messages are touting the wonders of material goods which everyone simply must have for the holidays. Secularism has definitely invaded our lives with the concept of "me, me, me" rather than "thou, thou, thou." December brings us the birthday of our dear Lord, Jesus Christ, who is the epitome of selfless giving. As Columbiettes, I am sure we all grasp the true nature of the season.

My Christmas WISHES for all are: Wisdom, Integrity, Strength, Happiness and Eternal Salvation. May you never be alone nor despondent and may you be wrapped in a cocoon of protective love and may you feel that love and always be protected from infirmities, whether they be mental, spiritual, physical or emotional. I pray these wishes for you all every day and encourage you to spread the magic of CHRISTmas among all those you meet throughout the entire year.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Western Chapter Thatcher McGhee Dine & Donate fundraiser. Hopefully, you remembered to send a copy of your receipt to Janet Tussey. Thanks also to those who attended the K of C Mass for Deceased Members & Columbiettes on Sunday, November 12th at Good Shepherd. Finally, thank you for your attendance at our November meeting. This was our retention meeting and we had a wonderful showing of members for which I am extremely grateful. It was delightful to see the smiling faces of those who have been absent for a while.

The Photoshoot with Santa & Mrs. Claus will be here soon on December 2nd. We can still use some volunteers; so, if you did not sign the volunteer sheet at our November meeting and can spare some time, please either call or e-mail me so I can add you to the list. We also need help in advertising our event. You can download a flyer from our website to share with others or post around town.

- The second Thursday of January 2024 is our annual celebration where we honor the organizations we support with the proceeds of the 2023 NJ State Fair/Sussex County Farm and Horse Show. I am happy to report this year was a banner year thanks to the Nick Testa and the Fair Booth crew, Don Bosco Knights and Columbiettes, and the parish youth volunteers who worked the Fair.
- Look out for the sale of our Superbowl tickets. We will have tickets available shortly and we will be selling tickets on-line.

On behalf of the Don Bosco Council, I wish you and your family a Blessed and Merry Christmas, and a healthy and happy New Year.

Anthony Caroleo, Grand Knight
 "Where there is a need, there is a Knight"



If you send out family picture Christmas cards this is the perfect opportunity to take those special shots for loved ones and friends. Besides the backdrop for Santa & Mrs. Claus there will be eleven other displays to suit everyone's preference. Please remember that all pets must be on a leash or in a carrier.

Your voluntary donations to the Saint Mother Teresa Food Panty helped with the State Columbiette "Feed the Hungry Program." The tally for our November meeting was \$208.14 (\$15 Cash + 193.14 pounds of food). The personal donation sheet (\$810.00) was higher than normal due to recording missing amounts since September. This makes our grand total since September \$1,931.14. Wow!!! God bless you all for your generosity. The December voluntary donation is for men's/women's white socks for residents in local nursing homes. Please note that if you cannot, at this time, afford to donate—no problem! Prayers for these recipients are greatly appreciated and as valued as an actual donation.

In closing, I would like to wish you all, "Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia!" which is the way to say "Merry Christmas" in Polish, "Feliz Navidad" in Spanish, "Joyeux Noël" in French, "Buon Natale" in Italian, "Frohe Weihnachten" in German, and all the many other languages of your heritage. May you have a blessed and joyful Christmas and an absolutely wonderful, healthy New Year!

Yours in the love and peace of Christ,

Mary Ann



IMPORTANT REMINDER

The Columbiettes do not meet in January. Our first scheduled meeting for 2024 is February 5th. Hope to see you there!



Also please pray for John Holzli, Derya Demirtas , Susan Kadar, Amy Keegan, Michael Palumbo, the unborn , all who need or have asked for our prayers and all the unspoken intentions.

Please submit all newsletter prayer requests to Patty Savacool.

RETREAT FOR WOMEN

Saturday, January 6, 2024 is the date for the retreat at the Sacred Heart Center in Newton. The cost is \$75.00 for the day which includes breakfast, lunch and dinner. The program starts at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 9:00 p.m. The theme this year is: Living Tabernacles. Everyone is welcome to participate in the 7:00 a.m. Mass. Application forms will be available at our December meeting or can be downloaded from our website. Why not get a group of your friends and join us for a day of reflection. Attendees do not have to be Columbiettes. NOTE: You may also attend this retreat for an entire weekend (January 5-7, 2024) for a cost of \$180.00.

CHRISTMAS DINNER PRAYER

God of all gifts, we thank You for the many ways You have blessed us this day. We are grateful for each of those who are gathered around this table. We ask You to bless us and our food and to bless those we love who are not with us today. In our gratitude and love, we remember Your humble birth into our lives and pray for those who are without enough to eat. We remember the stable in which You were born and pray for those who have no place to live. We remember Your challenging message of caring and giving and we pray for peace in families and nations throughout the world. We bless You and give You thanks in Your Spirit who brings our hearts to life this Christmas Day and forever. Amen.

HAIL MARY CAMPAIGN DIVINE MERCY FOR ALL THE WORLD

This campaign will run from June 1, 2023 until May 31, 2024. The rosary is crucial. It is a powerful weapon. Our Lady came from heaven at Fatima to ask us to pray the rosary every day. We should have no excuse not to honor her request.

Our tally so far is 1,017,927

Columbiette Upcoming Events

Our Photoshoot with Santa Saturday, December 2
Community Center 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Auxiliary Meeting (in person & via Zoom) Monday,
December 4 Sacred Heart Retreat Center 6:30 p.m.

Western Chapter Meeting Wednesday, December 6
Bishop Navagh in Lincoln Park Halloran Hall 6:30
p.m.

Squirettes Sunday, December 10 Community Center
3:00 p.m.

Christmas Monday, December 25—Merry Christmas!

Auxiliary Meeting NO MEETING IN JANUARY

Executive Board Meeting Thursday, February 1
Zoom 7:00 p.m.

Auxiliary Meeting Monday, February 5 Sacred Heart
Retreat Center 6:30 p.m.

2023-2024 Columbiette Officers



- President, Mary Ann Stanek.....973-943-7930
- Past President, Pam Raynor862-268-5210
- Vice President, Agnes Gerrety973-300-4952
- Secretary, Connie Pyne.....973-714-1920
- Fin. Secretary, Colleen Testa973-229-6180
- Treasurer, Kathy Draghi973-534-4455
- Sentinel, Marybeth Flora.....973-670-7407

The Whispers of Faith is published on the last Wednesday of each month except for June, July and December. Articles should be submitted to the Editor by the 20th of each month. Every effort has been taken to ensure that all information is accurate

Newsletter Editor

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Check out our websites . . . .

- [www.kofc7784.org](http://www.kofc7784.org)
- [www.donboscocolumbiettes.weebly.com](http://www.donboscocolumbiettes.weebly.com)
- [www.squirettes-marysangels.weebly.com](http://www.squirettes-marysangels.weebly.com)
- Facebook page at: Don Bosco Columbiettes for updated information on events.

**Prayer Chain Requests**

**Contact: Mary Ann Stanek**  
**973-943-7930**  
[columbiettes.mstanek@gmail.com](mailto:columbiettes.mstanek@gmail.com)

**OFFICERS FOR COLUMBIAN YEAR  
 2023-2024**

- Grand Knight - SK Anthony Caroleo
- Deputy Grand Knights - SK James Drylie
- Spiritual Advisor - Deacon SK Tom Sullivan
- Chancellor - SK James McDonald
- Financial Secretary - SK Tom Barry
- Recorder - SK Thomas Hudak
- Treasurer - James Kelly
- Advocate - SK John Feret
- Warden - SK Joseph Logarzo
- Inside Guard - SK Dennis Melillo
- Outside Guard - SK Michael Holzli
- 3yr Trustee - SK Rich Matricciano
- 2yr Trustee - SK Mike Catalano
- 1yr Trustee - Gerry Woodring
- Lecturer - SK Joe Logarzo

**ATTENTION COLUMBIETTE SISTERS!**

**HOW TO REGISTER FOR ZOOM**

- Step 1: Go to [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) and click on the "SIGN UP, IT'S FREE" button that's at the top-right corner of the screen.**
- Step 2: Verify your birth date. This will not be saved.**
- Step 3: Enter your e-mail address.**
- Step 4: An e-mail will be sent to the address you registered. Click on the confirmation link in that e-mail to begin using Zoom.**

