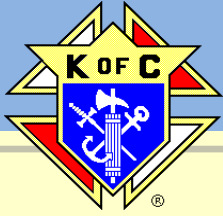


WHISPERS OF FAITH



Don Bosco #7784

Grand Knight's Message

Richard Matrisciano

Dear Brother Knights,

Well, here we are in 2023. A new year means we have a chance to do more than we did last year. Here's what's on top of my list for this year:

Become more outspoken in defense of the unborn. Many Catholics are under the misconception that last year's Supreme Court decision in the Dobbs case ended abortion. Not in states like NJ. Last year our "Catholic" governor doubled down on his abortion-mania by signing into law The Freedom of Reproductive Choice Act. The new law goes even further than previous laws which already legalized abortion up to the day of birth.

Our council Pro-Life Chair, Jerry Woodring is planning our next prayer rallies across from Planned Parenthood in Newton during the Lenten season. In the past, members of Don Bosco Council, the Columbiettes, as well as other pro-life advocates, have spent an hour a week (or more) in prayerful protests. Please see if you can do at least one or two hours during this Lent.

Earlier this January our council had its Annual Awards Event at Sacred Heart, distributing checks to various charities. Financial support for charities is only made possible through the efforts of those who volunteer to work the food booth at the State Fair and sell Footballmania tickets, our two biggest fund-raisers.

I want to thank Columbiettes President, Mary Ann Stanek for joining us to hand out the checks. It was good to work together, and I hope we do it again at other events

Our Council is celebrating the coming of Spring with a luncheon on February 5th at Sheridan's in Andover Twsp. As of this writing we have a few seats available. If interested in joining us contact the event chair, Tom Hudak 973-903-1494 for details.



President's Message

Mary Ann Stanek

Dear Columbiette Sisters,

God's blessings to you all as we enter a new year filled with hopes of good health, happiness and prosperity. May 2023 bestow upon you the love and peace of Christ as you encounter each new day.

February, designated as the month of love, will soon be here as evidenced by the many store displays filled with hearts and gifts for Valentine's Day. The media has us conditioned to think that "things" provide happiness when, in fact, true happiness is God's gift to us which comes from within. Why not challenge yourself to spread unconditional acts of love each day during February. You may be surprised to find how this love is magnified and returned to you in multiple ways.

The beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday (February 22nd) not only provides us with an opportunity to do personal penances for our sins but allows us to demonstrate our love for others by assisting those in need. This can come in the form of making a donation to a food pantry or merely saying a secret prayer for someone.

Our Auxiliary will be hosting the Western Chapter meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 1st at the Sacred Heart Center. There will be discussion and a volunteer list at the February meeting. All members are invited to attend—not just delegates/alternates. This would be a good opportunity for everyone to see what actually happens at Chapter meetings.

Remember that you can help others also feel God's love daily by a gentle smile or kind greeting. It's the simple things that matter.

Yours in the love and peace of Christ.

We are hoping to get an approval from the diocese to fund an ultrasound machine for Today's Choice in Newton. If the approval comes through, the cost will be borne by Don Bosco with matching funds from the State Council and Supreme. Today's Choice Director, Debbie Perst, told us the ability to get the abortion pill means older machines are becoming obsolete. The newest ultrasounds can detect life as early as a few weeks into the pregnancy giving centers like Today's Choice a better chance to save the baby. God bless these godly people who work and fight so hard to save as many babies as possible. Please keep them, the mothers they help and the babies they try to save in your prayers.

Peace.

GK Rich Matriciano



THANK YOU TO THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Many thanks to the Knights of Columbus who generously gifted the Columbiettes with a check for \$3,500. It was appreciatively accepted at their Awards Social on January 12th at the Sacred Heart Center.

(Shown: Grand Knight Richard Matriciano presenting the check to Columbiette President Mary Ann Stanek)



AUXILIARY MEETING--ZOOM

Monday, February 6th is our next meeting. If you are a Zoom attendee, be aware that we have eliminated the waiting room. You will have immediate access upon logging in without requesting permission to enter the meeting.



PHOTOSHOOT WITH SANTA & MRS. CLAUS

Thank you to everyone who helped with and/or attended the Photoshoot with Santa & Mrs. Claus. It was a resounding success as expressed by many who came. Columbiette Connie Pyne and her husband Fred made many children smile with glee! Several attendees indicated that they would return next year to create new Christmas card pictures. This event would not have been possible without your gift of selfless inclusion in helping to make our community filled with fun—especially for the children!

OPEN HOUSE—RECRUITMENT


Plans are underway for an Open House (meet and greet) for Columbiettes, Squirettes and Knights of Columbus on February 19th from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the Community Center after all Masses. This event is tentative until we receive approval to use the community center. If you know anyone interested in learning about the Columbiettes, Squirettes and/or Knights, please invite them to join us. A sign-up sheet for volunteers will be passed around at our February meeting. Light refreshments will be served. Remember that your name will be placed in a drawing for \$100 at the State Convention if you recruit three (3) or more new Columbiettes and they are inducted before the convention in June.

Columbiettes Upcoming Events

Thursday, February 2, Executive Board Meeting
7pm Zoom

Monday, February 6th, Auxiliary Meeting
6:30pm Sacred Heart Retreat Center or Zoom

Sunday, February 12, Squirettes, 3pm Community Center

Tuesday, February 14th St. Valentine's Day 

Sunday, February 19th Recruitment Drive (Awaiting Approval) Community Center 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 22nd Ash Wednesday



John Holzli, Derya Demirtas , Susan Kadar, Amy Keegan, Michael Palumbo, Louise and Geoffrey Crann, Patty Savacool, the unborn, the people of Ukraine, all who need or have asked for our prayers and all the unspoken intentions.

Please submit all newsletter prayer requests to Patty Savacool.

SAVE THE DATE!

The 30th Anniversary Committee (Co-Chaired by Agnes Gerrety and Connie Pyne) has secured Sunday, June 11, 2023, from 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. at the Farmstead Golf & Country Club for our 30th Anniversary Celebration. A buffet luncheon will be offered. Additional information will be forthcoming as plans are completed.

**NJ STATE COUNCIL
COLUMBIETTES—WEEKEND RETREAT**

The State Annual Retreat will be held from April 28-30, 2023 at San Alfonso Retreat House in West End, NJ—where “God and the Sea Come Together.” The cost for the weekend is \$285 and a \$50 deposit is required as soon as possible to insure a place—space is limited. Deposits are not refundable after March 15, 2023 at which time final payment is due. Make checks payable to San Alfonso Retreat House and mail to San Alfonso Retreat House, 755 Ocean Avenue, West End, NJ 07740. Please write “NJ State Columbiettes” on the memo line of your check. Contact Barbara Ann Lucarelli at 973-697-8559 or her cell at 973-271-5392 for additional information. Although this is a Columbiette-sponsored retreat, reservations from non-members will also be accepted. Reservation forms will be available at our next meeting or can be downloaded at our website: www.donboscocolumbiettes.weebly.com.

BY-LAWS

After much discussion and reading of proposed changes at our meetings, the revised By-laws have been officially approved by the Supreme Council Columbiettes. Thank you to committee members Agnes Gerrety and Connie Pyne who worked so hard to make this happen.

SQUIRETTES

The Squirettes will meet on Sunday, February 12th in the Saint Joseph Community Center. Please help promote this organization for girls aged 8-17. All young ladies are invited to come and discover what the Squirettes do. Pamphlets are available at the doors of Saint Joseph Church.

HAIL MARY CAMPAIGN

Our Hail Mary Campaign will be ending on May 31, 2023, which is just a few months away. Thank you to everyone who recited Hail Marys and sent in their tallies. It would be wonderful if we could reach the TWO MILLION mark so keep praying!

We will be seeking a new slogan for our 2023-2024 Hail Mary Campaign. If you have any suggestions, please let an officer know. Ideas will be solicited at our upcoming meetings or you can e-mail your thoughts to our dedicated e-mail address at: hailmarysforthePOC@gmail.com. Thank you for your support. OUR TOTAL SO FAR 1,454,712.



DONATED SOCKS

Shown here is Columbiette Pat Keegan at the Homestead Nursing Home delivering some of your donated socks from the December meeting. She also took socks to Valley View and Barn Hill. Thanks to your generosity many residents will have warm and cozy feet for 2023. Thank you, Pat, for your kindness in bringing these socks to the local nursing homes.

FEBRUARY DONATION

Our voluntary donation request for February is children's character band-aids for children's ward in local hospitals. These band-aids as well as the socks donated in December (value of approximately \$346) are technically NOT food so they cannot count for Feed the Hungry Program. Our food donation tally

2022-2023 Columbiette Officers



President, Mary Ann Stanek	973-943-7930.
Past President, Pam Raynor	862-268-5210
Vice President, Agnes Gerrety	973-300-4952
Secretary, Connie Pyne	973-383-9456
Fin. Secretary, Colleen Testa	973-229-6180
Treasurer, Kathy Draghi	973-534-

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

Patty Savacool
57 Ryerson Ave, Newton, NJ 07860
Phone: 862-266-1223
E-mail: peppermintpattycake2017@outlook.com

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Check out our websites . . . .

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

## Prayer Chain Requests

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

**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.

## Officers for Columbian Year 2022-2023

Grand Knight - SK Rich Matrisciano  
(973)296-0411  
Deputy Grand Knight - SK Anthony Caroleo  
Spiritual Advisor - Deacon SK Thomas Sullivan  
Chancellor - SK Jim McDonald  
Recorder - SK Tom Hudak  
Treasurer - Jim Kelly  
Advocate - James Drylie  
Warden - SK Joe Logarzo  
Inside Guard - Tony Pagano  
Outside Guard - SK Michael Holzli  
Three Year Trustee - SK Mike Catalano  
Two Year Trustee - Gerry Woodring  
One Year Trustee - SK John Feret  
Lecturer - SK Joe Logarzo