

WHISPERS OF FAITH



Don Bosco #7784

President's Message

Mary Ann Stanek

Dear Columbiette Sisters,

The magic of spring and the Feast of Saint Joseph both arrive on March 19th. These occasions herald "hope springs eternal" with the Resurrection of Jesus Christ following on Easter Sunday, March 31st. During this time, I encourage you to listen to the Holy Spirit's whispered messages within your heart and exercise them daily with your loving actions and words.

I am excited to announce that we will be initiating a new member, Linda Focht, at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 4th, prior to our regularly scheduled meeting in the Sacred Heart Center. Please be there a little before 6:00 p.m. so that we can begin on time. Set up will take place at 5:30 p.m.; so, if possible, please come to help. The Zoom portal will open at the normal time providing the ceremony is completed.

The Divine Mercy Novena begins on Good Friday, March 29th. Informational pamphlets will be available at our March 4th meeting. The following website will give you additional information on the novena:

<https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/novena>. From that website you will also find links to Divine Mercy Sunday and the extraordinary graces bestowed by Jesus who stated, "I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners."

My prayers for you are a fruitful Lent and blessed Easter. May you share abundantly in family happiness and love.

Yours in the love and Divine Mercy of Christ,
Mary Ann



SQUIRETTES



The Squirettes of Mary, Circlette of Mary's Angels, have disbanded as of February 11, 2024, which was their last meeting. The number of girls attending has been dwindling significantly since Covid and there were not enough "angels" to cover officer positions or fully participate in group activities. Some of the reasons given by parents why their daughters stopped coming were: the time/day was inconvenient, their daughters had too many other obligations or the distance to Newton was too far. The Circlette was instituted on March 13, 2013 so there were 11 years (minus Covid) geared to develop spiritual, cultural, civic and social growth among the girls as they developed new friendships in a Catholic-based group. Some of these "angels" went on to become Columbiettes. Thank you to the current mentors: Agnes Gerrety, Patty Savacool, Mary Ann Stanek, Catherine Testa and Ginelle Veenhuizen; as well as past mentors: Wendy Cooney, Adriana Ellsworth, Maureen Fiore, Laurie Gallant and Miriam Montagne.



CARE PACKAGE FOR NEW JERSEY COLUMBIETTE STEPHANIE AARON DEPLOYED IN KUWAIT

We will be collecting items to send to Stephanie (currently serving in the US Air Force) at our March meeting. Suggested items are: yarn, berry flavored drink packets, individual packets of cookies or crackers, candy, gum or mints—items she can share with her fellow soldiers. Thank you for supporting our military in this voluntary donation. If you know of any other NJ Columbiette serving abroad, please let any officer know so that the information can be passed on to the State Columbiettes.



APPLEBEE’S FLAPJACK BREAKFAST SAVE THE DATE!

We will hold this fundraiser on Saturday, April 27th from 8:00-10:00 a.m. Tickets are \$12.00 and will include: pancakes, sausages, scrambled eggs and a beverage choice including coffee, juice, soda and tea. Please spread the word and encourage all family and friends to support our efforts to raise money for scholarships. Hopefully, we will have tickets available at our March meeting along with a volunteer sign-up sheet. Volunteers should arrive at Applebee’s by 7:30 a.m. for instructions. Flyers can be downloaded from the website. Please consider downloading one and posting it throughout the community. Thank you so much!

NEW JERSEY STATE COUNCIL 2024 CONVENTION

The 2024 Convention packet has been received from the State Columbiettes! This Convention will be held June 21-23 and is again at the Embassy Suites, 121 Centennial Avenue, Piscataway, NJ. The registration deadline is April 15 and all forms can be downloaded from our website including pre-sale raffle tickets. **NOTE: Attendance is not necessary to participate in the raffle.**

HAIL MARY CAMPAIGN

Our Hail Mary Campaign will be ending on May 31, 2024 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 2024-2025 Hail Mary Campaign. Ideas will be solicited at our upcoming meetings or you can e-mail your thoughts to our dedicated e-mail address at: hailmarysfordm@gmail.com. Thank you for your support.

OUR TOTAL SO FAR IS: 1,553,790!



VILLA CAPRI FUNDRAISER

Once again, thanks to Karen Glowatski who organized our spring Villa Capri pizza fundraiser which will be held on Friday, March 22nd. This restaurant (located at 27 Hampton House Road in Newton) will donate \$1.00 to the Don Bosco Columbiettes for every pizza pie purchased on that day from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. This includes take-out or eat-in pies. What a perfect opportunity to skip making dinner by supporting our organization and having a yummy pizza during Lent.



Also please pray for John Holzli, Derya Demirtas , Susan Kadar, Amy Keegan, Michael Palumbo, Louise Crann, 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.

DECEMBER DONATION—SOCKS FOR NURSING HOMES



Thank you to everyone for donating 322 pairs of socks—WOW! Your generosity is amazing. As shown in the pictures, Pat Keegan delivered the socks to the Homestead, BarnHill and Valley View nursing homes.

FEBRUARY DONATION CHILDREN'S CHARACTER BAND-AIDS



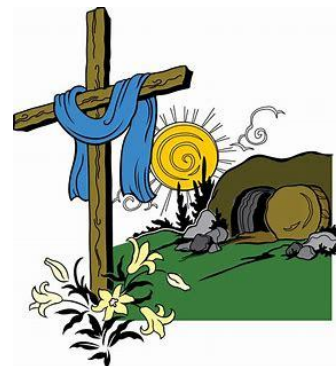
A tremendous thank you for your donations of children's character band-aids. Ginelle Veenhuizen delivered 100 boxes to the pediatric clinic at Saint Barnabas Hospital. Shown in the picture is Bonnie Sachs, Manager of Pediatrics; Gladys McHenry, Director of NICU, PICU and Ginelle. According to Ginelle, they were thrilled to receive so many boxes. Additionally, thank you for your personal food contributions which amounted to \$334.00 at our February meeting. That gives us a grand total of \$2,895.14 for the Feed the Hungry Program.

MARCH DONATION

Our voluntary donation request for March is Shop-Rite/Weis gift cards for Manna House. All gift card values can be counted toward the Feed the Hungry Program.

Columbiette Upcoming Events

- **Monday, March 4 Installation Ceremony 6:00 p.m. followed by Auxiliary Meeting (in person & via Zoom) Sacred Heart Retreat Center 6:30 p.m.**
- **Wednesday, March 6 Western Chapter Meeting Long Valley 7:00 p.m.**
- **Sunday, March 10 Daylight Saving Time Begins**
- **Sunday, March 17 Saint Patrick's Day**
- **Friday, March 22 Villa Capri Fundraiser Villa Capri, Newton, NJ 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.**
- **Sunday, March 24 Palm Sunday**
- **Wednesday, March 27 Executive Board Meeting Zoom 7:00 p.m.**
- **Friday, March 29 Good Friday**
Start Divine Mercy Novena
- **Sunday, March 31 Easter Sunday**



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.**

