

# Our Lady's Newsletter

ST. MARY'S COUNCIL OF  
CATHOLIC WOMEN

Volume 3 Issue 1  
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Parish Picnic - June 2025

## Summer Happenings and Looking Forward to Coming Back Together

Dear Sisters in Christ, I am so happy that we will soon begin meeting together again!

During the summer, we came together with our St. Mary's parish family for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Eucharistic Procession & Parish Picnic in honor of the Feast of Corpus Christi. The weather was not too hot and NOT raining - Thank You, Dear Lord! We served approximately 300 parishioners with delicious sausages and hot dogs. Thank you to our St. Mary's Knights of Columbus for their excellent grilling. In addition, parishioners contributed many delicious sides and desserts. There also were games aplenty, music and lots of good time for visiting with one another.

As the chair of the picnic, I would like to extend a big THANK YOU to our amazing Picnic Committee: Lori Grant, Chiara Braud, Karoline O'Rourke, Rita Brown, Trish Crew, Margaret Melvin, Bonnie Kelly, Srebrenka O'Steen, Lib Reynolds, Tom

Giambarberee, Linda Jackson, Chris Ortiz, Max Feltes, and Fr. Will Frei. Thanks as well to all those who provided their helping hands on the day of the picnic. Each volunteer happily embraced their role in making the Eucharistic Procession & Parish Picnic a wonderful evening of worship and fellowship.

The summer also included a Summer Food Drive benefitting Our Lady's Pantry (See Page 2) and throughout the summer our Board of Directors has been enthusiastically working on our plans for another fun and fruitful SMCCW year.

I hope you enjoy this Fall Edition of Our Lady's News and look forward to seeing each of you at our first meeting of the fall - Tuesday, September 9.

*Nancy*

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Our Lady's Pantry



Fr. Bart, St. Rafka's

## Food for Our Neighbors in Need

Lisa Bethea, our Community Concerns Chair, organized a summer food drive for Our Lady's Pantry (OLP) over the summer. Their pantry shelves were getting a little bare as they suffer from fewer donations in the summer. Thanks to your generosity, Lisa was able to take a car load of food over to OLP.

Our next food drive will benefit the food pantry at St. Rafka's Maronite Catholic Church. As you may know, Fr. Bart Leon is an assisting priest here at St. Mary's and the pastor of St. Rafka's. This Fall Food Drive will be held at St. Mary's September 21- 22. [Click HERE](#) to sign-up to help.



Elizabeth Duncan and Lori Grant

## Meet & Greet THIS WEEKEND!

Our new member recruitment event is **THIS WEEKEND** August 23 - 24 after all the Masses. Marge Scieszka, our Membership Chair, is organizing the Meet & Greet. [Click HERE](#) to sign-up to volunteer at the event and/or bring food/drinks. We are still in need of help to make this a lovely, welcoming event for prospective members. If possible, bring a friend to learn more about all we do.



## Paint & Sip NEW MEMBER WELCOME EVENT

To welcome our new members, we are going to have a fun Paint & Sip Party on Friday, September 19 at 7 pm in Pazdan Hall. Lisa Bethea will lead us in painting a beautiful 8" x 10" angel. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served. The cost will be \$10/returning member, Free/new members. Please [Click HERE](#) to sign-up to volunteer and/or bring food or drinks. Event Registration to follow.



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## Our 2025-26 Board of Directors



These beautiful ladies have stepped up to lead our council through another year of faith, service & friendship!

In addition to myself as SMCCW President, the other board members are: Lori Grant, Past President/Vice President; Louise Riley, Recording Secretary/ CWOY Chair; Lori Knoblauch, Treasurer; **Kim Morgan, Corresponding Secretary**; Frances Foley, Historian; Veronica Yockey, Acting Parliamentarian; **Nina Obier, Church Chair**; **Trena Plavan, Legislation Chair**; Marge Scieszka, Membership Chair; **Jordan Johnson, Public Relations/Social Media Chair**; Lisa Marlo Bethea, Community Chair (and SCCCW Recording Secretary); **Margaret Melvin, Family Chair**; Courtney Plyer, International Chair; Rita Brown, Bereavement Chair (and Greenville Deanery President); Pat Webb, Directory Publisher; Cathy Spitzmiller, Ornament Sales Chair; Maggie Simons, St. Anne's Stitchery; Judy Hogg, Sewing Ministry; Lib Reynolds, Visitation Award Chair (and South Carolina CWOY). **Red denotes new board member.**

**Please note:** We are still in need of a Parliamentarian. Veronica Yockey has graciously agreed to continue in the role until someone comes forward. We are also needing a volunteer to assist Lori Grant who generously took on the role of Vice President for this council year in addition to being our immediate Past President. This woman would become Vice President for the 2026-27 council year and President after that. Please talk to me or Lori Grant if your heart is being tugged toward one of these roles.



Alice Ramos and Srebrenka O'Steen

## Fall Meeting Dates & Speakers

We have a great line up of speakers this fall, plus the delicious luncheons we so enjoy at each meeting!

September 9 - Fr. Justin Damask,  
St. Mary's Catholic Church

October 14 - Sandi Smith,  
Augustine Literacy Project

November 11 - Cian Rusnak,  
Soteria House

December 9 - Christmas Luncheon





# 100th Anniversary Celebration Continues



Although our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Dinner is over, that doesn't mean we're done celebrating. Our St. Mary's stained glass window Christmas ornament for 2025 commemorates our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with an engraving on the back of the ornament. See below for more details.

In addition, plans are in the works to create our very own SMCCW t-shirt for members to purchase.

Finally, we have lovely 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary rosary pouches handmade by members of our Sewing Ministry. THANK YOU, LADIES! The pouches were given at our anniversary dinner, but if you were unable to attend the dinner, you can still receive one. Just send an email to [smccwgv@gmail.com](mailto:smccwgv@gmail.com) and we'll leave a pouch for you in the Sacred Heart Hall closet.



Kim Paone

## We're in the Miscellany!

Our Diocese of Charleston magazine, *The Catholic Miscellany*, wrote a lovely article about our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner. Have you seen it? In addition to the hard copy of the magazine, we are in their e-edition. Use the following link to access it. [Link to Miscellany Article](#)



**Presenting our 2025 Christmas Ornament  
Commemorating our Council's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

## Mary, Help of Christians

The devotion to Mary, Help of Christians has a rich history that goes back many centuries. In 1571, Christendom was saved through the intercession of Mary, Help of Christians in the Battle of Lepanto. Mary, under the title of Help of Christians, was also credited with the defense of Christian Europe at the

end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1815, Pope Pius XII decreed the Feast of Mary, Help of Christians to be kept on May 24<sup>th</sup>. This stained glass window is located over the door to the church on the parking lot side. The ornament price remains unchanged at \$20 each. Pre-orders will be available soon.



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# Fantastic Fall Plans!

## Fall Women's Retreat

**Saturday, Oct 11 8:30 - 2 PM**

Nina Obier, our Church Chair, has chosen the theme *Hope That does Not Disappoint*. It will be a wonderful day for all women of St. Mary's. Details to follow.



## Five First Saturdays Devotion

**Begins, Saturday, Sept 6**

Margaret Melvin, our Family Chair, and Veronica Yockey, Acting Parliamentarian, are coordinating participation in this beautiful devotion. For 5 First Saturdays in a row, interested SMCCW members will attend Mass and pray the Rosary together. More information to follow.



## Grandparents Day Prayer Cards

**Saturday, Sept 6 - Sunday, Sept 7**

For the first time, we will be supplying the parish with Grandparents Day Prayer Cards. Courtney Plyer, our International Chair, is organizing this project. The cards will be available in the three vestibules of the church the weekend of Sept. 6-7. We also will be supplying a Spanish version of the cards for the 1 PM Spanish Mass on Sept. 7.



## Festival of Trees

**Decorate, Wednesday, Nov. 9**

Louise Riley, our CWOY and Recording Secretary, will continue to lead the planning for our Festival of Trees entry. The theme this year is *Joy to the World*. All of you crafty ladies in SMCCW, please contact Louise as she would love help in creating the beautiful ornaments for the tree.

## Christmas Bake Sale & Bazaar

**Saturday, Dec 6 - Sunday, Dec 7**

Margaret Melvin will chair our 2025 Bake Sale which is a wonderful event for our St. Mary's family. Our Giving Tree this year will benefit Soteria House which provides transitional housing and assistance for recently incarcerated men and women.

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## Pope Leo's First 100 Days

Pope Leo XIV, our first American pope, completed his first 100 days as pope on August 16. The National Catholic Register wrote an insightful article titled *Less Robert, More Peter*. [Click HERE](#) to read. Let's all offer a prayer for our new pope. This one comes from EWTN:

**O Lord, source of eternal life and truth**, give to your shepherd Leo a spirit of courage and right judgment, a spirit of knowledge and love. By governing with fidelity those entrusted to his care, may he, as successor to the Apostle Peter and Vicar of Christ, build your Church into a sacrament of unity, love and peace for all the world. May the Lord preserve him, give him a long life, make him blessed upon the earth, and not hand him over to the power of his enemies. And may your hand be upon your holy servant. **Amen.**



## Louise Riley - SMCCW 2025 Catholic Woman of the Year

At our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner, it was announced that Louise Riley has been chosen as our SMCCW 2025 Catholic Woman of the Year. Louise is our current Recording Secretary and Chair of the Festival of Trees Committee. She is also active in SMCCW's Sewing Ministry. Louise previously served as our International Chair. Louise always goes out of her way to be friendly and helpful with whatever needs to be done.

Louise is a lifelong Catholic and was raised in Connecticut. She has been a parishioner at St. Mary's for 31 years. She worked for 22 years in education as a Special Ed teacher. She is the mother of a son and daughter and is blessed with three grandsons. Louise and her husband, John, have been married for 42 years.

Please join me in congratulating Louise on this well-deserved honor.



## Follow us on Social Media

Thank you to our PR/Social Media Chair, Jordan Johnson, for keeping our social media pages up-to-date! Click on the icons to the right to go to our social media pages and follow if you haven't already done so. Thanks!

