

St. Joseph Women's Society
Mary & Martha News

April 2015

Columbia, SC

A Note from Janet



On Divine Mercy Sunday Psalm 118 is read saying, *Give thanks to the Lord for he is good and his mercy endures forever.* A meditation on that psalm suggests that we “Think about times you have felt Jesus’ blessing. Maybe he sent a stranger to help you at just the right moment.”

That passage reminded me of a time my car stalled on a highway. A passing driver noticed my difficulty and came to ask if he could help. He checked under the Hood of my car and said, “You have no transmission fluid.—Wait, I have some in the trunk of my car.”

He returned with the fluid and put my car in working order. I asked if I could play him, at least for the fluid. He replied, “Just help the next person you meet in need of help.”

Surely the Lord sent that man (who happened to have transmission fluid at hand) to help me at just the right moment. Psalm 188 concludes, *You have answered me and have been my savior.*

Janet O’ Keeffe

Catholic Woman of the Year

Congratulations to Regina Spell who was selected as the 2015 St. Joseph Parish and Midlands Deanery, Catholic Woman of the Year!

Regina is a life-long Catholic who lived in Ohio until 1983, when a teaching job led her to Holly Hill, South Carolina.. She holds a Master’s degree in Education and has had an impressive set of experiences in the field of education that spans several decades and two states. In Ohio Regina taught in two Catholic schools and also taught religious education classes in her local parish. In South Carolina she taught in schools in both Holly Hill and Columbia. Her final teaching position was at St. Peter’s Catholic School where she taught for 12 years before retiring from full-time teaching.

During her time in Holly Hill, Regina met the man who became her husband and became step-mother to three (now grown) children. After getting married, the couple moved to Columbia, where she became an active member of St. Joseph Catholic Church and a member of the St. Joseph Women’s Society (since 1992).

Regina has been a very active member of SJWS, serving as secretary and as a member of several committees. Regina is also Co-Chair of the Activities Committee for our Parish Senior Life Board, a Eucharistic Minister, and a Religious Education Pre-Confirmation Teacher.

She is also a hospice volunteer, an Auxiliary Member of VFW Post 9571, and a Volunteer for Catholic Charities of the Midlands. Her being recognized for this honor affirms that Regina Spell is the personification of the ideal Catholic woman. We are proud of you Regina!

The Saint Joseph Women’s Society are friends in faith who share the Gospel; serve the parish, community, and world; and mold strong Catholic woman leaders.

Message from President

Gwen Skipper

85th State Convention

Saint Joseph Women's Society was well represented at the of the South Carolina Council of Catholic Women's 85th convention with 15 members in attendance. We had two first time attendees. The convention project raised \$10,400 for St. Clare's House in Greenville. Our affiliate contributed \$750 towards the project.

Julie Rotureau and Sophia Sagrera created three great baskets from your many donations which added \$325 of the total \$1055 raised by the auction of the market baskets. This money goes for the scholarship fund.

Thank you for your generous support of the SCCCW goals for last year. At the general session on Saturday morning the three conventions resolutions for the coming year passed with amendment. Copies will be furnished at our April meeting.

New Parish Building

Very soon we will be enjoying the new parish administration building. As you are probably aware the Women's Society is being allotted storage space in the building. Three 84 inch tall storage cabinets are being provided as part of the construction. Additional cabinetry is needed to store records, silver, china, and other miscellaneous items used by the Women's Society for dinners and receptions.

A search for cabinets is underway. A preliminary estimate for fourteen feet of cabinets is \$4000. I announced at the March meeting that I would make a challenge pledge of \$1000 dollars toward the project. Since the meeting we have received \$340 in donations and \$1100 in pledges. So you can see that my challenge pledge has been met, but we still have a way to go to meet the goal.

Additional specifics about the project will be provided at the April meeting. Hopefully everyone will want to contribute to make our 2015 cabinet project a legacy to the Women's Society of the future.

Were they in Greenville?



(left to right-some SCCCW Conference attendees): Julie Rotureau, Claire Wagner, "Pope Francis", Maria Carrero, Betty Shepard, Rebecca Hamby, Gwen Skipper

The State Meeting as Seen by a First time Attendee

My overall impression of the convention was a good one. It was run well and the speakers were thought provoking, helping us think about the theme --and she said "yes." Only one speaker seemed to go on forever and was very repetitive.

The theme reminded me that you will never know when God does call you and what will happen unless you say "yes". It may be something small and affect just a few people or something huge that affects the whole world. So just say "yes".

I enjoyed the devotions. They were very good and set the tone for the meeting. Mass with Bishop Guiglimone was very good. His homily really flowed and was right on the theme, "she said yes".

The social time we had in the hospitality room was fun. Ladies from the Columbia-Midland Deanery joined us for good food and a glass of wine. There were twenty-six first time attendees at the convention. I was lucky enough to win my registration for next year's convention. I enjoyed myself very much and look forward to next year.

Anne Sakara

