

# MARY & MARTHA NEWS

## A Message from the President....

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Welcome to our second issue of Mary and Martha News, for 2022!

Having just experienced Ash Wednesday, we each recall that, indeed, we belong to God, being marked with the outward sign of our inner faith, the sign of the cross on our foreheads.

It was a privilege to assist and serve those in the RCIA program this past Saturday. Our Parish hosted those of the Columbia Deanery for the Rite of Election. We women of the SJWS were asked to serve at the reception which followed. It is good to serve others. It is good to see the signs of budding faith in others. May God bless our Catechumens and Candidates. Thank you to the ladies who worked in service at the reception.

Next weekend, we will receive another spiritual gift, with Sr. Mary Cecile Swanton leading us on a Lenten Retreat. Already quite a few women in our parish have signed up to join our membership for this special talk on "Women of the Sacred Scriptures". Time still remains to sign up.

And, we welcome our Bishop-elect Fabre to our Diocese! Father Jacques Fabre, CS, will be ordained and installed as the 14<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Diocese of Charleston on April 29, 2022. We are so blessed to receive him, and to have had service of our much loved, Bishop Robert Guglielmone. Please hold both these men close in your prayers.

May each of you live a special Lent this year, as we look forward to our Easter JOY.

In Christ, and with much love,

Julie



*The Saint Joseph Women's Society*

*We are friends in faith who share the Gospel, serve the parish, community, and world; and mold strong Catholic women leaders. Celebrating 74 years of service to St. Joseph parish and the community (1948-2022)*



Thank you \* Thank you \* Thank you

Your donations for Catholic Charities- Clean of Heart are greatly appreciated. Your



*sharing of love*



in February goes along

way in our outreach to our community!



## **Food for Bereaved: Gwen Skipper**

I have been involved in this ministry for a number of years. Yet it seems to me that we have said good-bye to a greater number of our loved ones the last two years. Maybe it is the uncertainty we have been living with during the covid pandemic. I can say that being able to provide assistance to grieving families blesses me. Being there to help carry their load is in just a small way carrying the cross of Christ. Thanks goes to all the members that work side by side to serve the family a tasty meal. Special thanks to retired team leader Claire Wagner, who served this ministry for many years. There are currently three teams that plan, prepare and serve the meals in rotation. More hands are always welcome. We have three team leaders; but it would make things work more smoothly if there was a co-leader for each team. If you can take the position of co-leader or would like to join a team let Julie Rotureau know. Consider being blessed by serving the bereaved.

.....

## **SPOTLIGHT ON COMMITTEE**

### **Legislative Report: Gwen Skipper**

It is more important than ever that we speak up and let our state and national legislators know what we stand for as Catholic Americans. It is really pretty easy to email your U.S. Congressman or Senator. Contact information is at [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) or [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov). On the Diocese of Charleston web site - [Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston](http://www.roman-catholic-diocese-of-charleston.org) - there is good information on legislative in South Carolina. On the diocese's web site click the "Take Action" button at the top of the page. Another great resource is the National Council Women Monthly Newsletter.

These bills in addition to others are listed on Diocesan web site.

Senate Bill 907-Abortion Pill Reversal could potentially stop more than half of the abortions occurring in South Carolina if women are provided the information. Mothers, and their pre-born children, deserve this chance. A woman should have full, informed consent that a decision she might immediately regret has a chance of reversal.

House Bill 4575 and Senate Bill 933-Tax Credits for Homeschool Parents- would provide income tax credits for parents or guardians for instruction-related expenses when teaching a qualifying student at home.

House Bill 4608: The Women's Sports Act prohibits biological men from playing on women's scholastic sports teams. More specifically, House Bill 4608 ensures that girls do not become spectators in their own sports by preserving the equal athletic opportunities that women fought long and hard to obtain.

Another great resource is the National Council Women Monthly Newsletter.

US Senate- S1486:Pregnant Workers Fairness Act-This bill prohibits employment practices that discriminate against making reasonable accommodations for qualified employees affected by pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions. A *qualified employee* is an employee or applicant who, with or without reasonable accommodation, can perform the essential functions of the position, with specified exceptions.

Use your screen time this week to stand up for justice for all. Email your senators and congressmen or women.

## A Note From Our Outgoing Deanery President

Dear Board Members of the Columbia Deanery and Affiliate Members,

As my tenure of service comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to say "THANK YOU" one and ALL for your service. You have done a remarkable job despite the unusual circumstances we had to succumb to due to COVID. We forged ahead as best we could and continued to strive and survive. I am so honored to have served as your President, I wish only the best for the Columbia Deanery. I have no doubt after the installation of new officers ceremony that you will offer the incoming officers the same kindness and unwavering support as was offered to me. Your newly installed officers will begin their service after convention. Again, I say, Thank you! Peace and God's blessings upon each of you!

Sincerely, your Sister in Christ,

Yvonne W. Pygatt, President Columbia Deanery

### Mass Intentions - Dates for Your Calendar

#### *In Memory of*

#### **March**

15th @ 7:30 am-Charles Timmons (Brother of Mary Fitzsimons)

17th @ 7:30 am-Anna Seidler (Sister of Hilde Meisner)

29th @ 7:30 am-Patrick McCabe (Brother-In-Law of Stephanie McCabe)

#### **April**

19th @ 7:30 am-Delores Bettin (Mother-In-Law of Mary Bettin)

#### **May**

3rd @ 7:30 am-Jo Killoy

26th @ 7:30 am-Walter Sagrera (Husband of Sophie Sagrera)

31st @ 7:30 am-Dick Orf (Husband of Anita Owens Orf)

#### **June**

10th @ 7:30 am-Margaret Elaine Martin (Sister of Regina Spell)

May their souls and all the souls of our faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.



Teresa Sowers is asking for our prayers for her family, especially for her siter, Schyrl, and her sister-in-law, Sandra. The Family has much going on right now and your prayers for them, for improved health, are appreciated.

### Seeking Help

We'd love to have a volunteer to take over making name badges. Periodically, our box of badges needs a facelift. From month to month, and on special occasions, new name badges need to be made up. The name badges are arranged in alphabetical order prior to each of our meetings and gatherings, ready for pick-up. Interested? It's easy, and we have a MS Word template already set up.

Please contact Julie Rotureau 803-463-4877.

### Announcing

Mary Sue Barnum has graciously agreed to be our Parliamentarian during this current term of offices.

She has agreed to do this, stepping down as our Leadership Commission Chair. Maria Carrero has graciously agreed to take on the position as Leadership Commission Chair during the same time period.

THANK YOU ladies!

### Upcoming Important Dates for Your Calendar:

- March 13 SJWS Lenten Retreat – MAB, Donor Hall, 1:30 p.m.
- March 25, 26, 27 SCCCW 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention, Fort Mill, SC
- April 16 Holy Saturday morning-decorate the Church for Easter
- May 15 Monthly meeting, 1:30 pm–tentative “Sip ‘n Paint”, Ursuline Hall, MAB
- May...date tbd Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- May...date tbd Expecting a Columbia Deanery Meeting

## **Our Committee Work:**

<i>Church Care</i>	Theresa Dionne
<i>Church Altar Linen Care</i>	Claire Wagner, Stephanie McCabe, Beverly Seely
<i>Communications: Newsletter (Mary &amp; Martha)</i>	Mary Ellen Perretta
<i>Directory</i>	Mary Sue Barnum
<i>Telephone Committee</i>	Teresa Sowers
<i>Flocknote</i>	Julie Rotureau
<i>Community Outreach- "Smile Kits"</i>	Anne Hoppmann
<i>Flowers/Decorating Church</i>	Sophie Sagrera, Mindy McBurney
<i>Food for the Bereaved</i>	Gwen Skipper, Teresa Dionne, Maria Carrero, Julie Rotureau
<i>History</i>	Regina Spell, Teresa Sowers
<i>Hospitality</i>	Regina Spell – Group 1 Shawn Giese - Group,2 Irene Lightsey – Group 3
<i>Legislative</i>	Gwen Skipper
<i>Membership</i>	Martha Becht, Beverly Stricklin, Mary Bettin
<i>Programs</i>	Martha Becht
<i>Special Events Birthright Baby Shower &amp; Tea Room</i>	Hilde Meisner, Gwen Skipper
<i>Memorial Mass Reception</i>	Cece Zimmerman and Stephanie McCabe
<i>Ways and Means</i>	Martha Becht and Teresa Sowers

### **From your Treasurer – "All about Mary"**

March is upon us! As I pondered this month's Mary topic, I knew I wanted to write about Our Lady of Knock since when I think of March I think of the Irish and St. Patrick. I was conflicted however, on how to bring St. Joseph in as March 19 is the Feast of St. Joseph. Keep reading – my prayers were answered.

"Our Lady of Knock", also known as "Our Lady of Silence"

Knock is a remote village in western Ireland. On the rainy evening of August 21, 1979 there appeared a cloud of light upon the gable of the church of St. John the Baptist. Below the light were 3 figures – the Blessed Virgin in the center, **St. Joseph** on her right, and St. John the Evangelist on her left. There was an altar to the left of them, which contained a cross and a lamb. Above the altar were angels. Our Lady never spoke but had her arms bent and palms turned inward, like a priest praying at Mass. She is teaching us to be silent and reverent in our prayers to Our Lord. There were 15 people that witnessed this apparition which lasted approximately 2 hours. Although there was a rainstorm during the apparition, the ground under the figures and altar as well as the figures remained dry.

Since that time, many miracles have occurred at the sight. There is a shrine built there and the rosary is the main prayer of the pilgrims, hence the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock is also called the “Rosary Shrine”.

([www.roman-catholic-saints.com](http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com)),

A Woman Clothed with the Sun, edited by John J. Delaney

Prayer to Our Lady of Knock

**Our Lady of Knock, Queen of Ireland, you gave hope to your people in a time of distress and comforted them in sorrow. You have inspired countless pilgrims to pray with confidence to your divine Son, remembering His promise, “Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find”. Help me to remember that we are all pilgrims on the road to Heaven. Fill me with love and concern for my brothers and sisters in Christ, especially those who live with me. Comfort me when I am sick, lonely or depressed. Teach me how to take part ever more reverently in the Holy Mass. Give me greater love of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Pray for me now and at the end of my death. Amen**

**Don't Forget March 13<sup>th</sup>!!!!!!**





## *AN OUTREACH REQUEST.....*



### **Let's Support Our Female Warriors!**

**South Carolina Council of Catholic Women – 2022 Convention Project!**

**The Big Red Barn Retreat**

**Blythewood, South Carolina**

Every year during the SCCCW Convention funds are raised for a specific outreach project. This year the SCCCW Board voted on The Big Red Barn Retreat as the convention project. At the convention, March 25-27, each affiliate donates money to the project.

*The Saint Joseph Women's Society will be donating \$200 from the society's funds!  
We invite you, if you are able to do so, to make a contribution to this very worthy cause.*

The Executive Director of the Big Red Barn Retreat has declared 2022 as the year of the Female Warrior and will be hosting six female only Warrior Pathh (Progressive Alternative Training for Healing our Heroes. This program provides participants with the tools to lead meaningful, strong lives and have lifelong growth.

*Once again I ask you to prayerfully consider a donation to help six Female Warriors as they struggle to get back to a peaceful life.*

*They made sacrifices for us....let's help them now!*

*Any donation, no matter how small, is a treasured gift for these amazing*

***VETERANS!***

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO SJWS AND MARK "RED BARN PROJECT" IN THE MEMO SECTION OF THE CHECK.**

**CHECKS MAY BE DROPPED OFF AT THE MINISTRIES AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING OR IF YOU ARE ATTENDING THE MARCH 13 RETREAT YOU MAY BRING YOUR DONATION THEN. THANK YOU SO MUCH AND GOD BLESS EACH OF YOU!**



**St Joseph Women's Society**  
***Interest Form and Membership Form***

For more information, please visit our website at [www.stjosephcolumbia.org](http://www.stjosephcolumbia.org)

To contact us, please send email to  
[womensociety@stjosephcolumbia.org](mailto:womensociety@stjosephcolumbia.org)

Or, simply fill out this information, drop it in the collection plate during Mass,  
or mail it to the parish office at *3512 Devine Street, Columbia, SC 29205.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

How may we contact you?

Phone (cell no.): \_\_\_\_\_ Is receiving a text message OK? \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home no.): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address:

\_\_\_\_\_ (we send info directly to you and/or to the SJWS Email Group on Flocknote)

Or:

Mail:

"Yes, I'd prefer receiving correspondence at the above address"

YES, I am ready to join the Women's Society now. I am including the 2022 DUES of \$25 (annually).

I'm already a member, renewing my membership for 2022. I am including the 2022 DUES of \$ 25 (annually).

*The Saint Joseph Women's Society*

*We are friends in faith who share the Gospel, serve the parish, community, and world; and mold strong Catholic women leaders. Celebrating 74 years of service to St. Joseph parish and the community (1948-2022)*