

MARY & MARTHA NEWS

A Message from the President....

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Welcome SPRING! We await our Easter JOY!!

This year's SCCCW Convention was special in so many ways. I want to share the theme: **"Love one another; even as I have loved you..." John 13:34.** This was elaborated on by our Spiritual Advisor, Father Fabio Refosco, CO, in his annual report at the convention, by way of this quote of St Teresa of Avila,

"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours."

How profound is this statement! Fr. Fabio has given his permission to share his report in our newsletter...it follows after this letter. And, for those of us who heard Sister Mary Cecile at our Retreat last month, I think you will agree that there is no coincidence that her choices of biblical women included Ruth and Naomi, just as was chosen by Father Fabio. Perhaps, especially now with the state of Russia warring with Ukraine, God has inspired our Religious with just these themes. Let us do our best to be Christ's hands and feet during our lifetimes on this earth, doing His work to help others, now, and always. As Fr. Fabio said in his talk, "Hospitality, be that person especially to strangers."

We congratulate our Catholic Woman of the Year, Maria Carrero as she progressed on to be announced our Deanery, and our SCCCW Catholic Woman of the Year. And, we are so very pleased that our own Sr. Mary Cecile Swanton is named SCCCW Religious Woman. What a Convention! And, our Columbia Deanery is represented by three officers coming from our Affiliate. We are blessed with such strong women leaders!

I'm delighted that we have so much to offer you in this month's newsletter. Included are two submissions about Our Blessed Mother and Lent. I hope you will find this information be as enriching and enjoyable, as I have.

May you and your families be blessed to continue in your spiritual Lenten journey, and to enjoy a Happy Easter.

God bless,
Julie

The Saint Joseph Women's Society

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PLEASE CONSIDER: A donation to help Ukrainian families, made payable directly to CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES at <https://www.crs.org/> – or – by way of the National Council of Catholic Women (a restricted donation to Ukrainian relief) at <https://www.nccw.org/>. And, as a convenience, any gifts marked for this purpose, and left in our mailbox at the Ministries and Admin Building, will be forwarded for you accordingly. God bless

South Carolina Council of Catholic Women Spiritual Advisor Report

Very Reverend Fabio Refosco, C.O., V.F.

To be the Hands and Feet of the Lord requires setting aside personal comforts and preferences, to step away from earthly securities, like home, family and job, in order to respond to God's call. The first biblical reference that comes to my mind is the Book of Ruth. The loyal and faithful Ruth would leave her own family to serve her mother-in-law, Naomi.

The Ruth and Naomi story is a phenomenal biblical story of redemption from hopeless to something glorious. Ruth, a Moabite (the Israelites considered them to be an inferior people), shows that no person is too insignificant for God's glory.

How many *Ruths* and *Naomis* does SCCCW encounter who have lost the protection and support of family and are easy targets for economic and social abuse and exploitation? Showing "Hands and Feet" in defiance of social norms results in the creation of servants of God. And that's YOU -Women of SCCCW

SCCCW "Hands and Feet" will continue to make the Council thrive by showing radical hospitality, as shown in the Ruth and Naomi story. Think about how you welcome and love people. Furthermore, how do you show openness to anyone, not just in the council, but outside as well?



To be "Hands and Feet" in this world is to provide an environment of hospitality around you, to have willingness to care about people more than the rules and regulations, and to do all of that which results in advancing the mission and vision of SCCCW. It is to love one another, even as He has loved you!

Fr. Fabio Refosco, CO

Fr. Fabio Refosco, CO
SCCCW Spiritual Advisor

FROM your Membership Committee:

WHAT DO YOU GAIN BY BEING A MEMBER of the ST. JOSEPH WOMEN'S SOCIETY?

- The joy of fellowship
- Growth as a Catholic woman
- An increase and deepening of personal spirituality
- Satisfaction of knowing that, as part of a national organization, we are making a difference locally, nationally, and globally.

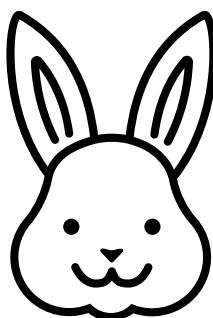
The Membership Committee of St. Joseph Women's Society is so pleased to welcome these ladies who have recently joined or returned to our affiliate!!

Teresa Brown
Elen Callahan
Nicole Christopher
Linda Sue Ewing
Samia Feghali (returning)
Kate McCauley Fogle
Nicole Hayes
Ainsley McCabe Hope
Dana Kahaly
Gayle Kubala
Marilyn Ludwig
Lennie McCauley
Rosemary Naccash (returning)
Ann Nerbun
Priscilla Ramirez
Barbara Williams
Beth Wilson

We look forward to working with each of you!

Blessings,

— Julie Rotureau, Martha Becht, Beverly Stricklin, Mary Bettin



From Your Treasurer; " All about Mary"

This Easter Season has left me reflecting on the Resurrection. Have you ever wondered where Mary was? Why wasn't she at the tomb with the other women? I did some research and am giving you an excerpt of an article by the National Register April 6, 2021:

After His Resurrection, Jesus Appeared First to His Mother Mary, Say the Saints

Pope St. John Paul II

"The Gospels mention various appearances of the risen Christ, but not a meeting between Jesus and his Mother. This silence must not lead to the conclusion that after the Resurrection Christ did not appear to Mary; rather it invites us to seek the reasons why the Evangelists made such a choice," St. John Paul II, the great Marian saint, told everyone at a general audience May 21, 1997.

At an audience a year earlier, he reminded that Mary witnessed the entire paschal mystery and "alone remains to keep alive the flame of faith, preparing to receive the joyful and astonishing announcement of the Resurrection."

If the evangelists didn't write about Mary's encounter with her risen Son Jesus, "this can perhaps be attributed to the fact that such a witness would have been considered too biased by those who denied the Lord's Resurrection, and therefore not worthy of belief," John Paul II continued in 1997.

The great saint offered another reason too. The Gospels list only a few appearances by the risen Lord, "certainly not a complete summary of all that happened during the 40 days after Easter." For instance, St. Paul highlights that Jesus appeared "to more than 500 brethren at one time" (1 Corinthians 15:6). How is it, John Paul II asked, "that an exceptional event known to so many is not mentioned by the Evangelists?" Obviously, the Evangelists didn't record all Jesus' appearances.

"How could the Blessed Virgin, present in the first community of disciples (Acts 1:14), be excluded from those who met her divine Son after he had risen from the dead?" asked John Paul II. "Indeed, it is legitimate to think that the Mother was probably the first person to whom the risen Jesus appeared."

Posing another question, he asked rhetorically if Mary's not joining the women going to the tomb at dawn can "indicate that she had already met Jesus? Those women had been faithful and had been at the Cross. Of course, Our Lady had been the most faithful of all."

John Paul II offered yet another reason for believing Jesus appeared first to his mother:

"The unique and special character of the Blessed Virgin's presence at Calvary and her perfect union with the Son in his suffering on the Cross seem to postulate a very particular sharing on her part in the mystery of the Resurrection."

Thus, this appearance would be part of "completing in this way her participation in all the essential moments of the paschal mystery."

So it's "reasonable to think that Mary, as the image and model of the Church which waits for the Risen One and meets him in the group of disciples during his Easter appearances, had had a personal contact with her risen Son, so that she too could delight in the fullness of paschal joy."

FOR THE ENTIRE ARTICLE:

GO TO

<https://www.ncregister.com/blog/jesus-appeared-first-to-mary-after-resurrection>

Please remember to submit your 2022 Women's Society Dues. You can drop it off at the office or put it in the Sunday collection or mail it directly to me. If you have any questions about the dues feel free to call me. Thank you,

Mary Bettin, 198 Preserve Ln., Columbia SC 29209, 704-953-0832

Thank You

Thank you to all the members of St. Joseph Women's Society for all your Works of Mercy that are recorded in the 2021 Scrapbook. Special thanks to the officers, who each helped to compile this book and the committee members. Also to the following members who served in a special way to this year's scrapbook by contributing pages and/or pictures:

Mary Sue Barnum, Martha Becht, Maria Carrero, Teresa Chmura , Jamie Hall, Gayle Michaelis, and Julie Rotureau, Gwen Skipper

Thank you,

Theresa Sowers and Regina Spell

2021 History Committee Co-Chairs

Birthright Tea Room Lunch Returns

For several years St. Joseph Women's Society sponsored the Tea Room Lunch fundraiser for Birthright of Columbia. Our ladies made every effort to provide a beautiful, delicious, and fun event to benefit Birthright. Like so many special gatherings we were prevented by Covid from having an in person event for the last two years. In 2022, the Tea Room is back! Many hands are needed to plan, decorate, prepare food, and work the event. I especially need one or two ladies to lead the team to make this truly special. I hope you will be as excited as I am to have the best event we have hosted. Please give me a call if you will work with me to make this the best ever Tea Room Lunch. Gwen Skipper 803-603-8419. I hope that you will all mark July 20 on your calendar and plan to be involved.

Important Dates:

May 22, 2022~Columbia Deanery Spring Meeting
Board Meeting 12:30 pm, General Meeting 1:30 pm
Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, Chapin, SC

SCCW 2023 Convention March 3-5, 2023 in Myrtle Beach, SC

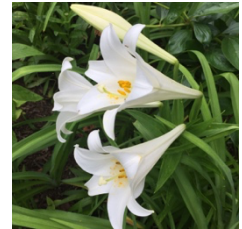
‘From the Spirituality chair:

As we approach the end of Lent and the joy of Easter, let's examine our own individual journeys. Spirituality is each person's response to Christ in our challenges of everyday life. Reflecting on our Lenten promises, often we realize we did not always meet our goals. Remember God forgives us over and over as we are striving to become one with Him. This is truly this is the promise of the dying and resurrection. God created us to be with Him but allows us to choose.

Our spirituality includes prayer, giving alms and forgiving others. Also is also shown in our daily life and how we view the world in which we live: how we protect nature, awareness of those we do not know or sometimes do not understand and how we treat all of God's creation.

May we all thank God for the many blessings, trials and opportunities to accept His offer to become His disciples.

Happy Easter! Christ is Risen!



Beverly Stricklin

Dear Sisters in Christ,

May the Peace of this Lenten season be with you and your families.

It is with a most grateful heart that I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been such a wonderful support to me during this journey to be selected the SCCCW 2022 Catholic Woman of the Year. This has been a most humbling honor and it would not have been possible without you. To quote Dr. Martha Parker Hester, "you are my posse"

I am thankful to God every day for bringing me to this point in my life and to Blessed Mother for being by my side on this journey.

With your help and support of the new SJWS Board, we will continue to grow in membership, fellowship, sisterhood, and most importantly faith.

Blessings to you all!

Love, Maria Carrero



OUR LENT WITH MARY

Fr. Stanley Smolenski spma

Lent is the time when the Church focuses on the mystery of our salvation. When the Angel informed St. Joseph about Jesus, he emphasized that his child would save people from their sins. The name “Jesus” means “Savior”. Therefore, we should focus on the meaning of sin and then the power of the paschal resurrection will be more meaningful to us.

Sin is usually defined as the breaking of God’s law. That means acting unjustly towards God in thought, word, or deed. Since God is our Creator, our Savior and our Sanctifier, sins are acts that violate our relationship with him in any of those three areas of our relationship with the Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Sin is divided into two categories: mortal and venial. Mortal means a “death blow” to the relationship. Venial means “damaging” but not destructive. In marriages, there can be frequent squabbles about minor things which are easily amendable. But adultery goes to the very heart of the relationship.

There was a situation where a woman filed a harassment case against her husband’s employer. It turned out that no one where the husband worked knew that he was married. He always removed his wedding ring before going to work. His female employer, therefore, flirted with him. The absence of the ring was a public denial of his love for his wife, the uprooting of the marital bond, bordering on psychological adultery.

So, sin is the denial of the love that God desires and deserves from us in the area of creation (such as by being pro-abortion), salvation (by ignoring occasions of sin), sanctification (by not remaining in the state of grace which keeps us united to God).

As our spiritual Mother, given to us during the very act of salvation on Calvary, Mary is most solicitous about our relationship with God – Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. The Church venerates her as Refuge of Sinners. This invocation points to the hope of forgiveness and reconciliation which she can obtain for us after realizing the severity of the injustice of sin.

Related to this is her title Consolation of the Afflicted. Lest depression or despair dominate the repentant heart, our Lady comes with the balm of soothing hope. She reminds us that the redeeming sacrifice of Jesus in the Eucharist is our consolation on earth and the source of our peace and salvation.

That is the importance of the sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession. Converts to the Catholic faith frequently describe the lifting of the weight of years of sin when experiencing their first confession. The devotion to the Divine Mercy is strongly related to this.

And so, we prepare ourselves to be open to the joy of Christ’s resurrection with its eternal benefits in the everlasting spiritual banquet as our Lord describes in the parable of the Prodigal Son who is greeted with a heartfelt magnanimous embrace by the forgiving Father.

St. Mary Magdalen went through a deep period of sorrow with our Blessed Mother on the way of the cross and finally on Calvary. Her hope was shattered until Jesus restored it when she heard his familiar voice call out to her “Mary”. She wanted to embrace him because her heart was once again filled with his loving presence. He sent her to the Apostles to declare that “I have seen the Lord!” – The Paschal Lord, that is. She no longer lived for herself, but for him who died and rose again for us, as St. Paul points out in

1 Thessalonians 4:14.

This truth answers St. Paul’s desire, “May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts to know the hope that belongs to our call.” [Eph. 1:17]

Fr. Stanley Smolenski spma is a Baptistine canonical hermit, serving as director of the diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Joyful Hope – Our Lady of South Carolina in Kingstree, SC

Please offer special prayers for these intentions:

~For a Joyous Easter...for our Catechumens and Candidates in the RCLA program. Special thoughts and prayers go out to Magnolia Salas, one of our members who is coming into the Church

~In thanksgiving for a successful Convention in Fort Mill, SC

~For our sisters and their families, and for all our Parishioners of St. Joseph.

~For one of the sons of Pearlie Harris, Anthony, who has just had major surgery, that he may experience healing.

~For smooth cataract surgery for Marjorie Nix

~For strength for Sophie Sagrera, and for her own special intentions.

~For all affected by the war in Ukraine.1. May God guide men to a swift end to this unjust conflict.

~For any and all unspoken intentions of our membership.

Lord, hear our prayer.

St Joseph Women's Society

Interest Form and Membership Form

For more information, please visit our website at www.stjosephcolumbia.org

To contact us, please send email to
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).

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