

fragments

AUGUST 2021 NEWSLETTER

ODCCW Mission Statement

*To promote among our Catholic women a greater devotion to Christ and the Church,
as we share the Blessed Mother's role of bringing others to Christ
through spirituality, leadership, and service.*



MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Susan Navarrete
ODCCW President

My Sisters in Christ,
The ODCCW Board is looking forward to seeing you at our ODCCW Multi-Cultural Gathering on Tuesday, September 21 at Holy Spirit Church in Fountain Valley. If you have not registered yet, I highly encourage you to do so soon! It will be a wonderful morning of prayer, fellowship and great food! Invite a friend to join you for this beautiful morning. *(continued on next page)*

In August, we celebrate the Assumption of our Lady, the Mother of Jesus. How beautiful that as Catholics we can honor Mary in all her glory as she is lifted up to heaven. The Assumption completes God's work in her since it was not fitting that the flesh that had given life to God himself should ever undergo corruption. The Assumption is God's crowning of His work as Mary ends her earthly life and enters eternity. The feast turns our eyes in that direction, where we will follow when our earthly life is over.

The feast days of the Church are not just the commemoration of historical events; they do not look only to the past. They look to the present and to the future and give us an insight into our own relationship with God. The Assumption looks to eternity and gives us hope that we, too, will follow Our Lady when our life is ended. The prayer for the feast reads:

"All powerful and ever-living God: You raised the sinless Virgin Mary, mother of your Son, body and soul, to the glory of heaven. May we see heaven as our final goal and come to share her glory."

Also this month I will be attending the NCCW Convention in Washington, D.C. I look forward to meeting new friends and enhancing my Leadership, Spirituality and Service skills with the great resources NCCW has to offer. More information to follow soon.

I continue to pray for you, the ODCCW ministry, the board of directors and our country. The continuation of ODCCW would not exist without your prayers, involvement, and support!

Thank you,

Susan Navarrete
ODCCW President



LADY OF LA VANG SHRINE

The Most Rev. Kevin W. Vann, Bishop of Orange, and other Diocese of Orange leaders unveiled the Our Lady of La Vang Shrine at the Christ Cathedral campus on July 17 to thousands of onlookers in an elaborate Solemn Blessing day that included a processional, Mass and live entertainment

The celebratory day coincides with the second anniversary of Christ Cathedral's 2019 dedication as a Catholic Cathedral.



The apparition was interpreted to be the Virgin Mary holding the Baby Jesus. The Blessed Mother spoke words of love and comfort to the persecuted Catholics and showed them how to make medicines from trees growing in the forest. A shrine to Our Lady of La Vang was eventually built of rice straw and leaves at the site but was burned in 1805 during an insurgency in which many Catholics were martyred. The shrine was rebuilt in 1900 and enlarged in 1928. Pilgrims from around the world journey to the site annually and many have reported miraculous cures.

Historical Background of the Our Lady of La Vang Apparition

The Our Lady of La Vang Shrine is dedicated to the 1798 Marian apparition within the rainforest of La Vang, Quảng Trị Province, in the North Central Coast region of Vietnam. At the time, the Catholic people of Vietnam were suffering persecution, with many being martyred for their faith. Many fled to La Vang, where one night the apparition of a lady in a traditional Vietnamese áo dài dress appeared alongside two angels. She was holding a child in her arms.

NCCW MONTHLY ROSARY

By Jackie Brandon
Province Director
Los Angeles Province

Please join the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) for our next monthly rosary on Monday, September 13, 2021 at 4:45 PM, PST.

Call number: 515-606-5163
Access code: 703993#

We will be praying for peace in the world and for the conversion of sinners!

THIS SEASON SHALL PASS...

By Janine Meckler
ODCCW Executive Board

As I was chatting with a nice young man employed at a specialty grocery store he said, "This season shall pass." He said it ever so calmly and peacefully in reference to COVID. It was his peace that I walked away with. He is correct, seasons do pass, literally and figuratively. As we enjoy these days of the summer season blending into Fall, may we recall God's beauty, magnitude, and love. May we pray with and for one another offering thanksgiving and praise to our Heavenly Father.

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

"Never leave a child in a car".

In memory of our granddaughter, Kaitlyn, and all children who have lost their lives to preventable injuries in and around cars.

So far in 2021, ten deaths have been reported. On average, 38 children under the age of 15 die each year from heatstroke after being left in a vehicle.

<https://injuryfacts.nsc.org/motor-vehicle/motor-vehicle-safety-issues/hotcars/>

A mom, dad, grandparent and babysitter have all left a child in a car. The most common reason why is they only meant to leave the child alone for "a minute" and/or they got distracted. Please be on the lookout at banks, cleaners, ATMs, post office and home driveways... yes, even at home. Please share Kaitlyn's story with at least one person and ask them to share too.





ST. MONICA - AUGUST 27TH

Born in the 4th century, St. Monica is recognized as the patron saint of mothers. Her faith and dedication to motherhood played a pivotal role in the spiritual formation of one of the most brilliant philosophers and well-known saints of all time - Saint Augustine, her son.

Dedicated to Motherhood

After her husband's premature death, St. Monica dedicated her life to raising her children. As a single mother of three, she persevered in the face of many difficulties. Her greatest desire was for her children to follow Christ. Although later in life he was known as a fervent man of God, St. Augustine did not easily come to see God's truth. As a child, he proved to be quite difficult, causing Monica much grief, and as a young adult he remained uninterested in Christianity. But St. Monica never stopped praying for his eternal soul, in

spite of the circumstances. On one particular occasion, when she was discussing the matter with a priest, he urged her to remain steadfast in her prayers, stating that it was "not possible that the son of so many tears should perish."

A Testament to the Power of Prayer

After many years of prayer, Saint Monica finally saw her son give his life to the service of God. St. Augustine declared that his mother's resilience and dedication to prayer is what led him to become the man of God he was meant to be. He stated that St. Monica was not only his mother, but "the source of his Christianity." According to Pope Benedict XVI: St. Monica passed away in A.D. 387, shortly after St. Augustine was baptized. Her legacy serves as a reminder for all Christians to never stop praying for those who do not yet know Christ. As Pope Benedict XVI has related:

St. Monica and St. Augustine invite us to turn confidently to Mary, Seat of Wisdom. Let us entrust Christian parents to her so that, like Monica, they may accompany their children's progress with their own example and prayers. Let us commend youth to the Virgin Mother of God so that, like Augustine, they may always strive for the fullness of Truth and Love which is Christ: he alone can satisfy the deepest desires of the human heart.

Sources:

Butler's Lives of the Saints (ed. by Bernard Bangley)

Cowan, The Way of the Saints

WHO IS ST. DISMAS?

By Dr. Ida Pennella, PhD
ODCCW Executive Board



Who is St. Dismas? Have you heard of him? The first time I heard about him was at a luncheon when the guest speaker, Deacon Phil Goodman, talked about St. Dismas, The Good Thief, as the Patron Saint of Prison Ministry.

Goodman was the director of the Office of Restoration Justice/Detention Ministries for the Diocese of Orange. He quoted from Matthew 25-36, "I was in prison, and you came to me".

This research is a result of the investigation into the life of St. Dismas. The first piece of evidence was found on Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. St. Dismas, "The Thief on the Cross, also known as the Good Thief or the Penitent Thief, is an unnamed character mentioned in the Gospel of Luke who was crucified alongside Jesus and asked Jesus to remember him in his kingdom." The Catholic tradition and the Gospel of Nicodemus name the thief, Dismas. "He was never canonized by the Catholic Church but is venerated as a saint by local traditions as Saint Dismas (sometimes spelled "Dysmas" or in Spanish "Dimas"). The name Dismas for this thief may date back to the 4th century." There are variations to his name, Titus in Arabic Christian tradition, Zoatham in the Codex Colbertinus, and Rach in Russian Orthodox tradition (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Dismas).

The second piece of evidence is from Terry H. Jones (2010) who wrote a synopsis about St. Dismas for the Star Quest Production Network (SQPN). Jones stated that St. Dismas' feast day is March 25 which is the "date derived from tradition that this was the calendar date of the Crucifixion, though the Passover and Easter celebrations move from year to year." Dismas, "one of the thieves crucified with Jesus, the other being traditionally known as Gestas; Dismas is the Good Thief, the one who rebuked the other, and asked for Christ's blessing." Jones says that there is a legend "from an Arabic infancy gospel" that says when the Holy Family was fleeing to Egypt that a band of thieves came upon them, "including Dismas and Gestas. One of the highwaymen realized there was something different, something special about them, and ordered his fellow bandits to leave them alone; this thief was the young Dismas." According to tradition, Dismas was crucified in the year 30 in Jerusalem and was canonized pre-congregation (prior to the modern investigations for sainthood, possibly by a Patriarch or popular devotion). *(continued on next page)*

He concludes with Luke 23:39-43:

39: "And one of the criminals who were hanged [there] was hurling abuse at Him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

40: But the other answered, and rebuking him said, "Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?"

41: "And we indeed justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong."

42: And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom!"

43. And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with me in Paradise" (<http://saints.sqpn.com/saint-dismas/>).

The third item is a story of St. Dismas that appeared in the Religious Section of the Time/CNN website. "His real name is lost in antiquity, but he is known as St. Dismas. He is the patron saint of those condemned to death. Dismas was the "Good Thief" who was crucified on Calvary alongside Jesus, who said to him: "This day shalt thou be with me in Paradise." This poor saint's feast day (March 25) gains him no great devotion, for it coincides with the vastly more important feast of the Annunciation...The Good Thief attracted the whimsical but devout interest of a convert to Roman Catholicism, Dempster MacMurphy of the Daily News. Orator, raconteur, ex-song-&-dance man...Read more: <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,760855,00.html#ixzz1losbUR1d>

Lastly, as I was doing a Lenten reading Days of Glory: The Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, author Richard T. A. Murphy, O.P. (1980) says that one of the robbers crucified with Jesus said that there was something about Jesus that struck him. "This innocent man, he thought would be a king despite of everything. Dismas (as some name him) ... asked, 'Jesus remember me when you come in your kingly power', it was a short prayer but a good one." This ended my investigation.

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL



God of heavenly wisdom
You have given us Mary, Mother of Jesus,
to be our guide and counselor.

Grant that we may always seek her motherly help in this life
and so enjoy her blessed presence in the life to come.

O Mother of Good Counsel,
Patroness of the National Council of Catholic Women,
intercede for us, that we may be
wise, courageous and loving leaders of the Church.

Help us, dear mother, to know the mind of Jesus, your son.

May the Holy Spirit fill us with reverence for God's creation,
and compassion for all God's Children.

May our labors of love on earth enhance the reign of God
and may God's gifts of faith and living hope prepare us for the
fullness of the world to come.

DISSERTATION FROM POPE FRANCIS

Eternal Father,

You have made the whole world stop walking for a while.
You have forcibly silenced the noise that we have all created around us.
You have made us bend our knees and ask for miracles.
You closed Your Churches so that we realize how dark our world is without You in it.
You humiliated the proud and powerful. The economy is collapsing, businesses are closing.



We have been very proud to think that everything we have, everything we own, have been the result of our hard work.

We have forgotten that it was Your grace, Your mercy, that made us who we are and has given us everything we have.

We are going around in circles looking for some cure for this disease, when in fact we need to humble ourselves and ask for guidance and wisdom only from You.

We have been living our lives as if we are here on Earth forever, as if there is no Heaven, no Purgatory, no Hell.

Perhaps this virus is actually Your way of purifying and cleansing our souls, bringing us back to You. Today, as these words travel the internet, may all who see them join their hearts and hands in prayer, asking for forgiveness, asking for healing and protection against this virus, but above all, asking that Your Holy and Divine Will be done and not ours.

GOD we beg You, deliver us from all evil on Earth if it is Your will! Father, You have been patiently waiting for us to turn our faces to You, to repent of our sins. We are sorry to ignore Your voice! Selfishly, sometimes we have forgotten that You are GOD!!

Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my house, but one word from you will be enough to heal me! You Lord only need to say the Word and our souls will be healed. We ask you for healing and deliverance in Jesus' name!

Amen

Pope Francis

UPCOMING EVENTS



HELP SAVE LIVES IN ORANGE COUNTY!

You can protect babies, mothers, and fathers by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion!

40 DAYS FOR LIFE Campaign Opening Mass

**St. John the Baptist
1015 Baker St.
Costa Mesa 92626**

Friday, September 17th at 7:00 P.M.

How to take part in 40 Days for Life in our community:

Vigil locations: Orange, Costa Mesa, Mission Viejo

Vigil hours: Will you pray just 1 hour a week between 6 am to 6 pm at the vigil location?

Local contacts:

Alejandra Baker Alejandra.baker@gmail.com
Kristina Elliott 949kristina@gmail.com
Michelle Palmisano mpalmisano@gmail.com

Learn more ... get involved...and sign up for prayer times by visiting our campaign at the web address shown below!

40daysforlife.com/CostaMesa
40daysforlife.com/MissionViejo
40daysforlife.com/Orange

ODCCW

SEPTEMBER GENERAL GATHERING

We are looking forward to seeing you at our "MULTICULTURE" September General Gathering on **September 21, 2021 from 9:30am - 12pm!**

Online or in-person at:
Holy Spirit Catholic Church
17270 Ward St, Fountain Valley, CA

Please register for the event at:
<https://www.odccw.org/events/>

OC CURSILLO

CELEBRATION DINNER & AUCTION

Join OC Cursillo for their
Celebration Dinner & Auction!

September 25, 2021

6:00pm - 10:00pm

Yorba Linda Community Center

For more event information and to purchase tickets, go to:
<https://occursillo.org/event/cursillo-auction-dinner>

For questions, please contact:
Susan Navarrete
snavarrete150@gmail.com
949-345-9130

UPCOMING EVENTS

WHEN WOMAN PRAY ANNUAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

Please save the date **October 16, 2021** for WWP's Annual Prayer Breakfast at St. Thomas More Parish in Irvine! Stay tuned for more details!

<https://whenwomenpraystm.org>

