
ORANGE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF

CATHOLIC  WOMEN

Fragments

FEBRUARY 2022 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

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe we are in 2022. Only two words come to mind: **THANK YOU**. Thank you for your friendship, your support, for being our cheerleaders, our prayer warriors, and our spiritual companions on this journey to grow the ODCCW ministry. *(continued on next page)*

We would not be here today without you. We lift our hearts to God with pure gratitude for you. We entrust you and your intentions to our Holy Mother, Our Lady of Guadalupe our patroness.

As we continue to deal with Covid, the mandates and restrictions, my prayer is that this plague will soon be over. God tells us in 2 Corinthians 1:10 *“And he did rescue us from mortal danger, and he will rescue us again. We have placed our confidence in him, and he will continue to rescue us.”* It was a difficult decision to cancel our January gathering, however I am excited to see you on February 15th for our gathering at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Ladera Ranch. We are excited to have Renee Bondi as our keynote speaker.

We will soon be preparing for Lent which starts on Wednesday, March 2nd. For me, I will contemplate on the many holy places I visited during my pilgrimage to the Holy Land last November.



One of my favorites was the Sea at Galilee. There I felt God's presence, His peace, His embrace. I can imagine Jesus' walking on water, calming the sea and breaking bread with His disciples.



My prayer for all of you is to have a blessed Lenten season, 40 days of getting close to our Lord Jesus and journey with Him in the desert to the beautiful blossom of the Spring season, as He died for our sins and was raised from the dead for all of us. Alleluia!

THE WEDDING AT CANA

Father Scott Borgman
ODCCW Spiritual Director

Dear Ladies,

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. This simple narrative of Christ's first miracle at Cana presents to us a marvelous and loving dialogue between the Mother and the Son.[1] It is only a short distance from Nazareth, where the Virgin Mary lives, in the little town of Cana. There could have been a hundred or so people, including extended family there. As a friend or relative, Mary would have been present at this modest celebration and Jesus has been invited as well, along with his first disciples. We find here the concurrence of two fundamental images which had been used to describe the true Messiah: the wedding feast and the marriage ceremony. The wedding feast began and, either through lack of foresight or because there turned out to be an unexpectedly large number of guests, the wine ran out. Only our Lady, always attentive to the small details, realizes that there is a problem. Mary's heart, which never fails to have pity on the unfortunate impelled her to take upon herself the task of intercessor and beg her Son for the miracle, even though nobody had asked her to. Jesus, her Son and her God, is near; the Messiah has just begun his public preaching and ministry. She knows this better than anyone else.

Theologically speaking, it's a conversation between the New Eve and the New Adam. Saint John here calls Mary *Mother of God* because we are at the beginning of Jesus' public life. The only other time St. John calls Mary the Mother of God is at the very end, during the Crucifixion of Our Lord on Calvary.[5] It's as though St. John wants to indicate that all of Our Lord's work is accompanied by Mary's presence. Both episodes highlight Mary's concern for mankind. On Calvary she offers the redeeming death of her Son, and accepts the mission that Jesus confers on her of being the Mother of all believers.[7] Back at Cana, ...Mary casually remarks, *'By the way... the wine has run out'...*Notice how she's not asking for anything, she merely points to a most basic need 'They have no wine'. She intercedes when the timing of her intervention might well have seemed inopportune: My hour has not yet come.[6] And it looks as if Jesus is going to refuse Mary what she asks. But Mary, who knows the heart of her Son very well, behaves as though He had acceded to her petition immediately: Just *'Do whatever he tells you,'* she says to the servants. By the way, these were to be the last recorded words which Our Lady was to speak in the Gospel. *'Do whatever he tells you.'* What great advice to us!

At His Word, the servants fill six stone jars standing there for the Jewish rites of purification. Saint John points out that they filled them right up to the brim. Commentators calculate that Our Lord turned into wine a quantity somewhere between 100 and 160 gallons.[10] Not 160 liters ...GALLONS! ...*Talk about gettin' this party started!* The Author is particularly interested in emphasizing that each Jewish jar held twenty or thirty gallons. St. John wants to show how abundant the gift was, and he does the same thing when writing about the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves. [9] Twelve baskets were left over, and he could have multiplied just enough! Why the abundance? Let me try this again. Ordinary wine would have been enough, at Cana of Galilee, even an inferior would have sufficed inferior to what had already been served, and very probably a much smaller quantity would have been plenty... everybody was already a bit tipsy... Except for this: One of the signs of the Messiah's coming was to be this very abundance. The over-abundance of God's Loving grace!

How about us? So often at the wedding feast of the Mass? God could have given you just a simple wafer, a bread snack that would have been sufficient for us to come together. This is what the Protestants falsely believe, they limit God's generosity by saying that the cracker is just "symbolic." Jesus Christ did not come down from heaven to die on the cross so that we could get together and have a cracker! The Apostles did not receive a cracker from the Hands of Jesus Christ at the Last Supper. Even a cursory reading of the 6th Chapter of John reveals Jesus specifically saying "unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you will not have eternal life." Not once, but he repeats this eleven times! "*my flesh is the life of the world.*" And the Martyrs did not give their lives for a cracker symbol! Dear friend, God knows what you need, and he is far more generous with us than we could ever ask or Imagine!

Have you taken the time to understand fully that the Eucharist is the true Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of His Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ! Have you understood the generosity of the gift? And have you prepared yourself well, by availing yourself to a good examination of Conscience and a complete confession? Only then, will you fall in love once again with a God who loves you so much, so as to give you nothing less than the Passion and ignominious death of his only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. And then to free you from your sins so that every Confession is your first, because he has completely forgiven and forgotten your every confessed sin, so that your heart can be free... free to love... free to give... And free to receive the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

Now... only that is the abundance worthy of the Daughters and Sons of Almighty God. Back at Cana, 'Now ...draw some out,' our Lord says to the servants, and take it to the steward of the feast. And of course, ...it's the best wine they have ever tasted! Those first disciples, one of whom was Saint John, who writes this, were amazed. The miracle helped them to take a

step forward in their newly-found faith. Today, our Lord is speaking to you when he says: 'Fill the jars' with water.' My dear friend, we must not let routine, impatience or laziness cause us to only half-prepare for the Sacraments. To half-fulfill our daily duties.

Our lives, like the water in the jars, were flat and lifeless, without the ferment of purpose until Jesus came to us. Christ wants to transform your life, he wants to supernaturalize your work, sanctify your joys and sorrows ... even death is renewed in Christ! Your life is called to be a wedding feast, your Heart, a more worthy dwelling place for Jesus and for Mary.

The miracle at Cana takes place because our Lady has interceded. Why do Mary's petitions have such efficacy before God? The prayers of the saints are the prayers of servants, whereas the prayers of Mary are the prayers of a Mother. As Jesus' love for his mother is limitless she cannot ask for anything without being heard. Mary is a mother who is more attentive to all our needs than any mother on earth ever has been or ever will be.

Shouldn't we turn more frequently to Our Lady? Shouldn't we put more trust into our petitions, knowing that she will always obtain for us all that we need most? If she obtained from her Son wine that was not absolutely necessary, will she not find a solution for all those urgent needs that we have? And if Our Lady acted without being asked, how much more will she act when asked?[2] God always grants us more, much more, than we ask for. The six jars at Cana were for the old purification rites. Because in the Old Testament all they had was water! But, Jesus came so that we might have wine!

Please pray for me,

In Christ
Fr. Scott



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



St. Valentine, (died 3rd century, Rome; feast day February 14), name of one or two legendary Christian martyrs whose lives seem to be historically based. Although the Roman Catholic Church continues

to recognize St. Valentine as a saint of the church, he was removed from the General Roman Calendar in 1969 because of the lack of reliable information about him. He is the patron saint of lovers, epileptics, and beekeepers.

By some accounts, St. Valentine was a Roman priest and physician who suffered martyrdom during the persecution of Christians by the emperor Claudius II Gothicus about 270. He was buried on the Via Flaminia, and Pope Julius I reportedly built a basilica over his grave. Other narratives identify him as the bishop of Terni, Italy, who was martyred, apparently also in Rome, and whose relics were later taken to Terni. It is possible these are different versions of the same original account and refer to only one person. According to legend, St. Valentine signed a letter "from your Valentine" to his jailer's daughter, whom he had befriended and healed from blindness.

Another common legend states that he defied the emperor's orders and secretly married couples to spare the husbands from war. Valentine's Day as a lovers' festival dates at least from the 14th century.

GOD IS LOVE

Janine Meckler
ODCCW Leadership-Deaneries

God is love. Stopping to ponder this truth is both beautiful and mind boggling. We are created in the image and likeness of God. We are created in His love. The Bible tells us we are to love like God.

Desiring to love like God and actually loving like God is a challenge. We try. We fail. We begin anew each day to love better with each encounter whether it be to love a spouse, child, parent, grandparent, sibling, family, friend, acquaintance, and/or a stranger.

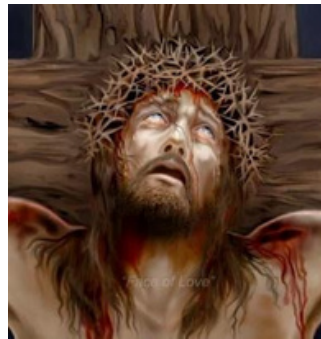
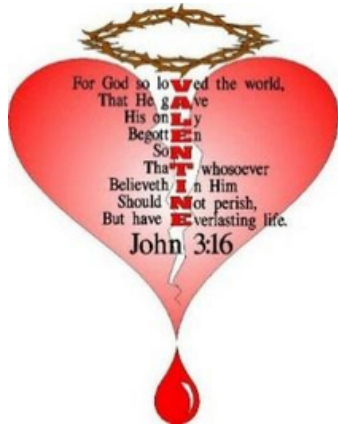
Sometimes in our daily lives we get caught up in responsibilities before us, and we forget to love those not in our immediate encounters. It's important to remember to work to keep relationships thriving.

I thank God for reminding me of this personally and the beauty it brings. As Valentine's Day approaches and then the season of Lent I am reminded that it's God's desire for us to love like Him and to reach out to others in His love.

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

Dr. Ida Pennella, PhD
ODCCW Corresponding Secretary

Valentine's Day, February 14, was celebrated with cards and candy to the people we love. Our Lord gave us His Son to show us His love. Let us purify our hearts and minds as we approach ASH WEDNESDAY on March 2, the beginning of the Lenten season. Christians traditionally sacrifice during the 40 days and 40 nights before Easter, which is the holiest time in the church.



In his encyclical, the Gospel of Life #77, Pope Saint John Paul II said, "It is therefore a service of love which we are all committed to ensure to our neighbor that his or her life will be promoted and defended..." Therefore, the commandment, "Thou Shall Not Kill," according to his encyclical, has "positive aspects of respecting, loving and promoting human life..."



By his own words, "promoting human life" is essential in today's society. Understand the ProLife issues and what's at stake. New York and California legalize abortion up to the moment of birth. California allows women, whose states refuse abortions, to come here for a "free" abortion.

According to Emily Hoeven (2021) in an article in Cal-Matters, "Hundreds of thousands of women seeking abortions could soon flood into California, and the state should maximize access for both in-state and out-of-state patients by helping cover the cost of the procedure as well as transportation, lodging, child care, food and lost wages." California is one of the worst states concerning the killing of unborn babies!



Saint Mother Teresa said, "The greatest destroyer of peace today is the cry of the innocent, unborn Child."

What are your plans during Lent? This is the time to pause

and reflect on what you can do during this sacrificial time. Consider joining others during the **40 Days for Life** campaign. This community-based program includes prayer and fasting, constant vigil, and community outreach. The **Orange, CA Campaign** begins March 2 to April 10. Contact Kristina Elliott at 40daysforlife.orange@gmail.com.

“40 Days for Life is an international anti-abortion organization that campaigns against abortion in more than 60 nations worldwide. It was originally started in 2004 by members of the Brazos Valley Coalition for Life in Texas. The name refers to a repeated pattern of events lasting for 40 days in the Bible, such as Noah’s Ark, Moses’s 40 days on Mount Sinai, and Jesus’s 40 days in the desert. The campaign is active in the spring during the Christian season of Lent and in the fall. According to *Florida Catholic*, an official Roman Catholic newspaper, more than 1,000,000 people have participated in the campaign worldwide.”

Sources:

Hoeven, E. (14 December 2021). *Newsom: California should be a ‘sanctuary,’ helping out-of-state patients seeking abortion*. Retrieved February 1, 2022, from <https://calmatters.org/newsletters/whatmatters/2021/12/california-abortion-newsom/>

Elliot, K. (2022). *40 Days for Life*. Retrieved February 1, 2022 from <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/>

40 Days for Life. (19 January 2022). Retrieved February 1, 2022, from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/40_Days_for_Life

UPCOMING EVENTS

ORANGE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF
CATHOLIC WOMEN

FEBRUARY GENERAL GATHERING

February 15, 2022 9am
Holy Trinity Catholic Church
1600 Corporate Drive
Ladera Ranch, CA 92694

Speaker: **Renee Bondi**
Topic: For the Love of Christ



Please register for this event at:
<https://www.ocdccw.org/events/>

GIVEN GATHERING

All the women in the Diocese of Orange are invited to a **GIVEN Gathering** event on **Saturday, March 12 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Christ Cathedral's Freed Theater.**

Created by the GIVEN Institute, this community event will inspire all women to receive the gift that they are, realize the gifts they've been given, and respond with the gift only they can give, activating their unique talents for the service of the Lord. Join us!

Find more information and register by March 8 at:

www.giveninstitute.com/socal-given-gathering.

ODCCW CONFERENCE

Join us for our annual conference!

March 19, 2022

8:00am-1pm

Freede Theater at Christ Cathedral
13280 Chapman Ave.
Garden Grove, CA 92840

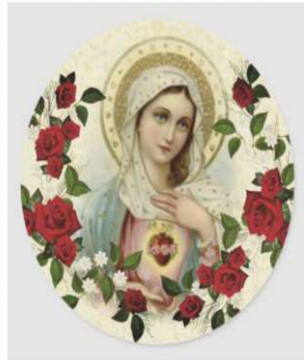
Speaker: **Kathleen Beckman**
Theme: "Protecting the Family and Home"

Tentative Schedule:

8:00 - 9:15am - Registration
8:30am - Mass celebrated by Bishop Vann (optional)
9:15am - Rosary
10:00am - Speaker: Kathleen Beckman
11:00am - Musical Performance with Bishop Vann
11:45 - 1:00pm Lunch and Drawings
Cost: \$55 (Includes Lunch)

For more information and to register: <https://www.ocdccw.org/events/>

UPCOMING EVENTS



L.E.A.F. WOMEN'S MINISTRY

PRESENTS A DAY OF REFLECTION ON THE

*"The Seven
Sorrows
Of Our
Blessed Mother"*

Save the Date:

Saturday, March 5th, 2022

From 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church,
14020 Foster Road, La Mirada

Reserve Your Seat

RSVP by email Ritahenry.Ballesteros@gmail.com or (562) 713-1998, cell

Or on our Facebook Page: L.E.A.F. Women's Ministry

Let us begin our Lenten Journey with and through our Heavenly Mother.

For Women ages from 16yrs and up.

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