
ORANGE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF

CATHOLIC  WOMEN

Fragments

MARCH 2023 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.*



ADORATION

Janine Meckler
ODCCW President

I find myself wondering how it is that I did not partake in Adoration in my younger years. If only I had known. If only I had sought Jesus out in such an intimate way, in addition to Bible Studies and retreats, sooner, how might my life look different?

Would it be the same? These are purely questions and speculations I find myself thinking about occasionally. Today, I am grateful for time spent with Our Lord Jesus in Adoration. I have settled into an almost daily time of sitting with Jesus in Adoration or shall I say of being in awe of Him and how he waits for me/us to sit with him. *(continued on next page)*

I know Jesus is touching my heart on many levels. I cannot wait to be with Him each day. The more often I go, the more I want to go. When I am there, sometimes I relax in being alone with Jesus and more often than being alone, I am there in community with other parishioners. Seeing others with Jesus somehow reveals the bigger picture of eternity with Him. I have noticed just how many men sit with Jesus. It's inspirational to see these spiritual leaders. So often I think of women in that role. If sitting with Jesus in Adoration has always been a part of your day or not, I invite you to go and continue the Love relationship God has for you and I in His Son Jesus Christ. Oh, how He loves us!

Janine Meckler
ODCCW President

PRAYING THE ROSARY WITH NCCW



Please join the National Council of Catholic Women in praying the rosary together by phone. The Rosary Call will take place on the 13th of each month at 4:30 PM (PT), 5:30 PM (MT), 6:30 PM (CT), and 7:30 PM (ET) through Free Conference Call. Free Conference Call Number: (202) 926-1107 - Access Code: 703993

FEBRUARY GENERAL GATHERING



Photos from the ODCCW General Gathering on February 21.

It is with so much joy that ODCCW thanks the amazing and beautiful women of Saint Timothy's in Laguna Niguel for hosting our February General Gathering! We were welcomed with such incredible hospitality featuring a Mardi Gras party theme complete with music, decorations, and delicious food. Father Patrick Moses gave a wonderful talk about his personal faith journey and Lent. Father Chris Heath, our Spiritual Advisor, was there as well. We enjoyed a wonderful start to Lent.

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH TO PROTECT THE CHURCH FROM THE DEVIL

Connie Nguyen

ODCCW Interim Recording Secretary

The devil is intent on destroying the Church, setting many traps for her followers, as well as her leaders. This is one of the reasons why Pope Leo XIII composed a prayer to St. Joseph for the protection of the Church. He composed the prayer at the end of *Quamquam pluries*, asking the faithful to call on St. Joseph for protection against the devil. The prayer recalls St. Joseph's protection of the Child Jesus in Egypt and asks for his intercession, that the Church may be spared from the devil's vicious attacks.

Let us pray:

Defend, O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, the chosen offspring of Jesus Christ. Keep from us, O most loving Father, all blight of error and corruption. Aid us from on high, most valiant defender, in this conflict with the powers of darkness. And even as of old thou didst rescue the Child Jesus from the peril of His life, so now defend God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity. Shield us ever under thy patronage, that, following thine example and strengthened by thy help, we may live a holy life, die a happy death, and attain to everlasting bliss in Heaven.

Amen.



Sources:

1) aleteia.org; 2) Philip Kosloski 3) catholictothemax.com (Image of St. Joseph, Patron of the Church)

LENT - A TIME TO REPENT

Dr. Ida Pennella, PhD
ODCCW Emeritus Advisor



“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” (Hebrews 13:16 ESV)

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1-2 ESV)

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.” (John 15:12-14 ESV)

The **Corporal Works of Mercy** provides for the needs of the body: 1) feed the hungry, 2) give drink to the thirsty, 3) clothe the naked, 4) shelter the Homeless, 5) visit the sick, 6) visit the imprisoned, and 7) bury the dead.

The **Spiritual Works of Mercy** provides for the needs of the spirit: 1) instruct the ignorant, 2) counsel the doubtful, 3) admonish the sinner, 4) bear wrongs patiently, 5) forgive offenses willingly, 6) comfort the sorrowful, and 7) pray for the living and the dead.

Prayer is a Lenten practice: 1) dedicate a specific time for prayers, 2) attend the Stations of the Cross, 3) pray the Holy Rosary, 4) read, meditate, and contemplate on the Scriptures, 5) celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Doing a **Pilgrimage** isn't as hard as you think. Although the traditional Pilgrimages are visiting the Holy Land, Lourdes, and Fatima, but did you know that visiting any spiritually significant site, like praying in front of the tabernacle, visiting a church other than your parish, and placing flowers on a gravesite is also considered a pilgrimage?

What will your Lenten challenge be for the next five weeks?

THE LENTEN CHALLENGE

Dr. Ida Pennella, PhD
ODCCW Emeritus Advisor



“Christians world-wide practice some type of Lenten discipline. There’s still time to do something positive. It’s easy to give up something during Lent like alcohol, cigarettes, and desserts, but it’s harder to really do something positive like:

- Sharing your talents and creativity
- Donating blood, food, and clothing
- Volunteering at a food bank or distributing clothing
- Visiting the sick and homebound
- Attending funerals even if you don’t know the person!



FOR THE SAKE OF THE UNBORN

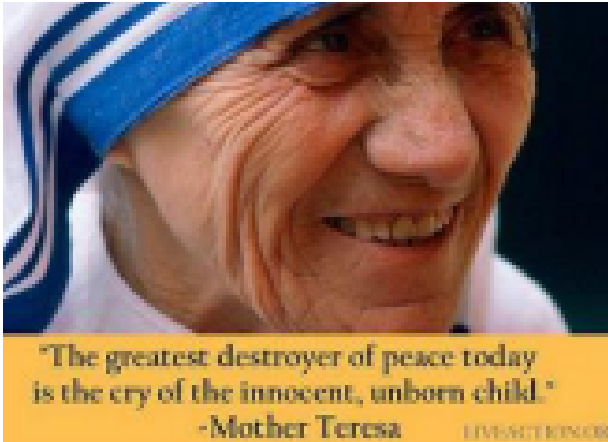
Join a **40 Days for Life** program in your area. “40 Days for Life is an international organization that campaigns against abortion in more than 60 nations worldwide. It was originally started in 2004 by members of the Brazos Valley Coalition for Life in Texas. The name refers to a repeated pattern 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” (*Wikipedia*).

In the Diocese of Orange: “During Lent, our Diocese encourages parishes and individuals to observe forty days of prayer for an increased respect for the life and dignity of every human person. Parishes and individuals are encouraged to participate in CRS Rice Bowl program of formation and prayer around global solidarity as well as finding ways to offer personal prayers, sacrifices, and participation in peaceful prayer vigils outside of abortion clinics”. (<https://www.rcbo.org/life-justice-&-peace/respect-life/>)

THE LENTEN CHALLENGE

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Understand the abortion issue and what's at stake! Babies are killed up and including birth! Read articles! Sponsor a fundraiser, plan a Baby Shower for unwed mothers, collect diapers. Collect women's clothing and bring to a ProLife center. Advocate, support, or argue in defense of ProLife and ProLife issues by speaking and writing in every arena where you have a chance. Share ProLife news and events. Use social media. Join a ProLife group that

supports life shelters, hosts baby showers for unwed mothers, and prays at local Planned Parenthood facilities. Attend a Planned Parenthood facility during lent.

- Bring flowers to place on the sidewalk at the facility
- Bring a Cross or a Rosary to hold while you pray at the facility

"Help save lives by praying to end abortion in your community from February 22 until April 2. [There were] 22,855 lives saved since 2007". (<https://www.40daysforlife.com/en>)

LENTEN PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

God, heavenly Father,
look upon me and hear my prayer
during this holy Season of Lent.
By the good works You inspire,
help me to discipline my body
and to be renewed in spirit.

Without You I can do nothing.
By Your Spirit help me to know what is right
and to be eager in doing Your will.
Teach me to find new life through penance.
Keep me from sin, and help me live
by Your commandment of love.
God of love, bring me back to You.
Send Your Spirit to make me strong
in faith and active in good works.
May my acts of penance bring me Your
forgiveness,
open my heart to Your love,
and prepare me for the coming feast
of the Resurrection of Jesus.

Lord, during this Lenten Season,
nourish me with Your Word of life
and make me one
with You in love and prayer.

Fill my heart with Your love
and keep me faithful to the Gospel of Christ.
Give me the grace to rise above my human
weakness.



Give me new life by Your Sacraments, especially
the Mass.

Father, our source of life,
I reach out with joy to grasp Your hand;
let me walk more readily in Your ways.
Guide me in Your gentle mercy,
for left to myself I cannot do Your Will.

Father of love, source of all blessings,
help me to pass from my old life of sin
to the new life of grace.

Prepare me for the glory of Your Kingdom.
I ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
who lives and reigns with You
and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever.

Amen.

ST. PATRICK



St. Patrick of Ireland is one of the world's most popular saints. He was born in Roman Britain and when he was fourteen or so, he was captured by Irish pirates during a raiding party and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. At the time, Ireland was a land of Druids and pagans but Patrick turned to God and wrote his memoir, *The Confession*. In *The Confession*, he wrote:

"The love of God and his fear grew in me more and more, as did the faith, and my soul was rosed, so that, in a single day, I have said as many as a hundred prayers and in the night, nearly the same. I prayed in the woods and on the mountain, even before dawn. I felt no hurt from the snow or ice or rain."

Patrick's captivity lasted until he was twenty, when he escaped after having a dream from God in which he was told to leave Ireland by going to the coast. There he found some sailors who took him back to Britain and was reunited with his family.

A few years after returning home, Patrick saw a vision he described in his memoir:

"I saw a man coming, as it were from Ireland. His name was Victoricus, and he carried many letters, and he gave me one of them. I read the heading: 'The Voice of the Irish.' As I began the letter, I imagined in that moment that I heard the voice of those very people who were near the wood of Foclut, which is beside the western sea-and they cried out, as with one voice: 'We appeal to you, holy servant boy, to come and walk among us.'"

The vision prompted his studies for the priesthood. He was ordained by St. Germanus, the Bishop of Auxerre, whom he had studied under for years, and was later ordained a bishop and sent to take the Gospel to Ireland.

Patrick arrived in Slane, Ireland on March 25, 433. There are several legends about what happened next, with the most prominent claiming he met the chieftan of one of the druid tribes, who tried to kill him. After an intervention from God, Patrick was able to convert the chieftain and preach the Gospel throughout Ireland. There, he converted many people -

ST. PATRICK

eventually thousands - and he began building churches across the country.

He often used shamrocks to explain the Holy Trinity and entire kingdoms were eventually converted to Christianity after hearing Patrick's message.

Patrick preached and converted all of Ireland for 40 years. He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for God in Confessions. After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering he died March 17, 461.

He died at Saul, where he had built the first Irish church. He is believed to be buried in Down Cathedral, Downpatrick. His grave was marked in 1990 with a granite stone.

Source:

https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=89



MARCH 2023

ODCCW 2023 GENERAL GATHERING & EVENT SCHEDULE

Register for our events at <https://odccw.org>

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Location: HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Speaker: Joanne Peters

Address: 17270 Ward St.

Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Location: HOLY TRINITY

Speaker: Renee Bondi

Address: 1600 Corporate Dr.

Ladera Ranch, CA 92694

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

MAY CROWNING

Location: CHRIST CATHEDRAL

Speaker: TBD

Address: 13280 Chapman Ave.

Garden Grove, CA