
ORANGE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF

CATHOLIC  WOMEN

Fragments

MAY 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.*



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Janine Meckler
ODCCW President

I would like to share a Gospel Meditation from the bulletin of Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in LaQuinta, California written by Father John Muir. It pertains to the Gospel from April 30, 2023, Good Shepherd Sunday. *(continued on next page)*

"This week the readings focus our attention to the voice of the risen Jesus Christ. Comparing his disciples to sheep and himself to a shepherd, he says, "They recognize His voice." He speaks to us and wants us to respond. We hear His voice, we follow. Throughout this coming week, we will experience many interior promptings to receive God's love, and to love Him in return. That's His voice. Follow it into the safe and tender arms of Christ.

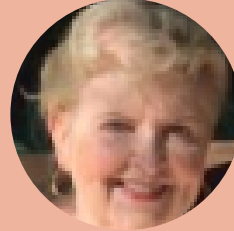
By contrast, some voices we will hear do not convey God's concern and love for us, but rather produce fear, despair, and other harmful mischief. Jesus calls these voices those of robbers. Does an idea or thought make it harder for you to love God? If so, run away. Let it go. It is most likely not the voice of the Risen Lord. Keep waiting for Him to speak. You will recognize His voice. Then run to Him as fast as you can."

Janine Meckler
ODCCW President



MARIAN DEVOTION: THE MAY CROWNING

Dr. Ida Pennella, PhD
ODCCW Emeritus Advisor



Why is May the month for the Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary? Let's take a look at its early beginnings. The earliest celebrations of Mary during May started with "Alphonsus X, "el sabio," King of Castille, Spain (1221-1284) with his "Cantigas de Santa Maria" and "Ben Venna Mayo".

The Mary-Month, known since baroque times (1600-1750), was a 30-day celebration from August 15 to September 14, with spiritual exercises to honor Mary. In 1747 the Archbishop of Genoa, Giovanni Lercari, recommended the May devotion for the home.

In 1784 the city of Ferrara, Italy dedicated the whole month of May to Mary by organizing special daily devotions.

During the 19th Century, the Marian celebration in Rome continued to increase. By 1813 devotions spread to 20 churches in Italy and continued to increase in numbers throughout France and Belgium. Specific prayers were declared for the Marian month by Rome in 1838.

The study of the Blessed Virgin Mary is known as Mariology which is mainly a Catholic ecclesiological movement within theology. Catholic theology is concerned with Mary, the Mother of God, and her relation to the Church from ancient to modern times. It looks at her life, her veneration in daily life, prayer, art, music, and architecture.

Roman Catholics continue the Marian celebration and build churches to honor and venerate the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The May Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary signifies that she is the "Queen of Heaven and the Mother of God" by placing a crown of flowers on a statue in her likeness. The ceremony is held in many Catholic parishes, schools, and homes.

Sources:

1. <http://campus.udayton.edu/mary/meditations/crownmed.html>
2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/May_devotions_to_the_Blessed_Virgin_Mary
3. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Roman_Catholic_Mariology

MAY FACTS

Dr. Ida Pennella, PhD
ODCCW Emeritus Advisor

PRESIDENTS BORN IN MAY



May 8, 1884

Harry Truman (32nd POTUS)

May 29, 1917

John F. Kennedy (35th POTUS)



Dr. Ida's Paternal Uncle

WORLD WAR II

EUDO E. THIBODEAU, #0 426 446

Sep. 27, 1941 to Feb. 17, 1943

First Lieutenant

Fighter Pilot,

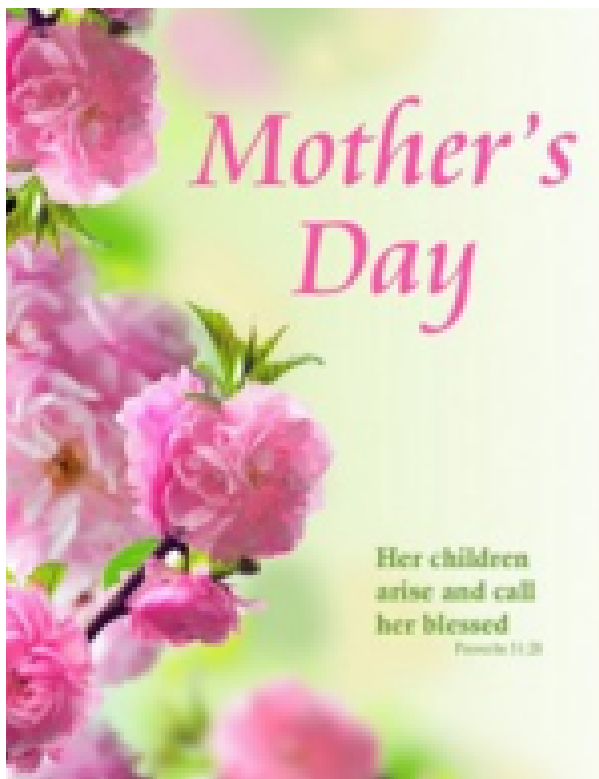
U.S. Air Force

P-38 Lightning Aircraft

Purple Heart Recipient Post Humus

Honor Roll 350th Fighter Group 1943-1945

http://raf-112-squadron.org/350thfghonor_roll.html



MAY FACTS

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May 29, 2023

**Memorial Day:
Honoring Those Who Died in Military Service**

Memorial Day, which is celebrated on the last Monday in May, honors service members who have died in military service to the nation. The holiday has roots dating back to the post-Civil War era, when citizens would informally place spring flower memorials on the graves of fallen soldiers.

On May 5, 1866, the town of Waterloo, New York, formalized this ritual and hosted a city-wide "Decoration Day," encouraging its citizens to create memorials on soldiers' graves with flags and flowers. A few years later in 1868, Gen. John A. Logan declared that the first-ever national Decoration Day should take place on May 30, as the date was a neutral day for both sides of the Civil War to honor their fallen soldiers.

Source: www.uso.org

NCCW NEWS



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



Twenty-two women from NCCW are heading to the next WUCWO General Assembly held in Assisi May 14-20, 2023. Please keep them in prayer as they review reports, attend regional meetings, reform Statutes and Bylaws, work on new projects, resolutions, priorities and elect new board members.

May 1st through October 2023 all are invited to pray for the Bishops of the United States and its territories with the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Champion - a Gold Sponsor of NCCW.

As our world faces a shortage of peace and an increase in division within our families and the church, our Bishops are facing extreme challenges. This is why they need our prayers, now more than ever, for the grace necessary to heroically lead people of faith in these uncertain times. This is what inspired the Shrine's Shepherd Project - a season of prayer for each and every Bishop across the United States, starting from the Shrine's location in Wisconsin and emitting outward as the year goes on. Join them as they offer up prayers for a Bishop a day to the Blessed Mother from May 1 to the end of October.

Go to <https://championshrine.org/shepherd-project/> to sign up and see when your Bishop's day is.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY REPORT

Carol Palmer

NCCW Legislative Advocacy Committee Member

Our NCCW Legislative Advocacy Committee is working to provide a simple but powerful way that we can bring our Catholic values to Congress as they work on important legislation. The legislative advocacy actions are:

- Hold one or more meetings with the office of your member(s) of Congress between now and August 1.
- Hold a letter writing action at a province or diocesan meeting where your members are gathered. Personalized handwritten letters still receive significant attention with Congressional offices, especially when they are coupled with meetings.

We have chosen two issues/asks of Congress that have been thoroughly reviewed and are supported by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. These issues/asks, which were the focus of the national Catholic Social Ministry Gathering Advocacy Day in January 2023, are also winnable. They are:

- Supporting hungry and vulnerable people with robust international humanitarian relief and development assistance.
- Passing legislation providing Afghan humanitarian parolees in the United States with a pathway to permanent legal status, such as the bipartisan Afghan Adjustment Act (S. 4787/H.R. 8685) introduced during the 117th Congress.

If you feel inclined to join in a visit to a member of Congress or assist with a letter writing campaign, please contact me at nccw.la@gmail.com for more details.

The Month of May, the Virgin Mary, and Your Family's Future

Source: Soren and Ever Johnson at Aleteia.org

Even if your parish doesn't do a May Crowning, your family has a host of options in the month of May to honor the Blessed Mother and deepen your devotion to her. Wherever you are in the journey of parenting, it's not too late to give your children the precious gift of Marian devotion—forged in childhood and unfolding throughout their lives.

So, get out your calendars and choose one of these dates: First Saturday devotions (May 7); Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament (May 13); Our Lady of Fatima (May 13); Mary, Help of Christians (May 24); Our Lady, Queen of Apostles (the Saturday following the Ascension); Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces (May 31); or the Feast of the Visitation (May 31).

On the day you choose, here are 7 ways to launch or hit "reset" on your family's devotion to our Blessed Mother:

- 1 | Do a May crowning in your own home. You can use a series of prayers, (below is one parish's example of a simple service), sing together, and your children can crown your Mary statue with flowers. This can become an annual tradition they will never forget.
- 2 | Begin First Saturday devotions as a family. Circle Saturday, May 6 on the calendar, and choose this day as the start of a particular Marian devotion (e.g., the Rosary or Angelus) that you then continue going forward on other first Saturdays this year.
- 3 | Launch or restart your family Rosary. Ever's parents gathered the kids every night at 9 p.m. to pray the Rosary. As a wedding gift, Ever's sisters gave us a lovely set of prints depicting each of the mysteries. By displaying the day's five mysteries at our home altar, our kids are better able to focus on each one.
- 4 | Consecrate your family to the Blessed Mother. A novena or even a 30-day consecration process can prepare your family for a beautiful moment—even a turning point—of deepened trust in Our Lady's fiat, intercession, and protection.
- 5 | Purchase a Marian statue, icon, or other image to display prominently at your home altar or elsewhere in your home or even yard. This can become your family's focal point for a deepening devotion to our Blessed Mother. A little vase for fresh flowers in front of the statue can be a small yet powerful expression of your family's love for her.

The Month of May, the Virgin Mary, and Your Family's Future

Source: Soren and Ever Johnson at Aleteia.org

6 | Make a pilgrimage to a nearby Marian shrine. During the drive, lead a conversation with your kids about the Blessed Mother—her fiat, how she always points us to her son, and how you have personally experienced her intercession and protection.

7 | Do a family movie night and watch one of the movies about Fatima, such as *The Miracle of Our Lady of Fátima*, *Apparitions at Fátima*, or *Fátima*.

"[T]he month of May is a powerful incentive to more fervent and trusting prayer," wrote Pope St. Paul VI in his 1965 Letter on the Occasion of the First of May, "because during it our petitions find their way more easily to the compassionate heart of Our Blessed Lady."

He continued in words that leap off the page for us today: "This year ... when we look at the present needs of the Church or at the state of peace in the world, we have compelling reasons for believing that the present hour is especially grave; that it makes a call for united prayer from the whole Christian people more than ever a matter of urgency."

"O Mary! We crown thee with blossoms today," the refrain of "Bring Flowers of the Rarest" goes, "Queen of the Angels, Queen of the May." May is here. And there is no better time to give our children the gift of what we pray will be a lifelong devotion to the Queen of May.

Our Lady, Mother of Mercy and Queen of Families, pray for us!



Virgin rightly renowned / pray for us
Virgin most powerful / pray for us
Virgin gentle in mercy / pray for us
Faithful Virgin/ pray for us
Mirror of justice / pray for us
Throne of wisdom / pray for us
Cause of our joy / pray for us
Shrine of the Spirit / pray for us
Glory of Israel / pray for us
Vessel of selfless devotion / pray for us
Mystical Rose / pray for us
Tower of David / pray for us
Tower of ivory / pray for us
House of gold / pray for us
Ark of the covenant / pray for us
Gate of heaven / pray for us
Morning star / pray for us
Health of the sick pray for us
Refuge of sinners / pray for us
Comfort of the troubled / pray for us
Help of Christians / pray for us
Queen of angels / pray for us
Queen of patriarchs and prophets / pray for us
Queen of apostles and martyrs / pray for us
Queen of confessors and virgins / pray for us
Queen of all saints / pray for us
Queen conceived without sin / pray for us
Queen assumed into heaven / pray for us
Queen of the rosary / pray for us

Queen of peace / pray for us

Pray for us, Holy Mother of God.

That we may become worthy of the promises of Christ.

Lamb of God, you take away
the sins of the world have mercy on us

Lamb of God, you take away
the sins of the world have mercy on us

Lamb of God, you take away
the Sins of the world have mercy on us

Leader: Pray for us, holy Mother of God.

Response: That we may become worthy of the promises
of Christ.

Crowning of the Blessed Mother Prayer - The Hail Mary

Sending Song - Hail, Holy Queen

Hail holy Queen enthroned above, O Maria! Hail Mother of
mercy and of love, O Maria!

Refrain:

Triumph all ye cherubim!

Sing with us ye seraphim!

Heav'n and earth resound the hymn:

Salve, Salve, Salve Regina!

Our life, our sweetness here below, O Maria!

Our hope in sorrow and in woe, O Maria! (Refrain)

And when our life breath leaves us, O Maria!

Show us thy Son, Christ Jesus, O Maria! (Refrain)

OUR BLESSED MOTHER

As the Mother of God, the Virgin Mary has a unique position among the saints, indeed, among all creatures. She is exalted, yet still one of us. Redeemed by reason of the merits of her Son and united to Him by a close and indissoluble tie, she is endowed with the high office and dignity of being the Mother of the Son of God, by which account she is also the beloved daughter of the Father and the temple of the Holy Spirit. Because of this gift of sublime grace she far surpasses all creatures, both in heaven and on earth. At the same time, however, because she belongs to the offspring of Adam she is one with all those who are to be saved. (Lumen Gentium, no. 53)

Mary embraces God's will and freely chooses to cooperate with God's grace, thereby fulfilling a crucial role in God's plan of salvation. Throughout the centuries, the Church has turned to the Blessed Virgin in order to come closer to Christ. Many forms of piety toward the Mother of God developed that help bring us closer to her Son. In these devotions to Mary, "while the Mother is honored, the Son, through whom all things have their being and in whom it has pleased the Father that all fullness should dwell, is rightly known, loved and glorified and . . . all His commands are observed." The Church honors her as the Mother of God, looks to her as a model of perfect discipleship, and asks for her prayers to God on our behalf.

(United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Read through the prayer service beforehand, and choose someone to lead the service, someone to do the reading, and someone to crown the Blessed Mother. The person who does the crowning can be the youngest family member, or someone whose birthday is in May, etc.

If you have a statue of Mary, place it on a pedestal or on someplace in your space where everyone is able to see her. If you have a small crown, it will be placed at the end of the prayer service. *If you do not have a statue and/or a crown, that is okay! This purpose of this service is for honoring the Blessed Mother, which you will do with your prayers and participation whether you have a statue or not.

If you need some help with the songs, there are many recordings of the songs here available online that you can play during the service. 😊



ODCCW 2023 GENERAL GATHERING & EVENT SCHEDULE

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

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

SPRING LUNCHEON & MAY CROWNING

Location: CHRIST CATHEDRAL

Speaker: Fr. Chris Heath

Address: 13280 Chapman Ave.

Garden Grove, CA 92840

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Apostolate of the Returning King (ARK)

Sunday, May 7, 2023

1:30 - 3pm

Santiago De Compostela Catholic Church

Parish Hall, Room D

21682 Lake Forest Drive

Lake Forest, CA 92630

Speaker/Topic: Monthly message as given to Anne (A Lay Apostle)

Contact: John or Elena Freeman: 626-757-0478

A Free Will donation to cover expenses will be taken up.

<https://directionforourtimes.com>