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ORANGE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF

CATHOLIC  WOMEN

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APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

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## **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.*



*"I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness,  
but will have the light of life."*

John 8:12

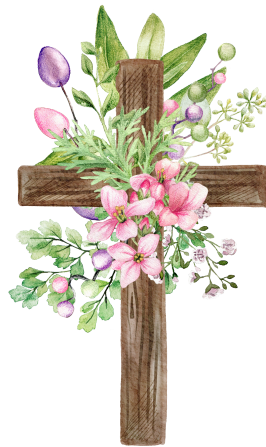
## MARCH GENERAL GATHERING RECAP

**Gail Lefebvre**  
**ODCCW Recording Secretary**



- On Tuesday, March 18, 2025, the ODCCW members attended a General Gathering Meeting at St. Kilian Parish in Mission Viejo. There were 61 registered attendees!
- Following registration from 8:30 am - 9:30 am, the ladies of St. Kilian's had prepared and served a nicely displayed breakfast for the attendees (boiled eggs, mini cinnamon rolls, fresh fruit, yogurt, and croissants with strawberry and raspberry jam). Coffee, tea, and water were provided. Some of the attendees had attended the 9:00 am Mass.
- The meeting officially began at 10:10 am with ODCCW President Inez Moss leading introductions and Pat Martin leading prayers.

- At 10:15 am, Fr. Scott Borgman was introduced as our guest speaker. His topic was "Beyond the Veil: A Lenten Pilgrimage Toward the Eternal". Some of the points Fr. Scott stated were: Stop comparing ourselves to others; our job is to get into the heart of God; know your anxieties; have self-compassion; see all your cracks as part of your beauty; love is effusive; we are not created to judge others—that is God's job; Matthew 5:48 regarding perfectionism. After his talk, he offered Questions and Answers from 11:05 am to 11:15 am and said a grace blessing for lunch.
- Lunch was served at 11:15 am to 12 noon. The St. Kilian ladies provided a delicious lunch of assorted sandwiches and 3 different salads. Cookies were provided for dessert. The attendees appeared to have enjoyed the luncheon.
- The 50/50 drawing was conducted with 2 winners.
- The meeting was concluded with a closing prayer.



## CATHOLIC CHURCHES

**Janine Meckler**  
**ODCCW Past President**



There are Catholic Churches all over the world. How beautiful is that. We live in a generation in which we can visit, pray, and worship God in these churches as access is readily available either directly through travel or virtually over the internet. Personally, I have discovered that my favorite part of traveling is going to as many Catholic Churches as I can find and attending Mass when available. I especially like Mass in different languages as it reminds me that we are all God's people and God shows no partiality.

I am in awe of the apostles, saints, and many people who have gone before us leaving these churches as reminders of God's love for His people. It is one of my prayers this Lent and Easter season that we can each visit a Catholic Church or many Catholic Churches either by car, bus, train, plane, or virtually via the internet. It will be a pilgrimage to meet Jesus who waits for us. Happy Easter everyone!

## DO NOT DESPAIR

**Dr. Ida Pennella, PhD**

**ODCCW Emeritus Advisor, Legislative Advocacy**



As we approach Palm Sunday on April 13, we recall that Jesus rode on a donkey and people were lined up to greet him while waving their palms. During these remaining days of Lent, there's still time to do some good works, because Lent doesn't end until Holy Saturday, April 19.

You might have given up alcohol, cigarettes, or desserts, consider doing something a little different for the next few days.



1. Share your talents and creativity.
2. Donate blood, food, and/or clothing
3. Volunteer at a food bank.
4. Help to distribute food or clothing.
5. Send get well cards.
6. Use the media to send inspirational notes.
7. Visit someone who is sick.
8. Attend vigils.
9. Pray the Rosary.

Attend the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, April 18. Remember that Jesus was crucified along with two others. The good thief asked him, "Lord, remember me when you come into Your kingdom" (Luke 23:42), and Jesus replied, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise (Luke 23:43).



My husband and I went on a Holy Land Pilgrimage and journeyed to the Holy Sepulcher Church. We saw the "slab of limestone" that the Holy Body of Jesus was laid on after His death and crucifixion. As I bent and kissed the empty stone, I was reminded of the promise given to us in the Apostle Creed, "the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting".

St. Pope John Paul II said, "Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song" because the "Risen Christ" will come on Easter Sunday, April 20.





Human Dignity is a major issue under Legislative Advocacy. Human Dignity is a major issue in our society. It incorporates ...

**Human Trafficking:** Unlawful transportation, forced labor, and/or sexual exploitation where they prey on victims for sale.

**Domestic Violence:** the spouse or partner shows aggressive and/or violent behavior.

**Elder Abuse:** physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, financial abuse, neglect, and/or abandonment.

**Child Abuse:** neglected or unsupervised, limits food and water, physical harm, and/or death.

As I was exploring this issue, I was reminded of the Holocaust and the brutality that people suffered, were tortured, and died.



The Holocaust Started in 1933 and Ended April 30, 1945. It is now 80 years after the Second World War in Europe ended. This story is in memory of the **six million Jews, 20 million Russians, 10 million Christians and 1,900 Catholic priests** who were murdered, massacred, raped, burned, starved and humiliated with the German and Russian Peoples looking the other way!

Now, more than ever, with Iraq, Iran, and others, claiming the Holocaust to be 'a myth,' it's imperative to make sure the world never forgets, because there are others who would like to do it again.

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**NOBEL PEACE PRIZE**  
**NOMINEE:**  
**IRENA SENDLER**

I'm reminded of another Human Dignity story that ended in this century.

At 98, Irena Sendler, died on May 12, 2008.

In 2007, prior to her death, she was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize because of her great work during WWII. Irena, got permission to work in the Warsaw Ghetto as a Plumbing/Sewer specialist.

She had an ulterior motive...She KNEW what the Nazi's plans were for the Jews, (being German).

Irena smuggled infants out in the bottom of her tool box she carried, and she also carried in the back of her truck a Burlap sack, (for larger kids). She also had a dog in the back that she trained to bark when the Nazi soldiers let her in and out of the ghetto. The soldiers, of course, wanted nothing to do with the dog, and the barking covered the kids'/infants' noises.

During her time and course of doing this, she managed to smuggle out and save 2500 kids/infants. She was caught, and the Nazi's broke both her legs and arms and beat her severely.

Irena kept a record of the names of all the kids she smuggled out and kept them in a glass jar, buried under a tree in her back yard.

After the war, she tried to locate any parents that may have survived it, and reunited the family.

Most, of course, had been gassed. Those kids she helped were placed into foster family homes or adopted.

She **LOST** the Nobel Peace Prize, and Al Gore won it for doing a slide show on Global Warming.



In 2013, five years after her death, Irena was awarded the Order of the White Eagle, a hero, the highest honor from Poland.

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**By Ida Pennella, PhD  
Legislative Advocacy on Prolife**



**Pro-Life Movement in 2025**

It's the "52-year anniversary of the Supreme Court's tragic *Roe v. Wade* decision". Pro-life pilgrims joined the "March for Life" in Washington, DC to "mourn the millions lives lost to legal abortion in this country".

There were some great speakers who spoke to inspire a "culture of life" and emphasize the "current state of abortion policy in the United States and strategize about how best to build a culture of life in the future".

Among the most prominent speakers were Vice President, J.D. Vance and Florida's Governor, Ron DeSantis.

Source: <https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/challenges-and-opportunities-for-the-pro-life-movement-in-2025/>

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**PRO-LIFE EVENT HELD**

On April 2, 2025, a Nationwide Defund Planned Parenthood Protests were held where pro-lifers protested at "Planned Parenthood centers across the country urging our government to Defund Planned Parenthood!" You can "Visit NoMoneyForAbortion.com" and find out how you can host or join a protest group.

Source: <https://prolifeaction.org/event/defundpp2025/>

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**New York Times admits Planned Parenthood botches abortions, injures women  
By SBA Team**

*Note: This article was copied & posted.*

[The article by the New York times] ...It opens with a horrifying, but all-too-familiar anecdote: Nakara Alston was leaving her boyfriend when she learned she was eight weeks pregnant. In desperation, she got an abortion at a Planned Parenthood [facility] in Albany, N.Y., and moved with her two daughters into a homeless shelter.

But something was clearly wrong. Several weeks after the procedure, she was still bleeding heavily and suffering from painful cramps. She took another home pregnancy test, and when it came back positive, the [facility] staff assured her that they had seen the aborted fetus and there was nothing to worry about. It was only after she went to an emergency room that she discovered the problem: The baby was still in her womb.

Twelve weeks after the failed abortion, Ms. Alston went into labor and delivered a baby who quickly died.

*Could this be another one of the many abortion survivors the Democrats claim don't exist?*

This is just the tip of a massive iceberg: "*The case of the botched abortion in New York is one of scores of allegations reviewed by The Times that accuse Planned Parenthood of poor care.*"

More alleged horrors included:

- Nerve damage from an incorrectly inserted birth control implant.
- A child stillborn after inserting an IUD in a pregnant woman.

Sewage leaking into a recovery room for days, causing people to vomit.

Read more at <https://sbaproplife.org/latest-news/new-york-times-admits-planned-parenthood-botches-abortions-injures-women>

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By Dr. Ida Pennella, PhD  
Past President

**PRESIDENTS BORN IN APRIL**

April 13, 1743	Thomas Jefferson	3rd POTUS
April 28, 1758	James Monroe	5th POTUS
April 23, 1791	James Buchanan	15th POTUS
April 27, 1822	Ulysses Grant	18th POTUS



April Fools' Day is an ancient Roman spring festival called the Hilaria.



**There's a lot of history in the month of April.**



On the night of April 18, 1775, Paul Revere, was a silversmith in Boston and a patriot. He is know in history to have warned the colonial militia about a British attack that started the Revolutionary War the next day the Battle of Lexington and Concord. The famous poem, Paul Revere's Ride, was written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

- April 30, 1789, George Washington was inaugurated as the first President of the United States.
- April 24, 1800, the Library of Congress was established.
- April 30, 1803, Louisiana Territory was bought from France and became the 18<sup>th</sup> state in 1812.
- April 09, 1865, General Lee surrendered to General Grant in the Civil War.
- April 18, 1906, San Francisco's earthquake and fire.
- April 30, 1939, Television first publicly broadcast, from the Empire Bldg. in New York City.



April 30, 1975, Vietnam War ended with South Vietnam's surrender to North Vietnam. The war started on November 1, 1955 and was nearly 20 years long when it ended

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APRIL 2025

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The

ORANGE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF

CATHOLIC WOMEN



cordially invites you to join in our kickoff of one year of celebration in honor of our 50 years of Spirituality, Leadership and Service in the Diocese of Orange at our

*May Crowning & Spring Brunch*

on

*Tuesday, May 20, 2025*

at

*St. John Neumann*

5101 Alton Pkwy, Irvine, CA 92604

*9:00 am – 12:00pm*

The parish has Mass at 8:30am for those interested.

Kindly RSVP by May 13, 2025 at [www.odccw.org](http://www.odccw.org) or contact Susan Navarrete at 949-345-9130 or by email: [snavarrete150@gmail.com](mailto:snavarrete150@gmail.com).

Cost is \$35 and pre-registration is required



# Catholic Charities Auxiliary Chapter III Presents



**JOIN**

**US FOR**

## **AN AFTERNOON OF BINGO TO SUPPORT THE LESS FORTUNATE**

**Friday, April 25, 2025 | 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

**Saint Thomas More Church | Multi-Purpose Room**

**51 Market Place, Irvine, CA 92602**

**Ticket cost is \$35.00 per person--65 players max!**

For further information contact Angie Brazeal (949)633-0427

**Scan the QR code:**



**Or make check payable to Catholic Charities Auxiliary**

**WRITE CCA III BINGO ON THE MEMO LINE**

**Mail to:**

**Catholic Charities of Orange Co., c/o Juliana Silva,  
12141 S. Lewis St, 11th Floor,  
Garden Grove, CA 92480**

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

BINGO: \$35 per ticket # \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

DAILY PRAY FOR PRIESTS CALENDAR				
date	FIRST	LAST	Assignment	Address
4-1	Tuan	Pham	St. Barbara Church	730 S Euclid St, Santa Ana, CA 92704
4-2	Tuan V.	Pham	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	9 Hillgate, Irvine, CA 92612
4-3	Vincent	Pham	St. Bonaventure Church	16400 Springdale St, Huntington Beach, CA 92649
4-4	Tuan J.	Pham, JCL	San Antonio De Padua	5800 E Santa Ana Canyon Rd, Anaheim, CA 92807
4-5	Khoi	Phan	St. Cecilia Church	1301 Sycamore Ave, Tustin, CA 92780
4-6	Edward	Poettgen	St. Boniface Church	120 N Janss St, Anaheim, CA 92805
4-7	Michael	Pontarelli,	St. Julianna Falconieri	1316 N Acacia Ave, Fullerton, CA 92831
4-8	Rudy	Preciado	Retired	c/o Christ Our Savior, 2000 W Alton Ave, Santa Ana, CA 92704
4-9	Aristotle	Quan	St. Edward Church	33926 Calle La Primavera, Dana Point, CA 92629
4-10	Tim	Ramaekers	Pastoral Center	c/o Ministry to Priests Office, 13280 Chapman Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840
4-11	Erialdo	Ramírez-Alfaro	St. Norbert Church	300 E Taft Ave, Orange, CA 92865
4-12	Sergio	Ramos	St. Justin Martyr	2050 West Ball Road, Anaheim, CA 92804
4-13	Daniel	Reader	St. Angela Merici Church	585 S. Walnut Ave., Brea, CA 92821
4-14	Marito	Rebamontan	Retired	c/o St. Catherine of Siena, 1042 Temple Terrace, Laguna Beach, CA 92651
4-15	Jim	Ries	Pastoral Center	c/o Ministry to Priests Office, 13280 Chapman Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840
4-16	Mike	Rizzo	St. Edward the Confessor	33926 Calle La Primavera, Dana Point, CA 92629
4-17	Joe	Robillard	Christ our Savior Church	2000 W Alton Ave, Santa Ana, CA 92704
4-18	Domingo	Romero	Our Lady of Guadalupe Delhi	541 E Central Ave Santa Ana, CA 92707
4-19	Donald	Romito	Retired	c/o St. Joseph's, 717 N Bradford Ave, Placentia, CA 92870
4-20	Patrick	Rudolph	St. Catherine of Siena Church	1042 Temple Terrace, Laguna Beach, CA 92651
4-21	Ruben	Ruiz	St. Joseph, SA	727 N Minter St, Santa Ana, CA 92701
4-22	Steve	Sallot	Our Lady Queen of Angels	2046 Mar Vista Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660
4-23	Francisco	Sandoval, O.A.R.	Our Lady of the Pillar Church	1622 W 6th St, Santa Ana, CA 92703
4-24	Kenneth	Schmit	Retired	c/o Ministry to Priests Office, 13280 Chapman Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840
4-25	Angelos	Sebastian	St. Kilian's	26872 Estanciero Drive, Mission Viejo, CA, 92691
4-26	Luis	Segura	St. Polycarp Church	8100 Chapman Ave, Stanton, CA 90680
4-27	Daniel	Seo	Our Lady of Peace Korean Ctr.	14010 Remington, Irvine, CA 92620
4-28	Enrique	Sera	Retired	c/o Ministry to Priests Office, 13280 Chapman Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840
4-29	Jack	Sewell	Retired	c/o Ministry to Priests Office, 13280 Chapman Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840
4-30	John	Shimotsu	Pastoral Center	c/o Ministry to Priests Office, 13280 Chapman Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840