
ORANGE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF

CATHOLIC  WOMEN

Fragments

MAY 2025 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.*



"Go out to all the world and tell the Good News."

Mark 16:15

APRIL GENERAL GATHERING RECAP

Gail Lefebvre
ODCCW Recording Secretary



- On Tuesday, April 8, 2025, the ODCCW members attended a General Gathering Meeting at St. Columban Parish in Garden Grove.
- Following registration, the ladies of St. Columban had prepared and served a nicely displayed breakfast for the attendees consisting of muffins, rolls, fresh fruit, and yogurt. Coffee, tea, and water were provided. Some of the attendees had attended the 8:30 am Mass.
- ODCCW President Inez Moss started the meeting with an Opening Prayer, Salute to the Cross, and Salute to the U.S. flag. Pat Martin then read a prayer.

- Following breakfast, President Inez Moss introduced Fr. Juan Navarro as our guest speaker. His topic was "New Life in Christ". Some of the points Fr. Juan covered were: Imposition of Ashes, Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving. His talk was relevant to the Lenten season. After his talk, he offered Questions and Answers and said a grace blessing for lunch.
- Following Fr. Juan's talk, photos were taken of the current ODCCW President (Inez Moss) and 5 past presidents who attended the general meeting.
- Lunch was served at 11:00 am to 12 noon. The St. Columban ladies provided a delicious lunch of assorted sandwiches and several salads. Cookies were provided for dessert.
- The 50/50 drawing was conducted with 2 winners.
- The meeting was concluded with a closing prayer.





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.

RSVP by May 16, 2025. Please contact Susan Navarrete via text (949) 345-9130 or email: snavarrete150@gmail.com for registration.

Cost is \$35 and pre-registration is required



OUR BELOVED POPE FRANCIS

Janine Meckler
ODCCW Past President



In the April Fragments Newsletter, I wrote an excerpt about attending a variety of Catholic Churches either in person or via the internet, taking a Pilgrimage of sorts during Lent to one or more Catholic Churches. For Easter Sunday Mass, my family and I attended Our Lady Queen of Angels Catholic Church, my home church. It was beautifully decorated with gorgeous flowers and overflowing with people. There was a particular emphasis this Easter on singing Alleluia over and over again. The joy of the Resurrection of Jesus was palpable.

I continued that joy by entering into the octave of Easter when I rose early Monday morning for 6:30am Mass. My usual routine is a drive in the car at about 6:00am for coffee on my way to Mass while listening to the Catholic Channel on Sirius XM Radio. I was utterly stunned to learn very quickly about the passing of our Beloved Pope Francis. My heart sank as I began to cry for the earthly loss of a soul that loves and loves and loves The Lord and people so much and who exuded such joy in his eyes, smile, and actions. Pope Francis lived the Gospel. Yes, Pope Francis lived the Gospel! Alleluia! I admire his simplicity, humility, mercy, commitment to the poor, marginalized, immigrants, unborn, and the elderly. Pope Francis embraced people through their eyes and life's circumstances. Pope Francis reminds us to go and do likewise just as Jesus taught.

The next time you or I attend Mass or enter a Catholic Church we can pray for Pope Francis' soul and seek his intercession to guide us from that Catholic Church building to go out to the people with God's great love. I pray to recall Pope Francis' love for all mankind, especially those who are marginalized, poor, immigrants seeking refuge and to thank God for giving us Pope Francis as our Papa for 12 years. Pope Francis will be laid to rest at the Basilica of Saint Mary Major where his favorite icon of Mary and Jesus reside. He had a special devotion and closeness to Mary the Mother of God. He sat with that icon before leaving on Pilgrimages and upon returning from those Pilgrimages. Thank you, Pope Francis, for the life of your earthly Pilgrimage. Thank you. May you rest in God's Peace, Papa Francisco.

Janine Meckler



May, Mary's Month

By Dr. Ida Pennella, PhD
Emeritus Advisor & Legislative Advocacy

Hail Holy Queen! May, called Mary's month, honors the Blessed Virgin Mary with a traditional Roman Catholic ritual known as the "May Crowning". The celebration includes placing a wreath of flowers on Mary's head, and reciting the rosary. Other celebrations include pilgrimages, visits to churches that are dedicated to Mary, and performing sacrifices in her honor.

Mary is our guiding light to help us answer "God's call to serve." Pope Francis said that Mary is the model of evangelization and Christian service. "She set off, she left her home and went in haste to help her kinswoman Elizabeth, who was in need of assistance; she carried out an act of love, of charity, of practical service, bringing Jesus who was in her womb."

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" ("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. Sources: <http://campus.udayton.edu/mary/meditations/crownmed.html>



NEW BEGINNINGS: PENTECOST: JUNE 8, 2025

BY DR. IDA PENNELLA, PHD

The Risen Christ is among us through the power of the Holy Spirit!

This Holy Day commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles, and the day that officially started the Church. Pentecost is translated from the Greek, Pentekoste Hemera, meaning 50th day, which Christians borrowed from the Greek-speaking Jews that referred to the Jewish holiday of the Festival of Weeks which comes 50 days after Passover.

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues^(a) as the Spirit enabled them (Acts 2:2-4, NIV).

In Damascus the followers of the early Church were known as The Way, and were about to suffer great persecution under the hand of Saul, but the Holy Spirit shook him up!

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest² and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.³ As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" (Acts 9:1-4, NIV).

New beginnings are taking place at ODCCW as we enter our new fiscal year! Great events are being planned. May our Lord richly bless all of us as we enter our new beginnings!

Sources:

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/markdroberts/series/what-is-pentecost-why-does-it-matter/>
<https://www.biblegateway.com>
<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/livingaholyadventure/2015/05/pentecost-sunday-may-24-2015/>



Republican senator introduces bill expanding federal child tax credits
By Grace Porto | CV News Feed//



Freshman Sen. Jim Banks, R-Ind., introduced a bill that would amend the 1986 Internal Revenue Code to enhance child tax credits (CTC).

The *Washington Examiner* reported that the bill would expand the

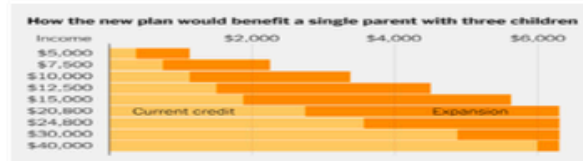
CTC from \$2,000 per child to \$3,000 per school-aged child and \$4,200 per younger child.

While Democrats introduced a similar bill, titled the American Family Act 2025, their legislation provides tax credits to those who are not paying income taxes. Banks' version of the bill requires that families make at least \$20,000 to qualify for a CTC.

The *Washington Examiner* also reports that Banks' bill would offset the increased CTC by reducing other tax breaks and abolishing the deduction for state and local income taxes, which, the Examiner states, mainly benefits the wealthy.

Banks' legislation would abolish the current Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, which only subsidizes formal daycare and is only claimed by 12% of parents. With the revised CTC, parents would be able to choose to spend the credit, whether that is on daycare or other needs.

"Alternatively, parents could use the money to work less, hire babysitters or other informal daycare, move closer to grandma, or pay for someone to clean the house and mow the lawn," the article stated, "freeing up Mom and Dad to take care of the child."



###

WASHINGTON — Last week, Missouri Senator Eric Schmitt (R-Mo.) introduced a bill that would establish the Monday after Easter as a federal holiday. According to Schmitt, the Easter Monday Act of 2025 would celebrate Easter Monday and make it a federal holiday.



Countries such as Australia, Italy and Canada currently celebrate the Monday after Easter. Schmitt says the Easter Monday holiday could extend travel impact by 10-15%. It would also bridge a federal holiday gap between Presidents Day in mid-February to Memorial Day in late May. Read more at https://www.yahoo.com/news/could-easter-monday-become-federal-233557437.html?fr=yhssrp_catchall

###

NOTE: The NCCW Legislative Advocacy Committee is under the Spirituality Commission and is guided by Catholic Social Teaching. 1) **Abortion:** opposes abortion and infanticide, includes ProLife issues, 2) **Human rights:** Includes human dignity, domestic violence, human trafficking and opposition to genocide, 3) **Women's health:** screening for osteoporosis and routine health care, and 4) **Equal opportunities:** minimum wage, social security, and health insurance.



By Ida Pennella, PhD
Emeritus Advisor
Legislative Advocacy on Prolife

A Choice of the Heart: Tim Tebow's Mom Shares Her Incredible Testimony

By Tom Campisi | Dec 5, 2023 | [Abundant Life Blog](#)

Read this heartwarming story about Tim Tebow's Mom who refused an abortion and saved his life. He lived to become an NFL Quarterback and ProLife Champion.

<https://care-net.org/abundant-life-blog/tim-tebows-mom-shares-her-testimony/>

refused to have an abortion during a difficult pregnancy. Read more at <https://www.courierpress.com/story/news/local/2024/09/13/tim-tebow-aims-for-crowds-emotions-at-right-to-life-dinner/75199324007/>

More information:

The Tim Tebow Foundation is ProLife and "supports organizations that promote life-affirming values and address issues like orphan care, medical provision, and special needs ministries. He also advocates for anti-human trafficking efforts".

Tim Tebow Dyslexic

"Tim Tebow, a former NFL quarterback, has spoken openly about his diagnosis of dyslexia, which he received in elementary school, and how he learned to overcome the challenges it presented, finding success both academically and athletically". He said that its not a handicap and not a disease. Read more at <https://www.google.com/search?q=tim+tebow+dyslexic>

###

TIM TEBOW ProLife Speaker

EVANSVILLE — They listened in rapt silence, they applauded, they laughed — and more



than a few of them seemed to get something in their eyes — when Tim Tebow spoke to 2,500 abortion opponents here Thursday night.

Tebow, the former NFL quarterback and Heisman Trophy winner who became a cultural lightning rod during and after his brief pro career, headlined Right to Life of

Southwest Indiana annual banquet at Old National Events Plaza.

A vocal Christian who created a foundation to identify and rescue sexually exploited children, Tebow repeatedly invoked the compassion and passion of Jesus. He invoked his listeners to give their time and money to fighting abortion until it hurts. He told the story of how his own mother had

WASHINGTON – Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) has introduced a trio of bills to prevent federal tax dollars from funding or subsidizing abortions in the



United States and across the world, in honor of the 2025 March for Life in Washington, DC and state capitals around the country: the Abortion is not Health Care Act, the Protecting Life in Health Savings Accounts Act, the Protecting Life in Foreign assistance Act, and a repeal of the FACE Act.

"In our quest to build a society where every precious human life is protected, we cannot allow the tax dollars of American families to be used against the most vulnerable people in our country and across the world: the unborn." said Senator Lee. "I am also introducing legislation to repeal the FACE Act, which was used by Joe Biden to imprison Pro Life activists, now officially pardoned by President Trump."

Read more at <https://www.lee.senate.gov/2025/1/lee-introduces-pro-life-legislation-for-march-for-life>

###

NOTE: The NCCW Legislative Advocacy Committee is under the Spirituality Commission and is guided by Catholic Social Teaching. 1) **Abortion:** opposes abortion and infanticide, includes ProLife issues, 2) **Human rights:** Includes human dignity, domestic violence, human trafficking and opposition to genocide, 3) **Women's health:** screening for osteoporosis and routine health care, and 4) **Equal opportunities:** minimum wage, social security, and health insurance.



By Dr. Ida Pennella, PhD, Past President

Presidents Born in May

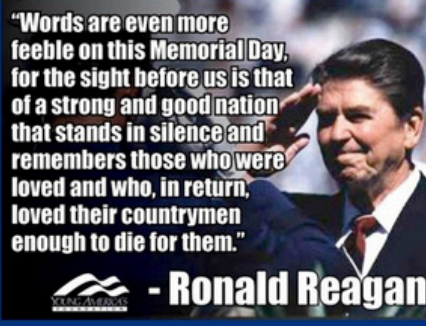
May 8, 1884 Harry Truman 32nd POTUS
May 29, 1917 John F. Kennedy 35th POTUS



May 21, 2025

Let's celebrate our own children and grandchildren who are currently serving in the Armed Forces.

May 26, 2025



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
Plane Bombed, died in Tunisia, Africa
Honor Roll 350th Fighter Group 1943-1945

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