

**In Honor of All
Who Serve God
And Country**



Thank You

Supreme Semantics



Supreme Council Columbiettes



Spring Memorial Edition 2017



A Message from our Supreme President

Right now, believe it or not, we are supposed to be experiencing the season of spring by enjoying the sunny days, the blooming flowers and the birds chirping. For some reason Mother Nature is holding back on us with what we would expect for this time of the year to bring. Let us hope that she quickly wakes up and realizes that "It's Springtime".

It is hard to believe that the 2016-2017 Columbian Year is slowly coming to a close. As the States prepare for their Conventions, our Chapters and Auxiliaries are holding their election of Officers for a new year. As an organization we are pleased to review all of our accomplishments that helped us grow and make a difference in today's world.

I am sincerely grateful and appreciative of all the support, work, effort and service of all the Supreme Officers, Directors, Territorial Directors, and Past Supreme Presidents during my two years as Supreme President. To all our State, Chapter and Auxiliary Officers, I thank you for being so generous with your time and talents. To all the members of our great organization "Thank You" because without your cooperation and support, we could not be able to spread the Columbiette Message from state to state.

I am so happy to have the opportunity to pay a visit to many of our Territories as they are holding Major Degrees for the auxiliaries within their areas. Our Territorial Deputies work so closely with their auxiliaries in their areas to promote growth in membership and charitable works.

How blessed we are this year to be able to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima. I urge all my Sister Columbiettes to answer the call to "Live the Fatima Message". Her message at Fatima included themes of prayer, repentance, penance, sacrifice and turning away from sin. The message of Fatima is a call to conversion of heart and amendment of life that she is asking all of us to



work on very diligently.

By now every President has received the MMJM Application. Every auxiliary does so many good works and deserves to win this award. Please take the time to send in your auxiliary's application. Also please encourage anyone who is furthering their education to consider applying for the Past Supreme Presidents Scholarship Award.

Our Caring and Sharing Book has been updated thanks to our Chairlady, Sandy Bohinski and her committee. Every State, Chapter and Auxiliary President will receive an updated red bounded copy at their state conventions.

I cannot believe that my term in office is coming to an end. It has been an honor and pleasure to serve this great organization as your Supreme President. Each and every one of you will always have a special place in my heart.

I will be looking forward to seeing many of you at our Supreme Convention in August (August 18-20) at the Marriott Hotel in Uniondale, New York. The committee is planning a great time for all.

Please continue to prayer for all our Sister Columbiettes, Brother Knights, Priests and Religious, our deceased members and all our Military men and women.

It is important that we always continue to "Lend a Hand and Lift a Heart" within our Columbiette Community.

May St. Theresa, the Little Flower of Jesus, shower upon all of you, her promised Roses of Virtue and Grace.

Patricia Zellner



A Message from our Supreme Chaplain

My Sister Columbiettes,

"Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!" It is in the joy of the Easter Season that I greet you. The Season began with the celebration of The Easter Vigil on April 15 this year and it continues to the Solemnity of Pentecost on June 4. This issue of Semantics will reach you around Memorial Day, which is during the Seventh Week of the Easter Season on the church calendar.

The Scripture Readings during the Easter Season focus on the theme of the abundance of new life brought about by the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. That "new life" for us is brought about through the Sacrament of Baptism and fostered and nourished through the frequent reception of the Sacraments throughout our lives. After His Resurrection, Jesus commissioned His apostles to go forth and make disciples of all the nations. During the Easter Season we read about this at Mass in the Acts of the Apostles, the book in the Bible that follows the four Gospels. This is the First Reading at our Sunday Masses during the Easter Season, rather than from the Old Testament.

The lives of the early Christians were not always easy. They faced ridicule, imprisonment, and sometimes martyrdom for preaching the Name of Jesus. Yet that did not deter them from boldly proclaiming the Resurrection of the Lord. They received much satisfaction in living their baptismal promises and sharing their Christian faith with others. As a result many thousands of households were baptized into the faith. And they received encouragement, first and foremost, by the outpouring of grace by the Holy Spirit. And they also received encouragement from each other! There are many examples in the Acts of the Apostles wherein the followers of Our Lord shared, not only their faith, but food and shelter with each other so that no one lacked the basic necessities of life.



Does not your work and ministry as Columbiettes seek to accomplish the same? Through your charitable endeavors you reach out to those in need! Through your programs and outreach you support so many causes that further enhances the life and dignity of the human person. And the encouragement you receive is fostered at your meetings and spiritual programs throughout the year when you gather as sister Columbiettes.

These remaining days of the Easter Season culminates with the Solemnity of Pentecost, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon our Blessed Lady and the disciples in that Upper Room. May the Holy Spirit continue to bless and imbue you with His Seven-Fold Gifts and Twelve Spiritual Fruits.

Be assured of my prayers and affection!

Msgr. Andrew L. Szaroleta





A Message from our Supreme Immediate Past President

It seems so hard to realize that this year is almost over. I have enjoyed being on the Supreme Board all these years. It was a great experience for me. The friends I have made along the journey is remarkable. As they say friends are everlasting and I certainly have many.

Congratulations to everyone who has finished their term. Enjoy your time. I wish the new Officers much success in the future. Let's help one another continue to grow and prosper in this wonderful organization the Columbiettes.

The Perfect Gift

We live and learn in this old world
And as we older grow,
Still more and more we realize,
It's so little that we know.
There's one thing that we wish we knew,
It's where and when to speak
And how to say the things we feel
To help the poor and weak.

So many times we want to talk,
But don't know what to say,
To give someone the strength he needs
To help him on his way.
If God would grant one perfect gift,
To one so small and weak,
The thing I'd ask is just to know
When and where and how to speak.

By Laina Owen



I would like to wish everyone a great summer. Good Luck at your Conventions. See you in August for the Supreme Convention.

May our Blessed Mother shower you with Her Love Always.

Barbara Ann Lucarelli





A Message from our Supreme Vice President

Wishing all my Sister Columbiettes a Blessed Easter Season and wonderful Spring.

As we prepare for elections in our Auxiliaries and Chapters I wish all the newly elected officers a successful term and thank the out-going officers for all their service and dedication. You are the cornerstone of the organization and your leadership is essential to the workings of the whole membership. The role of the leader is not to give greatness to others but to help them extract the greatness they already have inside them. Team work makes the dream work. You are my dream, you are my team. Congratulations and Best Wishes on your State Conventions.

May the Holy Spirit guide you in all your deliberations and decisions. I look forward to working with all of you as we continue God's good works in the Sisterhood of the Columbiettes.

Ronnie Albert



A Message from our Supreme Secretary

Supporting all of our Active Military, Veterans and Deceased should be something that we do every day. Saying a prayer for the Past, Present and Future Military members and their families is part of my daily prayers. I hope that you will try to include them in your daily prayers too. Prayers are Powerful tools.

On a separate note: I get a lot of question about Fee's. I also get incorrect amounts sent in.

Here is a reminder of our Membership fees.

New Member = \$5.00 with A 100 form. (Postmarked within 10 business days of First Degree)

Reinstatement = No Fee with A 100 form (Members coming back to same Auxiliary **WITHIN 1** year of absence)

Readmit = \$ 5.00 with A 100 form (Members coming back to same Auxiliary **AFTER** being out longer than 1 year)

Withdrawal = \$ 5.00 with A 100 form Granted to a member in Good Standing upon request.

Suspension = No Fee with A 100 or Suspension From

Late Fee = \$1.00 per member A100's postmarked past 10 business days from date of degree incur late fees.

Transfer of Active member=No fee



Transfer of Reinstated Member (Member coming back into NEW Aux
WITHIN 1 year of absence) = No Fee

Transfer of Readmitted Member Member coming back into New Aux
AFTER 1 year or more absence) = \$ 5.00

Please note that your personal information may be stored and processed
in any country where we have facilities or in which we engage service
providers. If you provide personal information to us by email or
otherwise, you consent to the transfer of that information to countries
outside of your country of residence and these countries may have
different data protection rules than your country.

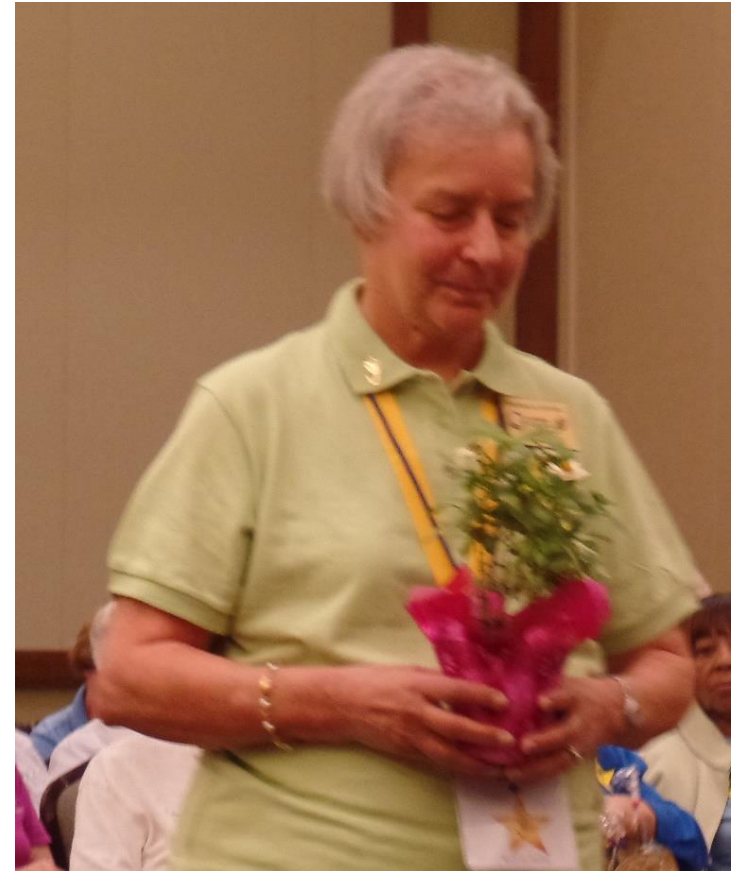
Micki Magee



With Honor & Gratitude
We Remember



In Loving Memory
Supreme Financial Secretary
Thursa Sotak



April 24, 2017
Rest in Peace



A Message from our Supreme Treasurer

Spring is finally here after a long dreary winter. It's a great feeling to see the flowers in bloom and the weather getting warmer. This is the month we also celebrate Memorial Day remembering all those brave men and woman who gave their lives for our freedom in this great country. A freedom many take for granted. The following poem says what it means to be an American.

An American

An **American** is a fellow man or woman of whatever color or religion that lives his or her life according to our country's great standards.

Red – Red is for our great love, courage and compassion.

Blue – Blue is for the truth, true hearts and great knowledge which only comes from the truth.

White – White is for a pure conscience, which we have when applied daily, our great love, courage, truth and compassion towards our fellow man and nation.

Author: Linda Eddy

Enjoy the holiday but just a reminder, make sure to return your Margaret Mary J. Mangan application by certified mail postmarked no later than July 5, 2017.

Have a good summer. Looking forward to seeing you at convention.

Ronny Pliszak



A Message from our Supreme Advocate



Dear Sister Columbiettes,

As we come close to the end of the Columbian year 2016 – 2017, I would like to say thank you to each of you who served as Officers on all levels of our Organization and to wish the new Officers good luck as they begin their time of service on July 1st. Most of all thank you to each of you who are members of the Columbiettes. Everyone has the opportunity to do something for your Auxiliaries and Chapters. Your attendance at the meetings, if you can, is a real boost for your Board of Officers and when possible volunteer to assist on whatever projects are being worked on at your Auxiliary and Chapter. Be proud of your membership as a Columbiette! Remember we are all members of the Expansion team, so be sure to reach out and ask others to consider joining your Auxiliary.

Thanks for allowing me to serve as your Supreme Advocate these past two years. I truly loved being the Advocate and enjoyed working with many Auxiliaries and Chapters as you either started a new Auxiliary or updated your Bylaws.



As you all know, in April, God called our Supreme Financial Secretary Thursa Sotak to join the Columbiettes Auxiliary in Heaven. Thursa will be missed by all of us on the Supreme Board and by so many of you her Sister Columbiettes.

On **Memorial Day** we are grateful for and inspired by those Veterans who have given their lives for our country and we pray that the Lord preserve and protect the members of the Armed Forces as they defend us every day throughout the world.

Anne Sullivan



A Message from our Supreme Sentinel



St. Theresa (the Little Flower), our Blessed Mother, and St. Joan of Arc

Dear Sister Columbiettes:

Spring and summer are my two favorite times of the year. Yes, autumn is beautiful and winter brings some quiet peace (if we are lucky enough to weather the snow), but spring and summer bring rebirth – flowers and trees budding forth, gardens growing, children playing outside – all I find very refreshing.



Columbiettes are busy throughout all seasons – gathering for Memorial Masses, and promoting the spiritual, social, and charitable welfare of our members.

Every year at this time, we continue to reflect on what we all have been doing and how we can approach the coming Columbian year with new vigor and enthusiasm. Expanding our membership and sharing experiences. We elect new Auxiliary, Chapter, State and Supreme Officers all of whom will work diligently to advance our goals. We continue to reach out to let the world know about us and what we are about.

One of my assignments as Supreme Sentinel is to review websites, and I find many quite inspiring and informative. I also assist in spreading the information that the Columbiettes are a group of women who work with our Brother Knights to promote the ideals of Columbianism.

If you have any questions or concerns with which I can be of assistance, please feel free to contact me – my email address is pomom@aol.com.

I hope you have a wonderful and blessed summer with your family, sister Columbiettes, and friends; and I hope to see you at our annual convention in August.

Jean Breyer





A Message from our Supreme Past Presidents

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

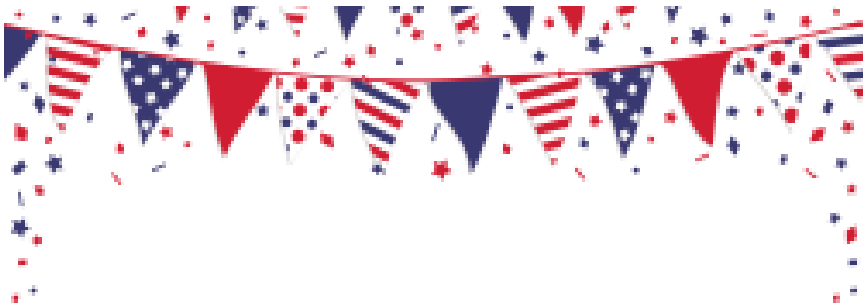
It's hard to believe that another Columbiette year is coming to an end. Throughout the year it was great hearing about all the good works that were being done in all of our States and Territories. We all can all be proud to be a part of such a great organization - Columbiettes.

Summertime is a time for rest and relaxation. We hope you all have a fun-filled, safe and happy summer. In September when you will all be well rested you will be eager to start a new Columbiette year.

Have fun in the sun!

Supreme Past Presidents

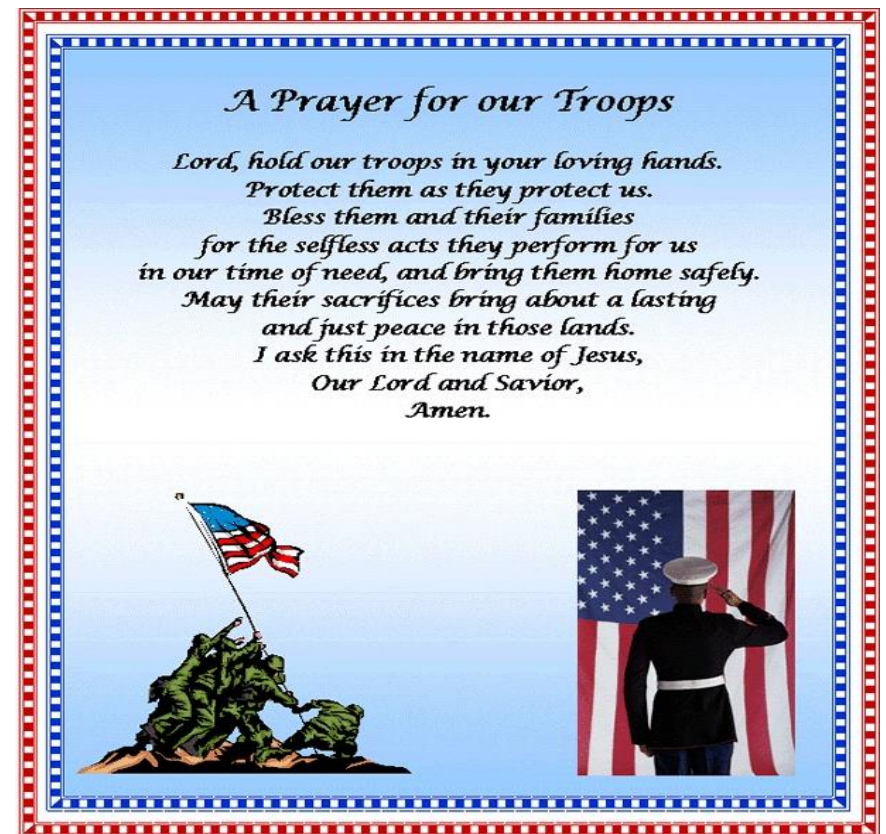
Sandra Bohinski Ann Seletski RoseMarie Olivieri Pam Desaulniers



A Message from our Supreme Directors

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

As Memorial Day approach, let's honor especially the men and women of all branches of the military in the USA who offer their lives for the cause of freedom.



Claudette B. Apple, Supreme Director



Dear Sister Columbiettes,

I hope you all had a Happy and Blessed Easter with family and friends. Summer is just around the corner and soon we will be looking to the Supreme Convention. Time certainly is going by quickly. My wish is that the remainder of the year will be a wonderful, healthy time for each and every one of you.

Love,

Shirley Gayford, Supreme Director



Alleluia – Christ is Risen We celebrate Spring with RE-Birth

Spring is a miraculous experience. The whole world comes alive after the winter in which it seemed that everything was dead. The world comes filled with color and the scent of delicious greenery. The world that seemed so dull and cold has come alive once again. Little did we know that beneath the cold hard ground the plants and trees were preparing for rebirth. Spring gives us hope for rejuvenation in our own lives as well. Spring is a time to renew the excitement and zest for the life that lives inside.

I wish all my sisters and brothers a wonderful season of joy, love, and health. May God bless you and keep you in the palm of his hand.

With Peace and Love,

Johanna Anzalone, Supreme Director





Wishing you wonderful Spring days and joyous Summer nights filled with warm memories.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in August at the Supreme Convention. Wishing much success to the convention committee as I know the weekend will be wonderful.

A Blessing for the Day

May the God of the dawn awaken you
May the God of sunrise stir you up
May the God of morning bless your work
May the God of noon renew your strength
May the God of sunset bring you home
May the God of dusk soothe your soul
May the God of night bring you rest.

Cathe Nicholson, Supreme Director



Dear Sister Columbiettes,

We proudly love our Veterans and can never do enough to show our gratitude for their service. In December, along with the Knights and Marine Corp, we distributed toiletry bags and hand-made fleece blankets from our blanket-tying project to the Servicemen and Servicewomen at the Veteran's Hospital. We created a newsletter to share our activities to encourage more participation and involvement within the community parish, in an effort to recognize our honorable Veterans.

On May 27, we will be working together with the Knights to make sandwiches for a Social, following the Memorial Day Mass. During this Annual Memorial Day Service, run by the Knights, we participate with the Honor Guard and Knights to show our support for our Servicemen and Servicewomen who risk their lives daily to keep us free and safe from harm.

Lastly, we had planned another visit to the Veterans' Hospital this month; however, it has been postponed by the hospital until later in June. We are forever indebted to our Veterans and can never do enough to repay them. Ironically, every one of them say, "I would do it again in a heartbeat!" That is true patriotism. May we be ever mindful of just how much our Veterans sacrifice for all America, without a second thought.

God bless you all.

With humility and gratitude,

Jacqueline Ryan, Supreme Director





As we witness the newness that is spring, we are reminded of God's many blessings – not only the beauty of nature but the gift of our freedom to fly the *Red White and Blue* – wherever and whenever is a right we should never take for granted. My springtime wish for each of you is that you take a moment to enjoy the many blessings and wonders that God has given us.

Pat Vahlsing, Supreme Director



My best wishes to all Columbiettes for a summer filled with peace, love, health and sunshine!

Carol Bohinski, Supreme Director



My Sister Columbiettes

I am so grateful of the opportunity that was given to me to be a Supreme Director.

I love being a part of the Columbiettes.

I feel it is an honor to work alongside many Columbiettes from other States in this wonderful U.S.A of America.

This year I worked on a few committees with many Columbiettes and found it very rewarding, informative and fun too.

I look forward to working with more of these wonderful ladies from all over .I also worked weekly with the Supreme Secretary Micki Magee with her filings and mailings.

I thank Madame President Patricia Zellner for putting me on the Committees, I hope to do more in my next 2 years.

God Bless the all the service men and women who keep us safe.

Sincerely;

Vicky Porcelli, Supreme Director





A Message from our Supreme Committee Chairpersons

IRS Committee

Wishing all our Sisters a Blessed Easter Season and a Happy Mother's Day.

We would like to thank all the Auxiliaries, Chapters and States who have successfully filed or are in the process of getting reinstated to be in compliance with the US government on filing their 990-N (e-postcards). We understand the time and effort put into this task and appreciate all the efforts that are being done.

As all know, it is extremely important that all Auxiliaries, Chapters and States file with the IRS. In order for those subordinates to be under the umbrella of the Supreme Council you must keep up with your annual filings. As we move forward with everyone's compliance, remember the Supreme Board is here to assist you in your efforts. Feel free to reach out to us with any questions or concerns and together we can work to accomplish this task.

Thank you again for all you do for this organization. May Our Blessed Mother, St. Theresa and St. Joan of Arc keep all of you in their care.

Ronnie Albert, Claudette Apple, Pam Desaulniers, Barbara Lasek, Pat Vahlsing, Vicky Porcelli



Past Supreme President's Scholarship

The application for the Past President's Scholarship has been sent out with the Supreme Support Club. Thanks in advance to all those that are planning on submitting an application. We know that each and every one of you are truly worthy of receiving this honor. We look forward to reviewing the applications. The hard part will be in making the final decision. Much success to all who work so hard on getting their education. Best wishes to you.

Ronnie Albert, Johanna Anzalone, Donna Byron, Shirley Gayford, Jacqueline Ryan, Flo Mucci





Semantics

I hope that you enjoy the latest edition of the Supreme Semantics newsletter. It has been my honor and privilege to be the chairperson this year.

I'm the lucky one who gets to read all your articles first. It brightens my heart to hear of all you've accomplished in the name of the Columbiettes.

I wish to thank you for the kind comments you've given to me saying you've liked the previous editions of the Semantics.

Kathy Donahue, Semantics Chairperson



Support Club

Just a reminder Supreme Support Club Tickets have been mailed out. Drawing will be held at Supreme Convention on Saturday August 19, 2017. Remember you have to be in it to Win!!

To all our Sister Columbiettes who purchased tickets or will be taking tickets THANK YOU for Supporting Supreme. Lastly wishing all my Sisters A Happy Mother's Day.

Barbara Lasek – Support Club Chair



A Message from our Territorial Deputies

Hello from Missouri! My name is April Mika and I am the Territorial Deputy for the state of Missouri. I am member of the Sons of Mother Seton Auxiliary #9847 in Fayetteville, North Carolina. I now live in Ozark Missouri. We are a new territory with just one Auxiliary but the Father Robert A. Hager Auxiliary in Kansas City, MO is active and going strong.

They originally welcomed 32 members to the new auxiliary-30 of whom also completed their Major Degree. Auxiliary President, Patty Dunsworth says "We are excited to be the first Columbiettes Auxiliary in Missouri and in the Midwest. We are currently planning fund raising events and determining which charities will benefit most from our efforts. Our members are looking forward to growing our organization, making a difference in our community and living our faith."

Since November, this Columbiettes Auxiliary has increased its membership to 43, hosted Bunco, donated to the St. Patrick Church Community Garden and helped support the Father Robert A. Hager Knights of Columbus Council with a Lenten soup dinner and fish fry. They are currently holding elections and getting ready for an Installation Ceremony in June.

God bless you,

April Mika, Missouri Territorial Deputy





As the school year comes to a close, Blessed John XXIII Auxiliary #14341 at the University of Tennessee, has been hard at work. In February, 10 ladies made their Major Degree with the help of Supreme President - Pat Zellner, Ceremonial Chair – Jeanne Mucci, NC Immediate Past State President – Marlene Korn, NC State Vice President – Ginny Grant and a contingent from North Carolina Holy Cross Auxiliary – 8509.

At the most recent meeting, new officers were elected and installed. Their campus activities for the second half of the year included a successful bake sale, assisting with the Knights Formal and leading the First Stations of the Cross of the Lenten season. In addition, services and spiritual uplifting events were held during Lent that found inspiration from the following quote from Mother Teresa;

“The greatest disease in the West today is not TB or leprosy; it is being unwanted, unloved and uncared for. We can cure physical disease with medicine, but the only cure for loneliness, despair and hopelessness is love. There are many in the world who are dying for a piece of bread but there are more dying for a little love. The poverty in the West is a different kind of poverty – it is not only poverty of loneliness but also of spirituality. There’s a hunger for love, as there is a hunger for God.”

The ladies have been working on addressing the poverty of loneliness both on campus as well as in the greater Knoxville community. They have written letters to a soldier, passed out goody bags in the library for students studying by themselves, passed out coffee/hot chocolate on campus and talked to others on how we can cure loneliness, delivered meals to people in an assisted living home and served meals at the Salvation Army.

To finish out Lent, the ladies handed out cookies to men and flowers to ladies during the campus “Sex Week” that said “You are worth waiting for” and words to the men about upholding the dignity of women. They also visited the children at Children’s Hospital, did a cell phone fast during



Holy Week and prayed at a cemetery for the lonely souls in Purgatory.

During the weekend of April 21-22, 20 of the members attended their 2nd annual Women’s Retreat at Christ Prince of Peace Retreat Center in Benton, TN. The theme this year was “Amicitia Aeterna” or “Eternal Friendship”. Many of ladies will be graduating in May and I know they will be taking with them the spiritual inspiration that they learned by being a member of the Columbiettes. God Bless them as they take the next step in their future.

In keeping with the patriotic theme of this issue, let us remember not only the men that have fought and given their lives for our country but the over 780,000 women that have served our country from the American Revolution up to the today’s Operation Enduring/ Iraqi Freedom. May they serve as true examples of giving their all for our nation and the freedoms that we enjoy every day.

Blessings and Peace to All,

Patti Dmuchowski – Tennessee Territorial Deputy



When we were encouraged to focus on ‘patriotism’ as the topic for our upcoming Semantics newsletter, I suddenly wondered, “What is the connection between patriotism and my Catholic faith?” I immediately thought about St. Joan of Arc - St. Joan of Arc’s love for the people of her country and desire to save them flowed out of her great love for God.

When she was burned at the stake, she truly put God first before country. Was she then not patriotic? Rev. Msgr. Martin Fulton Sheen delivered a message on *The Catholic Hour* radio program on February 20, 1938 (Source: <https://www.thecatholicthing.org/2016/07/04/patriotism/>) to



offer me somewhat of a connection:

"If human dignity and liberty come from God, then it follows that loss of faith in Him means loss of faith in those liberties which derive from Him. If we wish to have the light we must keep the sun; if we wish to keep our forests we must keep our trees; if we wish to keep our perfumes we must keep our flowers – and if we wish to keep our rights, then we must keep our God. It is just as vain to try to keep triangles without keeping three-sided figures, as to try to keep Liberty without the spirit which makes man independent of matter and therefore free.

It is our solemn duty as Catholics, therefore, to be conscious of our duty to America, and to preserve its freedom by preserving its faith in God.

But as we talk about patriotism, it might be well to remind ourselves that in a crisis like this, even devotion to the stars and stripes is not enough to save us. We must look beyond them to other stars and stripes, namely the stars and stripes of Christ, by whose stars we are illuminated and by whose stripes we are healed!"

I then found myself revisiting our Supreme Council Columbiette website, and was reminded how our purpose and that of the Knights are reciprocated as both of our organizations compel us to action. One of the core values of our Brother Knights is patriotism.

"The patriot loves his family, his neighbors, his backyard, those local institutions that nurtured and formed him, which he visits if he has moved abroad, and whose memory he cherishes." (Source: Brother Andre Marie, 2014 article on "Catholic and Patriotic"; <http://catholicism.org/ad-rem-no-232.html>)

Patriotism is what I have most recently experienced then, not only from the Knights of Council 1629 in Puyallup, WA, but from other veteran related programs as well: the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the



American Legion (AL) and the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA). I am totally in awe of their kind acts of mercy and willingness to give so much support to us.

My husband, Jorge, has been a service officer for over 3 years now – totally dedicating about 100 volunteer hours a month by helping veterans learn about and secure their benefits due them from their military service years.

Due to his diabetes and neuropathy, he most recently had his 5 toes amputated on his right foot. He has been in surgery five times from Dec. 2016 to current date. His treatment plan is quite aggressive through the University of Washington Hospital programs. We have been getting up for 4 weeks now, at 3:00 am Mon through Fri, travel 50 miles each way to Seattle for him to receive hyperbaric oxygen chamber treatment for two hours. We have another 2-3 months to go.

When one is used to doing for others and helping the needy, it is quite humbling to ask and receive help on our end. I categorize this article as patriotic, because every single time one of his 'Brothers', be it from the K of C, the FRA, the VFW, or the AL, they continually remind me that these are the reasons why we are here on this earth, to help each other – not just by serving community programs and sponsoring parish events, but to get down and lift up families like mine by just 'being there'. Cooking meals, cutting our grass, hauling away garbage to the dump, driving Jorge up to north Seattle at 4:00 in the morning once a week, putting in a ramp so he can get inside the house more safely - this is patriotism all mixed up with our Catholic faith and love of God.

The following excerpt truly reminds me that patriotism is right in our back yards –

"We are answering Pope Francis' call to go to the peripheries," Supreme Knight Carl Anderson said. "We can reach half way around the globe to



help those in need and we can reach to our neighbor next door. And we do that every day. That makes us witnesses to the faith."

My story is not unique as I have found other Columbiettes with similar challenges – to accept help from others in times of need – to pray to God daily for the strength to go on as a 24/7 care-provider – to recognize that the Lord has indeed answered my prayers when I begged Him to lessen my husband's pain by sending me challenges in the form of sacrifice on my part. Now I just need to remind myself to remain gracious to the Lord for answering my prayers.

Tony Magliano (National Catholic Reporter) wrote about his 2014 interview (<https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/making-difference/putting-patriotism-its-proper-place>) with countercultural peace activist Jesuit Fr. Dan Berrigan. He raised a question of crucial importance for every American Catholic to ponder:

"Am I a Catholic American? Or am I an American Catholic? What comes first, our country or our God? Do we blindly follow the culture, government and economic system of our nation, or do we faithfully follow the lord Jesus, who alone is the way, the truth and the life?"

I dedicate this article to my husband and all other veterans who serve and have served not only their country well, but remain(ed) active in service to others because of their faith and love for God.

Submitted by Deb Ramirez, Territorial Deputy for WA State



A Message from our State Presidents

In Flanders Fields

Lt. John McCrea 1872-1918

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place, and in the sky,
The larks, still bravely singing, fly,
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead; short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe!
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high!
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

*Take time to remember those who gave their lives freely,
so we may live free.*

Kathy Bacon, CT State President





Dear Sister Columbiettes,

As we approach Memorial Day, let us remember all those who have given their time and lives for Our Country.

All of us, in one way or another, are called to serve in our lifetime. The members of our military serve in ways that few of us can ever imagine. No matter what their job, these men and women prepare daily to put themselves aside and others before them, even at the risk of losing their lives or suffering great harm. From national to international disasters, peacekeeping missions to war time deployments, our military men and women give their hearts, minds, and bodies, putting on "...the full armor of God so that [they] can take [their] stand against the devil's schemes" (Ephesians 6:11). They are God's warriors, doing what the rest of us could do to keep our world safe. And for this we owe them our gratitude and respect.

May God Bless each and every one of you and your families as you go about your daily activities.

Sincerely,

Diane Baaden, DE State President



Florida State wishes all our Sister Columbiettes and their families a blessed Memorial Day.

Florida looks forward to increasing our membership in 2017 and bringing our Sisters closer together as the Columbiette year comes to an end and a new one starts. Success on all your upcoming Conventions.

May the Blessed Mother watch over all of you.

Lucille Meyers, Florida State President





Red, White and Blue

My father and five brothers belonged to the Fort Kent Knights of Columbus since 1942. My sixth brother was a World War II Medic, was missing in action and killed in action in Italy in 1944. Mom was only 43 years old, a mother of nine children, me being the youngest. She grieved for her son. Mom was a Gold Star Mother, not a title mothers wanted.

More than 80 years ago, Grace Darling Seibold lost her son in WW I. She organized a group of special mothers, like my mother, to help them comfort each other and to serve the soldiers who returned home. The organization was named after the gold star service flag that families hung in their windows in honor of a son or daughter who had died in military service. Although I was only five years old, I remember the flag displayed in the living room window facing the street.

Americans should never forget the brave men and women who answered our nation's call to serve and who served the cause of freedom in a special way like my brother, Claude, and so many who are still missing or prisoners of war. Each one of these men and women have a mother who will grieve every day of her life that her "baby" was killed, but proud that they were defending our Country – the Red, White and Blue.

On June 23, 1936, the 74th Congress designated the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mother's Day.

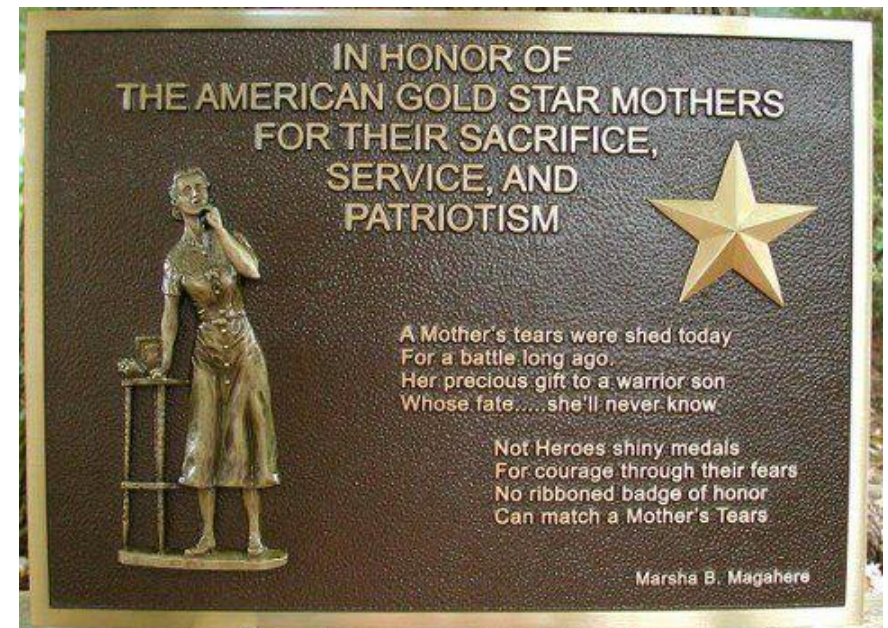
What can your auxiliary do to serve Veterans who returned home but are in a VA hospital, some ill and homeless? Many will spend this Memorial Day alone and forgotten. They deserve to be honored and remembered on this special day. They defended the Red, White and Blue for YOU. On Memorial Day, May 29, 2017, make it your day to honor and help a Veteran.

Unlike my mother's loss, my son who was a Navy pilot, served 20 years



and fortunately returned safely home after many deployments. Thank God that I'm not a Gold Star Mother. However, I remain a Gold Star Sister.

Burnette Bowker, Maine State President





Greetings to all my sister Columbiettes and Congratulations for your accomplishments!!!

The members of this great organization from New Jersey have been very busy and engaged in the many local, chapter and state activities. In order to help with the messaging of the many activities and awards available from the NJ State Council, a bundled email was sent in February with the materials, deadlines and information for the various programs that run through to our convention in June. This has been a welcomed reminder to assist with achieving the available awards that each auxiliary is eligible to receive.

After the holidays, NJSCC held a Comedy Night in January. A fun way to warm up with friends and family while enjoying great entertainment and hospitality. Thank you to Cathe Nicholson for chairing this event.

The second annual Charity Awards Luncheon plans were well on their way. The successful event was held on April 30th at Pierre's in South Brunswick. We had the honor to acknowledge three strong, compassionate and faith filled ladies who are committed to their Catholic Faith and the many programs, charities and communities that they serve. Thank you to Carol Bohinski and Mary Ann Sweet for chairing this event. At this luncheon we also conducted our Charity Raffle. All of the proceeds for this raffle are distributed to the Chapter selected charities throughout NJ at our convention in June. Thank you, Laura Labetti for chairing this program and the successful sales of 115% of the tickets to members.

The NJ Recruitment team has been very busy as well. We are very happy to report that the new auxiliary in Carneys Point, NJ will be instituted on Sunday, June 4th. The ladies and their brother Knights are very excited that this will be coming to fruition. We look forward to a wonderful day. Additionally, we are moving closer to a new auxiliary in Highstown, NJ. The Knights are working with the church and our recruitment team to spread the good words and works of our order. Hope to report soon the



date of this institution. Lastly, as one of my final events of my presidency will be the Installation of the Southern Chapter on June 29th. This has been a joint venture with the ladies of South West Chapter, Recruitment and the State Board and we are looking forward to all the possibilities that this new chapter will bring to the far southern auxiliaries. The state board feels very confident that this opportunity to engage the ladies in the benefits of the service level of the organization as Chapter more fully will be of a great advantage to all.

In closing, I want to wish all sister Columbiettes in all states and territories much success, happiness, growth and prosperity in all endeavors. You are all champions of the empowerment that all Catholic Women should embrace in spreading the good word, NJ and works of the Columbiettes. As we always say, we are the "Best Kept Secret". Let's not be so quiet – sing to the mountains.

Enjoy a wonderful spring into summer and successful planning for the next Columbian Year. Look forward to seeing you at the Supreme Convention in August. Please continue to Count Your Blessings – and know that as I count my blessings, I count each of you twice.

Lisa Roberts, NJ State President





Spring has finally arrived and the smells and freshness of the season are in the air. With Easter just being celebrated as the rebirth of our faith we must remember to continue the rebirth of our Columbian values of respect for life at all stages.

Our best wishes to all the "States" on their upcoming conventions. Plans are underway for our annual Convention will be at the Crowne Plaza, Suffern, NY on June 2-4, 2017.

On behalf of the entire New York State Board of Officer's, we wish all Mother's Grandmother's, Godmother's and those who care for children who are called Mom, a Happy Mother's Day.

May you spend some time this summer relaxing and in peace.

Hope to see everyone at convention in August.

God Bless.

Dee Wych, NY State President



North Carolina is blessed to have many Columbiettes who have or do serve our country in addition to having military family members. We are forever grateful for your commitment and service.

On June 1, 2013 we started the first Columbiette Auxiliary on a Military Base at Fort Bragg. Saint Michael the Archangel, #15250 is a busy auxiliary that supports the military community at Fort Bragg along with their surrounding area.

As we celebrate Memorial Day and the start of summer, I would like to acknowledge and thank all of our sister Columbiettes who work hard in their communities and parishes by sharing their time, talent and treasures.

I truly wishes everyone a very safe and fun summer!!

Fraternally,

Sara Archer, North Carolina State President





PENNSYLVANIA STATE COLUMBIETTES

Greetings to all my sister Columbiettes,

I am happy to report that Pennsylvania will soon have a new auxiliary in our state. Hopefully by the time we reach our Supreme Convention St. Ignatius Loyola Columbiettes will be up and running.

In March, we lost a dedicated and faithful Columbiette. Eleanor Prince went home to our Lord on March 14th. Eleanor was our Past State President. She suffered for many years with a terrible breathing disease. Her family knew how much she loved the Columbiettes because several of Eleanor's favorite Columbiette trinkets were put into her casket for her to treasure in heaven as all of us left behind will treasure our memories of her.

As the Pennsylvania State convention is right around the corner, I will wish you all well and hope that your state conventions are all you hope them to be.

God bless,

Joellen Dodson, PA State President.



South Carolina State Council Columbiettes



This has been an exciting year in South Carolina, and we are looking forward to sharing ideas at our State Convention in Beaufort on June 10. I have visited all of the auxiliaries in our state during this year, and I am so proud of all of the good works that are going on. Our State Council Board approve to have a chapter and the bylaws for Palmetto Chapter of South Carolina were submitted and approved in April.

Sadly, our beloved friend, mentor, Supreme Financial Secretary, and South Carolina Sister Columbiette, passed away on April 24th. Thursa Sotak, rest in peace. I cannot begin to express how much she will be missed by all of us.

Most importantly, as we approach the end of this Columbiette year, I would like to thank our Supreme President Pat Zellner, Supreme Officers, my SC Sister Columbiettes, Sister Columbiettes in other states, our State Officers, and our Brother Knights for your support and dedication throughout the year. May the Blessings of Our Blessed Mother, St. Theresa the Little Flower, and St. Joan of Arc be with you always.

Gloria C. Kinney, SC State President

