

The Messenger

St. Mary Magdalene Council of Catholic Women, Newnan GA

Embrace Your Talents & Gifts

Heavenly Father,

In Your infinite wisdom, You have crafted each of us with a unique blend of talents and gifts. Today, I come before You with gratitude, acknowledging this divine artistry within me. Help me to see myself as You see me – a masterpiece created for a specific purpose.

Lord, I confess that at times I've buried my talents, succumbed to fear, or compared myself to others, diminishing the value of Your gifts. Forgive me, and reignite in me the courage to embrace and nurture these seeds You have sown in my soul.

Guide me to use my talents not for my glory but to illuminate Your love and grace in this world. Teach me to invest in these gifts with humility, knowing that through them, I can touch hearts and minds in ways others cannot. May my actions reflect the uniqueness of Your creation, serving as a testament to Your creativity and boundless love.

With Your guidance, let every step I take be a celebration of the diversity and richness You've bestowed upon humanity.

Amen.



IN THIS ISSUE

2024 NCCW Convention

Upcoming CCW Activities

Prayer Circles

Welcome Back Luncheon

SMM 25th Anniversary Picnic

Fall Mum Sale

SMM 25th Anniversary
Activities



2024 NCCW Convention

By Judy Maurer

This year our NCCW Convention was held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Welcome to the Plains of the Midwest! I have been asked to keep this brief, but it is hard. I arrived August 13th and immediately started renewing friendships from past Conventions. It was somewhat bittersweet as my good friend passed away on August 11th, and I was upset about missing her funeral. Knowing how important Council was to her, all encouraged me to attend as she had started me on my journey over 10 years ago, Rest in Peace, Shirley Towle.

There was an opportunity to visit the Shrine of Blessed Stanley Rother. The Shrine Church and Chapel are beautiful and inviting to all pilgrims who visit to learn about Blessed Stanley Rother. On Tepeyac Hill, is a 12-foot statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe as well as an 8-foot statue of St. Juan Diego. A good place to pray and reflect. Of course, another gift shop.

The next day we had time to visit the site of the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P Murrah Federal Building. It was a quiet site. We started outside the memorial museum. A park ranger explained what everything stood for. There are two large arch gates. One with the time of 9:01 which was when the first Bomb exploded, there is a reflecting pool with the second gate with 9:03 on it, the time of the second bomb. Across the pool are 168 chairs which are in memorial of the men, women and children killed in the bombing, the children's chairs are much smaller, 16 chairs for the children killed in the Daycare center. It was as somber as visiting the Twin Towers Museum in NYC. It was a sobering experience. There is a very large tree called the Survivors Tree as it survived the Bombing leaving the tree with two huge limbs which have continued to grow showing the resilience of the people of Oklahoma City. The museum is very well done.

Let's get to the actual Convention itself. The theme of the Convention was, Called to an Encounter with Jesus.

We started with our welcome liturgy; the Very Reverend Miguel Gonzales was the principal Celebrant/Homilist. We had an awards luncheon for the Life Achievement Award and the Golden Rose which was presented to ValLimar Jansen.

The evening held a nice dinner with the Sponsors who gave a presentation of their activities. One of our longtime Sponsors was Box of Joy. 8/14/24

The next day, The Leadership, Training and Development Team, of which I am a member, met with the First Timers and helped them learn how to navigate the Convention. At 8:15am we had to opening of the General Session. It is quite beautiful as our President Beth Mahoney, introduced the Convention Prayer, The Presentation of the Flag by the Knights of Columbus, the Pledge of Allegiance, the singing of God Bless America, and an Adoption of the rules. As you may see there is a great deal of Love of God and our Country. All of the Committee heads were introduced and then greetings from Executive Committees and the USCCB Episcopal Liaison to NCCW, The Most Reverend William A. Wack, CSC. Our speaker was Dr. ValLimar Jansen who was incredible. Look her up and read about her.



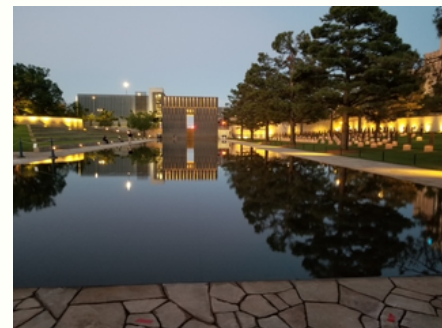
2024 NCCW Convention (continued)

By Judy Maurer

We broke for Mass with Most Reverend David A. Konderla, another exceptional homilist, oh and there is music at each Mass! It was a long day as we had educational sessions with: Spirituality, Education and Leadership. That evening we gathered with our Province Leaders and had dinner, fun and pictures. At 9:00 there was a gathering for the 45 and under group. 8/15/24

The next day sessions opened with Breakfast and our speaker Katie McGrady, who is a podcaster. If you have never heard of her, please listen to one of her podcasts. She had everyone laughing, including our reverend Fathers! At 10:30 our President, Beth Mahoney, called the meeting to order. Report was given by the officers, committees and especially the United Nations report and the World Union Catholic Women's Organization report, WUWCO. The LTD team presented a short skit about our favorite saints and why they are special to us. Mass was next with Principal Celebrant/Homilist, The Most Reverend William A. Wack, CSC. A Fundraiser was a Canal Rider with dinner on your own. 8/16/24

On our last day, we again had the opportunity to enjoy Vallimar Jansen, again a musical exercise in prayer and song. It was a great way to instill our energy which was waning. After lunch on our own, we gathered for the closing meetings, installation of the province directors and our recommitment service. The Invitation to our 2025 Convention which will be in Orlando, Florida on August 19-24, 2025. After the meetings were over, our Celebrant/Homilist was Archbishop Paul S. Coakley S.T.L., D.D. Our closing banquet started at 7:30 ending at 9:30. We left excited and fulfilled with new energy for the coming year. Left with three of my friends for the airport at 8am and was home in Atlanta at 2:20 pm. I am looking Forward to the 2025 Convention in Orlando, Florida!



Upcoming CCW Activities

SEP

- 4 Deadline to Order Mums
- 5 CCW Board Meeting, 11:30 AM, Rm. 101/102
- 8 Deadline to register for Annual Welcome Back Luncheon
- 15 Welcome Back Luncheon with Guest Speakers Liz & Elissa Lotter
Secret Prayer Partner Reveal
- 20-22 AACCW Convention, St. Andrew Catholic Church, Roswell, GA
- 29 CCW & KOC Sponsored Parish Picnic

Prayer Circles

St. Agnes' Prayer Circle

Our next meeting will be September 17th at 10 a.m. at SMM in rooms 101/102. We will be having a Catholic book exchange and our topic of discussion is to be determined.

St. Margaret's Prayer Circle

St. Margaret's Circle met at Krystal Bugden's house in August. She provided a delicious lunch from Kale Me Crazy and each of us shared our summer activities. We brought suggestions for the book we will be reading and discussing periodically throughout the year. We are still in talks as half of our group couldn't make it to our first meeting of the year. Next month's meeting will be hosted by Cheri Hooper on September 18th. Please contact Anne Benson(660-864-3440) if you're interested in joining our group.



SEPTEMBER 2024

Welcome Back Luncheon

Our Fall Welcome Back Luncheon is fast approaching. Our theme for the year is Women on a Journey: Sharing our Stories. During the luncheon, we will recognize our Woman of the Year, reveal our Secret Prayer Partners, and hear about the journey of Liz and Elissa Lotter on their Camino Trek Pilgrimage.

We will also share our CCW yearly calendar, provide an opportunity to sign up to volunteer to help at our various activities, and provide an opportunity to sign up for the Secret Prayer Partner program for the upcoming year.

Date/Time: Sunday, September 15, 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Location: Canongate Community Center, 30 Pete Road, Sharpsburg GA 30277

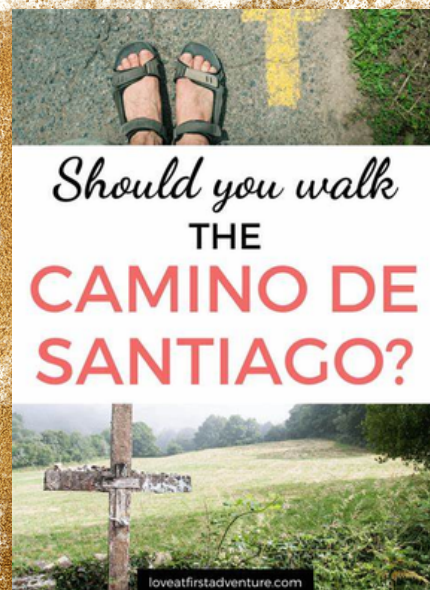
Cost: \$25 per person (includes lunch)

Who Can Come: All women of the Parish

Deadline to Register: September 8, 2024

How to Register: Use the link or QR code below to register. We do not have any further dates scheduled to sell tickets in the Narthex. If you need help with navigating the online ordering system, please email suzettebinek@gmail.com for assistance.

<https://www.osvhub.com/st-mary-magdalene-cath-church-1/forms/smmccw-2024-fall-luncheon>





SMM 25th Anniversary Picnic - Kitchen Help & Cleanup Help Needed

In partnership with the Knights of Columbus, the CCW will be hosting the celebration of our 25th Anniversary at our annual Parish Picnic September 29 after the 12n Mass. Crowds are expected to be heavier than in year's past and we're asking for many volunteers to make this event a success.

We need setup help in the kitchen, help with managing the food/drink tables throughout the picnic, and cleanup help.

Please view the time slots available and sign up with the following link.

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C45A9A629A1F49-50640770-smm25th#/
/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C45A9A629A1F49-50640770-smm25th#/)

Your generosity of time is greatly appreciated 🙏 Thank you!



SMM 25th Anniversary Picnic - Activities Help Needed

There are a number of activities planned during the picnic that volunteers are needed to help facilitate. We have many activities planned, but if we don't have volunteers, we will have to scale back our celebration. In addition to helping with the kitchen/food, we need help with running activities. The Activities Coordinator has the following activities planned: Inflatable slide, wagon rides, face painting, snow cones, cotton candy, pumpkin painting, cake walk, kick ball, sand art, water balloons, photographer, and cleanup. Many slots will only require 30 minutes of your time. Are you up for it? Please consider signing up to help make this a great once-in-a-lifetime event for all.

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0F4AAFA728AA8-50583932-smm25th#/
/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0F4AAFA728AA8-50583932-smm25th#/)



SEPTEMBER 2024

Fall Mum Sale

SPONSORED BY SMM CCW

All mums are 10" potted plants.

Order deadline 9/4/2024.

Approximate delivery time frame is 9/17-9/21. Customers will receive notification of exact date/time to pick up mums at the Church.

Three ways to order:

- Order in person during our Narthex Sales the weekend of August 24-25.
- Order online at <https://www.osvhub.com/st-mary-magdalene-cath-church-1/forms/smmccw-mum-sale-24>
- Paper Order Forms can be found in the CCW Ministry Mailbox. A completed paper form and check or money can be submitted to the office during normal business hours, Monday - Friday, 9:30 AM - 3 PM.



Please contact Suzette Binek, suzettebinek@gmail.com, if you have any questions.



RED MUMS



YELLOW MUMS



BRONZE MUMS



LAVENDER MUMS



**St. Mary
Magdalene**
Catholic Church
25th Anniversary



Upcoming SMM 25th Anniversary Activities

Parishioner Recognition Prayer

September 21-22, All Masses

Parish-Wide Praise & Worship Led by SMM Youth

Sunday, September 22, 4 PM

Open to all Parishioners, Reception with Light Refreshments to follow

25 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, September 27, 3 PM - Saturday,

September 28, 4 PM

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0848A5A62AA5FDC61-47045243-25hours>



Anniversary Mass with Archbishop Hartmayer followed by Parish Picnic

Sunday, September 29, Noon

Register to attend

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0449ADA82DA20-49181166-smmparish>

