

EASTERN DEANERY

2015-2016 REPORT

The women of the Eastern Deanery have had an outstanding year, supporting the Church in thoughts, prayer and deeds. They have grown as leaders within the CCW by participating in Diocesan, State and National training and conventions, with members serving in leadership roles at all levels. Within the Deanery, our members have continued to support CCW initiatives by collecting funds Water for Life, Hugs for the Homeless, The Burse Club and Caps of Love.

There are four active affiliates in the Deanery, The Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas More, Blessed Sacrament, St. Stephen and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. We are supported by our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Mike Foley. Members faithfully attend meetings and spiritual retreats. Among the many activities our affiliates plan and produce, our members serve our parishes by hosting Lenten Lite Meals, 5th Sunday breakfasts, scholarships, teaching religious education classes and collecting back to school supplies for children in need. Our affiliates serve their communities in many ways including maintaining food pantries, preparing meals at homeless shelters, delivering the Holy Eucharist to shut-ins, collecting food for low income seniors, and supporting veteran outreach.

Charities supported by our members include but are not limited to: Catholic Charites, Christmas Connection, Open Doors Women's Clinic, John Paul II Catholic H.S., The Refuge House, Elder Care Services, The Shelter, Seminarian and Religious Women Support, Big Bend Hospice, area Youth Groups and Veterans Organizations.

Our members support their parishes and foster fellowship at their parishes in many ways. Some do so by serving on Parish Councils as religious educators and RCIA sponsors and participating in the care and maintenance of the church, giving freely of the talents and time They also served hosting Easter Egg Hunts, Christmas socials, Mardis Gras celebrations, St. Patrick's Day and Valentine's Day gatherings, Mother-Daughter Teas, Parish Picnics and other celebrations.

We enhanced our shared faith by sponsoring and attending retreats, speaking engagements and conversations with our parish priests and religious educators that help us on our spiritual journeys.

This year, many members attended the NCCW convention, the Florida CCW and the Diocesan CCW to learn and grow with other Catholic in faith and purpose.

Thank you Cookie Coyle for serving as Secretary from 2014 – 2016.

Thank you to President Kathy Grobe, Vice President Sue Steverson, Secretary Wilba Burgess and Treasurer Jan Condon for your leadership in the coming term.