

# COMMUNIQUE

MAY | JUNE 2023

Volume 36 No. 3.



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*Day of Reflection Recap*

*Reports from our service chairs*

*Welcome new members*

*And more...*



## President's Corner

BY SHARON DI GIOVANNI

Hello Ladies!

I'm writing today as the weather is brighter and the days longer.

I want to report on our Day of Reflection, May 6th. It was well attended, and Chuck Gaidica, our guest speaker, did not disappoint. Bishop Bob Fisher celebrated mass after a delicious lunch. We also had May Crowning of the Lady of Fatima and Rosary. It was beautiful. I hope you can connect with someone who was there. We need to know if we should continue these events. At our Day of Reflection, we acknowledged Virginia Bialy and Zora Dziurman with a framed certificate for their dedication to the Council of Catholic Women. Thank them in person when you see them.

Thank you to all the Board members who worked on the Day of Reflection. It was a team effort! Special thanks to Georgette Anders for handling our reservations. Please enjoy some photos from the Day of Reflection on the next page.

In closing, never let anything so fill you with pain or sorrow to make you forget the joy of Christ Risen.

Blessings,

*Sharon DiGiovanni*

President CCW/ AOD  
sharondege@wowway.com  
586-243-8530

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Saturday, August 19**

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**St. Sabina**

25555 Ann Arbor Trail  
Dearborn Heights, MI

**Special Guest Speaker:**

Nancy Trela | Soul Core

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10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**St. Isaac Jogues**

21100 Madison Street  
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**Special Guest Speaker:**

Janet Miller | Human Trafficking

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Time TBD

**Annual Christmas Luncheon**

The Gazebo Banquet Center  
31104 Mound Rd, Warren, MI

**if you want your parish to host a  
meeting for the 2024 calendar  
year, contact Sharon DiGiovanni.**







# *Human Trafficking Commission*

BY GEORGETTE ANDERS

## **Introduction to ILLICIT MASSAGE BUSINESSES**

*Illicit massage businesses (IMBs) that front for commercial sex operations have been ubiquitous in the American landscape for decades, with an estimate of more than 9,000 operating today. Commonly called “massage parlors,” these businesses dot the sides of highways and are tucked into suburban strip malls between fast food restaurants and dollar stores and behind darkened windows in storefronts in some of America’s biggest cities.*

*While some keep a low profile, many others blatantly advertise “Asian gals,” or bear sexualized names like “Good Girl Spa.” Anyone looking to purchase commercial sex is just a few clicks away from any number of review sites that offer incredibly detailed information about both the businesses themselves and the individual women exploited within them.*

*The sheer number of fake massage businesses, coupled with the impunity with which they operate, has, over time, fostered widespread – if tacit – cultural acceptance of the industry. The frequent wink, wink, nudge, nudge references to “happy endings” in popular culture is just one manifestation of the perception that while commercial sex is illegal, it is essentially harmless in this context. That perception is wrong.*

*Some women may choose to sell sex either along with or under the guise of massage therapy. Still, evidence suggests that many of the thousands of women engaging in commercial sex in IMBs or “massage parlors” are victims of human trafficking. To those women, the term “happy ending,” with its faint whiff of a fairy tale, is cruelly ironic.*

*Most immigrants chase a dream of financial stability in a faraway land, seeking not a prince but a steady job with decent wages. So they answer an ad for a massage therapist and discover, too late, that “massage” is a euphemism and that they are expected to provide services for which they will be paid some portion of the tips they earn if they are lucky, or less if they are not.*

*They live in substandard conditions, work illegal hours “on call,” and many feel they have no choice but to comply with the mandate to perform sex acts. They are told they will be deported by immigration, or their families will be hurt; that they owe the owner money and that if they leave, police will arrest them for prostitution.*

*Every story is a little different but they all share a common pattern that combines fraud, threats and lies with poverty, fear and the potential for violence. The information gathered here comes from published sources, intensive interviews with survivors of human trafficking, law enforcement, and service providers as well as from Polaris’s historic work in the field and analysis of cases reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH)*





# *Spirituality Commission*

BY JUDY BERNARDI

## God's Breath of Life

Without breath, we cannot live. To determine whether a person is alive, we check to see if they are breathing. "In Hebrew, there is one word that can mean 'breath,' 'wind' or 'spirit': namely, RUAH..." (CBCPNEWS) In the Old Testament, it meant the Spirit of God, life-giving.



We hear about a "mighty wind" that swept over the land in Genesis (1:2) that brought forth life and order. We hear it again as breathing life into man, making him a living being.

In Genesis (8:2), the wind dispersed the flood water during the time of Noah, which brought a new beginning to humankind.

In the passage of the dry bones, which symbolized Israel's death by sin, God brought those dry bones back to life with His breath. (Ezekiel (37:1-14) The Spirit overshadowed Mary, and she bore Jesus as our Messiah.

All these examples of RUAH bring us back to the power of the Holy Spirit. Know that He is available to us even now. He can inspire us, give us strength, and prepare us for God to work through us.

May I recommend a short book for summer reading by Dr. John L. Gresham, PhD called Holy Spirit 101, Present Among Us.

Blessings,

**Judy Bernardi**  
Spirituality Commission



# *International Issues*

BY CAROL HOFER

## **Listen to Women's Voices**

So many troubles afflict our world today. Is it my imagination or is there an increase in violence and war, in hate speech, in scandals surrounding Church matters, in the many wrongs that develop because of the desire for power or money or prestige? By no means are these problems limited to our country. They seem to flourish everywhere.

As I write this on the eve of Mother's Day, I applaud those who promote women's voices in areas of leadership. Perhaps a better world could develop. Perhaps a stronger "NO" could be shouted to war and violence and evil. Many insist that had there been women in Church leadership the priest scandals could not have grown to the horrific extent they did. The female inclination – mothers, especially—is to protect and nurture children. It is highly likely that women would not tolerate the sexual abuse of the young and would have spoken out regardless of the penalty.

But the value of women voicing their truth is not limited to preventing the sins of predators. There is a wide spectrum of human experience that has suffered from not hearing the female voice. Consider the area of scriptural interpretation. True, many valuable insights have come from intelligent, dedicated men. But men are half the human race and we need the insights and wisdom of women as well.

A light glimmers at the end of the tunnel. Recently Pope Francis extended voting privileges to laypeople, including women, at the 2021 – 2024 Synod. In addition to the estimated 300 bishops who will attend October's Synod, Pope Francis, will select additional members from a list of 140 names submitted by seven international groups of bishops. And Francis has asked that 50% of these be women. This decision is unique.

Prior to the 2008 Synod, a group of dedicated people sent nearly 20,000 paper and electronic postcards to church leaders and delegates asking them to invite women biblical experts and restore biblical women deleted from the lectionary. (No women theologians had been included in the 2005 synod on the Eucharist.)

Bishops took note, and discussions began to focus on women deleted from the readings at Mass. For the first time in history, bishops discussed the need to restore women's narratives. Simply put, no one heard their stories at mass. Judging from the responses from many prelates, most had no idea that biblical women leaders had been sliced out of lectionary texts. They were embarrassed.

As Sister Christine Schenk puts it, a female lens can bring new information to church deliberations and begin to catalyze necessary change.

**This is the Universal Church at Work!**

**Carol Hofer**  
carolhofer@aol.com

# Operation Layette

BY JAN POPOWICH

Dear CCW Sisters,

Spring brought us the glory of Easter, some beautiful, warmer-than-average days, early blooms, and **BABY SHOWERS** for Operation Layette!

## Huge thank yous to the following parishes and individuals...

Sandra Klotz and the **St. Linus** Christian Women for hosting their baby shower on March 27. There were far more layette items than I ever expected, along with beautiful handmade blankets as well as monetary donations. And to top it off, Sandra was kind enough to drop off all the donations to our Royal Oak office. I was out of town, and this was the biggest help!

April 1st brought the Christ Child Baby Shower hosted by the **St Mary Cause of our Joy Christian Women's group**. The shower was chaired by Emily Gnacke and Clair Masak and it was held in conjunction with the group's Lenten Day of Reflection. Our president, Sharon Di Giovanni was able to attend the event and she filled her car with all the wonderful donations and delivered them to me for sorting and distribution. I'm blessed to have this kind of help! At the Christ Child Shower, more beautiful handmade layette items along with many packages of diapers were donated by the Golden Quilt Group which meets regularly at the Westland Senior Center.

Next up, the **St Martin de Porres** Active Christian Women's Club sponsored their baby shower on April 12. This group has been active for over 45 years! The shower was chaired by Zora Dziurman and Claire Shaw and once again the ladies came to the rescue and met me at Royal Oak with a car full of beautiful layette items, handmade blankets and caps and an envelope full of gift cards! Thank you, Zora, and newly elected president, Beverly Savage making the trip.

A beautiful, unexpected gift came to Operation Layette from the **Divine Child Elementary School's** staff. This group of dedicated and giving professionals chooses a charity to donate to every month and somehow, they heard about us! They sent a generous cash donation and I'll use it to purchase baby wash and bath towels.



And, of course, we have our monthly donations of handmade receiving blankets, bibs, blankets, and sweaters from the St. Paul sewers, along with the beautiful handmade quilts from the Metro Quilters, the Grateful Threads.

Every month I'm just overwhelmed by the generosity of so many! I thank you all, and I know that our new and expectant moms thank you as well.

May the beauties of spring revitalize us all as we continue to do God's work!

God Bless,

**Jan Popowich**  
Operation Layette  
586-212-0434



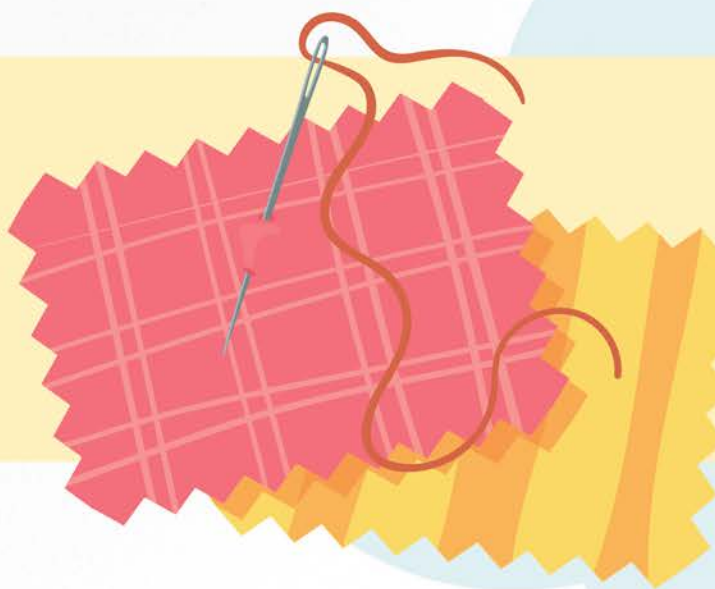
*St. Martin de Porres Baby Shower, April 12*

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

Colorful, washable fabric is needed for the **Operation Layette** bags.

**We have sewers, and they need fabric!**

If you have fabric to donate, please call Jan Popowich at 586-212-0434 or email [janp2@wowway.com](mailto:janp2@wowway.com)



**THANK YOU!**

**St. Isaac Jogues  
Women's Club**

For your donation of  
**\$121.88** to support  
Water for Life Fund!



# Membership Corner

BY KATHLEEN PENNO

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

- Kathy Borucki
- Colleen Charara
- Anne Devlin
- Clare Girard
- Mary Ellen Gough
- Alberta Hromco
- Sybil M Taddia
- Kathleen Urban

**IF YOU WANT YOUR PARISH TO HOST A  
MEETING FOR THE 2024 CALENDAR YEAR,  
CONTACT SHARON DIGIOVANNI.**

The Communiqué is published  
bi-monthly by the Council of  
Catholic Women | Archdiocese  
of Detroit.

**SHARE YOUR NEWS,  
STORIES, ARTICLES,  
IDEAS, AND PHOTOS!**



## MISSION STATEMENT COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN/AD

Our Mission as members of the  
Council of Catholic Women,  
Archdiocese of Detroit, is to bring  
women together to share their faith;  
to grow spiritually and to unite in  
performing works of charity in our  
community and abroad.

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JULY 1, 2023**

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isabella\_agby@hotmail.com or text | call 248-763-7195.

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