

Message from President

Gwen Skipper

My prayer for each of you is that you had a most blessed Christmas. After an autumn that, for me and many others, was characterized with bumps, bruises and blessings, I am looking forward to the promises of 2016. I am again walking unassisted on two feet and able to drive and plan to resume my activities, albeit it more slowly than last year.

Special thanks to Libit Woodington for opening her home to us for our Christmas lunch. It was a delight to visit in a beautifully decorated, welcoming environment. I hope that you had the opportunity to join your fellow members for the gift wrapping, tree or church decorating activities in December. These activities come at a time when we are very busy personally, but offer us the opportunity to grow as a society.

Special thanks to Maria Carrero, Julie Rotureau and Peggy Britt for their leadership in our fall fund raiser, "From the Devine Kitchens, A festival of Foods, Baskets and Gifts for the Entire Family". That title says a lot. I hope that those who participated enjoyed getting together to create the craft items that were sold. I also, hope that you got inspirations for new craft items to be created for next year. The addition of craft items to the tried-and-true homemade casseroles, cakes, breads, jams and canned goods led to stupendous results. Through the group's efforts approximately \$4800 was raised.

We now have opportunities to increase our gifts to the parish and outreach programs. A short list of projects that might be considered are: Ursuline Sister's Retirement Fund, Mater Ecclesiae-Missionary Sister Scholarship Fund, St. Joseph Youth Ministry, St. Joseph Catholic School, Cardinal Newman School, St. Vincent de Paul-St. Joseph, Palmetto Project-Snack Pack Program, Clean of Heart-shower ministry of Catholic Charities of the Midlands. Discussions about use of the money we raised will occur at a future meeting of our society. If you have suggestions, let me know.

SCCW State Convention



The 2016 Women's Society Convention will be held at Myrtle Beach from March 11 to 13. The convention hotel is the Marina Inn at Grand Dunes, 8121 Amalfi Place, Myrtle Beach, SC 29572. The Most Rev. Robert E. Guglielmone will celebrate the convention Mass.

This year the theme for the convention is, "Called to serve God's Children with Mercy and United in Love." The theme will be proclaimed by convention speakers Mary Beth Hicks, Donna Tyson and Michael Acquilano. The gathering will be dedicated to all families throughout the world especially those facing religious persecution. This year's fund-raising project is Camp Rise Above which provides fun and life-changing experiences to children with serious illnesses, life challenges, or disabilities. (See web site at <http://campriseabove.org/>)

Attending the convention will give you a greater sense of the organization that you belong to and an opportunity to rub shoulders with active Catholic women from across South Carolina. Last year our affiliate had 15 representatives and provided an opportunity for women of the Columbia-Midlands Deanery to get together. We will again be actively involved in the convention Market Place, the Silent Auction, and providing hospitality.

Reservations can be made now (the sooner the better) at the Marina Inn by
Phone: 843-913-1333 or
web at www.MarinaInnatGrandeDunes.com.

The nightly convention rate of \$119 per room is in effect until February 10. We hope to see many of our members there. If you would like more information, contact Gwen Skipper and she will e-mail you the convention packet.
Gwenskip@bellsouth.net

Annual Luncheon and General Meeting

Sunday, January 17 at 1:30PM

Location: Donor Hall, MAB
Lunch catered by Blue Marlin Signature Catering
Cost \$15

Program: Classical Musical Program
By Blade Boulware

Saint Joseph Women's Society Luncheon Reservation

Please return to the church office, 3512 Devine Street by January 13.

Name _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please select entrée Grilled Salmon _____ Eggplant Parmesan _____

Number Attending _____ X \$15 Amount Enclosed _____

Please make checks payable to Saint Joseph Women's Society. For additional information or questions, please contact Gwen Skipper at 345-2250 or email stjoewomen@aol.com.
