



News From the Board

Lap Blankets. On April 15th Rosalba Geng, Betty Lent, Sandy Garcia and Kathy York delivered 22 lap blankets to McGuire VA Hospital in Richmond. Thanks to Rosalba for acting as POC for this event. Not only did she teach many of us how to knit/crochet/tat, but in a number of cases put the squares together and crocheted the border herself. Thanks also to everyone who knitted or crocheted a blanket.

Bake Sale. The April 18th Bake and Craft Sale netted \$600.75 to help with the October Conference costs. Thanks to everyone who supported this very successful event.

2010-11 Board. Next year's president (Kathy York), vice-president (Betty Lent), and financial secretary (Maria Howard) were elected by acclamation at the April meetings. The position of secretary remains vacant as well as a number of committees. Please prayerfully consider if you would like to serve on next year's board.

Northeast Leadership Seminar. Betty Lent represented us at this seminar in Ft Meade, April 23-24.

National D-Day Memorial. Ten ladies enjoyed this day trip to Bedford, Virginia, on April 22nd.

Friday Day Meeting. The May 7th meeting will be a 50th birthday celebration of the Catholic Women of the Chapel at Ft Lee. We will also be recognizing our outgoing and incoming leadership.

Monday Evening Meeting. The May 10th meeting will feature questions and answers by Father K and dinner (baked spaghetti, salad, breads, dessert). Bring your spouse or a friend. If you would like to contribute any food, contact Rosalba Geng at rosalbagen@yahoo.com.

May Fundraiser. To further defray Conference costs, we will have a Breakfast Burrito Fundraiser after all services on May 16th. Maria

Howard, Maria Scott and Aimee Beu are POCs. Please be sure to support this event.

MCCW-WW Conference, Oct 7-11, 2010. This year's conference is in Baltimore, and the theme is "Let us build the city of God." Registration fees are due by Aug 1st; the balance is due by Sep 1st. Start saving your money!



Calendar

Date	Program	Speaker
May 7	Installation of Board	MCCW
May 10	Answers by Father K/Potluck Supper	Fr. Kilumbu

May Saints/Feasts

May 1—St Joseph, Worker
 May 3—St Philip; St James
 May 10—St Damien of Moloka'i
 May 12—Sts Nereus et al

May 13—ASCENSION
 May 14—St Matthias
 May 15—St Isidore the Farmer
 May 18—St John I, Pope
 May 20—St Bernardine of Siena
 May 21—St Christopher Magallanes et al

May 22—St Rita of Cascia
 May 25—St Bede; St Gregory VII, Pope
 May 26—St Philip Neri
 May 27—St Augustine of Canterbury
 May 31—VISITATION

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Saint of the Month

Saint Rita of Cascia

Born at Rocca Porena, Italy, in 1386; died at the Augustinian convent of Cascia, 1456. Represented as holding roses, or roses and figs, and sometimes with a wound in her forehead.

Rita was the daughter of parents advanced in years and distinguished for charity. Her great desire was to become a nun, but in obedience to the will of her parents she married at 12 years old. Her husband was an extremely cruel and ill-tempered man. For 18 years she was a model wife until her husband was murdered. She tried in vain to dissuade her twin sons from exacting revenge for their father and appealed to Heaven to prevent them from committing such a grave sin. In answer to her prayer, they died natural deaths, reconciled to God before they could act. She applied for admission to the Augustinian convent at Cascia, but was refused for being a widow. By continued entreaties (and divine intervention) she ultimately received the habit.

As a religious she was an example for all, excelled in mortifications, and was widely known for the efficacy of her prayers. One day while living at the convent Rita prayed, "Please let me suffer like you, Divine Savior." Suddenly, a thorn fell from the crown of thorns on a crucifix and wounded Rita's forehead. As a result, depictions of St Rita often show a forehead wound.

Near the end of her life when Rita was bedridden, a cousin visited her and asked if she desired anything from her old home. Rita responded by asking for a rose and a fig from the garden. As it was January, her cousin did not expect to find anything in the snowy weather. However, on arriving at the house, her relative found a single blooming rose as well as a ripe fig, which she brought back to St. Rita. The rose bush is still alive and often in bloom today.

In 1637 Pope Urban VIII permitted her Mass and Office. On account of the many miracles credited to her intercession she

received in Spain the title of *La Santa de los impossibles*. She was solemnly canonized May 24, 1900.

SOURCE: *Catholic Encyclopedia* at newadvent.org



Catholic Poet's Corner



Galilean May By M. Thérèse

Into the hills of Galilee
Our Lady went one day,
Lured by the wonder-woven bloom
Dropped from the looms of May.
Slim lilies leaned to touch her gown.
Curving through delicate air,
A fledgling thrush flew to her hand,
Butterflies to her hair.
She told a secret to the winds
That brushed her garment hem—
The tear-wet, pitying winds that blew
Up from Jerusalem.

And as she spoke a little Name,
Whispering low and sweet,
A golden surf of buttercups
Broke against her feet.
The winds and flowers of Galilee,
Grown wistful of her face,
Still wait her footfall at the May—
Gentle, and full of grace.

From Robert, Cyril, Ed. *Mary Immaculate: God's Mother and Mine*. New York: Marist Press, 1946. No information was readily available on this poet.

Women of the Bible

Joanna

Joanna was the wife of Herod's steward, Chuza, and a follower of Jesus counted among the women who had been cured by Jesus of evil spirits and ailments. These women traveled with Jesus and the Apostles as they spread the Good News of the Kingdom, using their own resources to supply the needs of Jesus and the Twelve. On the third day after Jesus' death, Joanna went to the tomb with Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James, bringing spices

for a proper burial. On the angel's instructions she and the two Marys reported the resurrection of Jesus to the Apostles and reminded them of Jesus' words that: "the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners and be crucified, and rise on the third day." They were not believed.

Probably, Joanna was among those who stayed with the disciples after the Ascension of Jesus, awaiting the coming of the Spirit.

SOURCE: *All the Women of the Bible*, by M. L. del Mastro



A Year of Service

A Year of Service

By Betty Lent

What a wonderful year of service we have had!

As part of our ongoing ministry here at Fort Lee, our Outreach for Life Committee collected nonperishable food from the entire parish for the food pantry at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Petersburg. This vital ministry helps those less fortunate in the local community with their “daily bread.” Outreach for Life also collected items for the Tri-Cities Crisis Pregnancy Center. New mothers and mothers-to-be are helped with the donations of baby clothing, blankets, like-new furniture and the like.

Another ongoing ministry is our We Care program. We provided baked

goods to the Spiritual Fitness Center on the third Wednesday of the month for AIT soldiers. Typically, there are about 100 soldiers in attendance so this is no small feat. This ministry runs from September through May.

This year we also took on several additional projects. One was to hold a bake sale during Lent. While this is not typically done during Lent, we decided this would be a way for us to do almsgiving and donate our proceeds to the Medical Missionaries, MCCW-WW’s charity this year. Our bake sale generated \$535.50, which was donated to the Medical Missionaries.

Another special project we accomplished was to put together “Welcome Home” bags for our soldiers returning from deployment on their own—without

a unit. With items purchased and donated we were able to make up 80 welcome bags that we turned over to the Ordnance Brigade to distribute.

Last but certainly not least were the lap blankets for the veterans at McGuire Veterans Hospital, which Rosalba Geng coordinated. With Rosalba’s patience, many women learned to either crochet or knit or just brushed up on their existing skills. With her help, we were able to donate 22 lap blankets to the hospital.

By following our Mission Statement of *reflecting a visible presence of Christ*, we have provided many different services to the community this year—at Fort Lee, in the local area, the wider Richmond area and the global community. All this was accomplished through your generosity and the power of prayer.

I thank God for each and every one of you.



Blessing the lap blankets before donating them to McGuire Hospital.

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

Live out of your imagination instead of out of your memory.

—Les Brown

Birthdays:

Aimee Beu
Betty Lent
Tawanna Oliver

Wedding Anniversaries

Anita Crowder
Yolanda Feliciano
Jeanine Majewski
Rita Nolan

Nobody has ever measured, even poets, how much a heart can hold.

—Zelda Fitzgerald



Military Council of Catholic Women

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**Our Lady of Good Council
Pray for us**

MCCW Mission Statement

The Military Council of Catholic Women (MCCW) reflects a visible presence of Christ in military communities by fostering and nourishing women in spirituality, leadership and service. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, MCCW serves as a vital enhancement of the religious support mission of military chapels.

Congratulations: To Wilma Cancino, Theresa Crean, Sandy Garcia, Rosalba Geng, Maria Howard, Betty Lent, Jeanine Majewski, Norma Medley, Rita Nolan, Maria Scott, Anne Sherman, Jean Vargas & Kathleen York, who received the President's Volunteer Service Award on April 23rd.

Godspeed: To Mairyn Cruz and Theresa Crean.

May the road rise up to meet you and the wind be always at your back.

Last issue: This is the last issue of *Tree of Life* for the year. Publication will resume in September.

Have a blessed, happy & safe summer.

MCCW is on the Web:
mccw-worldwide.org,
where you can download
the latest issue of
The Grapevine.

*Christ has no body now on earth but yours,
no hands but yours,
no feet but yours,
Yours are the eyes through which is to look out
Christ's compassion to the world;
Yours are the feet with which he is to go about
doing good;
Yours are the hands with which he is to bless men now.*
—St. Teresa of Avila

MCCW Board 2009-2010

Executive Board:

President, Kathy York
Vice President, Betty Lent
Secretary, Rosalba Geng
Financial Secretary,
Maria Howard
Spiritual Moderator, Fr.
Kilumbu



Committees:

Bulletin Board, Wilma Cancino
Historian, Sandy Garcia
Hospitality, Sandy Garcia/
Norma Medley
Membership, Maria Scott
Newsletter, Jean Vargas
Outreach for Life, Maria
Badzinski
Publicity, Aimee Beu
Spirituality, Vacant
Telephone, Rita Nolan
We Care, Betty Lent
Welcoming, Anne
Sherman



Happy Mother's Day!