

# Fragments

NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

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## **ODCCW Mission Statement**

*To promote among our Catholic women a greater devotion to Christ and the Church,  
as we share the Blessed Mother's role of bringing others to Christ  
through spirituality, leadership, and service.*



*Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good: His mercy endures forever!*  
Psalms 107:1

## Give Thanks for He is Good

**Dr. Ida Pennella, PhD**  
**ODCCW Emeritus Advisor, Legislative Advocacy**

***“Let us keep this Thanksgiving Day sacred. Let us thank God for the bounty and goodness of our nation. – President Ronald Reagan***



The “season” is upon us as All Hallows’ Eve ushered in All Saints’ Day on November 1. As we look forward to Thanksgiving Day, we will give praise to God for His bounty, and “in everything, give thanks” (1 Thessalonians 5:18). “Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name” (Psalm 100:4).

As I look back to all the Thanksgiving celebrations, I’m thankful for the French tradition that we shared with my mom’s side of the family. I remember when Ralph and I would pack the car with our five kids along with my parents and take the long drive from Orange County to San Jose, where my grandparents lived with my aunt’s family. The fragrant smell of the tourtière\* that Mémère Bea baked enveloped the house, and Pépère Joe, who was a cook in the US Army in World War One, took great pride in carving the turkey. Although my parents and grandparents are with our Lord, my memories linger on. I carry the tradition of baking the tourtière for our family and some to bake and share with others.

***A lawyer, asked [Jesus] a question to test him. “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”***  
***(Matthew 22:35-40)***

Here are five ideas you can do during this Thanksgiving season to promote “love thy neighbor”.

1. **Donate** a turkey to a charitable organization. Many Knights of Columbus families would roast and donate a turkey so the less fortunate would have a thanksgiving meal at the hall.
2. **Deliver** a Thanksgiving meal to a less fortunate family. Your parish or other charitable organization can assist you.
3. **Visit** the elderly in nursing homes. They are often neglected during holidays. Bring them a little treat. When I went to visit a stroke-victim, he liked McDonald’s hamburgers; I would bring him a meal.

4. **Make** a scripture place card for each setting on the Thanksgiving table by typing or writing a scripture verse about being thankful. This can be read out loud during the blessing.
5. **Write** a Thankful Note to someone by using paper, cards, or the media.

***"It is not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving."***  
***- St. Mother Theresa***



IN ALL  
THINGS  
give  
THANKS

## When Was the First Thanksgiving?

**Susan Navarrete**  
**ODCCW Treasurer**



November 1621, after the Pilgrims' first corn harvest proved successful, Governor William Bradford organized a celebratory feast and invited a group of the fledgling colony's Native American allies, including the Wampanoag chief Massasoit. Now remembered as America's "first Thanksgiving"—although the Pilgrims themselves may not have used the term at the time—the festival lasted for three days.

While no record exists of the first Thanksgiving's exact menu, much of what we know about what happened at the first Thanksgiving comes from Pilgrim chronicler Edward Winslow, who wrote: "Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together, after we had gathered the fruits of our labors; they four in one day killed as much fowl, as with a little help beside, served the Company almost a week, at which time amongst other Recreations, we exercised our Arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and amongst the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five Deer, which they brought to the Plantation and bestowed on our Governor, and upon the Captain and others. And although it be not always so plentiful, as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want, that we often wish you partakers of our plenty."

Historians have suggested that many of the dishes were likely prepared using traditional Native American spices and cooking methods. Because the Pilgrims had no oven and the Mayflower's sugar supply had dwindled by the fall of 1621, the meal did not feature pies, cakes or other desserts, which have become a hallmark of contemporary celebrations.

*Credit: State Archives of Florida/Florida Memory*



## **October General Gathering Recap**

### **Gail Lefebvre**

### **ODCCW Recording Secretary**

On October 15, 2024, we held our October 2024 ODCCW General Meeting at St. Martin de Porres (SMDP) parish in Yorba Linda. Mass was attended and a rosary was recited.

Following registration, breakfast was provided by the SMDP ladies. The meeting started at 9:39 am with 3 prayers led by Inez Moss. A brief video for Box of Love was presented.

A brief video for Water for Life per Catholic Relief Services was presented.

Krista Goddard, a representative from Laura's House spoke on the topic "How to Support Those in a Harmful Relationship". The attendees found the topic informative and asked Krista some questions after the presentation.

The closing prayer was read by Pat Martin. The meeting concluded at 12:30 pm.



## **Thanksgiving**

### **Janine Meckler**

### **ODCCW Past President**

I have loved celebrating Thanksgiving since I was a young girl. I recall vividly going to Mass with my parents on Thanksgiving and feeling so happy that we were there to thank God. My parents taught me to be thankful for family, friends, food, health, and most of all faith in God. My parents are deceased now, but I owe them a debt of gratitude for teaching me by their example. I miss them very much, especially this time of year as the holidays approach. Although my parents are not here physically, I often find myself talking to them and asking for their intercessory prayers. I thank God not only for my parents but for all of our family members who passed on their faith. How can I ever thank God enough? God gave us His only Son Jesus Christ. Glory, honor, praise, and thanksgiving unto you Lord Jesus Christ. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.





## **Visit the Sick**

### **Dr. Ida Pennella, PhD**

### **ODCCW Emeritus Advisor, Legislative Advocacy**

Visit the sick, a Corporal Work of Mercy, is found in the Gospel of Matthew 25:36, "I was sick, and you visited Me." In Divine Mercy News, the article on Works of Mercy stated that visiting the sick provides a personal and social dimension. Read the entire article at:

<http://thedivinemercy.org/news/story.php?NID=3479>



Do you feel uneasy visiting the elderly, chronically or terminally ill people whether in their home, hospitals, or nursing homes?

When I was sick with Acute Myeloid Leukemia, I was in the hospital for five months. My life expectancy was three to six months. No one knew at that time that I would survive. Who would want to visit a terminally ill and bald person? The constant visitors and prayers gave me hope to an otherwise hopeless situation.

Some visitors were family, others were friends. Some came from local parishes and gave me communion. The *Get Well* cards filled my hospital walls. Five girlfriends came weekly and prayed the rosary with me. Can you pray the rosary with someone who is sick?

My son, Jim, told a worker about my situation. That lady came weekly to visit me. She'd bring me reading material. I have bittersweet memories of this wonderful lady who died shortly after my recovery. Can you visit someone in the hospital that you don't know?

My son, Ralph, a world traveler at that time, used the Internet to get in touch with fellow travelers and asked for them to pray for me. Can you use your email to encourage prayers for the sick?

My son-in-law, Mike, a bronze star recipient, was in the Army and stationed in Iraq. As a medic, he saw the devastation of wounded soldiers. *Get Well* cards and letters from people they didn't know, boosted their moral, gave them hope, and showed them that someone cared. Can you start a *Get-Well* card ministry?

Are you ready to make a difference and serve God by visiting the sick? Make a commitment today to do something for the sick.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF  
CATHOLIC WOMEN  
ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCE OF LOS ANGELES

Council of Catholic Women  
Ecclesiastical Province of Los Angeles  
presents

*Dr. ValLimar Jansen*

For an inspiring and uplifting event that explores the  
profound impact of God's love on the lives of women of faith.

*Women of Faith Created, Transformed  
& Sent Forth By Love*

Through music, Scripture proclamation, storytelling, joy, laughter, prayer and  
reflection, this presentation will delve into the transformative power of God's love.

Examining how love shapes our identities, guides our actions, and propels us  
forward on our spiritual journeys for the unique mission God has for each of us.

*Wednesday, November 20 - 6:30pm-8:30pm*

Cost: \$35. Dinner included.  
Childcare available if needed.  
Pre-registration required.



Use QR code to register or call Carol Palmer at 714-616-4709.

All meetings are held from 6:30pm-8:30pm at:  
Christ Cathedral Pastoral Center  
13280 Chapman Ave  
Garden Grove, CA 92840  
714-971-2141

[www.nccwla.com](http://www.nccwla.com)

Dr. ValLimar Jansen [www.vallimar.com](http://www.vallimar.com)



**ODCCW**  
**November General Gathering**

All women of the diocese are invited to Santiago de Compostela in Lake Forest for our November Meeting.

Join us for a Thanksgiving Tea featuring our very own **Janine Meckler** speaking about the life of **Blessed Carlo Acutis**, his catalog of Eucharistic Miracles and his upcoming canonization.

**Tuesday, November 19, 2024**

8:00 am – Mass & Rosary (Optional)

9:00 am – Meeting Check In &  
Continental Breakfast

12:00pm – Adjourn

Address – 21682 Lake Forest Dr. Lake Forest, 92630

Donation – \$35 covers breakfast and catered lunch

RSVP by Nov. 15 at [www.odccw.org](http://www.odccw.org) or call or text Susan Navarrete at 949-345-9130.

**Monthly Rosary Conference**  
**Call**

**Conference Call Number**

**(202) 926-1107**

**Access Code: 703993**

**The Rosary Call occurs on the 13th of each month.**

***4:30 PM (PT), 5:30 PM (MT), 6:30 PM (CT),  
7:30 PM (ET), and 8 :30 PM (USVI)***