

ORANGE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF

CATHOLIC WOMEN



fragments

NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

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.



***"In all circumstances give thanks,
for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."***

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Orange Diocese Council of Catholic Women (ODCCW)

Christ Cathedral - Pastoral Center

13280 Chapman Avenue, Garden Grove, CA, 92840

<https://www.ocdccw.org>

OCTOBER GENERAL GATHERING RECAP

Gail Lefebvre
ODCCW Recording Secretary



The ODCCW October General Meeting took place on October 21, 2025 at St. Thomas More Parish in Irvine at 10 am. Carol Palmer, ODCCW President-Elect, opened with introductions, Opening Prayer, Salute to the Cross, and Salute to the Flag. Pat Martin, 1st Vice President of Spirituality led us in an additional prayer.

Carol spoke of Water for Life. Those who wished to provide a donation for Water for Life could leave a donation in the cup provided on each table. She also reminded the members that we are sponsoring seminarian Francis Ang, who will be ordained as a priest in 2026. A collection bowl was provided for those wishing to provide a donation for him. She briefly spoke about the Tree Council of Life. Each table was provided with paper tree leaves for members to leave a brief note on them and then to hang their leaf on the tree. Carol let the members know that 50/50 raffle tickets were available to purchase. Lastly, she had a member speak of the Box of Joy (49 boxes were collected at the meeting). These boxes will be shipped around the world for underprivileged children to receive for Christmas.

In attendance were approximately 45 women who enthusiastically gathered to hear our guest speaker, Ida Pennella, ODCCW Emeritus Advisor, speak about "The History of the Rosary". Ida gave a thorough and informative presentation about the rosary. Lunch was served afterward, and the 50/50 raffle drawings had three happy winners. Closing prayer was conducted at 1:15 pm.

NOVEMBER GENERAL GATHERING



ALL ARE INVITED



Join us as marriage and family therapist,
Shayla Patron, MA, LMFT, LPCC discusses
suicide prevention and how to minister
to those who have lost someone in this way

St. Norbert Church in Orange
Tuesday, November 18, 2025

10:00 am Start (check in at 9:45)
12:00 pm Lunch
\$30 includes lunch

RSVP by November 13. Mail checks payable to ODCCW
c/o Susan Navarrete, 14245 Utrillo Dr., Irvine, CA 92606
or contact Susan at 949-345-9130
or by email at snavarrete150@gmail.com

SEMINARIAN FRANCIS ANG



ODCCW is adopting seminarian Francis Ang, to help support some of his needs. Please click [here](#) to learn more about seminarian Francis. If you would like to donate, please contact Susan Navarrete at snavarrete150@gmail.com or 949-345-9130. Thank you for your support and generosity!



Tis the Season

By Dr. Ida Pennella, PhD
Emeritus Advisor

As All Hallows' Eve ushered in All Saints' Day, followed by Veteran's Day, then Thanksgiving Day, when we give praise to God for His bounty, and a few days later, Advent begins and ends on December 24, as we relive the most glorious event, the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on **CHRISTMAS DAY**.

All Saints Day Nov. 1: This is a Holy Day of Obligation. It is also my birthday. When I was growing up, Catholic schools were closed, but all the families attended Mass. It didn't matter what day of the week, the Holy Day was celebrated.

Veteran's Day Nov 11: My son-in-law, Mike Reeser, received a Bronze Star on July 27, 2006, while serving in Iraq as a medic. He saw the devastation of wounded soldiers.

What can you do to show active military that you care? Mike told me, "Receiving cards from people they didn't know boosted their morale and gave them hope, and you know what, it showed them that someone cared." Send "Thank You for Your Service" greeting cards to soldiers.

Operation Gratitude: forwards the cards to all areas of the military. Send them your card addressed to:

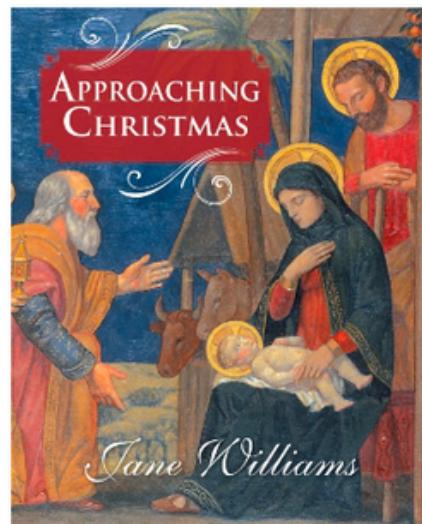
9409 Owensmouth Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91311.



Thanksgiving Day: If you're celebrating at home, give everyone



a piece of paper and have them write a short prayer or bible verse to share at mealtime.



Celebrating Advent: Plan some simple



pilgrimages to sites of spiritual significance. If you can't visit the holy places like the Holy Land, Lourdes, or Fatima, you can pray in front of the tabernacle, visit a church other than your parish and place flowers on a gravesite. Consider visiting the sick, a Corporal Work of Mercy, found in the Gospel of Matthew 25:36 states, "I was sick, and you visited Me." Pray the Rosary with them.





**By Dr. Ida Pennella, PhD
Emeritus Advisor**

"Come Holy Spirit, fill our hearts, in kindle in us the fire of Your love."

Let this festive season kindle in us a desire to bring back some old but treasured traditions. The Christmas tradition has its roots in the Bible and the birth of a Jewish baby, Jesus.



Our Jewish neighbors light the menorah candle at Hanukkah to symbolize their traditions. Hanukkah starts at nightfall on December 14, 2025 and ends with nightfall on December 22, 2025 and lasts for eight days.



Catholics light the advent candle as a waiting time for the arrival of Jesus, it begins on November 30 and ends on Christmas Eve which is about 3 to 4 weeks long.



The Jewish "Festival of Lights" that was celebrated during Passover, became the Christian Christmas with lights and decorations. Fancy ornaments remind us of the joy as we celebrate Jesus' birth. Glowing light reminds us that Jesus is the "Light of the World", and family traditions fosters the holiday spirit as we gather together to share our heritage of flavorful foods passed down from generations.

The Bible and tradition welcomes the birth of Jesus on Christmas Eve. Christians celebrate with special services while Catholics celebrate Mass on either Christmas Eve or Christmas day.



At our house on Christmas Day, the warmth of joy and laughter filled the air as guests mingled, had dinner with my traditional Tourtière (French pork pie) and waited for Santa Claus.

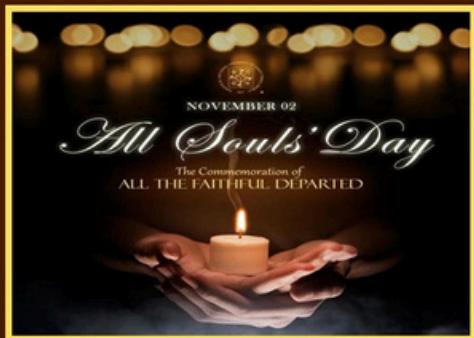


"Ring, ring" the doorbell chimed and Brendan, one of our 13 grandkids opened the door, "It's Santa" he exclaimed, and all the little kids ran to the door screaming, "Santa, Santa." They didn't know that my son, Jimmy, was Santa who arrived in his fully decorated jeep with lots of glowing lights.

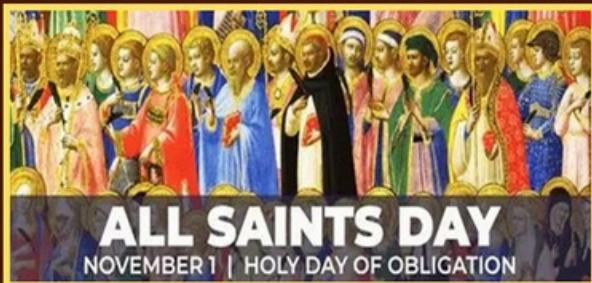
Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah!

*Dr. Ida Pennella, PhD
Presents*

NOVEMBER Interesting Facts



The word “November” comes from the Latin word “novem,” which means “nine,” and is the ninth month in the ancient Roman Calendar. In the Gregorian calendar it is the eleventh month.



PRESIDENTS BORN IN NOVEMBER

DOB	NAME	POTUS
Nov. 02, 1795	James Polk	11th President
Nov. 24, 1784	Zachary Taylor	12th President
Nov. 23, 1904	Franklin Pierce	14th President
Nov. 18, 1931	James Garfield	20th President
Nov. 02, 1865	Warren Harding	29th President



"LET US KEEP THIS THANKSGIVING DAY SACRED. LET US THANK GOD FOR THE BOUNTY AND GOODNESS OF OUR NATION. AND AS A MEASURE OF OUR GRATITUDE, LET US REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO THE PRESERVATION OF THIS: THE LAND OF THE FREE AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE."

RONALD REAGAN





**By Dr. Ida Pennella, PhD
Emeritus Advisor**

It was June 1974; Ralph took me for my pregnancy exam. Afterwards, the doctor told us to meet in his office. He spoke softly, but firmly, "Ida, you have a hole in your uterus and I think you should abort." WOW! Ralph and I looked at each other, and we both said, "no".

The doctor said, "if you go through with the pregnancy, you and the baby might die, or if you both survive, you will be in a wheelchair with milk-leg.

We chose "life". I was hospitalized at St. Jude Hospital in Fullerton. The nurse said, "You need to sign these papers for us to save the baby first." I signed. When released, I was on bedrest for the remainder of my pregnancy.

Praise the Lord, with prayers and support from family and friends, I delivered a healthy baby girl in December, and I never had milk-leg.

By 1980, an advocate for ProLife, I spoke at PTA meetings, travelled from Orange County to San Francisco with speaking engagements.

Diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia in March 2002, I refused to have embryonic stem cell therapy. This made news.

By 2007, I was interviewed by the Bioethics Review and they posted, "...She was ready to have her own stem cells harvested and reintroduced into her body. She is currently living a full and productive life after having used Adult Stem Cell therapy."

In May 2009, the Right-to-Life Education Fund had a full-page story on me. I was quoted, "Although I was sick for nearly a year, it didn't stop me from serving my community...I was a speaker on the St. Joseph radio station and other venues speaking against embryonic stem cell research..."

On November 19, 2009, I spoke at the Pat



Nixon Library and the OC Register wrote, "Dr. Ida Pennella, a businesswoman ...

will open the evening with a short talk on her recovery from terminal AML Leukemia entitled "Hope, Attitude and Prayer: An Adult Stem Cell Success Story."

The California ProLife Council appointed



me District Deputy in 2013 and wrote, "Thank you for the commitment you have made to

Life! As a DD your job will be to

communicate to your local community and legislators."

To advocate for ProLife, I prayed at Planned Parenthood facilities, attended ProLife events, wrote articles, sent letters to legislators, and gave more talks.

I spoke at "Relay for Life" events, and "Team in Training" events".



As the Legislative advocate for ODCCW, I currently write articles for "Fragments" on ProLife and Legislation.

October is the month of "Respect Life" and of "Our Lady of the Rosary". As I pray the Rosary, I'm reminded of the value of "life"... life from conception to natural death.



Dr. Ida Pennella, PhD
ODCCW Emeritus Advisor

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Legislation & ProLife

2025 New CA State Laws

California adopted AI safety legislation.
Here are 5 things it does.
By Ryan Kushner, Editor

New state legislation regulating artificial intelligence requires transparency and safety incident reporting and establishes whistleblower protections.

1. Increase transparency from large AI developers
2. Require safety incident reporting
3. State protection for whistleblowers
4. Civil penalties for noncompliance
5. Establish a public consortium for AI development

Read details at [California adopted AI safety legislation. Here are 5 things it does. | Smart Cities Dive](#)

California Introduces 38 New Laws for 2025

About 5,000 bills were introduced but half failed without a vote. You'll be surprised at what passed. Here are just a sample of the 38 new state laws during 2025.

AB 2602 makes it illegal to use artificial intelligence to duplicate an actor's voice or likeness without their consent.

AB 1836 prohibits using deceased actors' voices or likenesses without the consent of their estate.

AB 1775 allows cities and counties to permit existing cannabis retailers and consumption lounges to sell freshly prepared non-cannabis food and beverages.

SB 450 removes specific zoning restrictions, simplifying the process for homeowners to divide their properties into up to four separate units.

SB 1395 known as the Interim Housing Act, streamlines the construction of tiny homes by cities to provide shelter for homeless residents.

AB 2347 extends the response time for tenants facing eviction from five business days to 10.

AB 413 commonly referred to as the "daylighting" law, will change the way people park their cars.

SB 1100 will make it illegal for a job posting to require applicants to have a valid driver's license.

Read full article at [California Introduces 38 New Laws for 2025 - Newsweek](#)



Andrea Bocelli clarifies that his message is pro-life, not merely anti-abortion

Rome, Italy - Following the [popular video](#) in which he recounts how his mother ignored the advice of doctors to have an abortion, tenor Andrea Bocelli said he does not want his testimony to be considered as merely anti-abortion, but also in support of life.

"Because of my personal convictions as a devout Catholic, I am not only fighting against something, I am fighting for something, and I am for life," he told the Italian newspaper, *Il Foglio*.

Bocelli said he wants his video "to help comfort those who are in difficult situations and who sometimes just need to feel that they are not alone. Life is hard, but we need to listen, we need to open our ears" to embrace them.

Bocelli said he has been surprised by the calls he has received following the video. "I said those things a year and a half ago in a video message for Father Richard Frechette, a missionary who works with children in Haiti and deserves to have a book written just about him. I gave a concert to help him build the Home of the Angels and he asked me to say a few words of hope for mothers in difficult circumstances and I decided to tell the story of my birth."

"I did so recounting the private experience of my mother without asking her permission, but she didn't admonish me. I wasn't ready for all the uproar it has created," Bocelli said.

As a young boy, he continued, "I was very hyper and quite naïve." He said he has loved music ever since he was a boy. "My mother tells me that I would cry whenever I heard a song, even through the wall from another room in the hospital. I would turn towards the sound and listen with glee."

Source: [CNA Catholic News Agency](#)

NOTE: The NCCW Legislative Advocacy Committee is under the Spirituality Commission and is guided by Catholic Social Teaching for legislation on: 1) **Abortion:** opposes abortion and infanticide, includes ProLife issues, 2) **Human rights:** Includes human dignity, domestic violence, human trafficking and opposition to genocide, 3) **Women's health:** screening for osteoporosis and routine health care, and 4) **Equal opportunities:** minimum wage, social security, and health insurance.



ODCCW PRAYER REQUESTS

Remember these prayer requests during your daily prayers...

S Hart - I had breast surgery. Please pray for my recovery.

P Baumgart - For our son to lead his family to the Catholic Church and Rosary and help him to be courageous, have wisdom and understanding in order to do so. Help his wife to soften her heart and be encouraged to come to Mass with their children and understand the importance. Bring Catholic friends and families to help them resolve the issue of attending the Lutheran Church or the Catholic Mass. May God's will be known.

A Neria - I ask for prayers for our friend's grandson Hunter who is only five years old and has been in and out of the hospital for the last several months as he continues to have between 8-16 seizures a day. He is getting a brain scan for 24 hours to hopefully find what is causing his illness and to be able to treat and cure him. Please lift Hunter, his family and his medical team up in your prayers. Thank and God.

Salwa - My 3 adult children conversion to come back to their Catholic faith with all their hearts and mind. For my 2nd son Thomas, return full hearted to the Catholic church and bring his grandsons to get their penance, Eucharistic and confirmation sacraments and be immersed in the Catholic faith. For Lisa to convert to the Catholic faith and make the family united. For her health and safe surgery on her neck. Healing for my daughter Christina from autoimmune disease, stress and identity issues. My son Brian to find a good faith and vase in Christ, that he finds a good Catholic wife, an affordable house to buy. To bring him closer to the arms of God.

E Gonzalez - Good morning, ladies of great faith! I call upon you in desperate need for our family, specifically our adult son Eddie, who suffers from depression. Through our constant support and love for him, it has made my husband and I of 32 years married also severely depressed. Currently my son is on his 4th therapy session, and I just signed up for family therapy, not knowing if everyone will participate. I pray for a breakthrough for my son, that he may find joy and happiness in simple things and be grateful for a loving family, his job, and his girlfriend. May God grant him the strength to quickly see through this so he, his two sisters and our family can heal. To continue to love each other through Christ. Amen

Kim - Please pray for the healing of my daughter's marriage. Thank you

Helen Barnes - heart valve surgery

Pat Martin - gallbladder cancer surgery

Inez Moss - recovery after illness



PRAY FOR PRIESTS CALENDAR

11-1	Anthony	Palos	Our Lady of Fatima Church	105 N La Esperanza, San Clemente, CA 92672
11-2	Tony	Park	St. Thomas Korean Catholic Center	412 N Crescent Way, Anaheim, CA 92801
11-3	Bruce	Patterson	St. Martin de Porres Church	19767 Yorba Linda Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886
11-4	Jose Ignacio	Paz	St. Pius V Church	7691 Orangethorpe Ave, Buena Park, CA 90621
11-5	Timothy	Peters, S.T.D.	St. John's Seminary	5012 Seminary Rd, Camarillo, CA 93012
11-6	Christopher	Pham	Our Lady Queen of Angels	2046 Mar Vista Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660
11-7	Hien	Pham	Blessed Sacrament Church	14072 Olive St, Westminster, CA 92683
11-8	Tuan	Pham	St. Barbara Church	730 S Euclid St, Santa Ana, CA 92704
11-9	Tuan V.	Pham	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	9 Hillgate, Irvine, CA 92612
11-10	Vincent	Pham	St. Bonaventure Church	16400 Springdale St, Huntington Beach, CA 92649
11-11	Tuan J.	Pham, JCL	San Antonio De Padua	5800 E Santa Ana Canyon Rd, Anaheim, CA 92807
11-12	Khoi	Phan	St. Cecilia Church	1301 Sycamore Ave, Tustin, CA 92780
11-13	Edward	Poettgen	St. Boniface Church	120 N Janss St, Anaheim, CA 92805
11-14	Michael	Pontarelli, O.S.M.	St. Julianna Falconieri	1316 N Acacia Ave, Fullerton, CA 92831
11-15	Rudy	Preciado	c/o Christ Our Savior	2000 W Alton Ave, Santa Ana, CA 92704
11-16	Aristotle	Quan	St. Edward Church	33926 Calle La Primavera, Dana Point, CA 92629
11-17	Tim	Ramaekers	c/o Ministry to Priests Office	13280 Chapman Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840
11-18	Erialdo	Ramírez-Alfaro	St. Norbert Church	300 E Taft Ave, Orange, CA 92865
11-19	Sergio	Ramos	St. Justin Martyr	2050 West Ball Road, Anaheim, CA 92804
11-20	Daniel	Reader	St. Angela Merici Church	585 S. Walnut Ave., Brea, CA 92821
11-21	Marito	Rebamontan	c/o St. Catherine of Siena	1042 Temple Terrace, Laguna Beach, CA 92651
11-22	Jim	Ries	c/o Ministry to Priests Office	13280 Chapman Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840
11-23	Mike	Rizzo	St. Edward the Confessor	33926 Calle La Primavera, Dana Point, CA 92629
11-24	Joe	Robillard	Christ our Savior Chuch	2000 W Alton Ave, Santa Ana, CA 92704
11-25	Domingo	Romero	Our Lady of Guadalupe Delhi	541 E Central Ave Santa Ana, CA 92707
11-26	Donald	Romito	c/o St. Joseph, Placentia	717 N Bradford Ave, Placentia, CA 92870
11-27	Patrick	Rudolph	St. Catherine of Siena Church	1042 Temple Terrace, Laguna Beach, CA 92651
11-28	Ruben	Ruiz	St. Joseph, SA	727 N Minter St, Santa Ana, CA 92701
11-29	Steve	Sallot	c/o Ministry to Priests Office	13280 Chapman Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840
11-30	Randy	Sampinto, AM	St. Irenaeus	5201 Evergreen Ave, Cypress, CA 90630