



St. Francis of Assisi CCW President's Report
CDCCW Spring General Meeting
March 16, 2024
Denise Acerra

Since the New Year, we have been active in several activities that are growing our CCW presence in our parish and community.

Before Lent, we hosted Buncos on the last Friday of each month. Attendees are quite diverse. We generally get about 36 – 40 players, made up of women and men from the parish, friends from the VFW and other parishes, Youth Group parents and leaders, and making new friends along the way. People have fun, we make a little money, and sometimes we get a new member or two.

In January, our guest speaker, the Executive Director from the Apopka Pregnancy Care Center, shared their mission, and she gave examples of offering life-affirming options and support with compassion and the love of Jesus to those facing fear and uncertainty in an unplanned pregnancy, grief after abortion, or other loss of a child. Since all services are free and confidential, they rely on help from others. We were happy to fill her SUV up to the brim with items from their wish list.

In February, we concluded our Hugs for the Homeless campaign. We advertised in the church bulletin and pulpit announcements the week before and the week of our collection after all Masses. This year, we also had strong participation after all 4 Spanish Masses, as well as 3 English Masses. We collected just over \$2,000 for the FCCW campaign. On a fun note, I was very happy to learn that 3 ladies who go to my Zumba class on weekday mornings, also go to St. Francis Spanish Masses, and they recognized me from the Hugs campaign at church!

During Lent, our CCW ladies have been providing home-baked desserts at each Knights of Columbus Friday-night Fish Fry. This brings in about \$80 for the Knights, and it allows us to have a CCW presence as people come for fish before going to Stations of the Cross. We display our CCW banner and beautiful posters and mingle with guests. Last Friday, two ladies asked if they could come to our next meeting. Of course, we welcome them!

Looking forward, we will provide dinner again for the Youth Group, and find out how we can help with their Mission trip. We are also eager to hold Bunco on the first Friday after Easter.

Our slate of Officer Nominees is complete, and we are ready for elections in April. I look back at my 2+ years as President with great fondness. I had wonderful and strong support along the way, and I look forward to supporting whoever the incoming officers will be.

Madame President, this concludes my President's Report.