



The Columbiette Connection

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CALIFORNIA STATE COLUMBIETTES 6TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

By M. Giracello

Our convention will convene on Friday, June 18th & Saturday, June 19th, 2021. It will be held at Ontario Airport Hotel 700 North Haven Avenue. Ontario Ca 91763 909-980-0400.

Packets for the convention were emailed. If you did not receive a packet – Send Requests to mgiracello@netscape.net

Every registration postmarked or entered on-line on or before April 30th will receive one sheet of raffle tickets. The Raffle prizes include theme baskets from the auxiliaries and many more prizes.

We Are Family



The theme for this year’s convention is **"We Are Family"**. We are dedicated Sisters, families, Knights and friends on board to make a difference.

One Swag bag will be given to every Platinum and Silver registered package. The swag bag will include fun gifts.

In **The Culture Code: The Secrets of Highly Successful Groups**, Daniel Coyle’s research revealed that the best teams he observed used the word family. He states that *“When you ask people inside highly successful groups to describe their relationship with one another, they all tend to choose the same word. The word is not friends or team or tribe or any other equally plausible term. It is Family!”*

Convention Schedule Update

Friday June 18th, 2021

(Registration Desk in front of Tahoe Room)

- Registration 2:00PM - 4:00PM
- Initiation Ceremony 4:30PM - 5:00PM
- Hospitality 5:00PM - 6:30PM
- Testimonial Dinner 6:30PM - 8:30PM
- Hospitality 9:00PM - ???

Saturday June 19th, 2021

- Breakfast 8:00AM - 8:45AM
- Registration 7:30AM - 8:45AM
- Business Meeting 9:00AM - 11:00AM
- Luncheon 11:30AM - 1:00PM
- Hospitality Suite 1:30PM - 4:15PM
- Rosary & Mass 4:30PM - 6:00PM
- Installation of Officers 6:00PM - 6:30PM
- Dinner 7:00PM - 8:30PM
- Hospitality Suite 9:00PM - ???

Inspirational Corner

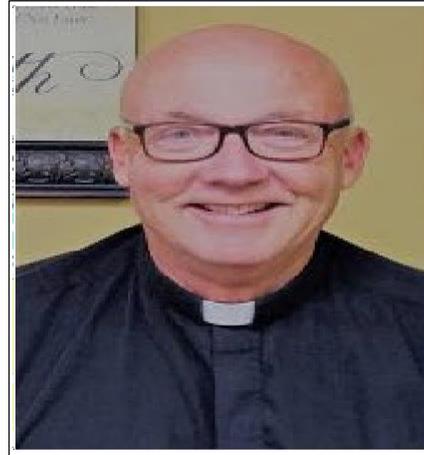
Reflection for Columbiettes

What you drive may say something about you. Some chose their vehicle for comfort ... others for fuel efficiency, speed, durability, show-off value, safety record, re-sale potential, sentimental memories.

A deeper question than what you drive is ... what drives you?

We all have our collection of motivations --- some conscious and some unconscious. People are driven by a need to excel or create; we can also be driven by greed, fear, anger, insecurity, pleasure gratification. The Gospel for the first Sunday of Lent says **Jesus was driven by the Spirit.** "The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert"

Part of the reason people go to confession is to get more clear about what drives them (we don't want a driver who will drive us crazy or into hell!), and apply the medicine of God's mercy and Spirit. We start with an examination of conscience --- perhaps it could also be called an examination of consciousness.



Great grief is caused by people who don't know what's driving them. I have known parents who said: Oh, I'm pushing my child for his own good ... only to encounter years later those parents with a destroyed child. They sighed and said: No, I was not being driven by love for my child. I was being driven by my own pride, my need to undo my past failures, my desire to live through my offspring.

O God, in this race of life help me slow down enough to enter into my own heart and observe what's going on in there and who or what is in the driver's seat. And if the driver is sin, or pride, or an injured ego, or whatever ... please give me the sweet guidance of your Holy Spirit!

Peace, All Good!

Fr. Michael Miller

Father Michael Miller will be our mass celebrant at the Convention

California State Columbiettes Donation to Delta Veterans Group

By D. Brennan

On January 27th Fran Kennealy, Becky Trombley and me gathered at the Antioch VFW hall. On behalf of the California State Columbiettes, we presented JR Wilson and Pat Jeremy a check for \$1,000 to the Diablo Veterans Group (DVG).

JR Wilson was all smiles after receiving the check since I did not tell him the donation amount. Fran Kennealy invited DVG to come to the Squirettes Blue Mass at St Anthony on November 7th.



Also, we offered the Columbiettes to support their big event at the Antioch Fair Grounds September 11th through the 14th this year. The Columbiettes will have a banner at this event with our logo. A big thank you to Sue Higgins for introducing us to JR Wilson. Next year this event will be in Southern California.

Delta Veterans Group

Delta Veterans Group is a Veterans service non-profit that assists our Nation's finest men and woman with housing, employment, health, and education services.

Founded in Contra Costa County in 2012 by Army veteran J.R. Wilson, DVG has now grown to provide services to surrounding Northern California areas including Alameda, Monterey, Napa, San Joaquin, San Francisco, and Solano counties.

DVG was proud to bring the first homeless and at-risk of becoming homeless Veteran "Stand Down on the Delta" of its kind to Contra Costa County.

Veterans are provided full medical treatments, court and legal services, DMV, Chaplain services, housing, addiction and mental health counseling, employment, and a myriad of other community services.

Please check out our Charity Video at <https://www.californiacolumbiettes.com/our-charity-focus>
Another great video on Delta Veterans group is <https://deltaveteransgroup.org/our-founder>

Supreme President**Micki MaGee**

It was my privilege to interview Micki MaGee.

D. Brennan



They look like they are having fun. I think I can do that! **S**o I got on to the state board and served in every chair, moving up every two years.

I volunteered to be nominated as a Supreme Director and was honored to serve as a Supreme Director for six years while I was on the State Board.

What message would you like to tell the Columbiettes?

Believe in yourself. **Y**OU can do it. You can make a difference even if it is one step at a time. If you can't move a mountain, it means you should climb it. I always believe that if God brings me to it. He will bring me through it.

What made you want to become a Columbiette?

A Family Spaghetti Dinner. When I was asked to join the Columbiettes, I had a young family and I was told that the Columbiettes had a great family spaghetti dinner every month for a small fee and that I could bring the whole family. So I joined, and the auxiliary later decided to do a different fund raiser but I stayed anyway. **P**S I never did attend that family spaghetti dinner LOL.

Why Columbiettes and not the Daughters of Mary or the Lady Columbiettes?

I had not heard of any of these organizations before. I joined the Columbiettes because someone asked me to join.

Why Supreme?

I did not even know what Supreme was when I joined. I attended state conventions and had fun every year. During one state convention I looked at the State Board and thought -

At some point after that I served as the State President of New York. I thought ... I could do that but if I do, I want to be of **S**ERVICE to the Members

What are your goals for Supreme this year and the future?

I have always been interested in Education and Technology. I feel that is important for our members to understand how gifted and powerful they are. Supreme needs to continue to educate more and take our Order into the future with making things easier. We should work smarter - **N**ot harder. **C**OVID has taught us that **W**E **N**EED **A** **B**ACKUP **P**LAN.

What other goals, dreams or bucket list items do you have?

I enjoy meeting people and traveling. I was supposed to travel to Egypt in April 2020 and rescheduled to April 2021 and **C**OVID has put a wrinkle into those plans, so I just wait and pray until I can travel.

What is your favorite place you travelled?

My favorites are hard to pick but I very much enjoyed the necropolis tour at the Vatican. Seeing St. Peter's bones and resting place was very moving and then on the Great Wall of China was an experience that is hard to duplicate.

Continued

How did your upbringing and environment get you to where you are today?

Born in Brooklyn NY. I am an only child of an Irish mother and a German, English, Scottish, French, American Indian Father. Went to Catholic School, Public High School and College. My major in College was Education and Business. I'm married to John and we have 4 children, three by birth and one by heart. Lori, Jaclyn, Donny and Sean.

Lori is married and has 2 sons, she has been a Columbiette for over 25 years serving as Auxiliary officers and President and Chapter officers and then President. She was a major team member in our former Major Degree.

Jaclyn is married and this year will be her 25th Columbiette anniversary. As a young teen, Jaci joined the Squirettes of Mary and was a Charter Member then when she aged out, she joined the Columbiettes, went up the chairs in Auxiliary and Chapter and on to the State Board. She also was elected and served as a Supreme Director. She is now the State President of New York State Council Columbiettes

She has worked very hard and made every step on her own. When I joined the Supreme Board and Jaci joined the Supreme Board we made a rule at our house. We do not discuss "Columbiettes" during family time and we have stuck to that. And this has worked best for us.

Donny is our adopted son, he is a Staff Sargent in the US Army, he served two tours in Iraq and was stations in Korea, he and his wife and 2 children live in Connecticut, where he is currently an Army Recruiter.

Sean is our youngest and is single:) I am very proud of my husband and all of our children, their spouses and children. I have always said .. My love is not divided by them but multiplied by them.

Before, I retired, I worked as a bank teller, a Prudential Mutual Funds manager for the Unclaimed Property Division, Quality Assurance Manager for Customer Service, Financial Control and IT departments.

Last question: Guinness or Harp?
Guinness

AuxiliaryCorner



Drive-By-
Spaghetti dinner
at St. Margaret
Mary with the
Knights

St Margaret Mary members supporting the parish
blood drive



QUEEN OF ALL SAINTS



An interview with Queen of All Saints president as told to M Gracello Lori revealed the history, activity and objective of Queen of All Saints Columbiettes. She was very instrumental in coordinating and developing the Council.

A big thank you to Lori and All the members. We appreciate you- and all your hard work- May God Bless you!

It all started with a pancake breakfast hosted by the Knights of Columbus at Queen of all Saints Church. Ladies in attendance noticed that though the breakfast was sponsored by the K of C that the ladies were assisting the Knights. It was there and then- that the group considered organizing. Confirming that the Columbiettes is a lady's group, and indeed associated with the Knights— then proceeding to join the Columbiettes was the answer.

Becky and Kip Trombley, Katt Embody and Patsy Welty, were so valuable in assisting, Support also came from the Knights and Pastor of QAS Father Neal Clemens.

Flyers were provided at church and also at other events-. the California State banner was proudly displayed. The new group even rode with the Knights of Columbus in the fourth of July parade in Concord.

Eventually the group of ladies satisfied the number of applicants needed and other requirements. They became official auxiliary. On August 10 of 2019 exemplification of the new auxiliary took place. Queen of All Saints Columbiettes # 13195 was official. -YAY!

Lori's statements of activity:
We bake cookies to sell at the Cookie Booth. Ladies participate in walk-a-thons and marches. We support causes such as St. Vincent de Paul, Pro-life and the Knights program to provide ultrasound machines, Ladies organized to help the Knights by serving coffee and helping out at pancake breakfasts. Lenten soup suppers are included to support St Vincent de Paul.

We collect lady's hygiene products and other products for the homeless. Some are uncomfortable with woman's shelters. We want to help them by handing out purses filled with helpful and useful items.

Some of our normal activities have been on hold due to COVID. We are looking forward to getting back to activity as usual and to support those in need. We want to make a difference.

Initiation Ceremony

On September 19, 2020 the Supreme Board of Officers and Directors voted and passed a new initiation ceremony which would combine both the first and major degrees. The new ceremony is easier and less complicated allowing auxiliaries to accommodate new members more often and timely. The ceremony is open to all Columbiettes, Knights of Columbus members, family and friends who are at least 10 years of age.

The new initiation ceremony removes the struggle of getting through two separate degree ceremonies and allows for more family and community attendance. The attendees discover what the Columbiettes are about, what they represent and what they contribute to society.

The new ceremony has thus far been virtual only due to COVID-19. When you attend an event physically, there is a lot of planning that goes into it. Running a virtual event requires a NEW and DIFFERENT set of skills. This has been a NEW normal in our world. Thanks to all that made the virtual ceremony materialize and those who participated.

On December 6, 2020 California State Columbiettes held its first Virtual Initiation Ceremony. Attendees were 8 first degree members, 1 knight, 1 brand new candidate and our Supreme Director.

January 12th California's second Virtual Initiation Ceremony took place. Attendees included: 2 new candidates, 4 knights 9 auxiliary officers

January 19th California's third Virtual Initiation Ceremony took place. Attendees included :2 new candidates, 3 first degree, 1 knight and 13 auxiliary officers.



Congratulations to our new members. We are excited for you to be part of our family and are thrilled to call you sisters. With God's help, the ceremony will be performed in a live actual ceremony soon.

AuxiliaryCorner



St. Anthony Columbiettes supporting the Food Bank food drive through.



St Ignatius of Loyola

Lenten Projects

Martha's Kitchen

As a Lenten project, they are collecting food for Martha's Kitchen. The collection will start on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. If you need someone to pick up your donations, please email nancymelander@gmail.com

These are the items they would like: Lunch meat, sliced cheese, sandwich bread, oranges, apples, peaches, individual fruit cups, individual chip bags, fresh vegetables, tuna, rice, canned meat, wrapped cookies, pasta, and pasta sauce.

Hope Hearted

Hope Hearted was founded by four high school volunteers at a local San Jose hospital, who recognized the importance of further helping the unhoused and low-income populations they helped as patients outside of the hospital.

St Ignatius of Loyola will also be collecting hand sanitizer, water bottles (16oz), Band-Aids, Wet Wipes items during lent. Also (preferably with alcohol), face masks, bar soap and individual tissue packets.

Bibo's NY Pizza Fundraiser

1431 Bird Avenue
San Jose, CA 95125

St Ignatius of Loyola Columbiettes held a fundraiser on Feb. 23rd at Bibo's. They will receive a percentage back from the restaurant. This will go towards their high school scholarship and other charitable endeavors throughout the year. Bibo's is owned by Fouad (Fredie) Elian, a graduate of Holy Family School. He is more than happy to give back.

St Junipero Serra

In addition to their other community service and charitable works, the Columbiettes of Saint Junipero Serra Council No. 9498 helped with fundraising efforts for the San Diego Padres "Tickets for Those Who Serve" program.



The Columbiettes virtually sold "Catholic Night at the Padres" baseball caps with all proceeds from hat sales being used to support local frontline workers, members of the military and first responders in the San Diego area. The fundraiser was enthusiastically received and well supported - resulting in a beautiful silver lining to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bibo's NY Pizza



Columbiettes Honor Guard joins with the Knights of Columbus



February 10th at Our Lady Queen of the World, Father Peter, the Knights of Columbus and the Columbiettes honored brother knight James Franco who passed away



Our Lady Queen of the World Parish Religious Store supported by the Columbiettes. ==>

Our Little Store Supporting Religious Educators



NEW ! \$5
Leather bracelet



NEW ! \$5
Crucifix pendant



St. Christopher Protect Me Key Ring \$5.00

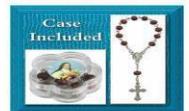


Hand-Held Prayer Cross with Card - Divine Mercy \$3.00



Miraculous Medal with Four Way Cross Pendant \$5.00

In special honor of our new statue of St Therese \$5



Rosary w/case Ruby/wine Or Royal blue \$5



Bishop Begin Knights and Columbiettes have a Crab-to-Go event on February 13th (Below)



Auxiliary Corner



The Gabriel Project® offers hope and assistance to any woman experiencing a crisis pregnancy. St Anthony Columbiettes donated diapers, baby wipes, baby clothes infant to size 2.



Deacon Alberto Cruz blessing the Holiday Boutique vender booths and raffle table.

May 1st is St Anthony Columbiettes Spring Boutique.



The St Anthony Knights of Columbus celebrated their 139th Anniversary on February 6th with the Columbiettes supporting their Reception-To-Go after mass.





Two of our Auxiliaries are currently working on cookbooks. Here is a tasted of one of the recipe submitted to their cookbook. Looking forward to the rest of the recipes.

IRISH SODA BREAD (from County Mayo)

Ingredients

- 4 cups flour
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 3 tbsp. butter - softened
- 1 cup of dark raisins
- 2 cups buttermilk

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Sift together the first four ingredients . Repeat 3 more times. Cut the room temperature butter into the sifted ingredients. Dissolve the first tsp. of baking soda into 1 cup of buttermilk. Add raisins , a second tsp. of baking soda and mix all ingredients together well. Bake for 1 hour.

March Trivia

- What's Irish and stays out all night?
Paddy O'furniture!
- When is an Irish Potato not an Irish Potato?
When it's a FRENCH fry!
- How can you tell if an Irishman is having a good time?
He's Dublin over with laughter!

Be a sponsor for our Newsletter at \$20 a year for a square here.

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At Brentwood Famers' Market every 2nd Saturday.

The California State Officers wish you and your family a safe and blessed Easter!

