

Christian Mothers of Sacred Heart Newsletter - June, 2025

Our Mission Statement

The purpose of our Christian Mother's group is to pray with prayer intentions for all Christian Mothers and their families, in our community and throughout the world.

June, 2025

Greetings Christian Mothers of Sacred Heart!

June 25th we, the Christian Mothers of Sacred Heart, met for an evening potluck dinner and meeting. All women of Sacred Heart were invited & encouraged to come. The evening began with prayer, enjoying the many dishes and delights that were shared. There were 13 women present, and Father Joe Vanderberg. We began the meeting at 6:15 with the Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, as it was June; Paula gave us a financial report and the minutes from the last 'official' meeting (10/10/2023) were read. The agenda was mainly to focus on the future of the Sacred Heart Christian Mothers as an active organization. There are currently only 23 active-to-somewhat active Christian Mothers (SH) members; monthly meetings were discontinued in 2023 due to lack of attendance; there is a decline in annual dues paid (2022 – 13 paid members, 2023 – 8 paid members, 2024 – 12 paid members); and there have been no new members since 2019 (last enrollment Mass Sept. 2019), thus a questionnaire which had been sent out via the church bulletin through a QR code, was passed out for those present to answer. The purpose of the questionnaire was to help determine the interest of the women and the need for a women's organization. The questionnaire is available here:

<https://forms.gle/PQtcf4vMjZw4gqdb7>, please fill out if you haven't already.

After a good discussion and with some input from Father Joe Vanderberg the decision was made, with agreement by all present, that the 'Christian Mothers' will remain as the official organization, but will identify as '*Women of Saints by the Lake*' when it comes to projects, events, retreats, gatherings, etc. Also at this meeting I, Barb, resigned as co-president, with a sadness in my heart, yet knowing that it was time. Gloria Scheimeister graciously stepped in to co-lead with Paul Johnson. Thank you Gloria!

Now for brief updates! An Advent Retreat was again held in December, which began with Adoration and reconciliation in the church for one hour, followed with an Advent video series and discussion in St. Margaret Mary Hall. It is the hope that the Advent retreats will continue by those in attendance.

Our annual 'Morning of Reflection' took place May 3rd. Gina Bauer was our guest speaker, speaking on "Blessed is She Who Believes". It was a beautiful time of learning, praising God through song and faith sharing! We were also encouraged to live

with strong courage and trust in our loving God, like Mary did. Thank you to Mary Raeker for leading us in song and sharing her testimony. There were 14 women present. There were many conflicts with this May date for a retreat.

The 'Crowning of Mary' at Sacred Heart took place on May 5th with a procession of children presenting flowers to Mary and the placing of the crown on the statue of Mary with a rosary also presented to her. After Mass the Christian Mothers provided coffee, juice and rolls/donuts in the narthex, served by the students going to Steubenville this year. Donations were accepted towards the cost of their trip.

Leading the rosary during Adoration on the 3rd Tues. of each month, and for families gathered for deceased family members when asked to do so and the sending of a greeting card to newly baptized children are the other involvements, along with the two retreats that we are committed to annually are the extent of the Christian Mothers activity.

Reminders - ** We are voting members of the DCCW. Annual dues of \$45.00 are paid by the Christian Mothers. The DCCW (Diocesan Council of Catholic Women) has several events throughout the year and we are always invited and welcomed to attend any event. 'Our Catholic Voice' the DCCW newsletter is sent out several times throughout the year by the DCCW officers, and is available for your reading on-line –check out the website www.stcloudcccw.org . Also, an email of this DCCW newsletter is sent to you via email (it comes from the Sacred Heart Church email address).

Dues are due - Send \$6.00 to Paula Johnson OR leave the money with Katherine at the church office (in marked envelope please), OR drop an envelope addressed to Paula in the collection basket. Christian Mothers' organizational expenses are minimal: the retreat expenses, dues for DCCW, two Masses offered for C.M. intention, and other incidentals. A special 'thank you' goes out to several members who have given an exceptional amount to the Christian Mothers. Your generosity is very appreciated!

“Thank You!” - to all of you who align yourself with the Confraternity of Christian Mothers in service, prayer, participation and also to all who willingly lead the rosary before Mass or are present in joining in the saying of the rosary. May God Bless each one of you! Together, in prayer, we make it happen!

Barb Kramber

*“As surely as seeds sprout and grow,
The Sovereign Lord will save His people
and all the nations will praise Him.” Is 61:11*

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