

Fellowship of  
Catholic  
Christian  
Women™

*Women gathering in the Spirit to  
grow closer to Christ Jesus*

*Mujeres uniéndose en el Espíritu para  
acercarse mas a Jesucristo*

Fraternidad  
Católica  
Cristiana de  
Mujeres™

*Celebrating 20 years/Celebramos 20 años*

**1996 – 2016**

**Issue #1**

Dear Sisters in Christ,

As part of our 20<sup>th</sup> year celebration, we will be sharing testimonies and pictures from 35 of our various fellowships from the states of California, Washington, Arizona, and Texas. Please share these with your participants either by forwarding this document to them or by printing copies and making them available at your meetings. You may also want to select one or two of the testimonies below to read at each of your meetings to commemorate our 20<sup>th</sup> year celebration. Whatever you decide to do, we hope you enjoy reading about the growth of each individual woman, as well as how gathering in the Spirit with sisters of our FCCW faith community, has helped her to grow closer to Jesus Christ.

The question asked was:

*“In what way(s) has your participation in the ministry of FCCW enriched your relationship with Jesus?”*

“FCCW has enriched my relationship with Jesus in that I have a deeper intimacy with Him and a greater understanding of His Word. Before I joined FCCW, group fellowship and studying the Bible did not play a part in my life. If I did pick up a Bible to read, it was written in a foreign language. Through the enlightenment of the study books and the dedication of our group’s selfless leaders, and discussions with my Sisters in Christ, now, I can drink the scriptures and devour their meanings. I have grown in spirituality. It has brought me closer to God, my Father, God my friend, Jesus, my Savior.”



*K.C. Jorgensen, Joined 2010  
Sacred Heart Parish – Palm Desert, CA*



“As an original member of the FCCW in our parish, it is difficult to convey my feelings about the FCCW. To begin with, what a blessing to be among a group of women who share the same faith. We are so enriched by sharing that faith with each other. Our study of the year has been so rich with knowledge of this Catholic faith. I have learned so much about being a Catholic these past 11 years. Between our study and our sharing with other women in the group, my faith has deepened. What a blessing!

Our facilitators, Geralyn Bollong, and Jeanne Ecker, and lately, Deb Peterson are excellent. They have created an atmosphere of warmth and welcome. We feel so free to express ourselves. They lead us smoothly from topic to topic and the meetings are well organized.

I feel so lucky to be in the midst of the FCCW. There is so much caring and deep love for each others, in happy times and sad. I look forward to attending the FCCW in the future – it has given me such a closer relationship with God.”

*Marilyn Petruska, Joined 2005  
St. Joseph Parish – Elk Grove, CA*



## *Celebrating 20 years*

“I joined FCCW in the fall of 2014. My participation in the FCCW has put me in touch with other women who are on the same faith journey as I am. We have prayed for each other and watched God work in our lives. We have studied the bible to learn about God's word and how the word pertains to our life today. My faith has increased greatly since I joined FCCW!

I have experienced the power of prayer in my life – I have learned how to ask people to pray for me and for my family and not feel bad asking for personal prayer. (I always pray for others so much easier). I have become less shy in the group and shared some of my lyric writings for Jesus with the ladies. I truly believe I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me! We all carry our crosses in this life – it's nice to know Jesus and prayers can help us with our load!

Never take a moment for granted; always thank God for what He has given us each day!

FCCW has helped me learn more about God's word, built my strength, increased my faith, opened my heart to praise Jesus more, and provided me with “sisters” to share my journey in this temporary world. I am blessed!”

*Dessa Anderson, Joined 2014  
Good Shepherd Parish - Schertz, TX*



## Testimonion de Vida

Esta es una carta donde yo quiero explicar como Dios a ido transformando mi vida, a través de mi asistencia al grupo.

“Fraternidad Católica Cristiana de Mujeres”

Cuando llegué a esta comunidad venia cargada de muchas penas por las cuales me deprimí bastante, a tal grado que yo sentía que no valía la pena luchar por nada ni por nadie.

Un día una de mis hijas me dijo que yo tenía que buscar un empleo o algo que hacer, que yo estaba muy joven todavía para atenerme a que ella me mantuviera a mí y a mi hijo. Por esta razón comencé a ir a la escuela (ESL) y ahí conocí a una buena persona que me invito a participar a las reuniones del grupo de mujeres todos los lunes. Mujeres tomadas de la mano caminando en un crecimiento espiritual, es el lema del grupo “Fraternidad Católica Cristiana de Mujeres” en St Kateri Tekawitha Banning, CA. Poco a poco al ir escuchando la palabra de Dios al ir aprendiendo y compartiendo se fue aligerando esa carga que yo traía en mi espalda. Lo más importante que yo he aprendido es confiar en la misericordia de Dios y que Él nunca nos va a dar más de lo que no podamos soportar.

En realidad, yo no me di cuenta del cambio que estaba teniendo en mi persona, fueron las personas a mi alrededor las que se dieron cuenta del cambio en mi vida, porque ahora tengo la confianza puesta en Dios y sé que con su ayuda saldré adelante, él no me a soltado de su mano y siempre me provee lo necesario para vivir y compartir todo lo que me a dado mi Dios y Señor Jesucristo.

Con cariño,

*Maria Hermisillo,  
St. Kateri Tekakwitha - Banning, CA*



## Celebramos 20 años

**F**raternidad

**C**atólica

**C**ristiana de

**M**ujeres™



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