

It is with tremendous excitement that I write this letter as your new CCW president. My name is Jennifer Harte and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I graduated from St. Giles School in 1981 so I have a long history with the parish. Although I moved away from Oak Park to attend college and try my hand at various jobs and opportunities, I returned to Oak Park in 1999 because I loved the community. I am married to Doug Noyes and have a two year old daughter, Jada, and one year old son, AJ. Currently, I work as a school psychologist for the Chicago Public School system. This is a job that I adore and provides an opportunity unlike any other to meet and become a part of a diverse group of people's lives.

As incoming president, I would like to thank Sandy Blake for a great two years as CCW president. Sandy was the first CCW member I met and a year later had the ability to talk me into the vice presidency. This was actually a gift because I became more involved with the organization and have made fabulous friends as a result. With the help of friends, the CCW identified two goals for the organization this year. The first is growth in membership and participation and the second is making time to have fun and build friendships through activities and programs.

In our attempt to build membership, we generated several ideas and welcome more. Within the membership drive, we intend to contact as many women as possible and spread the word that St. Giles CCW embraces all women within our community and attempts to meet their interests and busy schedules. We created a calendar that spreads events and programs throughout the week at various times and includes many fun activities with some more spiritual programs. In addition, we are scheduling board meetings at times that might encourage greater participation. The events listed on the left side of the page will hopefully attract women, men, and families and build stronger connections through pleasurable activities. The St. Giles CCW is committed to reaching out and offering membership to women within the local community who do not have an organization such as our CCW. We are open to adding programs that meet specific interests of individuals within the organization such as mothers, families with special needs, etc. We intend to strengthen our communication with the community through bimonthly Mary Morning letters, greater advertisement through e-mail and the Arrow, and reaching out personally. Finally, St. Giles CCW will reinforce its connection to larger catholic organizations such as ACCW and NCCW.

The St. Giles CCW proposes to meet its second goal of having FUN WITH FRIENDS through the events calendar. As you can see, we will start the year with a previously well attended event (wine tasting), try a new event (bowling), add a family event (chili cook-off), and plan for some spiritual events. We hope through these activities people can connect, reconnect, and strengthen relationships while having a great time. Our lives are hectic and demanding. We need to make time for building friendships and experiencing joy. St. Giles CCW has certainly blessed me with FUN WITH FRIENDS. Please join through your membership.

Jennifer Harte, President St. Giles CCW, 2009-2011

Please use the envelope provided to return your membership form and dues to the St. Giles CCW. The envelope may be returned to the parish ministry center or placed in the collection basket.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: IL Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Birth Month: _____ Please sign me up for the CCW e-mail list. _____

Dues Enclosed: _____ \$15/regular _____ \$5/senior