



## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY CATHOLIC WOMEN OF ZION!**

**By Camille Herr**

*Thirty-three years ago, on February 11, 1989 Catholic Women of Zion was born. A ministry of women ministering to women. During the course of these thirty-three years, Catholic Women of Zion have never missed a heartbeat. It has not only survived, but has grown into three Chapters within the state of New Jersey.*

In 1989, CWOZ made its debut at the Berkeley Carteret in Asbury Park, starting with Mass, a luncheon, a woman speaker addressing the needs & spirituality of women and prayers for healing. (For information about our present CWOZ Day of Prayer & schedule, check our website [cwoz.org](http://cwoz.org)).

It is no secret to us that Our Blessed Mother is the reason that we have been ministering to women all these years. Right from the start, CWOZ has been under her patronage. As Catholic women, we are her daughters and she has taken us under her mantle of love.

In the Gospel of **Luke, verses 39-56**, we read about two women, Mary and her cousin Elizabeth, experiencing miraculous pregnancies. One being Mary, carrying within her womb, Jesus, the Son of God and Elizabeth, carrying John, who is to introduce Jesus to the world. God is clearly at work in these two women's lives. But they don't keep to themselves. They reach out to one another and share the blessings that they have received.

Mary visits Elizabeth to do whatever she can to help, support and encourage her. And, I feel certain that Elizabeth did the same for Mary. Their example serves as an inspiration for us to become a Mary & Elizabeth in our world today. To be there for one another. This is what Catholic Women of Zion strives to do. To minister to the needs & spirituality of women with the help of Our Blessed Mother and her Son, Jesus.

To celebrate this wonderful CWOZ milestone, we offer this prayer:



### **CATHOLIC WOMEN OF ZION PRAYER TO OUR BLESSED MOTHER**

*Our Most Blessed Mother and model of all women, you know and understand all there is to being a woman. Your Immaculate Heart is filled with love and compassion for the woman who is a daughter, relative, friend, wife, mother, grandmother, mother or widow. Through your humanity, you experienced the love of God, family and friends, as well as, the pain and suffering that exists in the world.*

*Mary, Our Mother, pray for the needs of women, especially, Catholic Women of Zion. Help us to become like you, a perfect disciple of Jesus. Teach us to become holy, as you are holy. To love, as you love. Take us under your mantle of love and protect us from all evil.*

*Our Lady Queen of Peace, pray to God the Father, God the Son and to the Holy Spirit, to bless us and grant peace and healing to our families, and to all families in the world. Pray for those who are troubled, grieving, lonely, hungry, sick, aging and dying. Pray for my intention (mention your request). Pray also for those who are lost, who have wandered away from God, struggle with doubt, and have left the Church. Mary, lead those who are in darkness into the light of Jesus, your Son.*

*Mary, Mother of all women, pray for us. **Amen***



**Camille Herr** has been a member of Catholic Women of Zion from its grass roots beginning 33 years ago to its present day. She serves as recording secretary to the Executive Board and is the wife of our late Deacon and CWOZ advisor, Ed Herr. Camille is a member of St. Dorothea's Church in Eatontown where she currently serves as a Lector, Special Liturgy Coordinator and speaker for the RCIA Process. Camille has served as the Coordinator for the St. Dorothea Pastoral Care Committee and Visitation of the Sick Program and has been a speaker at CWOZ luncheons and retreats, Parish Missions, and at a Deacon's Convocation with her husband Ed. Camille is the mother of a married daughter and grandmother of one grandson.