

# Honey bees and Faith

Last spring, I received an email from Stacey Parr in Kenesaw at Sacred Heart Parish asking me if I would be a mentor for her as she works her beehives. Of course, I said yes! I was able to visit her hive in a soybean field and visited with her over some thoughts and ideas. The experience was beautiful as it was on the Solemnity of the Holy Assumption. How fitting it was sitting in a field and looking at bees to reflect on these little creatures and our faith.

The honey bee focuses on many areas of the hive, each have a different task as they grow through their very short life span. One article I found references them as laser focused. We as women of the Councils of Catholic Women are very much like the honey bee. In our projects and faith, we take on the duty of keeping our families focused on the Church. Ask a group of women to take on and complete a task it is completed quickly and efficiently. I know when witnessing the “worker bees” at my local salad luncheon, the clean up crew is finished with the efficiency of a pit crew during a NASCAR race.



*Stacey and Judy*



*Stacey working her hive.*

The honey bee hive has guard bees. These bees remain at the opening of the hive and watch for intruders. They can recognize the trajectory of an invading insect and will rush out of the hive with others to defend the hive. As women of the council, in turn also watch for invaders of our faith and will seek to defend our families. We learn about what is going on in the world through reports from the commissions especially the Legislative chair who shares timely information. The Spirituality

commission provides information of how to build our strength in numbers by encouraging prayer in our family life.

There are many job levels in a honey bee hive. Housekeeping, nurse bees and foraging are all important roles of a bee. Our Service Commission keeps our members aware of how we can best support the church with the different projects available. The diaper drive assists the young moms in need. The foraging bees, which look for food source might be a part of the leadership commission.

Lastly, on this little beekeeping lesson, the queen bee. Without her the colony collapses as the queen bee is the mother of all in the hive. I am going to quote from this article I found online.

*"The queen bee is the mother of all, but is not the end-all. Catholics are uniquely well-positioned to appreciate this point. The queen bee is the mother of all in that collective body, much like Mary is the "Mother" of all mankind. (Jesus stated as much when he gave his Mother to John – on behalf of all of us – at the foot of the Cross.) And when the queen bee dies (or when we, as humans, lose sight of Mary's guidance), the entire colony goes into disarray."* [National Catholic Register](#)

Now to return to mentoring, I am so grateful, Stacey reached out to me for questions and advice. Naturally, it was about what I love but also connecting with another Catholic woman makes it even better. I would like to challenge each of you to look at the members of your council and pray and discuss how you can make it a stronger council.

Your Sister in Christ

*Judy Weston*

President

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*Queen bee with blue dot with her court of nurse bees around her in a circle.*