



THE “LINK”

March 2021

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Sisters in Christ:

Our next Virtual Tea is Sunday, March 21. This is always a wonderful way to enjoy your Catholic sisters from the comfort of your own home. Hope you can join us! Register on page 6.

Celebrate International Women’s Day with an inspiring online talk. Must register by March 1! See page 3.

Human trafficking was the subject of our February 14 tea. Want to be better informed on how to prevent, recognize, and report it? See page 4.

National Catholic Women’s (Virtual) Conference with dozens of speakers begins March 12. Free registration on page 5. And while you’re on that page, check out a local 4-week seminar on the family as Domestic Church.

We have just learned that World Down Syndrome Day is March 21. It’s been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012. More info: <https://www.worlddownsyndromeday.org/>

See page 7 for a way that **you** can help end Domestic Violence.

Have you prayed the Rosary with us yet? See page 9 for invitation and info.

Ponder With Mary on page 10 brings us back to basics with the powerful prayer Jesus himself gave us.

You have my prayers for continued fruitfulness in your Lenten journey.

In Christ,
Carol-Ann Parker
President

**Council of Catholic Women–
Archdiocese of Washington**
ArchdioceseCCW@gmail.com
Facebook: WashACCW

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MARCH EVENTS

March 4–25



Workshop for Parents

Every Thursday through March 25, 7:00pm–8:00pm the Archdiocese of Washington Office for Family Life in collaboration with the Christian Family Movement will be offering a four-week virtual workshop series for parents. Topics will include recognizing God in our families, using our time faithfully, caring for our relationships, faith-building customs and activities, and guiding our children to live for Christ. Materials for all sessions will be provided. The cost per family is \$10.00. To register go to: <https://workshopforparents.eventbrite.com> or call the Archdiocese of Washington Office for Family Life for more information at 301-853-4546 or email visiblesign@adw.org

February 27–March 31



Tools for Marriage: Marriage Enrichment for Young Married Couples

Are you engaged or newly married? Looking for a way to grow closer to God and each other? The Archdiocese of Washington Office for Family Life is offering a 6-week small group series for young married couples, in collaboration with Teams of Our Lady entitled: *Tools for Marriage*. Topics will include: praying as a couple, the reality of married love, love in daily life, enriching married love, serving others, and your marriage in action. The series will take place on Wednesday evenings from February 27–March 31 from 8:00pm–9:00pm. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tools-for-marriage-tickets-125660749685> to register. Need accommodations? Email specialneedsministry@adw.org or call 301-301-200-5430. For more information, contact the Archdiocese of Washington Office for Family Life at 301-853-4546 or visiblesign@adw.org.

MARCH EVENTS

Monday, March 8

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church Women's Ministry
Presents
International Women's Day Celebration
"Choose To Challenge "



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
PAULETTE NORVEL LEWIS

Paulette Norvel Lewis is a workforce development professional whose advocacy, career coaching and placement services on behalf of women and girls span over forty years.

Ms. Lewis retired from the U. S. Department of Labor in 2014 where she served as Regional Administrator of the Women's Bureau for the Southeast Region.

Ms. Lewis is currently Chair of National Council of Negro Women's National Program Committee. She is the immediate past board chair of the Catholic Student Center at Atlanta University Center.

*Please Join US
When: Monday, March 8, 2021
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Where: Zoom*

*RSVP with Justine by March 1, 2021
@cateyez6417@gmail.com*

*Worship with us on Sundays@10:00 am
Our Lady of Perpetual Help
www.olphsedc.com
1600 Morris Road, SE
Washington, DC 20020*



Shine the Light
Human Trafficking Conference

March 8 & 9, 2021

**Root Causes and Intersections
on Human Trafficking**

Virtual

**Speakers include:
Sr. Norma Pimentel, MJ &
Sr. Winifred Doherty, RGS**

**Monday, March 8 | 12:00 - 3:00 pm EST
Conference**

**Tuesday, March 9 | 12:00 - 1:30 pm EST
Conference**

**Tuesday, March 9 | Throughout Afternoon
Call-to-Action Day**

Register today:
<http://bit.ly/2021traffickingconference>

For more details:
gsadvocacy.org/human-trafficking-conference

Register for this free virtual conference at
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpde-hrz8iHNd-BvRX6ShUSoYikw2py9_G

MORE MARCH EVENTS



National Catholic Women's Conference Online / March 12-14, 2021

FREE REGISTRATION: https://go.virtualcatholicconference.com/NCWC2021?r_done=1

What if you could be at peace most of the time?

If only we had more time, more energy, more hands! Then we could get it all done. Then we'll have earned the right to some peace.

But what if the solution wasn't giving from a place of depletion?

What if peace was possible, and you didn't have to add more commitments, assignments, or zoom calls? What if you already had all of the resources in your day to love your God, kids, husband, friends, yourself, AND rest in God's peace?

Peace is Possible, Let's Discover it Together.

At this year's National Catholic Women's Conference, we will be entering into Christ's words, "My Peace I give to you." And here's the best news: You don't have to earn it!

Register for free today at https://go.virtualcatholicconference.com/NCWC2021?r_done=1

Begins Saturday, March 6

St. Andrew Apostle Parish, Silver Spring, online seminar

The Domestic Church

What is meant by the idea of the Christian baptized family as a Church? Saint Andrew's Institute of Theology, a Saint Andrew's initiative to provide solid teachings of our Catholic faith for adults, will offer a free 4-week Seminar on Saturday mornings from 10-11:30 am beginning on March 6. This Seminar will be taught by Dr. Joe Atkinson, Associate Professor at the John Paul II Institute. It will be offered entirely online so you can join from wherever you are. We invite you to join us for this unique opportunity by registering at <https://standrewapostle.org/institute-of-theology/>.

This program is open to all who are interested in deepening their knowledge of the faith.

VIRTUAL TEA

Sunday, March 21

The Council of Catholic Women, Archdiocese of Washington
presents

Walking Alongside: Loving Someone with Mental Health Illness

CCW-ADW's March Monthly Tea

Sunday, 21 March 2021

3-4 pm EST (Zoom doors open at 2:50)

Have you ever wondered how people develop mental health issues and what help is available? Join us for a virtual conversation with a mental health expert and a family member supporting a loved one with mental illness. Bring your questions!

To register: Email ArchdioceseCcw@gmail.com. A Zoom link will be sent before event.



Speakers:

Dr. Jennifer Charles, MSW, Ph.D

Assistant Professor, The Catholic University of America

National Catholic Partnership on Disability, Council on Mental Illness member

Sabrina Curry *Former CCC- ADW secretary.*

Instructor for National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

HELP END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



An Easy Way to Help End Domestic Violence

You're invited to become a Domestic Violence Awareness Outreach Volunteer.

What's involved?

Laura Yeomans of Catholic Charities will provide you with six short and engaging presentations and guide you in your preparation to offer them in your parish via zoom. Both English and Spanish speakers are needed.

Why should I become an Outreach Volunteer?

If you or someone you love has lived with domestic abuse, you know how important this soul-saving work is. Apply your compassionate heart of service to bring helpful, potentially lifesaving resources that can help families escape the tragedy of Domestic Violence.

People living with abuse are oftentimes sitting in the next pew at Mass, while we remain unaware of what they face at home – because we don't know the signs that someone is being abused. And too often, the abused who reach out for help in their parish are not helped simply because resources that could give them hope are unknown!

Help us change that by ensuring that these life-saving resources are known in your parish. You may be the one to spark the hope that leads someone to get help and healing for themselves and their family.

What should I do next?

Learn more and complete your application by clicking <https://app.betterimpact.com/PublicOrganization/7c9161c3-cf9d-4332-b2f7-f51b067f6beb/Gvi/ce6f53e2-620c-4c91-a54b-946a3d4318a5/3>.

Or contact:

Laura Yeomans, Program Manager, Parish Partners Program
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington
Laura.Yeomans@CC-DC.org / Cell (202) 315-9440
Catholiccharitiesdc.org

Applications are due March 31. Thank you for prayerfully considering this important ministry.



WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

We first met **Gretchen Ehrlichman** at our Valentine-making event last year. An accomplished musician, she was invited to grace our Virtual Tea on December 6 with her lovely piano music. She brought the exciting news that she had been accepted for entry in the Dominican Monastery in Guilford, Connecticut—as soon as she paid off her student loans. Now she brings the good news that fundraising was a success! Below is her thank-you to all those who prayed and donated.



Dear CCW-ADW Friends,

We did it! Thanks to your continued spiritual and financial support, I have officially completed my fundraising with the Labouré Society and will be entering the Monastery of Our Lady of Grace this summer! God is SO good! I plan to enter into formation on July 22nd, the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene.

I would not have been able to continue along this journey without your prayers and generosity. I will continue to bring your names and intentions to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, and I pray that He fills your lives with many graces and blessings.

Thank you! From the bottom of my heart, thank you! I could write so much more, but words fail to express the depth of my gratitude. However, I hope that my continued prayers for you will speak to my thankfulness and will bear fruit through the overflowing mercy and love of the Holy Trinity.

I will surely keep you updated on my progress as I continue to prepare to enter into postulancy this summer...so keep a lookout for more newsletters to come! God bless you always!

In the Peace of Christ and In St. Dominic,

Gretchen

gretchen@rescuevocations.org



The themes of our **February 14 Virtual Tea** were the life of St. Josephine Bakhita, whose feast day is February 8, and the continuing problem of human trafficking and modern day slavery.

After an opening song and prayer, we learned a bit about Saint Bakhita's life and struggle in overcoming being kidnapped and sold into slavery as a child. She was able to take vows as a Canossian Sister and spent the rest of her life in prayer and service to the poor. Sonia Bobis, CCW-ADW Service Commission Chairperson, then presented the horrifying statistics on human trafficking in the United States today, including that 25% of today's trafficking victims are children. Below are some ideas for action that Sonia gave us:

- Prayer: Mass, Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, or other prayer offering.
- Fasting and abstinence.
- USCCB Stop Human Trafficking and Exploitation, Protect, Help, Empower, and Restore Dignity (SHEPHERD) training program for parishes <https://www.usccb.org/committees/administrative/become-shepherd>
- Report suspected human trafficking by contacting the National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-373-7888 or humantraffickinghotline.org

The 25 attendees then brainstormed about two questions: 1) How can we protect vulnerable children and teens from sex trafficking and 2) How can we support the survivors of human trafficking? We closed the tea with prayer and the hymn "Amazing Grace."

For more ideas, resources, and a copy of Sonia's presentation that you are free to use in your parish, click the links at <https://www.councilofcatholicwomen-adw.com/monthlytea>

Mary Liebolt, CCW-ADW Webmaster

CCW NIGHTLY ROSARY FOR HEALING OF THE CHURCH



Call in at 8:00 p.m. 7 days a week
605-468-8016, code 357090#

Since September 2018, the Council of Catholic Women has been hosting a nightly Rosary call for the healing of the Church. We believe that prayer is the foundation of action. We are blessed to have so many faithful callers, like Jackie, who says this about the power of prayer (her inspiration came from Silent Unity):

“I prefer ‘affirmative prayer.’ Rather than begging and beseeching God, affirmative prayer is the method Jesus taught when he said, ‘I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours’ (Mark 11:24). One of my favorites, especially when things are not going well: I remain steadfast in my faith that everything is working together for my good. Another, especially when I am concerned about my children or someone else: I now release all fear and anxiety and trust my God to bless and protect you.. I have faith that all is in Divine Order in your life.”

“Prayer will help us move forward,” says Sharon O’Brien, CCW’s Immediate Past President. In our effort to connect Catholic Women, we want to thank **Lisa Williams**, Sodality Union President; **Margaret Short** of the Knights of St. John International Supreme Ladies Auxiliary; and **Cynthia Morris** of the Knights of St. Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary for leading our Rosary Call.

All are welcome to participate.

Join us as we read meditations on the Rosary’s mysteries, and pray together every evening at 8:00 pm. **Questions?** Email me at ArchdioceseCCW@gmail.com –Carol Monaco, *Spirituality Commission Chair*

CCW-ADW WEBSITE

<https://www.councilofcatholicwomen-adw.com/>

gives you up-to-the-minute news on what’s happening for women in the Archdiocese.



Our website features useful information such as:

- a calendar of events
- a page for parish website links
- easy access to the CCW’s newsletter The “Link”

For more information contact Mary Leibolt by email at mfleib@verizon.net

PONDER WITH MARY



Strolling Through the Lord's Prayer

by Rose Folsom
VirtueConnection.com

St. Augustine said that every prayer we could ever think of is already in the Lord's Prayer. The Our Father is like spiritual cross-training: in its seven petitions, we hit all the major "muscle groups" we need for a strong connection with God, ourselves, and our neighbors. Join me in this meditation on the prayer Jesus gave us.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Lord of heaven and earth, your name is above every other name in the heavens and on the earth. You are the Lord of all. Grant me the grace to revere everything about you because your name encompasses all that you are. Grant me the grace to hold in reverence everything you have created, for you promise us that it is good. Grant me the grace to cling to the good and always be filled up by the goodness you have put in me and in every other human being and in all creation.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

I want to want your will, Lord. Help me to realize at every moment, especially this precious moment, that your will is working powerfully in me. I invite you, Lord, to work your glorious will in me throughout this whole day.

Give us this day our daily bread.

I am the bread of life, you remind me. Can I be like Mary and choose the better part today? Even in my busiest times, will you place your heart close to mine so I may feed from the only nourishment my soul needs?

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lord, forgiveness is hard for me. My pride is pricked by so many evils. Let me stay close to you, Lord, and soak in your mercy so that I may show your mercy to those who so greatly test my charity and patience by unjust words and actions. Blessed Mother, who stood resolutely at the foot of the Cross, trusting that God would bring the greatest mercy out of the greatest injustice, pray for me.

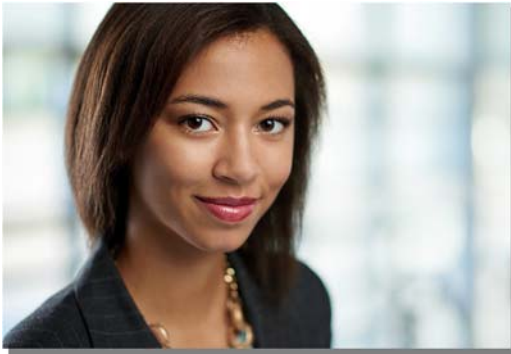
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

Lord it seems that I am surrounded by the evil that has been unleashed on the world. And I am ambushed by my own unloving thoughts and desires. Be my refuge today, Lord. When I am tempted to answer evil with evil, focus my mind on the good I can do in that moment, so that your love becomes the driving force for every thought, word, and action throughout this day.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory now and forever.

Lord, draw my mind to your glorious purpose for me and let my thoughts and imagination find their peace and happiness in you alone. Thank you, Lord, for calling me in this moment to unite with your Sacred Heart in prayer. I love you. Be with me always. Amen.

JOIN US TODAY!



Individual Membership

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Parish _____

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Email _____

Individual Membership is only \$25.00 per year.

Make check payable to ACCW.
Send to Kathy Foley, Treasurer
3306 Farthing Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20906

Membership Contact:

Carol-Ann Parker, President

904-699-6255

ArchdioceseCCW@gmail.com



Join us to respond to the needs
of the Church and society
through a focus on spirituality,
leadership, and service.

Membership Benefits

Putting faith into action by:

- ❖ Learning about issues
- ❖ Visits to sacred sites
- ❖ Service projects
- ❖ E-newsletters
- ❖ Facebook group
- ❖ Access to NCCW program information and resources.

Members receive a discount on ACCW sponsored programs.

Join the **National Council of Catholic Women** directly to receive NCCW's *Catholic Woman* magazine with national and international news and inspiring stories. Dues are \$50.00 per year. Visit www.NCCW.org.