

THE “LINK”

A Publication of the Council of Catholic Women—Archdiocese of Washington



2025-2027

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December 2025

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Sisters in Christ,

We have entered the Advent Season! A precious time that tends to be overshadowed by the busyness of life. So, for each day of Advent, let's stop what we are doing, sit down, take a deep breath, and exhale slowly—ahh, quiet time.

During this quiet time, let's meditate on the ways Our Lord enriches our lives. For example, a reading from the first Sunday of Advent talks about putting on an armor of light. When we put on that armor of light, how does it brighten our day and how do we share the light with those around us? Do we feel our Lord's embrace?

December also gives us time to celebrate our Patroness, Our Lady of Guadalupe, on December 12th. As Juan Diego followed the radiant light to the Virgin Mary, let us live in the Light of the Lord. And may Scripture illuminate our path and inspire our actions.

“Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.” [Ephesians 5:8-10] Make the most of the opportunity!

As the Council of Catholic Women, we come together in that light. We are women of faith and action. We work to promote spiritual growth, leadership potential, and service opportunities for the Love of God and neighbor.

We have persevered for nearly 70 years, connecting Catholic women within the archdiocese. May CCW-ADW continue to persevere, putting our faith into action serving God and one another, especially helping those less fortunate than ourselves. Amen!

Peace and blessings,

Carol Monaco
CCW-ADW President

A BIT OF CCW-ADW HISTORY

CCW was instituted in the Archdiocese of Washington in 1958 with the approval of the Archbishop of the Archdiocese. The Council is the local ring of the National Council of Catholic Women which was formed in 1920 at the request of the U.S. Catholic Bishops. CCW-ADW has evolved over these nearly 70 years, however our goal remains constant--Connecting Catholic Women through faith and action.

Many Thanks



The commitment and perseverance of our past presidents (Ellen-Jane Pairo (seated), Sharon O'Brien, and Cheryl Jackson) continue to shine with inspiration as we moved forward with our mission and purpose.

To support, empower, and educate Catholic women in spirituality, leadership, and service, we need the continued input of Catholic women within the Archdiocese. In these challenging and divided times, may we come together and shine as a beacon of faith, hope, and especially charity. Amen! For more information contact us at archdiocesecw@gmail.com.

Installation of CCW-ADW Officers



(Archdiocesan liaison Sally Daniel, CCW-ADW's Treasurer Cheryl Jackson, Secretary Mary Althea Holland, Vice President Elizabeth Mariani, President Carol Monaco, and Spiritual Advisor Monsignor Robert Amey.)

Our elected officers were installed by Monsignor Amey at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Rockville on Saturday, November. 15. We greatly appreciate the decades of support and guidance provided by Monsignor Amey and the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center. We look forward to our continued collaboration.

LEAD, O LOVING, MERCIFUL LIGHT



Our Lady of Guadalupe, CCW-ADW Patroness

*O Virgin of Guadalupe,
Help us never to see others as burdens.
Guide our public officials
to defend each and every human life through just laws.
Inspire us all to bring our faith into public life,
to speak for those who have no voice.
We ask this in the name of your Son,
Jesus Christ, who is Love and Mercy itself.
Amen.*

Leadership is a vocation and a gift. It is not a means for personal gain but a way to serve others. Leadership should always emphasize the dignity of the human person.

Jesus was a servant leader. As he led us, he remained humble by asking St. John the Baptist to baptize Him. He lowered Himself to the floor and washed the feet of the Apostles. The Blessed Virgin Mary was a servant leader. She quietly raised Jesus and gave Him away to serve others. She took the lead in following Him to the Cross and showed great dignity in sorrow.

So how do we demonstrate leadership as women of faith and action? Each of us has the light of God to shine through our daily living. When we come together, our light becomes brighter and wider. With God's light, we lead by example.

Sharing ideas, best practices, and talents; learning new ways to serve God and others; and always through prayer, strengthens the light we shine in our homes, communities, and together as council members. We lead by reaching out to other groups and giving support. We lead by mentoring and encouraging faith in God and service to others. We lead by upholding the sanctity and dignity of human life.

In other words, when we share our efforts, when we use our strengths and talents, and when we see that the basis for all good work is love of God and neighbor...well then, we can follow our plans, meet our goals and have extraordinary success as an organization. Isn't that just what the Apostles witnessed as they walked with Jesus?

Please sit quietly with the Holy Spirit and find ways to help the newly installed leadership team to fulfill their very special role in CCW-ADW. Now is the time to truly embrace servant leadership as we work to preserve the dignity of the human person. Let it be so!



SPIRITUALITY



NIGHTLY ROSARY

**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 and for participants' personal intentions. In addition, the council has hosted Rosary vigils for peace in our communities. On a quarterly basis we connect with our Rosary callers via ZOOM for spiritual fellowship and reflections, sharing our personal witness to God's healing graces.

The Council also has collaborated with the Archdiocese's Pastoral Center in hosting women's spiritual retreats. Plus, our virtual tea & reflections provided spiritual fellowship as we recovered from the COVID shutdown. Deepening our prayer life, discerning our Lord's presence in our lives, and partaking in His divine nature keeps the Lord's light shining bright within us and through us every day.

HOW DO WE SERVE?

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me."
[Matthew 25: 35, 36].

Catholics are called to serve. "The Church, urged on by the Spirit of Christ, must walk the road Christ himself walked, a way of poverty and obedience, of service and self-sacrifice..." [CCC 852]. So what does this truly mean?

Well...Christ is our model of service. He served us. Being both human and divine, He walked our steps. He felt our joy. He participated in our festivities. He wept. He carried our sins until death. And then He resurrected!

As members of the Council of Catholic Women, we are part of the Body of Christ who are called to walk in His footsteps. This can mean sharing the joy of others, going to other parishes and meeting others. It can even mean being present when someone weeps.

During COVID, we put out the word to help the Little Sisters of the Poor with donations when they were quarantined. We also have hosted greeting card-making events and provided gift bags for Residents at local homeless shelters. In addition, the Council raised money for Water for Life (a Catholic Relief Services' project) and the Josephite Center. The Council also works to raise awareness about issues facing communities and society, while promoting peace, justice, human dignity, and hope.

Having our new team installed is a great time to set out plans of service. We each need to prayerfully consider how our service will look from here, going forward. And while some past activities will continue, it is time to reach a bit further, to build on our strengths, and address our weaknesses. It is time to be even more inclusive in our acts of service as faithful Catholic women.

We are so fortunate to have members to help us carry out our call to service. **How can we better serve our members and our community? Please send us your recommendations at archdioceseccw@gmail.com.** May the Holy Spirit guide us in this endeavor.

Servants of God

As women of faith and action, we are called to persevere through whatever challenges or circumstances we may face. Let us consider Sister Thea Bowman and Mary Virginia Merrick. Sister Thea and Miss Mary came from different walks of life. What they had in common—perseverance in sharing the love of God with all the lives they touched. Both women were declared Servants of God

Sister Thea Bowman



“We unite ourselves with Christ’s redemptive work when we reconcile, when we make peace, when we share the good news that God is in our lives, when we reflect to our brothers and sisters God’s healing, God’s forgiveness, God’s unconditional love.”—a quotation from Sister Thea.

At the age of 15, she knew she wanted to join the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. Sister Thea Bowman’s life was always one of Gospel joy, enduring faith, and persevering prayer even in the midst of racial prejudice, cultural insensitivity, and debilitating illness. Sister Thea Bowman was the first African American woman to address the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. A highly acclaimed evangelizer, teacher, writer and singer, Sister Thea sought to inspire all to embrace our full selves and to love others without reservation. (Source: [www. Sistertheabowman.com/biography](http://www.Sistertheabowman.com/biography))

Mary Virginia Merrick



Mary Virginia Merrick, known as “Miss Mary”, was born on Nov. 2, 1866, in Washington, DC. As a teenager, she suffered a fall that left her paralyzed. When reading in the Bible about the birth of the Christ Child, she said “when I read ‘**she wrapped him in swaddling clothes,**’ **I longed to do the same, and He Himself taught me that I might still do so in the person of His poor, and a great desire was born within me to go out and find the poor that I might find Him.**”

Miss Mary devoted herself to serving children in need and started the Christ Child Society in 1887 to provide for children in the Washington, DC area. Today the National Christ Child Society has over 6,000 members. (Source: <https://maryvirginiamerrick.org>)

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

Through our website and newsletter, we spread the word about events and programs taking place throughout the Archdiocese, promoting spirituality, leadership, and service. Here are a few highlights:



All are invited to join the annual archdiocesan celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe! Each year, we honor Our Lady through a pilgrimage through the streets of Washington, D.C. Our pilgrimage begins December 13th at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart and concludes at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, where together we pray the Rosary and celebrate Mass.

Principal Celebrant: Robert Cardinal McElroy, Archbishop of Washington
Concelebrant: Bishop Evelio Menjivar, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington
PROCESSION – 11:00 a.m. ET
ROSARY 1:00 p.m. ET
MASS 2:00 p.m. ET

For more information contact the Archdiocese’s Office of Cultural Diversity at
culturaldiversity@adw.org

Catholic Charities DC’s Christmas Star Program



Through Catholic Charities DC’s Christmas Star Program, your generous monetary donation directly supports the purchase of gifts for children and families who might otherwise go without. Catholic Charities DC will provide meaningful gifts – from toys for children to essential items for parents – to families accessing our services.

Click [here](#) for more information from Catholic Charities.



**POE’S 9TH ANNUAL
BITS OF JOY & TOYS
HOLIDAY DRIVE**

**DONATION
DEADLINE:
DECEMBER 19**

**A VILLAGE HOLIDAY CELEBRATION
FOR OUR KIDS (NEWBORN-17):**

DONATE TOYS FOR KIDS- (NEWBORN-17) | **VOLUNTEER YOUR TALENT** | **ADD A DONATION BOX TO YOUR BUSINESS**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 | 10AM-6PM
MARTHA’S TABLE POESBOJAT@GMAIL.COM

**Council of Catholic Women -Archdiocese of Washington
Individual Membership Form FY 2025-2026**



Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Parish _____

**Individual Membership is only
\$25.00 per year**

**Make checks payable to ACCW
Send to Cheryl R.B. Jackson, Treasurer
4727 Londonberry Lane
White Plains, MD 20695**

Membership Contact
Anita Coleman, Chair
ArchdioceseCCW@gmail.com

**Join us and respond to the needs
of our Church and society
through our three commissions,
spirituality,
leadership, and service**

Membership Has Its Privileges

- ❖ Learn about issues facing the Church
- ❖ Have your voice heard by USCCB via the NCCW.
- ❖ Provide input on programs and events offered by CCW-ADW
- ❖ Participate in Service projects
- ❖ Receive discounts on CCW-ADW sponsored events
- ❖ Gain access to NCCW resources
- ❖ Vote in CCW-ADW board elections.
- ❖ Publicize your events on our website and newsletter to 400+people.

For more information on the
National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW)
contact our Province Director, Bernadette Patrick
ArchdioceseCCW@gmail.com



***“I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.”
[John 8:12]***