THE "LINK"

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

Our Mission:
Connecting Catholic Women: To support, empower, and educate women in spirituality, leadership, and service with programs that respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world.



From the President
August 2026

Dear Sisters in Christ,

What does it mean to be blessed? We see in Mary, our Blessed Mother, that blessedness is not measured by material comfort or ease. Mary's earthly life included poverty, anxiety, danger, grief, and sorrow, but she never despaired; Mary's heart was filled with faith, hope, and love.

Mary's life teaches us that a blessing is never meant to end with the one who receives it. By our words and deeds, we share our blessings, putting our faith into action serving God and neighbor. Like our Blessed Mother, our souls can proclaim the greatness of our Lord, and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

Each one of us has blessings to share. As CCW-ADW continues our outreach, we want to hear from you, exchange ideas, and connect with one another. Together, we discover new ways to serve our Lord and others, unite in prayer, and share our gifts.

CCW-ADW has persevered for nearly 70 years, connecting Catholic women within the archdiocese. May CCW-ADW continue to persevere, especially in helping those less fortunate than ourselves. Amen!

Peace and Blessings,
Carol Monaco, CCW-ADW President
archdioceseccw@gmail.com

SERVICE



CCW-ADW's **Service Project: "Faith Enrichment"** is making progress. We have shared Faith Enrichment pouches with several parishes in the Archdiocese. In addition to sacramentals, each pouch contains instructions on setting up a home prayer space.

For example, pick a space or corner that has minimal distractions. Select a focal point of your prayer space such as a crucifix. Add smaller religious items important to you and your family. Use the area for family and individual prayer.

Each step taken to enrich our faith strengthens our Domestic Church. For more information about the **Faith Enrichment** project, please email Sharon O'Brien, CCW-ADW Service Commission Chairperson at **archdioceseccw@gmail.com**

Back to school! The Gabriel Project is taking up a collection of school supplies for its client families. To help, visit the **Gabriel Project's website** and click on their **Amazon wish list.** Scroll down and click "see more items" to bring up school supplies. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Bundles of Blessings, hosted by St. Joseph's Ladies Auxiliary #213, at OLPH Church, 1600 Morris Rd, SE (Aug. 29) for expecting families and families with children 12 months and younger. If you have questions, would like to donate, or become a sponsor, please send an email to: auxiliary213@gmail.com. Click on **Bundles of Blessings flyer** for details. Thank you!

SPIRITUALITY



CCW-ADW and the Franciscan Associates of the Atonement are hosting a Day of Reflection: ***Rebuild God's Church, Rebuild Our Faith***. This Day of Reflection is time to enrich our faith through guided discussions and quiet prayer, deepening our personal connection with our Lord and Savior.

Please join us at the St. John Paul II Retreat House on Saturday, **Oct. 17, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** A continental breakfast and lunch are included. Our Day of Reflection will have Mass, Rosary, and time for confession. Please see the **enclosed flyer** for more details. If you have any questions, call **Cindy at 301-821-5967** or email: archdioceseccw@gmail.com. **The registration deadline is September 26.**



Let's keep those prayers for peace coming! **Please join our nightly Rosary at 8:00 p.m. Call 605-468-8016, code 357090#.** CCW-ADW's nightly Rosary call begins our intentions with the following**: "We pray for peace in ourselves, our lives, our families, our Church, our communities, our nation, and our world."** Please join our prayer for peace. Every prayer counts!

CCW-ADW HISTORY

In 2008, CCW-ADW raised funds for **WATER FOR LIFE**. Catholic Relief Services started this program in 1978 in cooperation with the National Council of Catholic Women. The goal is to provide safe, clean drinking water, sanitation systems, and basic hygiene education to families in developing nations. A Water for Life Discussion Guide is available for download and use in group discussions. For more information contact CRS at churchengagement@crs.org



Our 70th anniversary is just a year and a half away. Send us your suggestions on how we can celebrate this upcoming milestone. Email us at: archdioceseccw@gmail.com

LEADERSHIP

What traits make a good leader? Consider the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes teach us: To lead is to serve as God calls us to do.

Leading by way of the Beatitudes is to be poor in spirit, compassionate and caring, humble, merciful, and clean of heart. We become peacemakers in our roles as we carry out our responsibilities.

Whatever challenges, obstacles, or hurdles we face are opportunities to draw closer to our Lord. As we draw closer to Jesus Christ our Savior, we can draw others closer by way of example.

The Blessed Virgin Mary lived the Beatitudes in perfection. Let us pray for her intercession to obtain from her Son Jesus the grace to follow the Beatitudes in all that we say and do. Amen!

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE

Catholic Police and Fire Society

Tuesday, September 8, remember Police and Fire personnel living and deceased at the 12:10 p.m. Mass at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Washington, D.C. Click here for information.

Chiara Margarita Cozzolani's Mass for Four Voices

Hosted by Musica Spira, this musical performance is scheduled for **September 17, 7:30 p.m.**, at St. Bernadette's Catholic Church in Silver Spring, Md. Click here for more information.

National Hispanic Heritage Month Mass

Commemorate National Hispanic Heritage Month on Sunday, **September 20, 2026**. Mass will begin at 12:15 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 11007 Montgomery Road, Beltsville, MD 20705. More information: **adw.org/event/hispanic-heritage-month-mass**

Relics of St. Bernadette Soubirous

September 18-20: Visit the Great Upper Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception to venerate the relics of this great saint. The relics then will visit Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Bethesda, MD, from **Sunday, September 20 through Monday, September 21, 2026**, as part of the national "Journey of Grace" relic tour.

CCW-ADW Board
Spiritual Advisor: Rev. Msgr. Robert Amey

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The Franciscan Associates of the Atonement and the Council of Catholic Women- Archdiocese of Washington Present

Rebuild God's Church, Rebuild Your Faith

with

Sr. Sara Dwyer, ASC

A Day of Reflection

Saturday, October 17, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
$60.00 / person
(2 meals included)

John Paul II National Shrine Retreat House
4000 Harewood Road, NE
Washington, DC 20017

9:00 am	Registration & Continental Breakfast
9:30 am	Welcome and Introductions
10:00 am	Session 1: Make me a channel of your peace
10:50 am	Comfort break
11:00 am	Rosary for Peace, Private Prayer Time, and Confession
12:00 pm	Mass
1:00 pm	Lunch
2:00 pm	Session 2: What is necessary, possible, and impossible?
2:50 pm	Comfort break
3:00 pm	Discussion: What is Ours To Do?
3:45 pm	Closing Prayer/Blessing

RSVP by September 26, 2026
Make check payable to CCW-ADW

Mail payment to:
Cheryl R.B. Jackson, Treasurer
4727 Londonberry Lane
White Plains, MD 20695

Payment due with RSVP

Questions: Call Cindy at (301) 821-5967 or email: archdioceseccw@gmail.com

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Name: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Amount Due: $60.00 Amount Enclosed: $_____

Special Needs (dietary, handicap, other): _____

Council of Catholic Women -Archdiocese of Washington

Individual Membership Form FY 2026-2027



Name _____

Address _____

City_____

State _____**Zip**_____

Phone_____

Email _____

Parish_____

Individual Membership is only
$25.00 per year

Make checks payable to CCW-ADW
Send to Cheryl R.B. Jackson, Treasurer
4727 Londonberry Lane
White Plains, MD 20695

Membership Questions:
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

- 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

PRAYER TO OUR LADY

Our Lady of Guadalupe

CCW-ADW Patroness

Remember, O most gracious Virgin of Guadalupe,
that in your heavenly apparitions on the mount of Tepeyac,
you promised to show your compassion and pity towards all who,
loving and trusting in you, seek your help and
call upon you in their necessities and afflictions,
you promised to hear our supplications,
to dry our tears, and to give us consolation and relief.

Never has it been known that anyone who fled to your protection,
implored your help, or sought your intercession, was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence,
we fly to you, O Mary, ever-Virgin Mother of the true God!

Though grieving under the weight of our sins,
we come to prostrate ourselves before you.

We fully trust that, standing beneath your shadow and protection,
nothing will trouble or afflict us, nor do we need to fear illness or misfortune,
or any other sorrow.

O Virgin of Guadalupe,
you want to remain with us through your admirable image,
you who are our Mother, our health, and our life.

Placing ourselves beneath your maternal gaze,
and having recourse to you in all our necessities,
we need do nothing more.

O Holy Mother of God, despise not our petitions,
but in your mercy hear and answer us.
Amen.