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
September 2026

Dear Sisters in Christ,

September is lovingly dedicated to the Seven Sorrows of Mary. In Our Lady of Sorrows, we find a tender model of faithfulness, especially in times of suffering. Mary did not give in to despair; standing at the foot of her Son's cross, she trusted deeply in God's plan, and from that trust drew courage and hope.

Our Lady of Sorrows gently opens her heart to us and reaches out her hand, leading us closer to Jesus Christ, our Savior. With Our Lady's intercession, we can face our daily trials with courage and hope. Opening our hearts, like Mary, we can offer up to Our Lord our challenges, sufferings, and discomforts for those who need grace and consolation. For strength, we have the Rosary or Chaplet of the Seven Sorrows (For more on this devotion, see Our Lady of Kibeho, pgs. 2 and 4).

May we ask Our Lady of Sorrows to walk with us each day, helping us open our hearts with the same trust, tenderness, and faith she showed beneath the cross. Amen!

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

September is suicide prevention awareness month.
If someone you know is contemplating suicide, call or text 988
to reach the National Suicide Lifeline.

SERVICE



Every step we take to enrich our faith strengthens our Domestic Church. Through prayer, reflection, acts of love, and a renewed commitment to living out the Gospel in daily life, we help make our homes places where faith is nurtured and shared. CCW-ADW's **Service Project: "Faith Enrichment"** provides encouragement to take those steps.

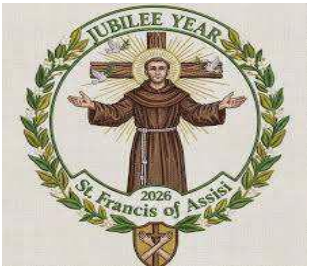
We have shared Faith Enrichment pouches with several parishes in the Archdiocese. In addition to sacramentals, each pouch contains instructions on setting up a home prayer space. You can help by sharing a pouch with your parish. Please join us. For more information about the **Faith Enrichment** project, please email Sharon O'Brien, CCW-ADW Service Commission Chairperson at **archdioceseccw@gmail.com**

St. Maria's Meals: Volunteers help set up and break down serving tables and dish up meals. Some can be found sharing stories, smiles, and words of encouragement with clients. Families, groups of coworkers, individuals, and students have all served as volunteers for St. Maria's Meals. To volunteer, please click here to **sign up**.

St. Augustine Catholic Church: Anyone is welcome to join the SHARE Ministry. Volunteers sort, package and distribute food on the **fourth Saturday of every month** in the **St. Augustine Catholic School cafeteria** between **8:00–11:30 a.m.** **To volunteer, please contact Ms. Bea Judon, Parish Office Manager, at 202-265-1470.**

SPIRITUALITY

The **registration deadline** is September 26 for our Day of Reflection: ***Rebuild God's Church, Rebuild Our Faith.*** CCW-ADW and the Franciscan Associates of the Atonement are hosting this event. Please join us at the St. John Paul II Retreat House on Saturday, **Oct. 17, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Please see the **enclosed flyer** (pg. 5) for more details. If you have any questions, call **Cindy at 301-821-5967** or email: archdioceseccw@gmail.com.



Our Lady of Kibeho re-introduced devotion to her Seven Sorrows by showing three visionaries how to pray **the Rosary or Chaplet of the Seven Sorrows**. In this video, you can learn and pray this special devotion. For more on Our Lady of Kibeho, see pg. 4.



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 September 2018, CCW-ADW began its nightly Rosary call—praying for the continued healing of the Church. Then that same year in October, CCW-ADW hosted ***Treasures of the Rosary*** at the Franciscan Monastery. There we explored the many graces and blessings of the Rosary—truly a powerful prayer.

During COVID, the Rosary call served an additional purpose—coming together every night seven days a week provided and continues to provide fellowship and sense of community. The Rosary invites us to step away from our daily distractions and enter more deeply into the mysteries of Jesus Christ with Mary, Our Blessed Mother. For Rosary meditations: https://councilofcatholicwomen-adw.com/spiritual-direction/rosary-resources/

LEADERSHIP

What is servant leadership? How do we live it? By following Jesus Christ's example, we lead through love, humility, sacrifice, and service.

Jesus came to serve rather than be served, showing us that true leadership begins with a servant's heart. When we listen, encourage, support, and serve others, we help them grow while honoring God's call to lead through care and compassion.

Truly, we are God's co-workers [1 Corinthians 3:9] as we are called to minister—to serve. The good Lord gives us many role models, especially Mary, our Blessed Mother. This humble handmaid leads each of us to her Son Jesus.

Through faith and action, may our service help lead one another to Christ our Savior. Amen!

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE

2026 Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage

September 26: The Pilgrimage begins at 9:00 a.m. at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and concludes with the Hillbilly Thomists Concert at 7:00 p.m. Click here for the full schedule.

Spiritual Retreat for Grieving Parents

Saturday, Sept. 26, starting at 9:30 AM. St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 9000 Warfield Road, Gaithersburg, MD. For more information: https://adw.org/event/spiritual-retreat-for-grieving-parents/

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Saturday, October 3, 4:30 p.m.: The National Catholic Domestic Violence Awareness Partners invite you to a vigil Mass for the 10th Annual Observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. **Location**: Upper Church, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

East of the River Revival

October 3 to October 7: "Peace, the Gift the World Cannot Give." **Main Revival Services:** Monday, **October 5 – Wednesday, October 7, 2026**, starting at 7:00 PM each night at Mount Calvary Catholic Church (6700 Marlboro Pike, Forestville, MD). Click here for information.

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

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Our Lady of Kibeho



By Melody Atkinson & Donna Wilkes

Did you know this about Mary? Our Lady of Kibeho is the title given to the Virgin Mary for a series of Vatican-approved Marian apparitions reported by three schoolgirls in the village of Kibeho, southwestern Rwanda, beginning on November 28, 1981.

A Brief History of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Kibeho

https://www.kibeho-cana.org/a-brief-history-of-the-apparitions-of-our-lady-of-kibeho/

A. Video links

The Story of Our Lady of Kibeho | Aleteia Explains:
This is a three-minute summary of the apparition and message of Our Lady of Kibeho. **https://youtu.be/E7klNTBMWaY?is=v7NuU6dajAS9lFu9**

The Story of Our Lady of Kibeho | Catholic Radio and TV Network:
https://youtu.be/PEkY6vwZc3U?is=tvoWDRw2o7Ugm-4g

Our Lady of Kibeho | EWTN Live
https://youtu.be/Iv-s2BEtoPc?is=R-yxOBwR58DH54_Q

The Chaplet of the Seven Sorrows of Mary

This devotion was reaffirmed from its origins in the Middle Ages by Our Lady of Kibeho, when she appeared to the three visionaries in Rwanda in 1981.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YE3VLMibs20&authuser=0

B. Web Links:

https://www.kibeho-cana.org/shrine-of-our-lady-of-kibeho/

C. Our Lady of Kibeho's Words

(selected from the book, Our Lady of Kibeho by Immaculée Ilibagiza):
Our Lady's words to the visionary, Anathalie:
"No one goes to heaven without suffering. And as a child of Mary, you may never put down the cross you bear."
The Blessed Mother told Anathalie what she told Bernadette of Lourdes many years earlier:
"I cannot promise you happiness in this world, but I can promise you eternal happiness in the next world."



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
9:45 am	Session 1: Make me a channel of your peace
10:30 am	Comfort break/JPII Shrine
11:00 am	Mass (JPII Shrine)
12:00 pm	Lunch (Retreat House)
1:00 pm	Rosary for Peace
1:30 pm	Session 2: What is necessary, possible, and impossible?
2:20 pm	Comfort break
2:30 pm	Discussion: What is Ours To Do?
3:30 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.
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