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
October/November 2026

Dear Sisters in Christ,

We strengthen our domestic church by making our home a place where we welcome God's presence into everyday life. Nourished by God's graces and blessings, we grow closer to our Lord and to one another. Our Christian family is a community of faith, hope, and charity.

This sense of belonging extends to the wider Church. In her 1989 USCCB address, Sister Thea Bowman, now Servant of God, described the Church as a family of families: "and the family got to stay together and we know, that if we do stay together…if we walk and talk and work and play and stand together in Jesus' name—we'll be who we say we are—truly Catholic…"

At the heart of this togetherness is the love of God—a love we are invited to embrace. At the October 17th day of reflection, ***"Rebuild God's Church, Rebuild our Faith,"*** hosted by CCW-ADW and the Franciscan Associates of the Atonement, Sister Sara Dwyer, ASC, urged: "Let's live…deeply believing in the absolutely unconditional love of God."

Rooted in God's love, our domestic church becomes stronger as we share this love with one another through our joys, our works and our struggles. United with daily prayer, a patient moment of listening, a word of forgiveness, time spent together draws us deeper into our relationship with our Lord. May the peace of God's love be in our lives, our homes, our communities, our parishes, our nation, and our world. Amen!

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

The message of Our Lady of La Salette is a solemn call to return wholeheartedly to God (see pg. 4 to learn more about Mary's apparition in La Salette, France)

SERVICE



Strengthening our Domestic Church is ongoing. At last month's day of reflection ***"Rebuild God's Church, Rebuild our Faith***" with Sister Sara Dwyer, we distributed **Faith Enrichment** pouches to all the participants. And we continue to share the pouches with parishes in the Archdiocese.

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. For more information about the **Faith Enrichment** project, please email Sharon O'Brien, CCW-ADW Service Commission Chairperson at **archdioceseccw@gmail.com** or go to: https://councilofcatholicwomen-adw.com/service/faith-enrichment/

"As an image of God we are to imitate God: Loving, merciful, compassionate, reconciling and peaceful." –Sister Sara Dwyer.

TURKEY DROP: The Little Sisters of the Poor are gratefully accepting donations of frozen turkeys. Please drop off turkeys at 4200 Harewood Road, NE in Washington, D.C. between 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. on: November 14 and November 19-21. Your generosity will help the Little Sisters prepare hearty holiday meals for their Residents, bringing joy to those in their care.

CENTRO TEPEYAC WOMEN'S CENTER: Please consider donating much needed baby items to Centro Tepeyac Women's Center, located at 12247 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, Md 20902. For more information: https://centrotepeyac.org/donate-baby-items/

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE 2026 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church: **You can make a donation by clicking here**, or you can pay by check. Checks should include "Food Drive – Thanksgiving" in the memo line and may be left in the collection basket on Sundays or mailed to Holy Trinity, Attn: Social Justice 3513 N St NW, Washington, DC 20007

SPIRITUALITY



Coming together: ***Rebuild God's Church, Rebuild Our Faith.*** At October's day of reflection, Sister Sara invited all to 'listen to the Spirit speaking deep within you. Don't force it or fake it—wait for it."

"We just need to respond; in the quiet way our life allows. Start small." Perhaps now is a time to declutter and unplug. "Stay sincere. Trust: this is Holy work."—Sister Sara Dwyer. Let us ask ourselves: how does Jesus live in me? "…let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful." [Colossians 3: 15]



Please join CCW-ADW's nightly Rosary at 8:00 p.m. Call 605-468-8016, code 357090#. 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. https://councilofcatholicwomen-adw.com/spiritual-direction/rosary-resources/

LEADERSHIP

"The future is not only shaped by what we do. It is shaped by how we talk and walk. Let us talk with respect, empathy, and compassion. Let's walk with reverence, humility and justice." –Sister Sara Dwyer. ***Rebuild God's Church, Rebuild Our Faith***

Following these steps, we lead by example in our homes, our places of work, our parishes and communities. The good Lord gives us many role models. Should we need inspiration, consider the life and legacy of Sister Thea Bowman, Servant of God.

Although suffering from cancer, Sister Thea Bowman spoke before the USCCB. Her cause for canonization was opened in 2018. The Diocese of Jackson completed its initial investigatory phase in early 2026.

Like Sister Thea Bowan, through faith-filled words and deeds, may we help lead one another to Christ our Savior. Amen!

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE

November is Black Catholic History Month: Saturday, November 14, 2026: Remembering the witness of the '**Saintly Seven'** Black Catholics on the path to canonized sainthood and reflecting on what their lives say about the vocation of Black Catholics today. St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. 8908 Old Branch Avenue, Clinton, Maryland. 8:30 a.m. – Mass; 9:15 a.m. – Breakfast and Fellowship; 9:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Gathering

Martha's Table Community Harvest Dinner: Come celebrate the fall at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church, 1600 Morris Road, SE in Washington, DC. Saturday, November 21 • 12 PM - 4 PM. Click here for more information.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Tuesday Dec. 8: ***Mary Teach Us to Pray.*** Scriptural Rosary begins at 9:30 a.m. followed by Mass at 10 a.m. at Holy Family Roman Catholic Church, 2210 Callaway Street in Hillcrest Heights, Md. Reflection by Anna Friday on St. Teresa of Avila. Light Refreshments to follow at Padre Pio Center. Hosted by the Holy Family Sodality of Our Lady.

For more upcoming events, check out CCW-ADW's website: https://councilofcatholicwomen-adw.com/all-events/

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Our Lady of La Salette



By Melody Atkinson & Donna Wilkes

Did you know this about Mary? On September 19, 1846, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to two shepherd children, Maximin Giraud and Mélanie Calvat, in La Salette, France, delivering a message of repentance and conversion for all humanity. The apparition was approved by the local bishop in 1851 and received further papal recognition under Pope Leo XIII in 1879.

THE MESSAGE

Our Lady called attention to two grave sins: blasphemy, or taking the Lord's name in vain, and disregard for Sunday as a sacred day of rest, prayer, and attendance at Holy Mass. She warned that these offenses against God contributed to the people's hardships, including failing harvests.

THE CALL TO CONVERSION

Our Lady urged the children to pray, offer sacrifices, and spread her message of conversion to all people. Her words, "My children, you will make this known to all my people," emphasized that her appeal extended far beyond La Salette to the entire world.

THE SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The message of Our Lady of La Salette is a solemn call to return wholeheartedly to God, abandon sin, honor His commandments, and renew our commitment to prayer, sacrifice, and the Holy Mass. It is an enduring invitation to repentance, reconciliation, and faithfulness to Christ.

Videos

Our Lady of La Salette Apparition, Prophecy, and Message
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MxEe7pJFHv4

Apparitions of Our Lady of La Salette
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zGUdWqipXlc

Our Lady of La Salette Story! | From Catholic News World
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZnHsu3pLiJc

Web Link

The Story of Our Lady of La Salette
https://lasaletteattleboroshrine.org/the-la-salette-story

Books

La Salette: A Story for Our Times by Fr. Robert Lazu Kim: a modern reflection on the apparition's urgency.
Our Lady of La Salette by Fr. John S. Kennedy: a classic historical account of the apparition and its meaning.

Council of Catholic Women -Archdiocese of Washington

Individual Membership Form FY 2026-2027



Name _____

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State _____**Zip**_____

Phone_____

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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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