



HDCCW HAPPENINGS

SPIRITUALITY

LEADERSHIP

SERVICE

President's Message

Dear Ladies,

It is so wonderful to see the earth awakening around us! It seemed liked it was an especially gray, long winter. I hope everyone had a Happy and Blessed Easter. He is risen, He is risen indeed!

It's hard to believe my first year as HDCCW President is over. It's had some challenges, but we are ready to move forward and make CCW better than ever.

Here are a few events to keep in mind this summer. Our HDCCW Retreat will be held June 9 -11 at beautiful Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, MD. Come join us at "Mary's Mountain" for a spirit-filled weekend with Father Michael Rothan as our Retreat Master.

Visit our website

www.hdccw.webs.com for more information.

The 50th Wedding Anniversary Mass at Good Shepherd, Camp Hill will be held on July 9th. HDCCW provides a reception for all celebrants and their families. We need your help! We cannot do this alone; many hands make light work. Last year we served over 700 people! Contact Terri Rosenstein for more information at 717-761-6467.

I hope everyone has a restful and relaxing summer. We all need some time to regroup and come back in the fall refreshed and ready to do God's work.

God bless!
Jeanne Warren

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Spiritual Advisor's Message

May is the month of Mary and is a good time for us to increase our devotion to her. A good way of doing this is every time we see one of her flowers we say one of Her Marian prayer, such as a Hail Mary, Memorare, Salve Regina etc. There are five flowers closely connected to the Blessed Mother and are often used in art to symbolize different spiritual truths of Our Lady.

Lily--*The lily symbolizes purity, innocence and virginity. The Archangel Gabriel is often depicted in scenes of the Annunciation giving the Blessed Mother a lily. Additionally, there is a white day lily that only blooms around the time of the Assumption in mid-August and is known as the "Assumption Lily".*

Rose--*The Blessed Mother is called the rose without thorns. She has often been given the title of Mystical Rose. The Rosary is sometimes visually represented in art as a garland of roses given to our Heavenly Mother.*

Iris--*The iris is sometimes called the "sword lily," and for this reason was used most often in connection with Our Lady of Sorrows.*

Periwinkle --*The periwinkle is also named the "Virgin Flower" and its blue color connects it to Mary, who is usually depicted wearing blue. The color blue has been viewed over the years as a symbol of innocence, the Heavens and also the virtue of hope.*

Marigold --*The vibrant colors of the marigold represent the Blessed Mother in her heavenly glory. The flower also will turn its head to follow the bright sun, as Mary's gaze is always directed to Her Son.*

As we enter into this beautiful month of spring where all the flowers start to bloom and come alive, may our devotion and love to our Blessed Mother come alive as well.

With deep appreciation for all you do and are, you remain in my thoughts and prayers.

*In God's love and mine,
Fr Ted*

HDCCW CONVENTION April 15, 2023



Commission/District Happenings

LEGISLATION/RESPECT LIFE

Ever since the overturn of Roe vs Wade, politicians have been trying to introduce legislation to provide abortion for any reason up to birth. On March 29th, the U.S. House of Representatives reintroduced the **Womens Health Protection Act**. In February, Rep. U.S. Senators Murkowski (Alaska) and Collins (Maine) called for passage of SB 4688. The bill does not have a chance of passing the Republican controlled House, and Republicans will filibuster the bill in the U.S. Senate where Democrats control by a narrow majority.

In PA, HB 803 was referred to the Committee on Health on April 3. It proposes an Amendment to the Constitution of PA providing for personal reproductive liberty. This is only the first step of many to destroy the Abortion Control Act of PA. This is the reason why we must elect pro-life representatives.



The primary election will be held on Tuesday, May 16th. The positions for judge that are open are for Supreme Court (1), Superior Court (2), and Commonwealth Court (1). Refer to the Voters' Guide on the paprolife.org website for more information.

A dangerous bill dealing with assisted suicide has been introduced in the PA House of Representatives. House Bill 543 would overturn PA's long-standing ban on assisted suicide. Please contact your state representative and urge him to oppose the bill.

Also, tell your state representative to continue increased funding for Real Alternatives. This organization provides financial resources to run pregnancy help centers throughout PA. Since the budget provides for Planned Parenthood, it should also share some monies to mothers and their babies.

Please offer daily prayers for all those involved in pro-life and the changing of hearts for those who oppose us. Our future depends on them.

*-submitted by Colleen Hoover
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A Prayer for Life by Saint John Paul II

O Mary, bright dawn of the new world, Mother of the living, to you do we entrust the cause of life. Look down, O Mother, upon the vast number of babies not allowed to be born, of the poor whose lives are made difficult, of men and women who are victims of brutal violence, of the elderly and sick killed by indifference of our misguided mercy. Grant that all who believe in your Son may proclaim the Gospel of life with honesty and love to the people of our time. Obtain for them the grace to accept that Gospel as a gift ever new, the joy of celebrating it with gratitude throughout their lives, and the courage to bear witness to it resolutely, in order to build together with all people of good will, the civilization of truth and love, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and Lover of Life. Amen

NORTHERN DISTRICT

Since September 2022, the NDCCW has been very busy. Included below are many of our projects.

Boxes of Joy

Communion Breakfast for Women & Girls

Funeral Luncheons

Made Little Dresses for Africa

Mass & Reception for Graduates

Adopted Nuns from St. Cyril & Methodius

Senior Girl Award

Rummage Sale

Wedding Anniversary Celebrations

Help at Fish Fry

Confirmation Brunch

Flowers for Homebound at Easter

These plus many more projects keep the NDCCW ladies busy during the year. If anyone would like information on these projects, please feel free to contact me.

-submitted by Marae Schmader -President, Northern District - mschmader1@gmail.com

Meet a Member

STELLA KULP CHAIR HISPANIC APOSTOLATE/MIGRANT MINISTRY

Stella Kulp was born in New Mexico and moved to Washington, DC, to attend school where her brother was serving in Congress. She met her husband, Russell, and they were married and lived in Washington for a while. They later moved to Perry County and then to Mechanicsburg where she and her family became active members of Saint Joseph's Parish.

In 1988 Bishop Keeler formed a new Parish named in honor of Saint Katharine Drexel, the first Parish in the world named for her. From that time on, Stella shared her selfless gift of time and has continued to do so for the past 35 years at Saint Katharine Drexel Parish and with the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.

The 2020 Diocesan LORICA AWARD was presented to Stella for her commitment and service to the life of the Church and a Catholic Christian way of life. This award recognizes those who have "bound to their heart" the strength of the Triune God through integrity of faith and generosity of service. The award was named after the renowned prayer for protection attributed to Saint Patrick.

Thank you, Stella!

Lorica Prayer for Protection

"...Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me, Christ in the eye that sees me, Christ in the ear that hears me..."

--Saint Patrick (circa 377)

CONGRATULATIONS

"The HDCCW presented its annual Our Lady of Good Counsel Award to Susan Merfa of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Hanover for her generosity and service in various capacities of Council leadership. Merfa has been a member of the Council of Catholic Women since 1972, when she joined at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Abbottstown. "All the years and service I've done have been all for the glory of God," Merfa told *The Witness* after receiving her award from Bishop Gainer. "I joined the CCW more than 50 years ago, and I've loved every moment of it."



-The Catholic Witness

Around the Diocese

Conewago District

Recently, Cheryl Guy interviewed Father Aaron Lynch, Vicar of Saint Francis Xavier Parish in Gettysburg. Father also serves as the Spiritual Advisor to the Parish CCW.



Fr. Lynch with SFX PCCW President, Cherie Colomb and Treasurer, Nancy Newbold

How long have you been with your current parish?

I have been at St. Francis Xavier parish for 1 ½ years since my ordination in 2021.

How long were you associated with your home parish, St. Patrick's in Carlisle?

My family moved to Carlisle when I was in the 7th grade. My dad was a Marine and we lived in North Carolina when I was born. Our family moved to Missouri, then Oklahoma, back to Missouri, and then to Pennsylvania.

When did you become aware of your vocation? Was your faith formation influenced by your family when you were younger?

I can't trace it to a specific date. It was a gradual process that was not initially intentional. My family was Catholic but we didn't go to Mass every Sunday. I went to public school and I loved going to CCD, doing my catechism homework and learning about the Church. It was when I was preparing for Confirmation that my mother decided that we as a family would become more faithful and when my mom said we were going to do something, we did. When I was in high school, I joined Life Teen and met other young people who were in love with Jesus and His Church. A good friend, Kevin Key (who is now a transitional deacon), encouraged me to attend Quo Vadis days. It wasn't until I was in high school that I had my first sit-down conversations with a priest. As I met seminarians and priests, I became attracted to the religious life and I especially loved the fraternity that exists among brother priests. At the end of my senior year, I petitioned the bishop to be allowed to enter seminary.

What aspect of your parish family inspires you?

There are no fence sitters in Gettysburg – they are a passionate people and I can always find an opinion. It's nice to know that people care and want to get involved. Being put on notice for the things I've done well and the things I have not done well have made me a better priest.

Do you have a favorite saint? Why does their faith journey inspire you?

St. John Chrysostom's name means "golden tongue" and he was a great preacher. I would like to follow that example in my own preaching. I also like John the Beloved because of his

relationship with Jesus and his insight into who Jesus is. That inspires me to grow in my love of Jesus.

Do you have a favorite gospel parable? Why does it speak to you?

I don't really have a favorite parable. I like those moments when Jesus puts the parables aside and speaks plainly. People didn't always understand Him then, but there was great power in those moments.

How can we enhance our devotion to Our Blessed Mother?

Spend more time with her and with her son. A Marian devotion that deserves more attention is the Seven Sorrows of Mary. While Mary didn't suffer physically, she suffered in her heart. She is the model of suffering with Christ.

What role does your parish CCW fill at your parish and how has Council been helpful to you?

The biggest help our PCCW gives to my life is the intercessory prayer offered for me. I can feel when people are praying for me. Intercessory prayer is often underrated and we should never underestimate the power of intercession.

What insights have you gained into the priesthood since your ordination?

I have truly seen the reality of the grace given at Holy Orders. There was a big change in me at ordination. I enjoy seeing the grace of the sacraments, especially confession.



Happy Mother's Day

A baby asked God, "They tell me you are sending me to earth tomorrow, but how am I going to live there being so small and helpless?" God said, "Your angel will be waiting for you and will take care of you."

The child further inquired, "But tell me, here in heaven I don't have to do anything but sing and smile to be happy." God said, "Your angel will sing for you and will also smile for you. And you will feel your angel's love and be very happy."

Again the child asked, "And how am I going to be able to understand when people talk to me if I don't know the language?" God said, "Your angel will tell you the most beautiful and sweet words you will ever hear, and with much patience and care, your angel will teach you how to speak."

"And what am I going to do when I want to talk to you?" God said, "Your angel will place your hands together and will teach you how to pray."

"Who will protect me?" God said, "Your angel will defend you even if it means risking its life."

"But I will always be sad because I will not see You anymore." God said, "Your angel will always talk to you about Me and will teach you the way to come back to Me, even though I will always be next to you."

At that moment there was much peace in Heaven, but voices from Earth could be heard and the child hurriedly asked, "God, if I am to leave now, please tell me my angel's name."

"You will simply call her, "Mom."

*-used with the permission of
Saint Mary's Parish, Annapolis, MD
May 12, 2019 church bulletin*

From the Editors

SUMMER Personal CHALLENGES

- Say “No”. If something does not fit in your life, just say no.
- Unplug and reduce screen time.
- Spend some time in the sunshine. Vitamin D is essential for our health.
- Practice Gratitude. Start a gratitude journal.
- Keep a journal. Keeping a journal can help you reflect on your past, checking progress and introspection.
- Travel to a random place. Explore the place where you have never been before.
- Spend quality time with loved ones, family, and friends.
- Create a daily to-do list.

HDCCW Weekly Rosary Link
Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/85376898046?pwd=OG55a3RUekVWN DdJU2ZlWFVmRotsdz09>
 Meeting ID: 853 7689 8046
 Passcode: 301620
 Join by Phone: 1.301.715.8592
 Meeting ID and Passcode listed above

AWARENESS DAYS

June

June 18th –Father’s Day



July

Social Wellness Month

July 4th--Independence Day



July 17th-- National Ice Cream Day

August

August 15th Relaxation Day

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