



# HDCCW Happenings

## Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Volume 1, Issue 2

November 2020

### President's Message



Dear Sisters in Christ,  
I hope this message finds you happy and healthy.

Thanksgiving is more than festivities; it gives us time to contemplate what lessons we learned and look back at all the great memories and good people who came into our lives. We must take time to pause and count our blessings and remember to embrace those who enrich our lives.

I am thankful for many things this year, and one of them is you. Because this is a special time of year, I want you to know that I appreciate you every single day. May the good things of life be yours in abundance, not only at Thanksgiving, but throughout the coming year.

In this time of Thanksgiving, I want to express my appreciation for you and the work you do to make our Council a success. This year has been a challenge for the CCW, but we made it a success.

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### HDCCW Board Meeting

November 21, 2020

The second quarterly HDCCW Board meeting began at the Diocesan Center with a Thanksgiving prayer service, led by Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer. It was followed by the ceremony to install the HDCCW Officers for 2020-2022.

Pictured below with Bishop Gainer are: (l-r) Patricia Fraley-Secretary, Linda Hartzell-Vice President, Alycia Laureti-President, and Nancy Bauer-Treasurer.



### Mini Minutes

Following the installation, the HDCCW Board met via Zoom and the following actions were taken:

- The Board approved a motion to initiate the **HDCCW Our Lady of Good Counsel Award** beginning in 2021. The intent of the award is to recognize a woman in the Diocese who has made a significant contribution at any level of Council. More information to follow in February.
- HDCCW is looking for topics for their Insights/Learning Bites, which are short videos where we share engaging and practical workshops, insights, and (hopefully) inspiration. Topics and suggestions can be emailed to [hdccwpres@gmail.com](mailto:hdccwpres@gmail.com).

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I am very grateful for your efforts.

I wish you and your family a lovely Thanksgiving and a joyous holiday season. May you have many things to be thankful for this Thanksgiving.

With many thanks and appreciation!  
-Alycia Laureti

### *Vice-President's Message*

I believe that my love of God and love of numbers led me to the position as your Vice President! I became active in council in 1990 when I became a member of Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Middletown. Their Council of Catholic Women was (and continues to be) very active, and I soon got caught up in their many activities. My career as a math teacher was soon tapped into as I served six years as the council's treasurer. When HDCCW President Jeanne Warren asked me to serve as her Convention Treasurer in 2014, I was delighted to accept the job and continued in that capacity under President Marge Schmader. From 2016-2018, I also served on the NCCW Spirituality Commission - a rewarding experience of working with women from across the country to compose retreats and prayers.

It is my honor to be serving HDCCW under President Alycia Laureti. With her guidance and vision, I know that parish councils across the diocese will continue to flourish.

-submitted by Linda Hartzell

## **DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT**

### **Northumberland**

Our Lady Help of Christians in Lykens holds a weekly Rosary each Thursday evening at 6:30 pm. The CCW held an Election Day take-out Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner. In December, in lieu of a Christmas Party, they

will hold a Christmas Raffle containing \$1000 in prizes. They also participated in the Boxes of Joy program through the HDCCW. In January, they will be selling raffle tickets based on the pick three evening lottery number each day. The proceeds from all fundraisers held are used to help pay on parish debt and to help those in need in both the parish and the community.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel has not been holding meetings due to the coronavirus outbreak.

-submitted by Noreen Gochenauer, District President

### **Conewago**

The Conewago District Parish Councils of Catholic Women (Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Francis Xavier, St. Vincent DePaul, St. Joseph the Worker and St. Joseph's in Hanover) are proving even a pandemic cannot prevent the achievement of goals as committed Catholic women supporting global, national, and local programs.

Globally, councils sponsored the CRS Water for Life and the Cross Catholic Outreach Boxes of Joy programs.

Councils also participated in the "World Day of Prayer," and collected cancelled stamps to provide money for the poor and coupons for troops overseas.

Nationally, October program support included pro-life awareness with one CCW assisting their parish plant white crosses on the church lawn and councils' recognition of White Ribbons Against Pornography (WRAP) week.

Locally, councils are recognizing milestone wedding anniversaries and sponsoring Christmas Giving Trees, and the upcoming season includes an Outdoor Yard Sale, Bake Sale, Church decorating and Christmas Mass and dinner gatherings.

-submitted by Nancy Newbold, District President



## PARISH SPOTLIGHT



Our CCW had a "Picnic with Blessed Mother." We prayed the Rosary to end the pandemic. Everyone brought their packed lunches and chairs. After we ate we visited while social distancing with our masks on. We had 33 ladies attend. Those attending were invited to bring a baby item to be donated to a crisis pregnancy center. We divided the items between Carlisle Family Life and Morningstar Pregnancy Services.

*-submitted by Stella Kulp  
Saint Katharine Drexel Parish, Mechanicsburg*

### PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

What is "Prayers of the Faithful"? A few members of our parish gather in the church on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. to pray for the sick of the parish and their families, our church, our community, our country and each other. We pray the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet and express our joy in songs of praise. Prayers are answered, people are healed and they and their grateful families sometimes join us to pray for others who have serious health problems. Prayer is a simple act of mercy that brings joy to the hearts of many.

*-submitted by Brenda Wolf  
Corpus Christi Parish, Chambersburg*

*From the Editors: We invite all parish councils to submit news items. See page nine for details.*

## COMMISSION CORNER

### Church

#### HDCCW PRAYER CHAIN

You may ask "What is the Prayer Chain?" This is one of the blessings of the Church Commission. Anyone can send a prayer request to me including the first name plus initial or full name of the person in need of prayer and the intention or need requested. The person can be your family member, a friend, or an acquaintance who needs prayer. I will then send the information in an email to current board members plus ladies who have requested to be added to the list of people who believe in praying for others. When all these ladies are praying for you, you will feel like you are wrapped in a soft, warm blanket. We always include a request: "May our Blessed Mother Mary keep her mantle around us, our family, and our friends, our church and our country." Prayers are answered, miracles happen and people are very grateful. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

*-submitted by Brenda Wolf, Commission Co-Chair  
[hdccwchurchcommission@gmail.com](mailto:hdccwchurchcommission@gmail.com)*

### Family Concerns

The Family Concerns Commission is excited to provide several resources to assist in fulfilling the mission and vocation of family life.

One excellent resource is [www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org). This website offers information on marriage, dating, parenting, caregiving, and coping with adversity such as COVID-19 and addiction.

November 29<sup>th</sup> starts the Advent Season. This is the time when family can draw closer to the mystery of Christ's Incarnation through family prayer, Advent projects and charitable works. For ideas on how to celebrate Advent visit this website:

<https://www.foryourmarriage.org/celebrating-advent-as-a-family/>.

*-submitted by Co-Chairs Terri Gelles and Linda Melenchek  
[hdccwfamilycommission@gmail.com](mailto:hdccwfamilycommission@gmail.com)*



## LIFE MEMBERS

### “Who is your favorite saint?”

These three past Presidents have continued to serve as organizers of the annual HDCCW Retreat at Mount St. Mary’s in Emmitsburg, MD. With the help of a dedicated committee, they are the driving force of this prayerful and spirit-filled weekend.

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The choice of my favorite saint is a very personal one because, as we all know, there are so many inspirational saints with absolutely amazing stories. I am a convert to the Catholic faith having gone through the RCIA program in 1992-93. At this time I was asked to choose a saint for my confirmation name. The roles of mother and grandmother were important ones for me so I chose Saint Anne, the grandmother of our Savior, Jesus Christ and the mother of our Blessed Virgin Mary. I believe she had a tremendous positive influence on the lives of both Jesus and Mary.

*-submitted by Barb McCarthy*

It is a tie! Saint Rita of Cascia and Saint Padre Pio both lived hard lives, but their virtue of forgiveness was something to be admired and imitated. Saint Rita was the saint of “the impossible” and Saint Pio was the saint of “pray, hope and don’t worry.” Sometimes it is “impossible” to “pray and not worry” but forgiveness is very possible.

*-submitted by Bonnie Onomastico*

When asked “Who is my favorite Saint?” I had to give it some thought, as I am a convert. I attended a HDCCW Retreat at Mount St. Mary’s with Father Al Sceski serving as Retreat Master. He spoke on the **Women Doctors of the Church**, and I was fascinated with Saint Hildegard von Bingen. She was a German Benedictine abbess, writer, composer, a mystic and a visionary. She wrote music and a play. Of special interest to me, since I am a nurse, were her scientific and medicinal writings.

She combined physical treatment of diseases with holistic methods centered on “spiritual healing.”

“The earth which sustains humanity must not be injured. It must not be destroyed!”

*-Saint Hildegard of Bingen*

*-submitted by Jeanne Warren*

## MEET A MEMBER

### Kathy Wingert

Soon after I began to attend our Corpus Christi Parish CCW meetings over 15 years ago, I was asked to be the secretary. Several years later I was elected as the Seton District President and became a member of the HDCCW Board. I was Co-Chair of the International Commission, have been the HDCCW Public Relations co-chair from 2012 to the present and am a member of the HDCCW Convention and Retreat Committees. I was President of the Corpus Christi PCCW from 2010 – 2014. In summary, the Council of Catholic Women, at several levels, has been an important part of my life. I have enjoyed many wonderful friendships and have experienced spiritual growth as we work together to further our mission.

### Heather O’Shea

I was born in Shropshire, England in 1930, and grew up in Manchester. While studying in Dublin, I was introduced to my future husband John O’Shea, an American serviceman “exploring his Irish Catholic Roots”. In 1973, we moved to Chambersburg, Pa and, in 1979, I joined the Council of Catholic Women at Corpus Christi Parish. I soon realized what a tremendous asset the CCW was to the Parish in achieving its goals through our various Commissions and Committees. I served as Parish President, was President of Seton District, and ultimately became a member of the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women where I had the opportunity to serve as Chair and Co-Chair on many Commissions. Although I have never been President of HDCCW, I am honored and humbled to have been appointed an Honorary Life Member.

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When you've lived as long as I have filled with the beauty of strong Faith and many opportunities to do His work through the CCW, well that is a story in itself. Not to mention the love and support from the wonderful women I have met and call treasured friends to this day. Bonnie Onomastico is one of those friends. She and I worked together to develop the wonderful team that organizes the annual HDCCW Womens' Retreat at Mount St. Mary's...a wonderful, spiritual, and interesting weekend for women.

## **Eucharistic Adoration**



As this edition is being published, the following CCW-affiliated parishes are offering opportunities for you to spend quiet reflection time with Our Lord in their churches. Please check the parish website/call for available times for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

### **Conewago District**

Saint Francis Xavier, Gettysburg  
[www.stfxcc.org](http://www.stfxcc.org) 717-334-3919

Saint Vincent de Paul, Hanover  
[www.svparish.org](http://www.svparish.org) 717-637-4625

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Abbottstown  
[www.ihmparadise.org](http://www.ihmparadise.org) 717-259-0611

Saint Joseph the Worker, Bonneauville  
[www.stjosephtheworkerpa.org](http://www.stjosephtheworkerpa.org) 717-334-2510

### **Cumberland Perry District**

Good Shepherd, Camp Hill  
[www.goodshepherd-parish.com](http://www.goodshepherd-parish.com) 717-761-1167

Saint Patrick, Carlisle  
[www.saintpatrickchurch.org](http://www.saintpatrickchurch.org) 717-243-4411

Our Lady of Good Counsel, Marysville  
Saint Bernadette, Duncannon  
717-957-2662

Saint Kathrine Drexel, Mechanicsburg  
[www.skdp parish.com](http://www.skdp parish.com) 717-697-8716

Our Lady of Lourdes, Enola  
[www.ourladyoflourdesenola.org](http://www.ourladyoflourdesenola.org) 717-732-9642

### **Dauphin District**

Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Middletown  
[www.ssbvm.org](http://www.ssbvm.org) 717-944-3133

### **Lebanon District**

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Lebanon  
[www.abvmlebpa.org](http://www.abvmlebpa.org) 717-272-5674

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Cornwall  
[www.sacredheartcornwall.org](http://www.sacredheartcornwall.org) 717-273-1574

Mary Gate of Heaven, Myerstown  
[www.marygateofheaven.com](http://www.marygateofheaven.com) 717-866-5640

Saint Paul the Apostle, Annville  
[www.stpaulsinannville.org](http://www.stpaulsinannville.org) 717-867-1525

### **Northern District**

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lewisbury  
[www.sacredheartofjesus.org](http://www.sacredheartofjesus.org) 570-523-3104

### **Seton District**

Saint Mary's, Fairfield  
[www.stmarysfairfieldpa.org](http://www.stmarysfairfieldpa.org) 717-642-8818

## ASK THE PARLIAMENTARIANS

### Reminders of Officers' Responsibilities

#### Vice President shall:

- Perform such duties as assigned to her by the President.
- In the event of absence, disability or death of the President, assume the responsibilities of the President.

#### Secretary shall:

- Record the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors.
- Two weeks prior to the next Board Meeting or before, email or mail a copy of the minutes to board members and/or membership.
- Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President.

#### Treasurer shall:

- Be custodian of all funds of the Organization by receiving funds collected for any purpose, by depositing all funds immediately into bank account(s), and by paying all bills promptly that have been approved by the Board of Directors.
- Provide a written and oral report at all Board meetings.
- Turn over all books, papers, and other property pertaining to this office to her successor by August 1<sup>st</sup>.



### General Meeting Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Opening with prayer
3. Pledge to the Flag
4. Welcome members and introduce guests
5. Reading and approval of minutes
6. Reports of officers (including treasurer's report)
7. Reports of commission chairs
8. Reports of special committees
9. Unfinished business
10. New business
11. Good of the order (optional)
12. Program (may go anywhere)
13. Adjournment and prayer

*-submitted by Marge Schmader and Anne Hasting, Parliamentarians*

[hdccwparliamentarian@gmail.com](mailto:hdccwparliamentarian@gmail.com)



## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Board member Terri Rosenstein and her husband, Michael, on celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year. On August 23, the Diocese hosted a live-streamed Mass officiated by Bishop Gainer for the Rosensteins and other couples in the Diocese achieving this milestone. In years past, Terri, as part of her work on the Board, has organized a reception to honor these couples. While the party could not occur this year, Terri's contributions and dedication to this event are to be celebrated!

The Board welcomes new member, Bonnie Finnerty, from Saint Margaret Mary Parish in Harrisburg. Bonnie will serve as Co-Chair on the Scholarship Committee with Joyce Scott. Great to have you join us!

## A Christmas Prayer



Loving God, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, so that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.



## Boxes of Joy Update



The HDCCW International Commission just wrapped up its second year sponsoring Cross Catholic Outreach's Boxes of Joy program for the Harrisburg Diocese. The boxes are filled with items for poor children ages 2-14 in Central America and the Caribbean.

This year 17 parishes participated along with 3 families from churches that were not participating. The event is open to anyone in the Diocese, regardless of CCW membership. The number of boxes turned in ranged from a few up to 50, 67, 75, 102, 117, 118, 264 for a grand total of 1,055 boxes! That's a 50% increase from last year.

### A great big THANK YOU to all who participated.

- |                             |                                   |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Good Shepherd               | Saint Joseph, Danville            |
| Holy Infant                 | Saint Joseph the Worker           |
| Holy Name of Jesus          | Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque      |
| Our Lady of Good Counsel    | Saint Monica                      |
| Our Lady Help of Christians | Saint Theresa of the Infant Jesus |
| Our Lady of Lourdes         | Saint Vincent de Paul             |
| Saint Catherine Laboure     | Sacred Heart of Jesus, Cornwall   |
| Saint Francis Xavier        | Seven Sorrows of BVM              |
| Saint Joan of Arc           |                                   |

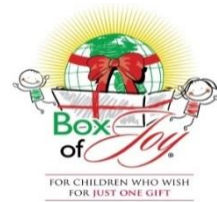


Father Kyle Sahd came to the Center and blessed the boxes, the children who will receive them, and the donors who filled the boxes. Please continue to pray daily for the children and those who minister to them.

Many of the first time parishes said they were very surprised at the reception the project received in their parishes. Several had to order additional boxes to meet demand. There are many ways to host a collection – pass boxes to your fellow parishioners after masses, have the parish school children fill the boxes, confirmation classes need projects, or how about your CCW filling the boxes and the Knights of Columbus paying for the shipping.



Let me know if your CCW would like to participate next year and I will send you an email reminder in August.



Visit <https://crosscatholic.org/box-of-joy/> for more information.

-submitted by Diane Roskos

[hdccwinternationalcommission@gmail.com](mailto:hdccwinternationalcommission@gmail.com)

## COMMUNITY CONCERNS UPDATE

### Walk to Bethlehem



Our virtual HDCCW **Walk to Bethlehem**, which brings women, men, children, families, and friends together to increase physical activity and encourage spiritual growth has been a great project! Our 63 pilgrims from 14 different Parishes and 4 states (California, Maryland, New Jersey, Tennessee) have traveled 4,254 miles as of November 14th, and are approaching our 5,836-mile goal of reaching Bethlehem!

With a number of new pilgrims expressing interest in the past week, including a CCD group, we have decided to add an Advent Walk which will begin when our first group reaches Bethlehem. Many current pilgrims want to keep on going! As devotionals, we will have an Advent novena posted on our website, Advent prayers, as well as, Very Rev. Luis R. Rodriguez, V.F., beautiful prayer to recite before beginning your exercise of choice. What a special way to celebrate all our blessings during this upcoming Holy Season.

All are welcome to join us at any time by registering at [hdccw.webs.com](http://hdccw.webs.com) **Walk to Bethlehem**.

*-submitted by Kathy Kokoski*

[hdccwcommunitycommission@gmail.com](mailto:hdccwcommunitycommission@gmail.com)

### Spiritual Adoption

The Legislation/Respect Life Commission Co-Chairs, in coordination with the Family Life Commission and the Community Concerns Commission, announce that we are planning this program for all parishes in the Diocese.

It is very simple. Participants pledge to pray for nine months for a baby in danger of abortion. During each month "the spiritual parents" are given information about their baby's development in the womb. At the end of the program a baby shower will be held, and the baby items donated will be given to a local pregnancy center. The nine months will begin on January 29, 2021

when the March for Life in Washington, D.C. is going to take place. The end of the nine months will be in October 2021, Respect Life Month. Hopefully, we can have the baby shower following a board meeting in November.

In 1973 Archbishop Fulton Sheen wrote a letter prayer after the United States Supreme Court legislated abortion. "Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much" he wrote. "I beg you to spare the life of this little unborn child that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion."

*-submitted by Harriet Glass*

[hdccwlegislativecommission@gmail.com](mailto:hdccwlegislativecommission@gmail.com)

## HDCCW WEEKLY ROSARY



We invite you to join us in the recitation of the **Glorious Mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary every Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm** either via Zoom or by phone.

### Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74297520381?pwd=dGVVdTA0TORobGdGMXVOTzlrSFQ4UT09>

Meeting ID: 742 9752 0381

Passcode: 660363

By Phone: 1.301.715.8592



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**HDCCW Convention**  
**Diocesan Center**

**April 17, 2021**  
**Harrisburg**

**NCCW National Convention**  
**Crystal Gateway Marriott**

**August 25-28, 2021**  
**Arlington, VA**



## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN



### Consider joining NCCW



As an individual member of the NCCW you will:

-- receive the quarterly print magazine Catholic Woman and monthly e-newsletter, Connect, as well as access to all NCCW publications and resources.

--be eligible to vote at the Annual Convention and to serve on NCCW Commissions and Committees.

--collaborate with Catholic Relief Services, Cross Catholic Outreach, Catholic Charities, Catholic Mobilizing Network, Center of Concern's Education for Justice and many more organizations.

--join women across the country in monthly membership calls on current topics, such as new programs to serve the poor and vulnerable, leadership development, parliamentary procedures and so much more.

--join with women across the country in leadership, spirituality and service and attend the NCCW Annual Convention, and participate in events such as the March for Life.

--receive a 10 percent discount on all merchandise ordered through our online store.

--have access to free resources via Members Only site.

--have access to "Education for Justice" resource.

For more information and to download the membership form, visit [www.nccw.org](http://www.nccw.org)

*-taken from NCCW membership brochure*



## FROM THE EDITORS DESK



**HDCCW Happenings**, which is published quarterly by the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, is being sent to all affiliate presidents/representatives, pastors, ordained deacons, seminarians, diocesan board members, and DCCW friends. Everyone is asked to share the contents with their memberships. Look for publication of the next issue in February. Parish council updates and news items from you are welcome and can be sent to the editor's desk at:

[HDCCWHappenings@gmail.com](mailto:HDCCWHappenings@gmail.com).

**Deadline for submission is January 25, 2021.**

Note that this new email address will be used solely for newsletter correspondence both to send the newsletter and to have individuals sign up to receive it.

We are updating our mailing list. If you wish to receive the **HDCCW Happenings** newsletter via email, or need to update your group contact information at any time, please send an email to the editor's desk as soon as possible.

### Newsletter Staff:

Alycia Laureti (Co-Editor)  
Linda Hartzell (Co-Editor)  
Kathy Kokoski (Managing Editor)

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*The HDCCW Happenings staff  
would like to wish everyone  
a Merry Christmas and a blessed  
New Year! Thank you for your  
support and contributions.*