



HDCCW HAPPENINGS

Volume 2 Issue 1

August 2021



hdccw.webs.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 President's Message,
Board Minutes, Calendar
- 3 Favorite Saint, Congratulations
- 4 Commission Corner
- 5 October is Council Month
- 6 District Updates, Council Insights
- 7 History Corner
Scholarship Award, Rosary Link
- 8 Spirituality Corner
Fall Mini Retreat
- 9 Special Days and Resources



President's Message

HDCCW Board Meeting

August 14, 2021

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer!

This is the start of a new Council year, and the start of the Fall season. This has been a challenging time for everyone, and I am proud to be a part of the Council of Catholic Women.

I don't know about you but whenever the seasons change, particularly summer into fall, I feel overwhelmingly inspired to initiate change, anything that is keeping me stuck in the rut of the now.

As the seasons change, the energy of our surroundings changes, and as energetic beings we reverberate that. Change is important. It keeps us alive and present; it keeps us going. It's a time of focus. The hustle and bustle of the warmer months is dying down and we have more time to focus on change; it's quieter and easier to listen to our inner voice.

One of the things that has motivated me through this challenging time is the idea that we can learn, adapt, and adjust so we emerge stronger. I am proud of each one of you. I ask that you continue to do your best as we navigate these changes together. The HDCCW Board is here to assist you in any way possible. Let us use this change in seasons to move forward, out of the now and into the new.

Be safe and stay healthy. Be assured of my prayers.

-submitted by Alycia Laureti

The following actions were taken by the Board during its First Quarterly Meeting held via Zoom:

- The Board welcomed Jamie Zuvich as its new Public Relations chairperson.
- The Board was updated on the Newsletter and Council Insight initiatives.
- Community Concerns and Legislation/Respect Life Commission reports were shared.
- A report on our 96th annual Convention held on April 17, 2021 was shared. The positive feedback received from attendees made the efforts of all who were involved worthwhile.
- The Scholarship Committee announced the 2021 Scholarship recipients. Details on the winners and information regarding the committee's October fundraiser can be found in this issue.
- We are pleased to announce the adoption of the new HDCCW logo.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Fall Mini Retreat	September 25	St. Catherine Laboure Harrisburg
HDCCW Baby Shower	November 20	Diocesan Center
HDCCW Convention	April 23, 2022	Diocesan Center
Weekend Retreat	June 10-12, 2022	Mount St. Mary's Emmitsburg, MD

- The Board is beginning preparations for the 2022 convention. Details will be included in the November issue of this newsletter.
- Discussions have begun to establish the HDCCW Golden Rose Award. This award is for young women who exemplify leadership in their parish and community.



Favorite Saint

My favorite Saint is Saint Rita of Cascia, the patron of causes that are impossible. Her life exhibited patience, persistence, and above all, love of God. In some ways our lives were similar, and through the intercession of St. Rita, I was able to overcome difficult situations. Her lifelong choice was to cooperate generously with God's grace. I can only hope to imitate her patience in time of difficulty.

In 2009, I had the opportunity to visit the home of St. Rita in Cascia while visiting family in Italy. The pictures were taken in the tiny Umbrian village called Roccaporena. The first is a statue of St. Rita and the second is a Croce or Cross that can be seen from the home protected in the mountains.



-submitted by Alycia Laureti, President



Time and time again I find myself turning to the inspiration of **Saint Teresa of Calcutta**. Mother Teresa's "**7 Steps to a Holier Life**" could be a roadmap for any Council member's life.

1. **Slow down.**
2. **Make some room in your heart for God.**
3. **Open your eyes to Jesus in disguise.**
4. **Put great love into small things.**
5. **Do not tire.**
6. **Remember, it's faithfulness-not success.**
7. **Leave the rest to Jesus.**

-submitted by Linda Hartzell, Vice President

My favorite saint is Saint Therese of Lisieux (The Little Flower of Jesus). Her sense of commitment led her to a profound experience of the love of God and of neighbor. She never had an easy life, but she did live with a great sense of peace and joy. She liked doing things for people, no matter if it was big or small, with great love. Saint Therese had a simple and practical approach to the spiritual life. She vowed to continue sending spiritual roses from heaven to help save souls.

-submitted by Nancy Bauer, Treasurer



Our Lady of Good Counsel Award Recipient 2021



Mary Ellen Good
St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Hanover



Congratulations

Congratulations to Mary Oakes, a member of Saint Joseph Parish in Hanover, for being selected the winner of a free convention for 2022.

Congratulations to Claranna Lacour, a member of Saint Margaret Mary Parish in Harrisburg, for being selected the winner of the Saint Joseph Book.

Commission Corner

Family Concerns

Golden Jubilee Mass: Hats off to the Catholic Witness for the nice article on the 50th Wedding Anniversary Mass held at Good Shepherd Church on July 11. This year, 83 couples and 260 guests attended the celebration. The turnout was so great that a second Mass was held later in the afternoon with Bishop Gainer presiding at both services.

The Year of the Family: We encourage you to continue to promote *The Year of the Family* within your parishes. This initiative of Pope Francis aims to reach families around the world through spiritual, pastoral and cultural proposals that can be implemented within parishes. The year concludes on June 26, 2022 with the 10th World Meeting of Families in Rome. For more info consult: www.usccb.org/topics/marriage-and-family-life-ministries/year-amoris-laetitia-family

Domestic Violence: October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This is a special time to help end the abuse and violence that women, men, girls and boys face every day. Many excellent resources are available on both the NCCW and U.S. Bishops websites that can be used to educate others and promote awareness. For example, see the “*Media Toolkit for October*” found at:

www.usccb.org/topics/marriage-and-family-life-ministries/domestic-violence and “*Mending the Brokenness*” found at: www.nccw.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Mending-The-Brokenness%E2%80%A6with-Real-Love.pdf

- submitted by Terri Gelles and Linda Melenchek
hdccwfamilycommission@gmail.com

Legislation/Respect Life

Hyde Amendment: In a late-night move on August 13th, during consideration of a budget resolution, senators approved in a 50-49 vote an amendment by Sen. James Lankford, R-Oklahoma, that bars federal funds from being used to pay for abortions. The amendment also blocks funding for government programs that discriminate against individual health care professionals or institutions

that object to abortion. Pro-life groups are praising the U.S. Senate for expressing support for this amendment.

Government spending millions of tax dollars to harvest organs from live babies: On August 6th, Life News.com reported that documents obtained by the Center for Medical Progress showed that the government paid millions of dollars to the University of Pittsburgh so it could harvest tissue from “elective” abortions for research. The organs were harvested before the babies were killed and divided up and shipped to other research facilities like the University of Pittsburgh.

Pro-Life student expelled from University of Louisville Medical School: Because he opposes abortion, Austin Clark, a 4th year medical student who was set to graduate in May 2021, the medical school cut his dream of becoming a doctor short by dismissing him on July 20, 2020. According to a lawsuit filed and amended in August 2021, this is not the first abortion controversy related to this School of Medicine. For more information, go to the PA Pro-Life Federation website.

-submitted by Harriet Glass and Colleen Hoover
hdccwlegislativecommission@gmail.com

Community Concerns

On May 6, 2020, we began our Zoom and phone-in **HDCCW weekly Rosary Devotions** on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Sincerest thanks to our HDCCW President, Alycia Laureti, for handling the set-up and for her commitment to host this weekly devotion. We are also very grateful to the dedicated group of ladies who faithfully join us, especially to the ladies who lead a decade regularly. However, we can always use more leaders (even as subs). We warmly invite you to become part of this special devotion to honor Our Lady. Not everyone on the calls leads a decade. It is a wonderful 20 – 25 minutes of coming together weekly to recite the Rosary! Everyone is welcome! Please email hdccwcommunitycommission@gmail.com for any questions or to sign up to lead. **Please see page 7 of this newsletter for logging-in information.**

-continued on page 5

-continued from page 4

Gift cards totaling \$305 was donated at the Convention for the **Infant and Toddler Collection**. That money was sent to Catholic Charities to use for their needs.

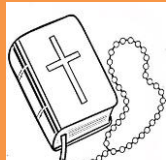
Community Concerns will be working with Legislative and Family Commissions on the **Baby Shower** to be held following our November Board meeting. By that time, those babies we have so lovingly prayed for in the Spiritual Adoption Program will have finally arrived! How special this has been and how connected we feel! Please continue to pray for the babies and their Mothers.

Parish Prayer Shawl Ministries have continued their mission work during COVID, providing prayer shawls, baby blankets, chemo caps and other handmade items they have knitted or crocheted with many prayers for those who will receive the work of their hands.

In response to requests for another **Walk**, we are planning for the next walk to begin October 1 when we will take walkers to sites of several Marian apparitions. Watch for details on our HDCCW website hdccw.webs.com.

There are many opportunities for councils to participate in community service projects. To assist parish presidents with their planning, we have included on page 9 of this newsletter a list of **"Special Days and Resources"** for the months of September, October, and November. We have also included ideas and resources which can be used to implement your plans.

-submitted by Kathy Kokoski and Debbie VanNoy
hdccwcommunitycommission@gmail.com



Pray for our Priests

Recognizing your Parish priest's birthday and ordination anniversary with a card or phone call is a way to let him know that your council is praying for him. Check the website www.hdccw.webs.com for a complete list of these dates.

October is Council Month



Take the opportunity to share the great work we do, or learn more about Council, who we are, what we do, and the difference we make in our Parishes and communities. There is something each and every woman has to offer, even in a small way. As part of this organization, we are joined by our faith, to help those in need and make our voices heard.

Our mission is to support, empower, and educate all Catholic women in promoting Gospel values. There is something for everyone, as our commissions cover every facet of life. We are involved in so many worthy events and projects. Please check out our website: hdccw.webs.com to learn more!

We are proud of all our great accomplishments, but we need your support to continue this important mission. The Council welcomes your talents, thoughts and suggestions. We look forward to you becoming an active part of this faith and joy filled organization!

*Our Lady of Good Counsel,
pray for us.*



District Update

CONEWAGO

Our four parishes (St. Francis Xavier, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Joseph the Worker, and Immaculate Heart of Mary) in the Conewago District are getting back into the swing of things.

Due to an extensive donated Christmas collection, St. Francis Xavier PCCW held a Christmas in July Sale which was very well received and was able to add \$530.00 to their Council's treasury. The first Annual Our Lady of Good Council award was presented by Bishop Gainer to Mary Ellen Good at St. Vincent de Paul parish on August 8th. St. Francis Xavier parish on that same weekend held a Water for Life Collection for Catholic Relief Services.

Going forward, our parishes plan to participate in the Boxes of Joy program, hold our Annual Conewago District Annual Mass and Dinner, participate in parish Coffee and Donuts after Mass at St. Vincent DePaul parish on October 3rd, Council Sunday on October 10th at St. Francis Xavier, distribution of White Ribbons and Prayer Cards on WRAP Sunday, and Gift Fair and Holiday Bazaars. Moving into 2022, we hope to participate in a May Crowning, Mother's Day Pro-Life Rose Sale, and Rummage Sales.

*Nancy M. Newbold, President
Conewago District Council of Catholic Women*

DAUPHIN

The Dauphin District is comprised of the following parishes: Holy Name of Jesus, St. Catherine Laboure, St. Margaret Mary, St. Joan of Arc, and Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Dauphin District has many talented and hardworking affiliates. The District sponsored a Virtual Lenten Retreat in March. The day began with Mass, followed by a morning of wonderful speakers. We are pleased that other day retreats and programs are being planned for the coming year. The Councils live the mission of the CCW- Spirituality, Leadership and Service.

In service, parishes provided Easter meals for many families in need, lunch following a Mass for the sick, delivered meals on wheels, provided take-out meals for Penn National Racetrack Ministry program, and held collections for Lourdeshouse. Their work continues in the community with their support of students by purchasing a Chromebook computer, supporting the School Annual Fund, and holiday treats for students and teachers. Some held successful bake sales, drive-thru dinners, and will be selling baked goods at our Parish festival. Many ladies assisted with cleaning the church pews and floors for parishioners to return to Mass after Covid. The parishes in the district participate in the Boxes of Joy Program each year.

In spirituality, the CCWs have sponsored pet blessings, Divine Mercy Services, and procession for Corpus Christi. There was also a group of women who lead the Rosary before mass. One Council gave a rosary to an 8th grade girl with the highest GPA.

The Councils are to be commended for continuing all their great work while navigating a pandemic. I am proud of all their amazing work and know there are many great works to come!

*Alycia Laureti,, President
Dauphin District Council of Catholic Women*

Council Insights

Please take a moment to view our latest installment with Co-Parliamentarians, Anne Hasting and Marge Schmader.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akl4B4HmY54&t=609s>.

Here are a few tips Anne and Marge stress in their interview regarding running a successful meeting and Council:

Listen deeply. Let go of the theory "we have always done this" and allow yourself to fully listen to others and their ideas.

Take others' perspectives into account. Prioritize what the other person has to say and just listen.

Look for the good. Actively consider the positives in new and innovative ideas! Acknowledge the whole picture.

History Corner Life Members

Life Members are past presidents of HDCCW board.

In addition, according to our by-laws, a woman who has made outstanding contributions in furthering the mission of HDCCW can be voted in as a life member. In the past 30 years, we have voted for two such women.

Currently, Life Members are consultants to each of our districts and consultants to the Leadership, Spirituality, and Service commissions. They also serve as chairpersons in the planning of our annual convention and retreat. Also, a Life Member is acting parliamentarian and chairperson for the nominating committee. Life Members are mentors to current officers and commission chairs. They encourage new member involvement while actively supporting and sharing their experience and their gifts.

-submitted by Patricia Leone, Life Member

2021 HDCCW Scholarship Award

The Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women is pleased to announce the winners of two scholarships. The awards were presented to Catholic senior girls for their freshman year at an accredited college, university or trade school.

Miranda Keller, of Harrisburg, graduated from Bishop McDevitt High School and is a parishioner at Saint Catherine Laboure Church. In August, she will attend Christendom College in Virginia. Her major is Mathematics/Natural Sciences.

Shannon S. Staples, of York, graduated from York Catholic High School and is a parishioner at St. Mary's Church in York. She is attending The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC with a major in Biology.

The HDCCW scholarships are awarded on the basis of scholastic achievement, leadership and character, as well as community and church involvement. The recipients were selected from a field of outstanding candidates who meet the highest academic and community service standards. Since inception of the Scholarship Award Program in 2006, the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women has awarded 36 scholarships to young women throughout the Harrisburg Diocese.



*Light a Brighter Path!
Corda Candle Fundraiser*

The Scholarship Committee is excited to announce a wonderful and easy new fundraiser that will run October 1 through 31. We will be offering **Corda Candles**, American made, hand-crafted, phthalate-free, coconut wax-based candles that burn for 45 hours. Their website states, *"The fruit of love and prayer, each candle draws on the richness of our devotions, liturgy, and tradition, as well as the day to day lives and heavenly patronages of holy men and women."* All orders are placed online and delivered directly to the customer. The Scholarship Committee will receive 15% of every candle ordered. A bulletin announcement and flyer as well as social media images are available to help promote the sale. The link to place an order beginning October 1st is <https://cordacandles.com/?ref=HDCCW21>. Contact bonniefinnerty7@gmail.com for additional information.

*-submitted by Joyce Scott and Bonnie Finnerty
hdccwscholarship@gmail.com*

HDCCW Weekly Rosary Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

"Love Our Lady and make her loved; always recite the Rosary and recite it as often as possible."

-Saint Padre Pio



Join **Zoom Meeting** by clicking on link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87594642343?pwd=cXhK TjhpZ221vQTdsaUVTdjJGL2NzQT09>

Meeting ID: 875 9464 2343 Passcode: 198785

Join by Phone: 1.301.715.8592

Meeting ID: 875 9464 2343 Passcode: 198

Spirituality Corner

Everyday Spiritual Practices 5 Simple Ideas

We are all busy, juggling many things with work, family, and other activities. We are busy taking care of others needs and place our needs on the back burner. However, simple, everyday practices can bring comfort and have positive impacts in our lives. Below we share some simple steps we can take to take care of our spiritual needs:

1. Start the Day with a Short Meditation or Prayer.

Begin your day by meditating or praying. Whether that means reciting a prayer, practicing a quiet moment of mindfulness, or listening to a guided meditation, set aside a few minutes in the morning to connect with yourself.

2. Go for a Walking Meditation- Walking can also become a spiritual practice. It gives a chance to clear the mind and reflect and take in the beauty that God has created.

3. Take Short Spirit Breaks Throughout the Day- This is a difficult task for many, as we get wrapped up in our daily tasks. Regular breaks throughout the day help improve health, wellness, and performance in work. Take time to stretch, get some fresh air and sit in the sunshine for a few minutes, or simply pray- remember it does not have to be anything fancy!

4. Count Your Blessings- We hear this saying time and again, "count your blessings". Take time to reflect on the good in your life.

5. Find a Spiritual Community- One of the reasons religion and spirituality can have so many positive effects is because it tends to bring together a community of people who support each other. This can prove especially powerful in an age of increasingly more isolation and disconnection. Keep connected with the CCW and share the great works with others.

Fall Mini Retreat September 25, 2021



Saint Catherine Laboure Church

4000 Derry Street, Harrisburg
8:15 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Hosted by HDCCW

Please bring a Rosary and a Bible

Fee: \$15.00 includes continental breakfast and lunch
Register by contacting Brenda Wolf at 717-658-8191
or email: brendaangel.musicwithmama@gmail.com

Please make checks payable to:

"Seton District Council of Catholic Women"

Registration deadline is September 15, 2021

Workshop Topics

"Women in the Bible"

"Closer to God through Mary"

"The Role of Women in Evangelization"

Contact Us

**Submission deadline for the next issue is
November 12, 2021.**

Alycia Laureti (Co-Editor)
hdccwpres@gmail.com
(570) 590-1116

Linda Hartzell (Co-Editor)
linda.hartzell@comcast.net
(717) 939-3629

Kathy Kokoski (Managing Editor)
kathy.kokoski@gmail.com
(717) 448-8899

Newsletter submissions
HDCCWHappenings@gmail.com

HDCCW website
<http://hdccw.webs.com>

SPECIAL DAYS AND RESOURCES

September 2021:

- **Preparedness Month** -- Visit our HDCCW website for ideas.
- **Friendship Month**-- Send a “Thinking of You” card to a friend.
- **International Day of Charity (September 5th)** -- Donate to Food Bank.
- **World Cleanup Day (September 18th)** -- Organize a clean-up of your Parish grounds with another organization.

October 2021:

- **October 10 Clergy Appreciation Day** -- Send a card or note to your Pastor.
- **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**-- Check the HDCCW website for resources.
- **Bullying Prevention Month** -- Visit our HDCCW website for ideas
- **National Anti-Pornography Awareness Week (Oct. 25 through Nov. 1) and WRAP Campaign**-- Distribute white ribbons after Mass or include them as part of your membership drive for Council.

November 2021:

- **Veterans Day (November 11th)** -- Send a card to Lebanon Veterans Hospital, 1700 S. Lincoln Avenue, Lebanon, PA 17042, thanking ALL veterans for their service.
- **World Kindness Day (November 13th)** -- Send a “Kind Card” to someone.



* See NCCW store to purchase.

- **Thanksgiving (November 25th)** -- Work with Family on a family activity. Check the HDCCW website for resources.

*For additional details and resources please visit www.hdccw.webs.com.