



HDCCW Happenings

Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Volume 1, Issue 1

August 2020



President's Message

I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful summer weather! While working from home, I have been taking advantage of the little moments watching my niece (Sophia) and nephew (Santino) grow! It is these moments that put it all into perspective.

This has been a challenging time for everyone, and I am proud to be a part of the Council of Catholic Women. Even though we were not able to have our events or meetings, I hope you are staying connected with your members. While personal contact is best, virtual contact is the next best thing.

Now more than ever we need to adapt to change, and while charting this unknown course, we have many tools to make this a little less daunting. I hope you are utilizing all the tools available. We need to keep the lines of communication open and stay connected in new ways. Now is the time to hit the reset button and evaluate new and innovative ways to navigate.

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Diocesan Board Members 2020-2022

OFFICERS

President: Alycia Laureti
Vice President: Linda Hartzell
Secretary: Patricia Fraley
Treasurer: Nancy Bauer

APPOINTMENTS

Administrative Secretary: Hannah Hoover
Parliamentarian: Marge Schmader, Anne Hasting
Historian: Susan Merfa
Convention Treasurer: Diane Roskos

DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

Nancy Newbold (Conewago), Joyce Scott-
(Cumberland Perry), Alycia Laureti (Dauphin),
Anne Hasting (Lebanon), Michele Seebold-
(Northern), Noreen Gochenaur (Northumberland),
Kathy Wingert (Seton), Mary Ann Migash-
(Lancaster contact)

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Alycia Laureti, Marge Schmader, Jeanne Warren,
Anita Bottiger, Colleen Hoover, Brenda Wolf,
Kathy Kokoski, Kathy Wingert, Bonnie Onomastico,
Joyce Scott, Diane Roskos, Leslie Kunisky

COMMISSION CHAIRS

Community: Kathy Kokoski, Debbie VanNoy
Family: Linda Melenchek, Terri Gelles,
Terri Rosenstein (50th Anniversary Mass)
Hispanic Apostolate/Migrant Ministry: Stella Kulp
International: Diane Roskos, Mary Ann Pitek
Legislation/Respect Life: Harriet Glass, Colleen Hoover
Organization: Michele Seebold, Ann Finkle,
Gigi Luto, Marie Bernadette Plum
Spirituality: Brenda Wolf, Barbara Trayor

Spiritual Advisor: Very Rev. Luis R. Rodriguez

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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 excited to relaunch the "HDCCW Happenings" newsletter which contains many new and exciting articles. Our weekly rosary is a wonderful way to come together and pray. I hope you will take the time to join us.

I am proud of each one of you. I ask that you continue to do your best as we navigate the "new normal" together. Be safe and stay healthy. Be assured of my prayers.

Alycia Laureti
HDCCW President



Life Members

The women listed below have served as the President of HDCCW and are considered members for life. We are grateful for their years of service and leadership.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Peggy Clissa | Louise Condon* |
| Anne Hasting | Pat Leone |
| Barbara McCarthy | Kathryn Memmi |
| Susan Merfa | Bonnie Onomastico |
| Betty Schell | Paula Schlager |
| Marge Schmader | Joyce Scott |
| Anne Shepos | Jeanne Warren |
| Heather O'Shea (Honorary) | |

**Louise passed away on July 12, 2020. Grant her, O Lord, eternal rest and may perpetual light shine upon her.*

We asked two Life Members to name their favorite saint.

-Submitted by Peggy Clissa

My Favorite Saint is St. Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face. She is also known as The Little Flower. "My mission – to make God loved – will begin after my death," she said. "I will spend my heaven doing good on earth. I will let fall a shower of roses." I believe that as a young girl, I was encouraged by her message of loving God. It seemed to be such a simple thing to do. Then as maturity arrived, I realized that there was much more to that simple message. To know God better and to love and serve him is a lifetime job. We all need help along our paths and I have relied on St. Therese so

much and she has never let me down. My novena prayer card has a picture of St. Therese and she looks so like my Aunt Margaret (a Dominican nun) --another source of inspiration for me. I wish for everyone to receive a Shower of Roses from St. Therese!

-Submitted by Joyce Scott

My Favorite Saint is St. Katharine Drexel. Over 30 years ago our Parish was founded and named the first parish in the world named in her honor. St. Katharine became my source of strength when I prayed to her for direction. My husband Bob was told he was inoperable for his heart condition. My prayers were answered when I received a call from a complete stranger whose daughter worked one day a year making bows for her friend in a local gift shop. I happened to go into the shop that day and told them my story. Her father referred us to Dr. Garcia in Washington, DC. The first thing I noticed when we walked into his office was a small statue on his desk of St. Jude. Bob's surgery was successful.

HDCCW Board Meeting

August 22, 2020

Mini Minutes

The following actions were taken by the Board on Saturday, August 22, 2020 via Zoom:

- The HDCCW Board welcomes two new members. Leslie Kunisky will serve on the Convention Committee and Barbara Traylor will serve as co-chair for Spirituality Commission.
- Installation of officers will take place at the November 14th Board meeting, assuming we are able to meet in person.
- The Board approved changing the name of The Special Diocesan Activities Fund (SDA) to HDCCW Operating Expense (HOPE). An email outlining all expenses paid from this fund will be sent to District and Parish presidents. Today, the Board approved an annual expense from this fund, a donation of \$1300 to Bishop Gainer. In addition, donations were approved to NCCW (\$500) and San Juan Bautista Church summer program (\$250).
- The Board approved a motion to purchase a Zoom account for video conferencing.
- The Legislation/Respect Life Commission reminds all of us to vote in the General Election on November 3, 2020. Special prayer intentions will be offered from 9/23 to 11/1 to end abortion.

DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT



Dauphin District

-Submitted by Alycia Laureti

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. During these challenging times, it has been difficult for many councils to continue their great work. Their many works include service to the community by providing Easter meals to those in need at Silence of Mary and St. Francis Center, toiletry bags for homeless men in Harrisburg, card shower for a 16-year-old boy who is disabled, and baby showers for mothers in need. Getting the word out about events and activities is crucial in illustrating the work of the CCW. As part of our plan, we launched a Facebook page and brochure in an effort to share and promote activities with the District Councils.

There are many great works to come as we begin to navigate the "new normal."

Prayer Shawl Ministry



-Submitted by Kathy Kokoski and Debbie VanNoy

Although we had to postpone our 9th HDCCW Prayer Shawl Retreat due to the coronavirus, we were able to fulfill a request from *Rachel's Vineyard Retreats of Central PA*. Ladies who registered to attend our retreat were invited to donate a shawl to Rachel's Vineyard where ladies wrap the shawls around them to feel the warmth, love, and prayers that are knitted or crocheted into each one. Even though our retreat was postponed, 40 beautiful prayer shawls found their way to us and have been delivered to Becky Biter, Director of *Rachel's Vineyard Retreats of Central PA*.



Our warmest and most sincere thanks to all those special Prayer Shawl Ministers for their lovely donations!

Commission Corner

Community Concerns

-Submitted by Kathy Kokoski and Debbie VanNoy

Walk to Bethlehem---an imaginary journey

Join us on a 5,832 mile pilgrimage from the Diocesan Center in Harrisburg to Bethlehem. We invite people of all ages and abilities-- women, men, children, family and friends. And you don't have to walk. You can cycle, golf, swim, wheel or run, if that is your thing. Slow and steady will help us reach our destination. Our goal is to arrive by Christmas. You put in your individual miles and we will track our progress as a group, providing a special way to be connected with others in our Diocese. It will be easy and exciting to see how far we have traveled. We will educate you about countries and cultures we pass through on the way.

More information will soon be added to our website hdccw.webs.com, including details and a counter to record your miles. Keep checking for updates!

International Concerns

-Submitted by Diane Roskos and Mary Ann Pitek

We are sponsoring a diocesan-wide **Boxes of Joy** collection again this fall. Please visit hdccw.webs.org for more information on how your parish's CCW can participate.

Legislation/Respect Life

-Submitted by Harriet Glass and Colleen Hoover

July 24, 2020: House Democrats passed a massive spending bill to force Americans to fund Planned Parenthood abortion. In the bill is an inclusion for the "poison pill" that is given at the clinic. This legislation is not likely to pass the Senate. President Trump has promised to veto it.

July 28, 2020: David Daleiden, a pro-life advocate, asks California Superior Court to dismiss bogus criminal charges against him for exposing Planned Parenthood sale of aborted baby body parts and negotiating prices for them. He pleaded not guilty. The next day the charges were dropped.

Where do the Presidential Candidates Stand on Life Issues? President Trump supports protecting taxpayer dollars from funding abortion. Joe Biden promises funds to organizations that promote or perform abortions overseas. Trump believes Roe vs. Wade should be reversed. Biden would allow abortion for any reason throughout pregnancy. Trump will appoint Supreme Court Justices who strictly interpret the Constitution. Biden would appoint only pro-abortion Justices.

September Retreat Postponed

Beginning in February, preparations were being made for the HDCCW Board to host a one-day retreat scheduled for September. The theme was to be "Joined in Our Faith" with Mass and workshops centered on women and their role in the Bible.

However, the health and safety of attendees was our top priority in these challenging times. With great sadness, the Board decided in July to postpone this event. We look forward to offering the women of the Diocese an opportunity to enjoy this faith-filled and prayerful day in the future.

National Council of Catholic Women

from August 2020 issue of NCCW "The Connect"

National Convention postponed

"I would normally be starting to pack for Convention, but instead I am thinking about ways to help bridge the financial gap we have because of the loss of revenue at what usually is our biggest fundraiser...While we are working on cutting as many expenses as possible and have put a hold on the purchasing of items, we still will feel a shortfall.

A letter was recently sent to all members asking for your help in this regard. I realize that many events were not held, but if your Council has funds that need to be distributed we would be grateful. I want to thank you in advance for always being so kind and generous."

Jean Kelly, NCCW President

"During the COVID 19 lockdown, between March 19-24, crime fell by 25% but domestic violence - a crime committed in private in people's homes - increased by 5%. Within the next two months, it increased up to 20% in some states. Stay at home orders, unemployment, financial struggles all lead to stress, an increased factor for domestic abuse. Please join NCCW on September 16, 2020 Member Call for a discussion led by Kathy Bonner discussing Domestic Violence and preparations for Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October 2020)."

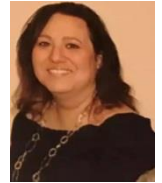
Visit www.nccw.org for call-in details.

Pat Voorhees, NCCW President-Elect



Celebrating achievements

Our Diocesan President, **Alycia Laureti**, has been selected to be the next NCCW Philadelphia Province Director, a well-deserved honor. Our prayers support her as she takes on this leadership role.



A recent article published in Catholic Digest and written by Melanie Rigney spotlights **Alycia** as a "next generation" member of NCCW who has a vision for council. She said, "I believe in what we do. It's important for us to keep the lines of communication open among all women, among all generations."

Two of our HDCCW Board members, **Stella Kulp** and **Barb McCarthy**, are to be congratulated on receiving *2020 Lorica Awards* from Bishop Ronald Gainer. The award is given annually to lay members of the Diocesan Church who have exemplified themselves in service to their parishes and local community.

The Board is pleased to announce that **Natalie Torta**, a parishioner at St. Catherine Laboure Parish in Harrisburg, is the 2020 recipient of our annual Scholarship award of \$1000. The scholarship is awarded on the basis of scholastic achievement, leadership and character as well as community and church involvement. She is to be commended for her academic achievements at Bishop McDevitt High School, her involvement in the community and her faithful service at St. Catherine Laboure. This fall Natalie will be attending Mount Saint Mary's University. Since the inception of the Scholarship Award Program in 2006, the HDCCW has awarded 34 scholarships to young women throughout the Harrisburg Diocese.

Olivia Acri, a student at Central Dauphin High School, was the Art Cover Contest Winner of \$100 for the Convention program. She attends Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Harrisburg.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

HDCCW Convention
Diocesan Center

April 17, 2021
Harrisburg

NCCW National Convention
Crystal Gateway Marriot

August 25-28, 2021
Arlington, VA



ASK THE PARLIAMENTARIANS

-Submitted by Marge Schmader & Anne Hasting

We hope to give specific information for all the members who serve on the board of the *Diocese, District, and the Parish in any capacity.*

What are the responsibilities of the president on all levels?

A President:

- Should read the bylaws and standing rules to be sure that the organization is following them
- Needs to be familiar with her job description; if there is not a written one, she should begin to assemble one by consulting with recent past presidents for their input
- Appoints qualified members to serve on her board
- Monitors the activities of the board members to make sure they are doing their respective jobs
- Gathers materials and takes workshops that will help her to operate efficiently and fairly
- Find a parliamentarian team to assist her and the board with running an effective meeting
- Serve as a liaison to other organizations within the parish, district, or diocese.

MEET THE BOARD

Anita Bottiger

My name is Anita Bottiger. I have been involved with CCW for over 20 years. It started at the parish level when I was asked to be treasurer, which led to 8 years of managing the money. I was then asked to be treasurer for the district, which I held for 4 years.

The job of co-chair for SDA Fund came up on the diocesan level of CCW and I accepted that position which led to chairperson. I was then elected as treasurer of HDCCW. Presently, I am on the Convention Committee serving as Co-Chair of District Coordinators.

HDCCW OPERATING EXPENSE (HOPE) (formerly SDA Fund)

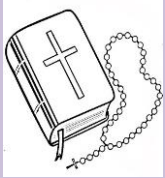
-Submitted by Nancy Bauer

The HDCCW depends on the generosity of parish councils to cover our operating expenses. Parishes are annually asked to donate or have fund raising activities for this purpose. Some of the annual expenses incurred by HDCCW include insurance, office supplies, NCCW dues, convention expenses, 50th Anniversary Celebration, Prayer Shawl retreat, Art Contest, stipends for our President, Spiritual Advisor and Executive Secretary, and a gift to Bishop Gainer.

June Retreat Memories at

Mount St. Mary's Emmitsburg, Maryland





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 7:00pm either via Zoom or by phone.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74297520381?pwd=dGVVdTA0T0RobGdGMXVOTzlrSFQ4UT09>

Meeting ID: 742 9752 0381 Passcode: 660363

By Phone: 1.301.715.8592
Meeting ID: 742 9752 0381 Passcode: 660363

15 PROMISES to Those Who Pray the Rosary

Revealed by Our Lady to St. Dominic and Blessed Alan de la Roche

1. Whosoever shall faithfully serve me by the recitation of the Rosary shall receive signal graces.

2. I promise my special protection and the greatest Graces to all those who shall recite the Rosary.

3. The Rosary shall be a powerful armor against Hell, it will destroy vice, decrease sin, and defeat heresies.

4. It will cause good works to flourish; it will obtain for souls the abundant Mercy of God; it will withdraw the hearts of men [and women] from the love of the world and its vanities, and will lift them to the desire for Eternal Things. Oh, that souls would sanctify themselves by this means.

5. The soul which recommends itself to me by the recitation of the Rosary shall not perish.

6. Whosoever shall recite the Rosary devoutly, applying himself [herself] to the consideration of its Sacred Mysteries shall never be conquered by misfortune. God will not chastise him in His justice, he shall not perish by an unprovoked death; if he be just he shall remain in the Grace of God, and become worthy of Eternal Life.

7. Whoever shall have a true devotion for the Rosary shall not die without the Sacraments of the Church.

8. Those who are faithful to recite the Rosary shall have during their life and at their death the Light of God and the plenitude of His Graces; at the moment of death they shall participate in the Merits of the Saints in Paradise.

9. I shall deliver from Purgatory those who have been devoted to the Rosary.

10. The faithful children of the Rosary shall merit a high degree of Glory in Heaven.

11. You shall obtain all you ask of me by recitation of the Rosary.

12. All those who propagate the Holy Rosary shall be aided by me in their necessities.

13. I have obtained from my Divine Son that all the advocates of the Rosary shall have for intercessors the entire Celestial Court during their life and at the hour of death.

14. All who recite the Rosary are my sons, and brothers of my only Son, Jesus Christ.

15. Devotion to my Rosary is a great sign of predestination.

From the Editor's 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 late November. The newsletter will include spotlights on other districts, commission activities, and board members. Parish council updates and news items from you are welcome and can be sent to the editor's desk at:

HDCCWHappenings@gmail.com.

Deadline for submission is November 1, 2020.

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 editors as soon as possible.

*"In this life we cannot do great things. We can only do small things with great love."
-Saint Teresa of Calcutta*



Prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel

God of heavenly wisdom, you have given us Mary, Mother of Jesus, to be our guide and counselor. Grant that we may always seek her motherly help in this life and so enjoy her blessed presence in the life to come. O Mother of Good Counsel, patroness of the national Council of Catholic Women, intercede for us, that we may be wise, courageous and loving leaders of the Church.

Help us, dear mother, to know the mind of Jesus, your son. May the Holy Spirit fill us with reverence for God's creation and compassion for all God's children. May our labors of love on earth enhance the reign of God and may God's gifts of faith and living hope prepare us for the fullness of the world to come. Amen.



Contact Us



Thanks to all contributors to our first issue.

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