



HDCCW HAPPENINGS

Volume 2 Issue 2 November 2021



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President's Message

Dear Sisters in Christ,

I hope this message finds you happy and healthy.

As another year draws to a close most of you will be in the midst of preparations for this holiday season with your family. This is a very special time of the year as it gives people a break from the hustle and bustle of our everyday life. It provides many of us with some time to enjoy the company of family and friends.

I urge each and every one of you to reflect on these special moments. Take time to pause and count our blessings and remember to embrace those who enrich our lives. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the tremendous effort you put in to make our Council a success. To you the members, my sincere appreciation for your support of the Council and the pride you demonstrate at being members of such a wonderful organization. You are the source of strength of the Council, and your hard work makes us who we are.

At this moment, when we stop to celebrate and reflect, I am deeply grateful for each one of you and all that you do to make Council a success. May this holiday season bring you and your families joy and laughter to last a lifetime.

I wish you and your family a lovely Thanksgiving, and a holiday filled with peace & love... and a New Year rich with blessings.

With many thanks and appreciation!

-submitted by Alycia Laureti



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

HDCCW Convention	April 23, 2022	Diocesan Center
Weekend Retreat	June 10-12, 2022	Mount St. Mary's Emmitsburg, MD

Spiritual Advisor's Message Rev. Edward J. Keating

Dear friends,

This time of year is extremely busy and many demands are placed upon all of us. At the same time it is such a beautiful time of the year. What can we do to help us make this time more festive for all of us? Smile more!!! Mother Teresa said the first thing she teaches her nuns is to smile. She said smiling is a universal language that everyone understands and is the beginning of love. We normally think of smiling as a response to someone or something that brings us joy or laughter. But it can also be a conscious and intentional choice.

Smiling helps us live longer. The happier you are - generally the longer one will live. Smiling helps create a happy and positive mood which is an integral part of a healthy lifestyle.

- Smiling relieves stress. We all know what stress can do to us - physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Science has proven that smiling, even when not in the mood, actually reduces stress. Sometimes we have to fake a smile - but that too can produce positive effects.
- Smiling elevates mood. Next time you are feeling down try putting on a smile. The physical act of smiling activates your brain and releases chemicals that actually boost your mood. It is like a natural antidepressant.
- Smiling is contagious. Not only can smiling elevate your mood, but when you smile at someone it actually elevates their mood. What a great thing to try in a crowded store.
- Smiling boosts the immune system and lowers blood pressure. This is due to the fact that smiling helps us to relax. The next time you have to take your blood pressure - smile.
- Smiling makes us attractive. People are actually drawn to people who smile. It can also make us look more youthful - because of the muscles we have to use in order for us to smile

So as we enter into the Advent and Christmas Season, may we all smile more!! Many Blessings to all of you.

Father Ted

HDCCW Board Meeting

November 20, 2021

The following actions were taken by the Board during its Second Quarterly Meeting:

- The theme for the 96th Annual Convention is **“Be God’s Hands on Earth.”** The convention will take place Saturday, April 23, 2022. Details will be sent in February and will also be posted on the website at <https://hdccw.webs.com/hdccw-convention>. Check out the website for details on our Keynote Speaker!
- Packets for the 2022 HDCCW Scholarship are now available on our website at <https://hdccw.webs.com/hdccw-scholarship>. Check the website for the application deadline.
- HDCCW is looking for girls who are leaders in their parish and community. We would like to recognize them with Golden Rose Award. See page 9 for details.
- HDCCW OLGC Award Packets are now available on our website at <https://hdccw.webs.com/olgc-award>. The deadline to submit nominations is March 4, 2022.
- A leadership workshop is being planned for Spring 2022. This is for those currently serving or planning to serve in a leadership position within the CCW. More details will be coming in the new year.
- We are launching a new resource page for Parish Presidents. Visit <https://hdccw.webs.com/resources-for-presidents> for important information on dues, events, programs and resources to help you lead your councils.

District Corner

Seton District

Seton District consists of three parishes, St. Andrew the Apostle, Waynesboro; Corpus Christi, Chambersburg and St. Mary’s, Fairfield. They have been very busy renewing their ministries after a long period of inactivity.

St. Andrew’s has elected new officers. On June 6th they hosted an Ordination Reception for Fr. Peter Rettig. On September 8th both St. Andrew’s and Corpus Christi celebrated The Blessed Mother’s Birthday in their parishes. St. Andrew’s held a Women’s Day of Reflection on October 30th and some members attended the Diocesan Women’s Conference on October 16th. They held their Christmas Bazaar on November 6th. Their Prayer Shawl Group resumed on November 9th. They are gearing up for their Annual 40 Hours Devotions and Dinner on November 28 -30. That will be followed by their CCW Christmas Party on December 3rd. They have also formed a new Outreach Committee to strengthen the bond between their CCW and parishioners.

On May 16th Corpus Christi CCW hosted a reception for Damon Tritle for his Ordination as a Deacon. On September 28th they held a wonderful Wine, Cheese and Chocolate social. It was well attended and enjoyed by all. Speaker Deb Walter gave an inspiring presentation about Martha and Mary. The CCW held a very successful Holiday Craft Fair on November 6th and will soon begin planning their events and activities for 2022, including a Lenten Afternoon of Reflection. Under the mission of spirituality, they continue to sponsor *“Growing In Faith”*, a monthly publication that is included in the parish bulletin.

- submitted by Kathy Wingert, Seton District President



Commission Corner

Family Concerns

Children have been uniquely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. While youngsters appear to experience milder physical symptoms than older individuals, they are more likely to be disrupted from sudden changes in routine and relationships. It's important to educate children about the pandemic regardless of how young. Here are a few tips to help:

- **Simple reassurance.** Remind children that doctors are taking steps to keep everyone safe.
- **Give them control.** It's a good time to remind your children of what they can do to help—washing their hands often, coughing into a tissue, and getting enough sleep.
- **Watch for signs of anxiety.** Children may get cranky, be clingier, have trouble sleeping, or seem distracted. Try to stick to your normal routines. Download the free booklet “A Kid’s Guide to Coronavirus” on the website <https://www.apa.org/pubs/magination/covid-19-help-kids-cope> .
- **Monitor their media.** Keep young children away from frightening images they may see on TV, social media and other sources. Talk to older children about what they are hearing on the news and correct any misinformation.

Remember to PRAY as a family to help alleviate worry. The Family Concerns Commission is developing a Quarantine Bingo to help with isolation in the winter. Stay tuned for more information!

- submitted by Terri Gelles and Linda Melenchek
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Legislation/Pro-Life



The Supreme Court will hold hearings starting on December 1st concerning the case of Dobbs vs. Jackson Women’s Organization. The case involves Mississippi’s protective law banning abortion at 15 weeks. The PA Pro-Life Federation has filed an Amicus Brief in response to this case. It states that the courts should return abortion policy-making to the state legislative branches. A decision by the court is not expected until June.

The results of the State Judicial election on November 2nd are still unofficial, but the Pro-Life candidates for Supreme and Superior Courts seem to have the edge. Recount results for Commonwealth Court will be published after the recount is completed on November 24th. All four Pro-Life judges up for retention won another 10 years in this position.

- submitted by Colleen Hoover
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*“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.”
-Proverbs 16:3*

Spirituality Corner

The Advent Wreath



The Advent wreath is a circular garland of evergreen branches representing eternity. On that wreath, four or five candles are typically arranged. Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ. During the season of Advent, one candle on the wreath is lit each Sunday as a part of the Advent services. Families or other small groups of people give devotional readings while lighting the candles on the Advent wreath, adding a meaningful dimension to worship. Many families repeat the tradition at home as a way of deepening and making spiritual preparations more intimate and personal.

In Western Christianity, Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, or the Sunday which falls closest to November 30, and lasts through Christmas Eve, or December 24.

The symbolism of Advent Wreath Candles

Set on the branches of the Advent wreath are four candles: three purple candles and one pink candle. A more modern tradition is to place a white candle in the center of the wreath. As a whole, these colored advent candles represent the coming of the light of Christ into the world. Each week of Advent on Sunday, a particular Advent candle is lit. Catholic tradition states that the four candles, representing the four weeks of Advent, each stand for one thousand years, to total the 4,000 years from the time of Adam and Eve until the birth of the Savior.

Prophecy Candle represents hope in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

On the first Sunday of Advent, the first purple candle is lit. It is typically called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, primarily Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ:

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14)

Bethlehem Candle represents love.

On the second Sunday of Advent, the second purple candle is lit. Some traditions call this the "Bethlehem Candle," symbolizing Christ's manger:

"This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:12, NIV)

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Shepherds Candle represents joy.

On the third Sunday of Advent the pink, or rose-colored candle, is lit. It is customarily called the "Shepherds Candle."

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."(Luke 2:8–11, NIV)

Angels Candle represents peace.

The fourth and last purple candle, often called the "Angels Candle," is lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent.

"Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (Luke 2:13–14, NIV)

Christ Candle represents the life of Christ that has come into the world.

On Christmas Eve, the white center candle is lit. This candle is called the "Christ Candle." The color white represents purity. Christ is the sinless, spotless, pure Savior. Those who receive Christ as Savior are washed of their sins and made whiter than snow:

"Come now, let us settle the matter," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool." (Isaiah 1:18, NIV)

Advent for Children and Families

Celebrating with an Advent wreath during the weeks before Christmas is an excellent way for Christian families to keep Christ at the center of Christmas, and for parents to teach their children the true meaning of Christmas.

Source: Fairchild, Mary. "What Is the Advent Wreath?" Learn Religions, Sep. 7, 2020, learnreligions.com/what-is-the-advent-wreath-700451.

See below for links to Advent Family Activities:

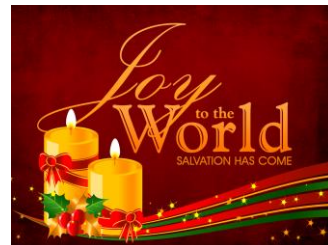
<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/advent/activities/advent-activities-for-all/>
<https://www.catholicicing.com/10-meaningful-advent-traditions-for-catholic-families-with-little-to-no-prep-work/>

Christmas Prayer

Advent always begins on the Sunday closest to November 30th, the feast day of St. Andrew, the Apostle. Is this just a nice coincidence, or is there deeper significance?

St. Andrew was the very first disciple called by Our Lord. Andrew is the one who convinced his brother, Simon, to become Jesus' disciple. It is a wonderful way to enter the Advent season which is marked by a time of anticipation, penance, and prayer. It is piously believed that whoever recites the St. Andrew Christmas Novena Prayer fifteen times each day from the feast of St. Andrew celebrated on November 30th until Christmas Eve will obtain the favor requested.

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God! to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.



Council Insights

Please take a moment to view our two (2) latest installments of Council Insights. The first link features Board members Susan Merfa and Linda Melenchek who discuss their faith journeys. The second one features Board members Alycia Laureti and Jeanne Warren discussing the evolution of Council. Enjoy!

<https://youtu.be/uSH1gDL59LQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kdrf-xoW54A>

History Corner

HDCCW CONVENTIONS

When I first moved to Harrisburg area in 1983, the annual HDCCW Conventions were held at hotels in different areas of our diocese. Each one of our 9 districts was on a rotating schedule to chair the convention. Our Diocesan Board meeting was held at the hotel on a Sunday followed by a dinner. District committees and HDCCW Board members set up the tables needed the next day. Hotels charged for tables, microphones, and other A.V equipment. Our liturgy was held in a separate room with vestments and vessels for Mass delivered the previous evening. Flowers and supplies were brought to the hotel. One year, one of our district moderators (a priest), did the large flower arrangements. The convention concluded with a gala on Monday with everyone dressed in their finest. Bishop Datillo told me in 2000 "Next year, we WILL use the new Diocesan Center." The HDCCW Convention was the first large affair held at the Diocesan Center. What a blessing that everything could be available in one building with the assistance of an enthusiastic staff.

Our programs have been consistent over the years. We have enjoyed a variety of keynote speakers, workshops, skits, demonstrations and even a health fair. Our Scholarship Committee has chaired a silent basket raffle which the women really like. During the pandemic, we hosted a virtual convention using technology available at the Diocesan Center.

Let's hope we can celebrate the end of a pandemic and gather together on Saturday, April 23, 2022 for HDCCW's 96th Convention.

-submitted by Patricia Leone, Life Member

Meet a Member

Audra Shaub

I have been married for 26 years and have a daughter in her sophomore year of college. I have a full time job working for Novitas Solutions, Inc.

I have been a member of St Catherine Laboure Parish for 20 years. I served on the St. Catherine Laboure School Board for three years. I joined the parish CCW about 5 years ago. Two years ago I assisted with the International Commission at the parish level. Last year I took on the role of chairperson for the International Commission. This year I was asked to be co-chair for the International commission at the Diocesan level. I enjoy doing the Boxes of Joy program. It is a simple thing that brings great joy to so many children that would otherwise get nothing at Christmas.

Along with being a member of the Diocesan Board, I am on the Board of Directors for the Harrisburg Christian Performing Arts Center (HCPAC), where I serve on the development committee. We plan several yearly fundraisers for the Arts Center. My personal hobbies are reading, relaxing with friends, and spending time with my family.

Saint Margaret Mary CCW Provides Water!

The National Council of Catholic Women has partnered with Catholic Relief Services to help develop safe and sustainable water sources in under-developed countries. Per the WFL website, their current project is in Uganda.

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Council of Catholic Women passes around a "Water For Life" can at each monthly meeting and we collect spare change for "Water For Life". We reached our goal of \$500.00 at our October meeting and will be sending a check for \$500.00 to Catholic Relief Services for a water tank. Previously, we sent Catholic Relief Services a check for \$500.00 for a water tank in June 2019.

-submitted by Leslie Kunisky, Parish President



Boxes of Joy Report International Concerns

I know many of you have been waiting to hear how our HDCCW collection went. This year 22 parishes helped us achieve a grand total of 1966 boxes.

The top parishes were: St. Theresa (326); St. Joan of Arc (194); Corpus Christi (162); Seven Sorrows (150); St. Francis Xavier (126); St. Katherine Drexel (116); Our Lady of Lourdes (96); Sacred Heart Cornwall (93); St. Catherine Laboure (84); St. Joseph Danville (81); St. Monica's (79); and St. Margaret Mary (75).

Thank you also to St Bernadette and Our Lady of Good Counsel, Our Lady Help of Christians, Holy Infant, St. Joseph the Worker, St. Vincent Hanover, Sacred Heart Lewisburg, Assumption of the BVM Lebanon, Our Lady of Fatima Mission, and Holy Name of Jesus for participating. Every box that was donated will make a lasting impression on the child who receives it.

A special thanks to Audra Shaub who lifted those 50-60 pound boxes like they were nothing. Welcome, Audra, to the Diocesan Box of Joy team. Thank you to Bishop Gainer who blessed the boxes for us.

Once again, thank you from the bottom of my heart for all of your kind words and help when you dropped off your collection. God bless you for your kind and giving hearts.

(excerpts from an article submitted by Mary Ann Wayne)



Blessing Ceremony at Seven Sorrows, Nov. 7, 2021

Updates

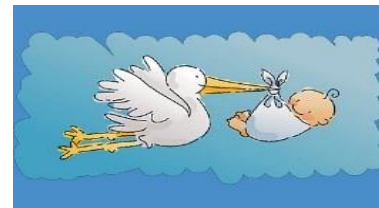
Fall Retreat—"Joined in Our Faith"

HDCCW hosted its first one-day retreat on Saturday, September 25th at Saint Catherine Laboure Church. Fifty-five women from the Diocese attended the event which started with Holy Mass and recitation of the Rosary. Informative workshops, discussions, singing, and good food were all part of this spiritually fulfilling day. Thanks to all who attended and to the women of the Board who helped make the day a success!

CORDA Candle Sale

The October candle sale, sponsored by the Scholarship Committee, was a great fund-raiser earning \$445.00 to be used for our HDCCW Scholarship Fund. Thanks to all who participated.

HDCCW Spiritual Adoption Program Baby Shower



"It's my Birthday! Thank you so much for your prayers. Because you prayed for me, I got the best of all gifts."

LIFE!

Over 100 babies in danger of abortion were lovingly prayed for everyday during these past 9 months of the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's Spiritual Adoption Program. We celebrated the end of the program with a Baby Shower at the Diocesan Center on Saturday, November 20th, and collected an abundance of baby items which were donated to Pro-Life organizations in our Diocese. They were overwhelmed by your generosity.

-submitted by Kathy Kokoski and Debbie VanNoy
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Golden Rose Award

*An invitation to all
parishes in the Diocese*



The HDCCW Board invites you to nominate outstanding young women from your parish whose lifestyle exemplifies the mission statement of the Council of Catholic Women – Spirituality, Leadership and Service.

The intent of the award is to recognize young women in the Diocese who have made a significant contribution to their parish and community in service and leadership. A nominee for the award should be a member of the Harrisburg Diocese who:

- is a high school student in grades 9-12
- shows leadership
- portrays spirituality and reflects the Gospel values in her everyday life
- goes above and beyond in a service project when compared to her peers
- is a practicing Catholic who attends Sunday Mass regularly
- is a member of a Parish
- has served as an outstanding role model of service to others
- has abided by the mission of HDCCW.

Nomination packets can be found on our website at <https://hdccw.webs.com/golden-rose-award>
The deadline for nominations is **March 4, 2022.**

The 1st Annual Golden Rose Awards will be presented at the HDCCW Convention on April 23, 2022.

Contact Us

**Submission deadline for the next issue is
January 17, 2022**

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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=cXhKTjhpZ2Z1vQTdsUUVtdjJlL2NzQT09>
Meeting ID: 875 9464 2343 Passcode: 198785

Join by Phone: 1.301.715.8592
Meeting ID: 875 9464 2343 Passcode: 198

SPECIAL DAYS AND RESOURCES

December 2021:

- [December 4th National Cookie Day](#)
- [December 25th Christmas Day](#)
- [December 26th National Thank You Note Day](#)
- [December 31st New Year's Eve](#)

January 2022:

- [January 16th-22nd Happiness Week](#)
- [Human Trafficking Month](#)

February 2022

- [American Heart Month](#)
- [February 4th Wear Red Day](#)
- [February 14th Valentine's Day](#)