



# HDCCW HAPPENINGS

Volume 2 Issue 3 February 2022



[hdccw.webs.com](http://hdccw.webs.com)

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## President's Message

Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer  
Bishop of Harrisburg

Greeting Ladies,

It is hard to believe that we still find ourselves amid a pandemic. We have given up so much and have learned to adapt to change.

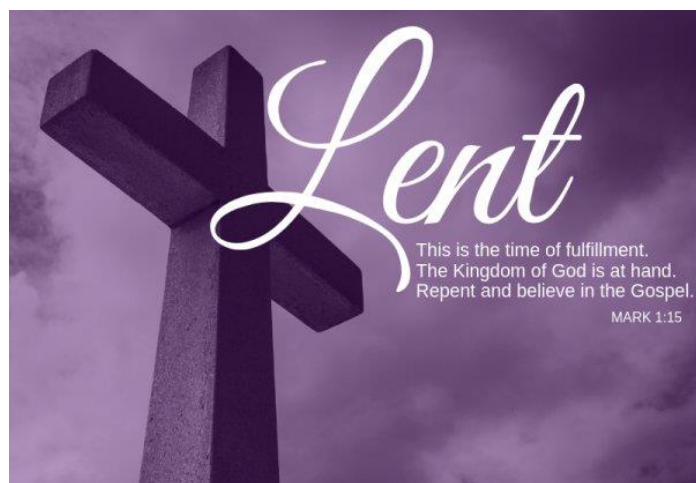
What else can we give? As we prepare to enter the season of Lent, many are thinking of what they will give up this year. I encourage all of you to take this Lent as a chance to redirect your attention.

This Lent rather than giving up the usual chocolate and ice cream, let's return to the fundamentals, and turn toward Jesus and the Gospel. Set aside some time each day and reflect on the word of God in scripture and set aside some time to talk and renew our relationship with God in prayer.

Rather than giving something up, do something. Focus your attention on the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. In service, let us care for our neighbors, especially those struggling. Let us make Lent 2022 a kinder Lent.

May this season of Lent bring you closer to God, and bring love and peace to you and your family. I wish you and your loved ones a blessed Easter. I am truly blessed because of all of you!

*-submitted by Alycia Laureti*



Dear Members of the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women,

Thank you for this opportunity to extend to you my heartfelt wishes and prayers for a successful 2022 for the Council and all its members. Your faithfulness, service, and good works throughout our Diocese, especially during these continued times of pandemic, demonstrate your generosity and your commitment to being true servants of the Church.

When I think of the work of the HDCCW, I am reminded of this verse from Proverbs: "She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy. She is not concerned for her household when it snows—all her charges are doubly clothed." (Proverbs 31:20-21) In this verse, we are reminded that women respond to our Lord's call to help those in need, without asking for anything in return. As I think of the work of the HDCCW and the work of its members, I see that you are responding and fulfilling this verse through your Diocesan and parish level involvement in a number of programs and ministries. I am forever grateful to know that you are offering this hand of friendship and help to those in need in our communities.

I would also like to take a moment to speak on *For a Synodal Church: communion, participation, and mission*. Our entire Church has been called to participate in this Synod – clergy, religious and laity – in order to listen, dialogue, discern and pray. The goal through the Synod is to learn from each other and grow closer to the Lord and His Church. As a member of the HDCCW, you are actively involved in the life and work of your local parish community and can provide valuable insights that will aid the Synod process. I pray you will consider sharing your thoughts through our virtual auditorium, where you can express your prayers, hopes, and struggles related to our Church.

The virtual auditorium can be found at:  
[www.hbgdiocese.org/synod-questionnaire](http://www.hbgdiocese.org/synod-questionnaire).

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As we continue to work together to address the many challenges we face as a Diocese, I thank the members of the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women for their support for our clergy, for our Church teachings and for our Diocese.

May the Lord continue to richly bless you and the work of the Council of Catholic Women.

*Sincerely in Christ,  
Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer  
Bishop of Harrisburg*



## Mark your calendars

Ash Wednesday	March 2, 2022	
Easter Sunday	April 17, 2022	
HDCCW Convention	April 23, 2022	Diocesan Center Harrisburg, PA
HDCCW Retreat	June 10-12, 2022	Mount St. Mary's Emmitsburg, MD

## SAVE THE DATE

### 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

*Harrisburg Diocesan  
Council of Catholic Women*



*Theme: "Be God's Hands on Earth"*

*Saturday, April 23, 2022  
Diocesan Center*

Both in-person and virtual options will be available.  
Check [www.hdccw.webs.com](http://www.hdccw.webs.com) for details.

## HDCCW Board Meeting

February 5, 2022

The following actions were taken by the Board during its Third Quarterly Meeting at the Diocesan Center in Harrisburg:

- **The Board selected winners for the Art Contest.**  
The winners will be announced at the Convention. The 1<sup>st</sup> place winner's drawing will be the cover for the convention program.

- **Save the Date: HDCCW Leadership Workshop,**  
Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-2:00 pm at the Diocesan Center. Details to follow.

- **Reminder:** Award deadlines are:

**Golden Rose Award-** March 4<sup>th</sup>  
**OLGC Award-** March 4<sup>th</sup>  
**Scholarship Award-** March 31<sup>st</sup>

Application forms can be found at <http://hdccw.webs.com>

- **HDCCW Convention-** April 23<sup>rd</sup> Details to follow.

## Happy Valentine's Day



**Love** is God shining through you.

**Love** is listening with your heart.

**Love** is taking the time, even when you don't have the time.

**Love** is believing in the good, the true, and the beautiful.

**Love** is being there.

**Love** is the light of the world.

## Commission Corner

### Family Concerns

With two more months of winter ahead perhaps you find yourself facing the winter doldrums. If so, read on for a short list of activities you and your family can engage in to help beat those seasonal blues.

- Virtual Field Trips: Don't let COVID restrictions or cancelled flights stop you from traveling to places near and far. From the comfort of home take a tour of Ellis Island, the September 11 Museum, or join Rick Steves' to various European countries. All of these and more are found on [Virtual Field Trip](#).
- Family Movie Night. Get the popcorn ready and invite the grandkids or friends over for a good movie. For a list of recommended titles visit <https://formationreimagined.org/family-formation/>. If you have Comcast TV with On Demand you'll find many free family movies there.
- Get Moving with Music. Nothing beats the blues like music. Turn on the radio or pop in your favorite CD and move at your own pace.
- Break the Ice! Have fun and get to know each other better with a list of questions such as "If you could spend five minutes with a person from the past who would it be?" "What was your first memory?" or start a conversation with the list found [here](#).

**Mark Your Calendar** for World Marriage Day on Sunday, February 13, 2022 and National Marriage Week observed from February 7 – 14. These dates provide an opportunity to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family. This year's theme is "Called to the Joy of Love."

For ways to celebrate World Marriage Day visit: <https://hdccw.webs.com/family> and click [World Marriage Day 2022](#).

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

### Community Concerns

#### HDCCW WALK TO APPARITION SITES OF OUR LADY THOUGHTOUT EUROPE

The logo features the word "Welcome" in a large, elegant, cursive script font. Below it, the word "HOME" is written in a smaller, all-caps, serif font. The entire logo is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

We're glad you have returned from your journey. We hope you enjoyed some of the most beautiful apparition sites of the Blessed Virgin Mary, prayed and learned about these sites. Congratulations! Together you have traveled 13,616 beautiful and spiritual miles!

If you did not join us for this Walk but would like to see the sites where our Walk took us, please visit our website at <https://hdccw.webs.com/hdccw-walk-to-apparition-sites-of-our-lady-throughout-europe> and click on HDCCW WALK TO APPARITION SITES OF OUR LADY THOUGHTOUT EUROPE.

*We hope you will join us on our next journey, wherever our Blessed Mother leads us.*



A sample of the items donated at the Baby Shower in November. Thank you once again!

-submitted by Kathy Kokoski and Debbie VanNoy  
[hdccwcommunitycommission@gmail.com](mailto:hdccwcommunitycommission@gmail.com)  
-continued on page 8

*“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.”*

*-1Cor 13:4*

## Council Insights



Please take a moment to view the next installment of Council Insights. The interview features International Concerns Board members Diane Roskos and Audra Shaub along with Mary Ann Wayne. They discuss the Christmas project “Boxes of Joy.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzglCjTghsw&t=13s>

## Meet a Board Member

### Colleen Hoover

After being a member of Saint Catherine Laboure Church since 1978, I joined the PCCW when it was reorganized in 2011. I became involved in the Legislative/Pro Life Commission for Saint Catherine and eventually was appointed Chairman of the Dauphin District and Co-Chair of the HDCCW Legislative/Pro -Life Commissions. It is only natural that I was drawn to them since I have worked part-time at the Pa Pro-Life Federation since 2012. I worked for 37 ½ years as a registered nurse at Polyclinic Hospital (now UPMC).

I was married for 41 ½ years before being widowed in 2020. I have a son/daughter-in-law and grandson and a daughter. Family has proven to be very important and supportive of me. The Catholic Church and all aspects of the CCW are also family to me when you develop relationships that help you to grow, learn and function outside your comfort zones.

The many talented women in the CCW inspire me to show how important it is to connect with others, to spread the good news, and make the world a better place.

### Gigi Luto

I am a “native” Harrisburger, born in the former Polyclinic Hospital, too many years ago. I went to Saint Francis of Assisi grade school and Bishop McDevitt High School. I attended Dickinson College and Thompson Institute where I started a lifetime working with computers.

In 1980, I joined Saint Margaret Mary parish. Due to working all shifts, it was hard to find any organizations that I could join in the parish. One that would meet once a month, and that was the CCW. I attended when I could. Over a period of time, I was able to go to a few consecutive meetings. There I was greeted by one of the finest women I know and love to this day, Anne Shepos. She was so warm and friendly, and it was not long before she got me involved in different CCW events and committees, and other parish activities! These included various offices at the parish level and being President two separate times. Her mentorship “pushed me” into various rings of CCW, attending district meetings and becoming involved through that level in the convention. Since I had “some knowledge” of the computer, Anne had me typing up by-law revisions, reports, you name it as she did not have a computer and did not want one! It was not long until I was asked to be on the Diocesan Board.

I have been active in various organizations, Harrisburg Camera Club, Harrisburg Natural History Society, Appalachian Audubon to name a few, and was an officer in many of them, including President.

At Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, I am currently an EMHC, coordinator of the Ministry of Hospitality, Souper Bowl Soup sale, and the Boxes of Joy. I served on the design team for the new church and assist with other functions. I enjoy traveling, photography (even though it is mostly using my phone) and cooking (then eating what I make!)

*“Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.”  
-Romans 12:10*

## My Favorite Saint



**Saint Francis of Assisi**

As a lifelong Catholic, Saint Francis of Assisi has always been one of my “go to” saints. Among the most venerated saints of all time, he was committed to following God’s will to rebuild the Church. The founder of the Franciscans, he embraced a life of humility, poverty, and devotion to the Eucharist. One of my favorite prayers, *Lord, make me an instrument of your peace*, (traditionally ascribed to him but never found in his writings) calls us to be Christ’s instruments of peace and love. In his *Canticle of the Creatures* Francis inspires us to praise and thank God for all creation. Francis received the stigmata two years before his death at age 44 and was canonized two years later. The patron saint of Italy, animals and ecology, his feast day is October 4.

For a video portrait of Saint Francis:  
<http://franciscanseculars.com/video-portrait-of-saint-francis/>

-submitted by Terri Gelles

**Saint Sharbel**

When I was asked to write about my favorite saint, I thought over the saints that I had known and loved since my mother taught me to read about them. Yes, I grew up learning about all the popular saints, like Saint Therese, Saint Marie Bernadette Soubirous, Saint John Bosco, and Saint Francis of Assisi.

My parents had visited many of the shrines of the saints in France and Italy. Saints are like your friends. You call on different ones depending on what is going on in your life at the time.

My favorite saint is Saint Sharbel, whose feast day is July 24. He was a monk of the Eastern Maronite Rite. Growing up, we frequently visited the Maronite Shrine of our Lady of Lebanon in Ohio as it was close to where I lived. Little did I know that I would move to Lebanon, PA and find out that Saint Sharbel is the patron saint of Lebanon, the country!

His quiet hermit life brought him closer to God because he lived without the distractions of the world. Sometimes it is good to “go into our room and shut the door” to communicate with God. Ultimately, our whole life is about God, knowing, loving, and living totally for God. Saint Sharbel was an example of that.

As members of the Council of Catholic Women, we do lead very active lives, but in our hearts, we keep a little hermitage where we keep company with God.

*Saint Sharbel, pray for us.*

-submitted by Marie Bernadette Plum

## Prayer for Married Couples

World Marriage Day  
Feb 13, 2022

Almighty and eternal God,  
You blessed the union of married couples so that they might reflect the union of Christ with his Church: look with kindness on them. Renew their marriage covenant, increase your love in them, and strengthen their bond of peace so that, with their children, they may always rejoice in the gift of your blessing. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

-www.usccb.com

*“Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.”*

*-Proverbs 3:3-4*

## Spirituality Corner

### Walk Through Holy Week

Holy Week is an epic story of a hero who fights to save innocent lives. Jesus came into the world to be the hero of this epic story of light and darkness and good and evil. Ancient prophecies will be fulfilled. He will be called upon to sacrifice his own life.

As Jesus began his last journey, he told his disciples exactly what would happen, he would be handed over to the chief priests to be crucified. He also told them that he would be raised on the third day.

On Palm Sunday, as they approached Jerusalem, his disciples secured a donkey for him to ride as he entered the city. Everything happened as he said. This was foretold five hundred years before Christ by the prophet Zechariah: Exult greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem! Behold: your king is coming to you, a just savior is he, Humble, and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

In ancient times the donkey was an animal that was used by people daily, and a king who rode a donkey was coming in peace. Jesus was coming as the King of Peace. As Jesus made his way through, the people treated him royally by waving palm branches. In ancient times the palm was used to welcome a victorious king back to his city.

Palm Sunday begins Holy Week. The day's title is actually, "Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord." We now move from the Green vestments of Ordinary time to red vestments that are worn on Palm Sunday, Good Friday.

There are two Gospels. The liturgy of Palm Sunday begins in the back of the Church. The deacon reads the Gospel story of Jesus' triumphant entrance at the back of the Church. All the people are holding palm branches that will be blessed by the priest in silence.

Also, during Holy Week, the Diocese celebrates the Chrism Mass on Monday evening of Holy Week. The word Chrism comes from the word Christos, a Greek word meaning "the anointed one" who is called the Christ. Oil is used many times throughout the Old Testament. At this Mass priests from throughout the diocese bring three vessels of oil to the Cathedral for the Bishop to bless. These will be used over the next year for the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation and to anoint the sick. During this Mass the priests will also renew their priestly promises.

Now we begin the Triduum. The word Triduum is Latin meaning Three Days. The Sacred Triduum begins with the Mass on Holy Thursday. There is only one Mass permitted on Holy Thursday, The Mass of the Lord's Supper which takes place in the evening. The tabernacle is empty, and the altar light is gone. The priests wear simple white vestments.

On this night, Jesus and his disciples are celebrating the Feast of Passover, which commemorates the exodus of the people from slavery in Egypt. During the Passover feast in the upper room, Jesus institutes the Sacrament of the Eucharist, taking the unleavened bread and pronouncing the words, "Take and eat, this is my body. Take and drink, this is my blood." At the end of the meal, Jesus, the Lord and Master, kneels to wash the feet of the disciples.

*-continued on page 8*

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After Jesus washed the feet of the disciples he told them that this is what they must go and do for others. This wasn't a request, it was a mandate, a command, and that is why we often hear Holy Thursday referred to as Maundy Thursday. Maundy is old English for the word Mandatum or Mandate.

Good Friday is the Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Passion traditionally taking place at 3:00 pm, the time indicated in the Scriptures of the Lord's death. It is at this time we venerate the Cross, with the usual veneration being a kiss.

We conclude Holy Week with the Great Vigil of Easter. It is at this Mass we celebrate the resurrection of the Lord. We are brought out of the darkness of sin to new life in Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

## Commission Corner

-continued from page 4

### LEGISLATION/RESPECT LIFE

**March for Life:** Anti-abortion protesters were optimistic at the March for Life. A crowd of thousands, with a heavy contingent of young people and students, were in attendance. The mood was upbeat, with many treating the end of Roe v. Wade as inevitable. President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris released a statement saying the right established under Roe v. Wade "is under assault as never before" and they said they were committed "to ensuring the country is not pushed backwards on women's equality." Jeanne Mancini, President of the March for Life Education & Defense Fund, told the crowd that Roe is not settled law and "we are hoping and praying that 2022 will bring a change for life."

**U.S. Supreme Court Case Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization:** This is a pending case dealing with the constitutionality of a 2018 Mississippi state law that banned

abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy. Lower courts had ruled in preliminary injunctions to prevent enforcement of the law on the basis that it violated the holding of women's rights in Planned Parenthood v. Casey which generally allows a woman to opt for an abortion within the first 24 weeks. Oral arguments were held in December 2021 with a decision expected in early spring or summer of 2022. This decision could impact the fate of millions of children and their mothers. It's possible that a decision could come in March.

**Stop Taxpayer Funding of Abortion in Pennsylvania:** The PA Senate Health & Human Services Committee has approved Senate Bill 956, a commonsense amendment which would stop taxpayer funding of abortion in PA and keep abortion out of the PA Constitution. The next step is a vote by the full Senate. Please send an updated message to your State Senator urging them to support this amendment.

**Spiritual Adoption Program:** The Commission Chairs of Legislation/Respect Life, Family Concerns and Community Concerns are once again sponsoring this program. It will begin on Mother's Day, May 8, 2022 and end on February 8, 2023. The procedure for registering will be the same as last year. You can also register at our Convention on Saturday, April 23, 2022. More information will be forthcoming.

**Pro-Life Rosary Bead:** This is a new bead which will be available at Convention. You may purchase it for \$1.00.

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### Doctor Mildred Jefferson

In honor of Black History Month, we recognize **Doctor Mildred Jefferson**, the first Black woman to attend Harvard Medical School and the first woman to be employed as a general surgeon at Boston University Medical Center. In 1975, she became the President of National Right to Life, serving as an eloquent and dedicated voice for the most vulnerable until her death in 2010. May her example inspire us all.

-taken from [lifelines@paprolife.org](mailto:lifelines@paprolife.org)

*"Stay with me, Lord, for I desire to love You ever more, and to be always in your company." -Saint Padre Pio*



## Parish News



St. Vincent de Paul Parish Council of Catholic Women in the Conewago Deanery hosted their first “Breakfast with Santa” on December 18. The children enjoyed eating breakfast, completing crafts for Christmas and of course listening to a story by Santa. Older children volunteered to help the younger ones to complete their crafts while parents mingled to enjoy some camaraderie. Our own Deacon Bill Roesch donned the red and white suit to listen to the lists of things the children wanted for Christmas and to spread some good cheer with his loud “Ho, ho hos”.

In addition to this project the Council collected over 200 new scarves, gloves and hats which were displayed on the “Giving Tree” in the Church. These items were donated to the less fortunate in the area. Several adopted families were also provided food baskets with various goodies for a Christmas Dinner.



### Invitation to ALL PARISHES!!

**The newsletter is circulated to all parishes in the diocese.  
Please print a copy to share at your council meetings.**

**The editors welcome all news from you. Perhaps you sponsored a successful event or would like to promote an upcoming one. Send us an article and we will publish it.**

**We love pictures, too.**

## Contact Us

**Submission deadline for the next issue is  
April 11, 2022**

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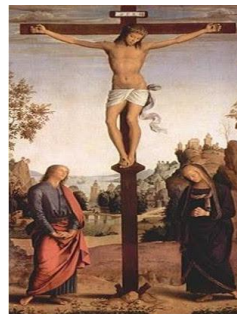
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## Mary's Way of the Cross



Every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. during Lent, we will be praying the Stations of the Cross using Mary's Way of the Cross. Join us either via Zoom or by phone using the information below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87594642343?pwd=cXhKTjhpZ21vQTdsaUVTdjJGJ2NzQT09>

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

## March 2022:

- National Women's History Month
- March 16<sup>th</sup> - Mardi Gras

## April 2022:

- April 18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> National Environmental Education Week
- April 22<sup>nd</sup> - Earth Day
- April 29<sup>th</sup> - National Arbor Day
- Abortion Recovery Awareness Month

## May 2022:

- National Physical Fitness Month
- May 8<sup>th</sup> - Mother's Day
- May 30<sup>th</sup> - Memorial Day