



HDCCW HAPPENINGS

SPIRITUALITY LEADERSHIP SERVICE

President's Message

Dear Ladies,
I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and New Year. Before you know it, Lent will be here.



Pope Saint John Paul II assures us, "Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song."

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen writes, "Lenten practices of giving up pleasures are good reminders that the purpose of life is not pleasure. The purpose of life is to attain to perfect life, all truth and undying ecstatic love – which is the definition of God. In pursuing that goal, we find happiness. Pleasure is not the purpose of

anything; pleasure is a by-product resulting from doing something that is good. One of the best ways to get happiness and pleasure out of life is to ask ourselves, 'How can I please God?' and, 'Why am I not better?' It is the pleasure-seeker who is bored, for all pleasures diminish with repetition."

Perhaps this Lent we can ask ourselves how we can help others in need? For example, giving supplies to a homeless shelter, a food drive for your local food bank, delivering Meals on Wheels, or reaching out to someone who is lonely with a phone call or a card. Be kind to one another and touch someone's life.

I truly appreciate everything our Councils do. I hope to see you at

our upcoming HDCCW Convention on April 15.

God bless all of you!
Jeanne Warren, President

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A Message from our Spiritual Advisor

Greetings CCW friends.

Writer and evangelist Charles Swindoll once found himself with too many commitments in too few days. He got nervous and tense about it. "I was snapping at my wife and our children, choking down my food at mealtimes, and feeling irritated at those unexpected interruptions through the day," he recalled in his book *Stress Fractures*. "Before long, things around our home started reflecting the pattern of my hurry up style. It was becoming unbearable for everyone. I distinctly remember after supper one evening, the words of our younger daughter Colleen. She wanted to tell me something important that had happened to her at school that day. She began hurriedly, 'Daddy I wanna tell you something and I'll tell you really fast.' Suddenly realizing her frustration, I answered, 'Honey, you can tell me - and you don't have to tell me really fast. Say it slowly.' I'll never forget her answer: 'Then listen slowly.'"

I think if we all listen a whole lot slower our world and our relationships would be a whole lot better.

May God Bless and protect you always.

In God's love and mine too,

Father Ted



True Presence of Jesus- The Eucharist

During the National Eucharistic Revival, we are reminded of what the True Presence of Jesus can do to heal the soul.

"If the angels could envy, they would envy us for Holy Communion." – Pope St. Pius X. With these words we are invited to consider the greatest Gift to ever be given to us on earth – Jesus Christ truly present in the Eucharist.

All the sacraments are truly blessed gifts, but only the Eucharist is given the title of the Most Blessed Sacrament. While each of the sacraments is a true encounter with Jesus Christ, the Eucharist is *Itself*, Jesus Christ. Here we have no mere symbol or representation of the God Who loves us so dearly but God Himself. St. Thomas Aquinas teaches us that Jesus Christ is truly present in the Eucharist "body, blood, soul and divinity." While our physical senses perceive what we call the "accidental" properties of bread and wine (smell, taste, appearance, etc.), our faith teaches us that the reality lying beneath such appearances has changed. This underlying reality is what we call "substance." Herein lies the heart of the Church's teaching on the Eucharist. The accidental properties of the bread and wine remain, but the substance has changed from mere bread and wine into the Body,

Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ. This is the doctrine of Transubstantiation.

What a tremendous gift Christ bestows on us. There is nothing more that He can give as He gives us nothing less than His very self. Every time we receive Holy Communion, our union with Christ – first received in Baptism – is strengthened and increased. This ties us more firmly together as the Church, the Body of Christ. But it also draws us closer to the entire Trinity. Christ is always in union with the Father and the Spirit. As such, when we are drawn closer to Him in the Eucharist, through Him we are drawn closer to the Father and the Spirit.

We can spend the remainder of our lives studying and meditating upon the topic of the Most Blessed Sacrament and never truly understand just how blessed we are. May we always cherish this greatest of all Gifts.

~Fr. Steven Arena-Parochial Vicar,
St. Catherine Laboure Parish

Board Happenings

HDCCW CONVENTION

“Live in the Love of Christ”

The 97th annual HDCCW Convention will be held at the Diocesan Center in Harrisburg on **Saturday, April 15**, from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.

The schedule begins with a **Keynote address by author, Elizabeth Kelly**, followed by celebration of Holy Mass with Bishop Ronald Gainer.

Afternoon workshops

Mary Taylor--Carmelite Spirituality
Cheryl Hornung--Caitlin's Smiles
Joni Warner—Artistic Meditation

Information tables will be on display from HDCCW Commissions, Diocesan Ministries, Weekend Retreat, Infant & Toddler Clothing Drive, and vendors.

The cost to register is \$25.00 which includes all materials, continental breakfast, and a box lunch.

Registration deadline is March 25th. Contact your parish CCW to register or visit:

<https://hdccw.webs.com/hdccw-convention>

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Applications are now being accepted for the HDCCW Scholarship Awards given to High School Senior Girls who have been sponsored by a member of a PCCW. **Deadline to apply is May 1, 2023.**

SILENT AUCTION

All parishes are asked to donate a basket for the Silent Auction held during Convention. Proceeds from this popular event benefit the Scholarship Fund.

NCCW NEWS

The 2023 Slate of National Officers has been announced. All parish and individual members of NCCW are encouraged to vote between April 3 and May 1. Information on the candidates can be found here:

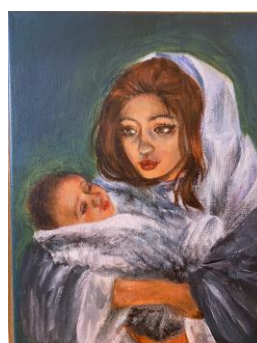
<https://www.nccw.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2023-Nominees-for-Officers.pdf>.

HDCCW ART CONTEST

The winners of the Art Contest have been announced. The first place winner's art will grace the cover of the 2023 Convention program.



First Place \$150.00
Gloria Sebastian
 Lancaster Catholic HS
 Saint Leo the Great Parish



Second place \$75.00
Bianca Po
 York Catholic HS
 Saint Joseph, Dallastown



Third place \$50.00
Olivia Roth
 Delone Catholic HS
 Annunciation BVM

Dates to Remember

HDCCW 97th Annual Convention



Theme: "Live in the Love of Christ"

Saturday, April 15, 2023
Diocesan Center

Check www.hdccw.webs.com for details.

HDCCW Weekend Retreat



Retreat Master-Father Rothan

June 9-11, 2023
Mount Saint Mary's
Emmitsburg, MD

Check www.hdccw.webs.com for details.

Lent begins

Ash
Wednesday



Fasting Almsgiving Prayer

February 22, 2023

HDCCW Recognition Awards



Our Lady of Good Counsel Award
Golden Rose Award

Submission deadline
March 31, 2023

Nomination packets available at
www.hdccw.webs.com

Welcome to the Board

Jennifer Miller
Lancaster District Representative

I am a part of the St. Peter’s Church family in Elizabethtown. I converted from the Methodist faith to the Catholic faith in 1994. I attended the Elizabethtown Area School District grades K-12 going on to receive a degree in Elementary Education from Elizabethtown College in 1991.

I worked in childcare, preschools, as a second grade teacher and reading assistant. Reading has always been a love of mine, and this can be credited to sharing books with my parents from birth. My love of reading led to a transition in 2011 to my present job as a Children’s Librarian at the Elizabethtown Public Library. Sadly, I was widowed too soon with the passing of my first husband, Martin T. Matta, in March, 1996. I was then blessed to meet and subsequently marry Alphonse C. Miller in May, 1998 at St. Catherine Laboure Parish in Harrisburg. We will be married 25 years this spring! Together we’ve raised three children: Amanda, Nicholas and Alexander.

At Saint Peter’s, where I currently serve as an usher, I spent 12 years teaching the Pre-K Religious Education class. Having previously served as Vice-President and Secretary, I am proud to serve as the current President of St. Peter’s Council of Catholic Women. I was recently asked to serve as the Lancaster District Representative for HDCCW.

Loving the Lord and my church family, I believe in living life to the fullest with a fresh start each day. I enjoy reading, crafting, decorating, birdwatching, playing board games and traveling. I look forward to living life in the hereafter with my Risen Savior and my departed loved ones forever.

Angie Tully
York District Representative

I am currently a member of Holy Infant Parish, Manchester, York County and President of Holy Infant’s Council of Catholic Women where I also served as Secretary 4 years. I attended K- 8th Grade at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary school (now known as Prince of Peace) in Steelton and graduated from Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg. I attended college receiving an Associate’s Degree in Secretarial Office Management and a Bachelor’s Degree in Human Resource Management.

I married cradle catholic Tony Tully 27 years ago. He is an active member of the Knights of Columbus Council 10474. We are proud of our two children. Nate, 22, is currently attending Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, PA studying Political Science and Secondary Education. Gabbie, 19, is currently attending Milwaukee School of Engineering in Wisconsin studying Electrical Engineering. She is also a member of the ROTC Army program.

My friends know me as a baseball enthusiast. During the Major League Baseball season, the only channel I watch is the MLB network. My goal is to attend a baseball game from every stadium in my lifetime. Last year, Tony and I took a road trip attending games at 4 new stadiums. In my spare time, I enjoy going to the casino playing my favorite table game, Mini Baccarat. I also enjoy volunteering, organizing, cooking and baking for my family and friends.

I am looking forward to working and socializing with fellow board members of the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. Everyone has been so welcoming!

Saint Valentine, pray for us.



“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.”

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Commission Happenings

LEBANON DISTRICT

by Ana Pilkington

Assumption BVM, Mary Gate of Heaven, St Paul's, and Sacred Heart of Jesus comprise the four parishes in our district with active CCW councils. Our mission is to serve our parish and community and support each other in our spiritual journey.

Financially we raise money through bazaars, soup, pies, flower, and nut roll sales. These monies are then used to support our community.

Community outreach includes Christmas gifts to VA patients, nursing home residents and Lourdes House. We bring flowers to shut-ins. We supply families who have lost a loved one with a meal. We collect hundreds of pounds of food for the local food bank.

Our international efforts include participation in Boxes of Joy for Haiti and monetary support of a missionary in Syria. Spiritually we support each other by holding an

Advent Ladies Candlelight service. In October, a Mass followed by a breakfast in honor of Our Lady of Good Counsel, and a one day retreat in our parish in May. Soup and Stations during Lent provides nourishment for the body as well as a gentle reminder to attend Stations of the Cross. A memorial to the unborn is being planned in one of our parishes.

The future goals of the district are to print a brochure highlighting all the parishes and their activities, and re-instate the thank you dinner for clergy, deacons and religious. My

personal goal is to have the remaining churches in our district become active CCW members. We do all of this

with God's guidance and with the aid of Our Lady of Good Counsel.



COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Last year, we began the Spiritual Adoption Program on Mother's Day and celebrated the end of the program on February 4, 2023 with a baby shower at the Diocesan Center in Harrisburg.



We celebrated the 52 babies that were saved! The HDCCW Community Concerns, Family and Legislative Commissions would like to thank those who participated in the program. We would also like to thank those that attended the shower and made donations for the Life Pregnancy Care Center in Millersburg that serves the Mount Carmel/Shamokin area.

Thank you and may God bless you for your generosity. We look forward to next year and serving other underserved Pro-Life organizations in our Diocese.

WHY DO WE HAVE CHURCH COMMISSION?

The Church Commission was created to encourage the members of HDCCW, which includes all the members of the Districts in our Diocese, to share their faith with the women of their parishes by inviting them to CCW meetings. That is the first step. Inviting them to serve on committees when planning the activities, especially spiritual activities, is the best way to get ladies interested. When women feel needed, they enjoy being involved. We create friendships and share our faith and experiences as we work together and laugh and maybe even cry. We organize Spiritual Retreats in our parishes and invite the women of the surrounding parishes to attend. Prayer is a big part of our sharing and anyone may request individual prayers by sending the request to

brendaangel.musicwithmama@gmail.com

God has a plan and He may choose to work through us when we least expect it. Don't forget to enjoy the work of our Lord. Enthusiasm is contagious!!!!

by Brenda Wolf

Around the Diocese with two Deacons

PART I

*Seton District President, Kathy Wingert, sat down for a very enjoyable interview with **Deacon Rick Ramsey of Corpus Christi Parish in Chambersburg.***



Deacon Ramsey is also the Spiritual Moderator for the Seton District. He is a native of Chambersburg and a retired Federal employee. He married his wife Theresa in 1975, they have three children, 11 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Deacon Ramsey's Faith Journey

Growing up, Deacon Ramsey attended a United Brethren Church. When he started dating his wife, he began to attend Mass with her. They were married in the Church and a year later, in 1976, he became Catholic. Years later, he was reading the Catholic Witness and saw an advertisement for a new Diaconate class. It was not something he had ever thought about but the seed was planted. After discussing it with his wife, they decided to attend the presentation. With the support of his wife, he followed this calling, making the commitment to pursue becoming a Deacon. After attending classes twice a week, for 4 ½ years, he was ordained a Deacon in May 2010. He was assigned to Corpus Christi, his home parish.

He has been a member of Corpus Christi for 48 years. Deacon Ramsey has been a wonderful asset to the parish and has a genuine gift of kindness and willingness to serve others.

What are a Deacon's duties in the Parish?

Deacons report to the Bishop but are supervised by the Pastor of the Parish. They are *Deacons of the Word, the Altar and Charity*. Deacon Ramsey can perform wedding ceremonies, funerals and baptisms. He preaches, fulfilling his responsibilities of Deacon of the Word and Altar, and assists the priests at Mass. Deacon Ramsey is the Director of Religious Education at Corpus Christi which includes CCD and RCIA. Among his other duties, he leads the Bereavement Ministry and supports families as they face the loss of a loved one.

He has also been appointed by the Bishop as Director of Pastoral Placement for men in the Diaconate formation program; there are currently 17 men enrolled.

Deacon Ramsey is an excellent listener and is always welcoming when approached by someone in need of his guidance.

What aspect of your parish faith community inspires you?

Deacon Ramsey's foremost inspiration is Holy Mass, and also celebrating the Sacraments and working with children as they grow in practicing their faith.

Do you have a favorite gospel parable?

Matthew 18: 10-14 The parable of the lost sheep. Jerimiah 21:11 – *"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."*

How can we enhance our devotion to Our Blessed Mother?

Through praying the Rosary and reading spiritual readings about her part in Salvation.



Has the Council of Catholic Women been helpful to you?

Deacon Ramsey expressed his admiration and stated that he is inspired by all that the women of our Council are involved in within the parish and community. He is always available to us and has helped our Council in many ways over the years.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kathy Wingert
Corpus Christi PCCW President
Seton District President

PART II

*The following interview with **Deacon Richard Owen of Sacred Heart Parish** in Lewisburg was submitted by Northern District President, Marge Schmader.*

How long have you been associated with your current parish?

I have spent 23 years at Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lewisburg. We moved here from Maryland when I was promoted to manage a paper converting plant in Williamsport.

When did you become aware of your vocation?

I have always been active in my church and had a calling to do more. After my children were older, my pastor told me that Bishop Kevin Rhoades was starting a Permanent Deacon Formation class, and asked if I would be interested? After much prayer and discussion with my wife, I applied and was accepted into the third Deacon class for the Diocese of Harrisburg. I was humbled to enter into Permanent Diaconate formation with such faithful and holy Catholic men in our Diocese.

Was your faith formation influenced by your family when you were younger?

I come from a large family of eight siblings and was able to attend Catholic Grammar School in Baltimore, MD. I thought of a vocation to the priesthood and in 1958 entered the Minor Seminary for the Franciscan Third Order Regular in Loretto, PA. I spent 7 years in formation. But just before professing simple vows, I decided to leave. My family was very devout in their

Catholic faith, and I was blessed to be among them.

What aspect of your parish faith community inspires you?

We have a very active parish which includes Liturgy, CCD program, men's and women's groups, bible studies, RCIA prep, sacramental prep, and rosary groups. I am inspired by the men and women that devote countless hours in making these programs flourish. Knights of Columbus, TMIY, a mature Caring Community group, and our parish office are comprised of faithful and dedicated people who keep the Catholic faith growing and inspiring many to participate.

Do you have a favorite saint? Why does their faith journey inspire you?



Yes, Saint Joseph, protector of the Holy Family. His quiet and obedient example demonstrates to me what I must be for my family and parish community. Being connected to faithful and good people from my church inspires me to stay close to Jesus.

Do you have a favorite gospel parable? Why does it speak to you?

Yes, the story of Thomas the Apostle in the Upper Room. "Until I put my hand into His side and finger into His hands, I will not believe." We all have doubts from time to time. I must learn to trust God in all things in my journey to eternal glory.

Prayer for Deacons

Heavenly Father,
since the time of the Apostles
you have inspired the Church
to commission certain members
to assist in a special way
in the pastoral mission of Christ.
Bless the deacons
and all other ordained
and non-ordained ministers
that they may be humble
and faith-inspired in their service.
We ask this through Christ, our
Lord. Amen.

www.catholic.org

How can we enhance our devotion to Our Blessed Mother?

We can enhance our devotion by understanding the power in the Rosary of the Blessed Mother. We have been told in countless apparitions of the Blessed Mother that we must show faith by praying the rosary without fail. This devotion is the enemy of the devil.

What role does your parish CCW fill at your parish?

I attend the monthly meetings as the Spiritual Director of the CCW. I am always amazed by all of the activities they are involved in including financially supporting Birthright, making quilts for the babies in the hospital, providing scholarships for students, and supporting the elderly.

From the Editors

Your Faith Journey

can be the most powerful story you will ever tell.



In the words of Saint Peter,

“Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope.” 1 Peter 3: 15

We invite you to share your story with us. Use these guidelines as a road map.

Then, submit your document to us at HDCCWHappenings@gmail.com

for inclusion in an upcoming issue.

- First, pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in your reflections.
- Tell us about your early formation as a Catholic and who influenced you.
- What memories do you have receiving the Sacraments?
- What makes you draw closer to God or fall away from Him?
- Are you a convert? Tell us about your experience discovering the Catholic faith.
- Do you have a special faith experience to share? How did your life change after that moment?

In honor of Black History Month, let us seek the intercession of

St. Josephine Bakhita



Patron Saint of victims of modern slavery and human trafficking

Her Feast Day is **February 8.**



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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85376898046?pwd=OG55a3RUekVWNDdJU2ZlWFVmRotsdz09>

Mary's Way of the Cross begins Feb. 22

Meeting ID: 853 7689 8046
 Passcode: 301620

Join by Phone: 1.301.715.8592
 (Meeting ID and Passcode listed above)

AWARENESS DAYS

March

National Women's History Month

March 16th-Mardi Gras

April

April 9th -Easter Sunday



April 18th - Natl. Environmental Educ. Week

April 22nd -Earth Day

April 29th -National Arbor Day

Abortion Recovery Awareness Month

May

National Physical Fitness Month

May 14th -Mother's Day



May 29th -Memorial Day

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