



# THE “LINK”

April 2022

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**You won't want to miss** the CCW-ADW Virtual Tea this month on Sunday the 24th when we'll delve into Pope Francis' guidance on how we can care for our common home, the earth. See page 2.

**Speaking of the environment**, the Washington Retreat House has gone green! Read how the Director, Sr. Sara Dwyer, has responded to the Pope's call to reduce our carbon footprint. More on page 7.

**Pro-life is a major cause** for NCCW and for us, too. Support mothers and babies in need while enjoying a fun evening — the Gabriel Network invites you to its Gala on Friday evening, April 29. Attend in person or online – your choice. Registration on page 3.

**Last chance to attend** the series of Lenten presentations for women at St. Andrew Apostle in Wheaton. See page 5 for details!

**At Fatima**, Our Lady urgently asked that we pray the Rosary for peace. We need Mary's help so much now. Please join us for our nightly Rosary. The call-in number is on page 8. We'd love to pray with you!

**I pray your Lent is a fruitful one** in the Spirit and that you receive blessings beyond measure in your Holy Week observances and and Easter celebration.

In Christ,



*Cheryl Holley*  
President

**Council of Catholic Women–  
Archdiocese of Washington**  
ArchdioceseCCW@gmail.com  
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2021-2023

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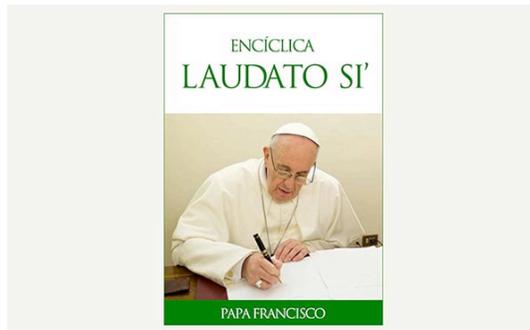
Mary Leibolt

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SUNDAY, APRIL 24



*Council of Catholic Women - Archdiocese of Washington's*

## **April Online Monthly Tea**

**Sunday 24 April 2022 at 3pm**

### *Care for Our Common Home*

April's topic is Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Sí* (Praise be to You) and we will be discussing ...

*What's **Laudato Sí**?*

*What does Pope Francis want us to know about our environment?*

*What does our church leadership ask us to do to address environmental problems?*

*How and what can I do to address the environmental problems the Earth faces? "*

*Come join us!*

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/297096984077>



**FRIDAY, APRIL 29**

*You are invited!*

**Gabriel Network Gala 2022**



*An Angel Friend Celebration*

**We are pleased to invite you in person or online to our gala at  
The Atreum at Soaring Timbers  
610 North Bestgate Road, Annapolis, Maryland**



**on Friday evening, April 29, 6:00-9:00 pm.**

**Register now to reserve your spot for what is sure to be a wonderful evening of fellowship and celebration!**

**Registration: <https://one.bidpal.net/gngala2022/welcome>**

We will be honoring our dedicated Angel Friend volunteers as part of Gabriel Network's Angel Friend Celebration. Evening includes cocktail hour, heavy hors d'oeuvres & silent auction.

Silent Auction opens online April 24th and closes at the end of the gala on April 29th.

Dress code is cocktail attire.

Tickets are \$50 per person and will help to raise funds for our Helpline and Angel Friend Program. We will be paying tribute to our dedicated Angel Friend volunteers and their churches. Join us in honoring them and learn more about how our Angel Friends empower Gabriel Network moms to choose life!

*Attend From Home*

We encourage those who would like to attend virtually to register for an at-home ticket so that we can count you among our guests and send live stream information. Registration is free or you may choose to pay a small fee and receive a special dessert.

*Whether in person or at home, we hope you will join us for a memorable evening!*

## APRIL EVENTS AT OUR LADY OF BETHESDA



### Marriage Prep Weekend

**Virtual Only: Apr 21-24**

Our beloved pre-Cana program for engaged couples preparing to marry in the Catholic Church. \$315 per couple includes conference materials, FOCCUS materials, and follow-up consultation.

Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, 7007 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817.

More info and registration: <https://ourladyofbethesda.org/programs/marriage/marriage-prep-new>

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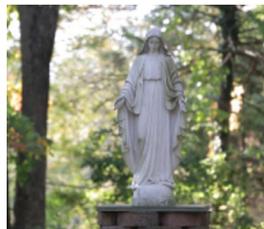


### Take a Personal “Retreat” Day

**April 7**

Are your days overcrowded, jam-packed, and busy, busy, busy? Jesus tells you to “Come away with me...” to Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center where your very own personal retreat awaits. During your personal retreat, from 8:30am-4pm, an experienced retreat director will guide you to a place of rest with Christ. The retreat schedule allows for one-on-one spiritual direction (optional), quiet reflection, Mass, Confession and Eucharistic Adoration, plus continental breakfast and lunch, so you will be nourished and cared for while Our Lord speaks to your soul about the depths of His love for you. Cost is \$120 per person. Advance Registration is required. Visit our website to register and to find more dates <https://ourladyofbethesda.org>. Or call 301-365-0612.

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### Spiritual Exercises Retreat

**Friday, April 8 to Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022**

Preacher: Fr. Peter Hopkins, LC

Great for first-timers, this retreat is designed to walk you through the dynamics of the spiritual exercises with several guided meditations and conferences, as well as time for personal prayer. It's perfect for those who are learning to incorporate the program of life and a daily prayer routine into daily living. Cost: With Overnight Accommodations: \$250 per person / Commuter Option: \$210 per person. Register at <https://ourladyofbethesda.org/programs/retreats/retreats-women-new> or call 301-365-0612.

**Lenten Virtues for Women:**  
*discover fresh ways of Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving*

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
Wednesday evenings  
**March 9 & 23; April 6**  
St. Andrew Apostle Church  
Wheaton, Maryland

Talk, with discussion and fellowship.



Free presentations followed each evening by an hour of Eucharistic Adoration.

**St. Andrew Apostle Catholic Church Women’s Ministry**

11600 Kemp Mill Road / Silver Spring MD 20902

Corner of Arcola Ave and Kemp Mill Rd: enter from Kemp Mill Rd where you see a green awning on the side of the main entrance. Park in the lot and enter under the awning.

**Register at <https://standrewapostle.org/lenten-virtues-for-women-registration-2/>**

Our focus in this series of talks will be the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to enter into Lent with Christ. Rose Folsom will provide education and inspiration for reflection, with plenty of small group discussion, followed by time in personal prayer during Eucharistic Adoration.

**March 9: Prayer is Lent’s Solid Foundation**

Prayer is the foundation of our Lenten practice, and of the whole Christian life. Rediscover what a good prayer life looks like and how you can up-level your prayer this Lent.

**March 23: Fast-track to Successful Fasting**

For Jesus, fasting is a crucial part of imitating Him. But fear not. Rose shares what finally made it possible for her to fast and how it can work for you, too. Really.



**April 6: The Win-Win Spirituality of Almsgiving**

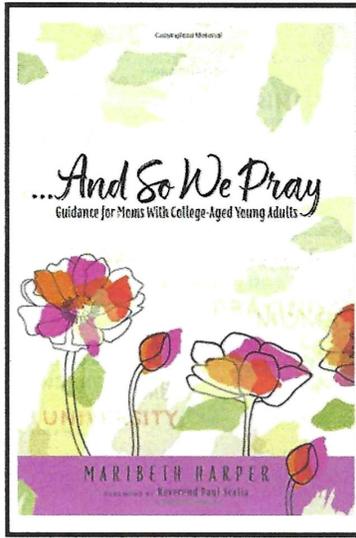
The book of Tobit says, “Almsgiving ... purges all sin.” The New Testament says it makes us a true daughter of the Most High. And even better news! There are more ways to give alms than you may have known about.

Rose will help us uncover ways that best suit our circumstances and talents.

+ + +

Rose Folsom is a convert, author, and spiritual director who has helped thousands of Catholics develop a deeper connection with God through learning how to grow in virtues like prayer, forgiveness, and patience. While studying the writings of St. Thomas Aquinas, she discovered how much of it was on the virtues. To share this goldmine of practical wisdom with others, she started VirtueConnection.com in 2014. On her website, Rose publishes a weekly article on how to grow in virtue; is a regular contributor to CatholicMom.com; and has presented at Catholic women’s conferences, including diocesan conferences in Washington, DC; Harrisburg, PA; and Superior, WI. <https://virtueconnection.com/>

SATURDAY, APRIL 30



*Women's  
Saturday Morning  
Reflection  
April 30, 2022*

WHERE:

St. John Neumann  
Catholic Church  
9000 Warfield Road  
Gaithersburg, MD 20882

WHEN:

9:00 a.m. — Mass for all  
9:45 — Refreshments in the  
Parish Center  
10:15 — Talk  
*"...And So We Pray"*  
*books can be purchased online*

Catholic mom and author,  
Maribeth Harper, will  
present a talk on the impact  
of culture on faith and the  
power of prayer for our  
growing children with  
faith-based, real life  
applications to  
contemporary issues.

Questions:  
womensjn@gmail.com

*Sponsored by  
Mothers of College/Career Age Prayer Group  
and SJN Women's Ministry*

## WASHINGTON RETREAT HOUSE GOES GREEN!

### Washington Retreat House in nation's capital goes green for guests

by Daniel Burke



**For more than 90 years**, the Washington Retreat House has offered citizens of the capital a respite from the city's clanging political culture, a few quiet acres set aside for "refreshment for the soul and rest of the body," in the words of its founder, Mother Lurana White.

**The Retreat House now hopes** to be known as something else as well: a hub of eco-consciousness. Owned and operated by the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement, the house has installed solar panels on the roof, planted 17 trees, set up two rain barrels, switched to LED lighting and energy-star appliances and is moving away from single-use plastic utensils and service wear.

**"We have committed ourselves** as a retreat house to change our consciousness to be more earth friendly and to protect the environment," said Sister Sara Dwyer, the house's director. Dwyer is a religious sister in the Adorers of the Blood of Christ and was active in their battle against a natural gas pipeline in Pennsylvania. "Just being in resistance is not the goal," Dwyer told *The New Yorker* magazine about that conflict. "The goal is spiritual conversion."

**A similar impulse guides Dwyer's work** at the Retreat House, which she said will use a new grant from the Victory Noll Sisters Small Grant program to buy posters and other educational resources, including God's Plan(et) prayer cards and 30 copies of *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis' environmental encyclical, to share with guests.

**The Retreat House is one of many properties** run by women religious participating in the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform, a Vatican-led global initiative that asks Catholic institutions to commit to a seven-year plan toward environmental sustainability. "In a seven-year project, every baby step we take is a step in the right direction," Dwyer said. The Leadership Conference of Women Religious is helping member congregations adopt the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform.

**In DC, the sister said she hopes** the green vibe rubs off on Retreat House guests. "Hopefully the people who come here will catch on to something about how we try to limit our carbon footprint," Dwyer said. "It's not something like checking a box. It's changing the way you live."

*The full article can be seen at <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/news/washington-retreat-house-nations-capital-goes-green-guests>*

## TAKING TIME FOR PRAYER

If you would welcome a time-out from your busy schedule, come join us in prayer.



The Council of Catholic Women (CCW) hosts a nightly Rosary call for the healing of the Church. We also pray for healing from the COVID pandemic and for callers' personal intentions.

All (men, women, children, non-CCW members) are welcome to join us any night of the week or every night of the week. How often is up to you.

Please join us at 8:00 p.m. as we read meditations on the Rosary's mysteries and pray together.

**Remember, in prayer we are never alone  
in our joys, our works, and especially in our sorrows.**

**Call 605-468-8016, code 357090#**

8:00 p.m., 7 days a week.

## LOOKING AHEAD



Please mark your calendar and join CCW-ADW

**Sunday, May 22 at 3:00 p.m.**

for our virtual Tea & Reflection on

**Mary and the Holy Eucharist**

We will explore how our Blessed Mother helps us to deepen our devotion to Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

With prayers to Mary, we will contemplate:

How Mary guides us to the Eucharist

Mary's relationship to the Eucharist

Like Mary, how can we be a "tabernacle" for Jesus in the Eucharist

How Mary's Magnificat can express our spirituality

and more!

We will send out an invitation soon. We look forward to seeing you in May!



Catholics For  
Family Peace

Education and Research on Domestic Abuse  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE FAMILY

## How are Catholics responding to Domestic Violence?

¿Cómo están respondiendo los católicos  
a la violencia doméstica?

Survey for anyone affected  
and those who minister with them

Catholics For Family Peace: Education and Research Initiative on Domestic Abuse is conducting an online national survey on the Catholic response to dating and intimate partner violence (domestic abuse). **Please respond by April 1.**

The results of the survey will contribute to our report as a national organization to the USCCB's Synod Team in preparation for the October 2023 Synod on synodality. The Synod is explicitly seeking feedback from those on the margins of church life.

The survey is bilingual - English and Spanish.

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sv/jlYVzoB>

You are welcome to share this link with anyone you think will benefit from participating: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sv/jlYVzoB>

We want to hear from as many people as possible.

Queremos comentarios de tantas personas como sea posible.

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Want to go deeper into this conversation?

¿Quieres continuar esta conversación?

**Listening Session, May 4 at 3:00 pm ET**

Thanks to the support of Catholic Charities USA!

**with Spanish Interpretation**

You may share this invitation, as appropriate.

Please register / Por favor regístrese con anticipación:

<https://catholiccharitiesusa-org.zoom.us/join/register/tZErdeqpgD4uG9KK2Vtdgt6OXwI9b5W0m-vY>

*After registering, you will receive an email containing information about joining the meeting.  
Después de registrarse, recibirá un correo electrónico de confirmación con información sobre cómo unirse a la reunión.*



Catholics for Family Peace wants you to know that there is hope, help, and healing if you or someone you know is experiencing abuse in the home. The confidential hotline is 1-800-799-SAFE (7233).

*See what official Catholic Church teaching is for those experiencing abuse in the home:*

Canon Law 1153 — §1. “A spouse who occasions grave danger of soul or body to the other or to the children ... provides the other spouse with a lawful reason to leave ...”

# JOIN US TODAY!



## Individual Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Membership is only \$25.00 per year.

Make check payable to ACCW.  
Send to Michelle Dorsey, Treasurer  
5757 Gladstone Way  
Capitol Heights, MD 20743

Membership Contact:

[ArchdioceseCCW@gmail.com](mailto:ArchdioceseCCW@gmail.com)

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**ACCW**  
WASHINGTON  
ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL OF  
CATHOLIC WOMEN

Join us to respond to the needs of the Church and society through a focus on spirituality, leadership, and service.

## Membership Benefits

Putting faith into action by:

- ❖ Learning about issues
- ❖ Visits to sacred sites
- ❖ Service projects
- ❖ Monthly e-newsletter with upcoming events
- ❖ Monthly tea
- ❖ Access to NCCW resources.

Members receive a discount on ACCW sponsored programs.

Join the **National Council of Catholic Women** directly to receive NCCW's *Catholic Woman* magazine with national and international news and inspiring stories. Dues are \$50.00 per year. Visit [www.NCCW.org](http://www.NCCW.org).