



THE “LINK”

November / December 2020

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Sisters in Christ:

Happy Thanksgiving , a Joyful Advent and a Blessed Christmas to all the Ladies of CCW-ADW!

**Council of Catholic Women-
Archdiocese of Washington**
ArchdioceseCCW@gmail.com
Facebook: WashACCW

It’s been a wild year for all of us. Between Covid-19, social distancing, an interminably long election cycle, and general anxiety, we’re all worn out!

With God’s Grace we will each be able to celebrate Thanksgiving with joy for all the blessings we’ve received this year. Then we will roll into the new liturgical year with the Joy of Advent.

Advent is one of my favorite times of the year. I love to get out my advent wreath and load it up with the purple and pink candles. Some years I even remember to procure those candles before the first Sunday of Advent, but some years it’s a scramble! Oh well. I love the visual reminder of the passage of time as we light another candle each week. That we end Advent with the birth of the Christ Child is a truly amazing event, we as Catholic Christians are privileged to start our New Year!

Have a blessed holiday season and I look forward to celebrating 2021 with you, be it in person or on Zoom!

With gratitude to God,

In Christ,
Carol-Ann Parker
President

2019-2021

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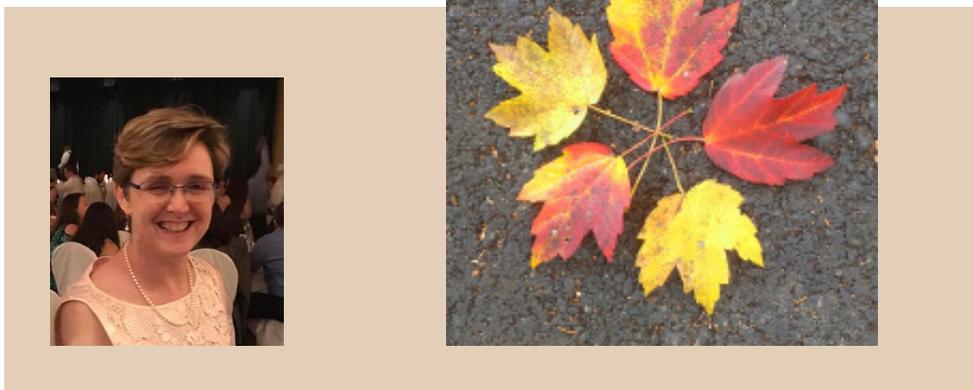
Ellen-Jane Pairo

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NOVEMBER EVENTS

Saturday, November 21



COME LEARN THE STORIES OF THESE HEROIC MEN AND WOMEN WHO OVERCAME RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION IN LIVING OUT AN AUTHENTIC WITNESS TO THE CATHOLIC FAITH. WE WILL SHARE TOGETHER LESSONS ON HOW TO INCORPORATE THEIR SPIRITUALITY IN OUR LIVES, CONTINUE THEIR LEGACY, AND SUPPORT THEIR CAUSES FOR SAINTHOOD

Program concludes with live-stream of the Consistory with Cardinal-elect Wilton Gregory, Saturday, Nov. 28th at <http://www.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>



CELEBRATING THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES:

RACE, RESILIENCE, AND RENEWAL

Hebrews 12:1-4

Program

Nov. 7th: Pierre Toussaint and Mary Elizabeth Lange

Nov. 14th: Henriette Delille and Augustus Tolton

Nov. 21st: Julia Greeley and Thea Bowman

Time:

2:30pm EST/1:30pm CST--Doors open
3-4:30pm EST/2-3:30pm CST--Program

Email:
tolton@gmail.com

Free Admission:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/122107178859>

Online Venue:
ZOOM See Admission Ticket for Details

Sponsors:



Featuring:
Representatives from each Guild and Bishop Joseph N. Perry, Archdiocese of Chicago



Register at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cloud-of-witnesses-grant-funding-by-nbcc-daniel-rudd-fund-tickets-122107178859>

“I know that God is using me in ways beyond my comprehension.”

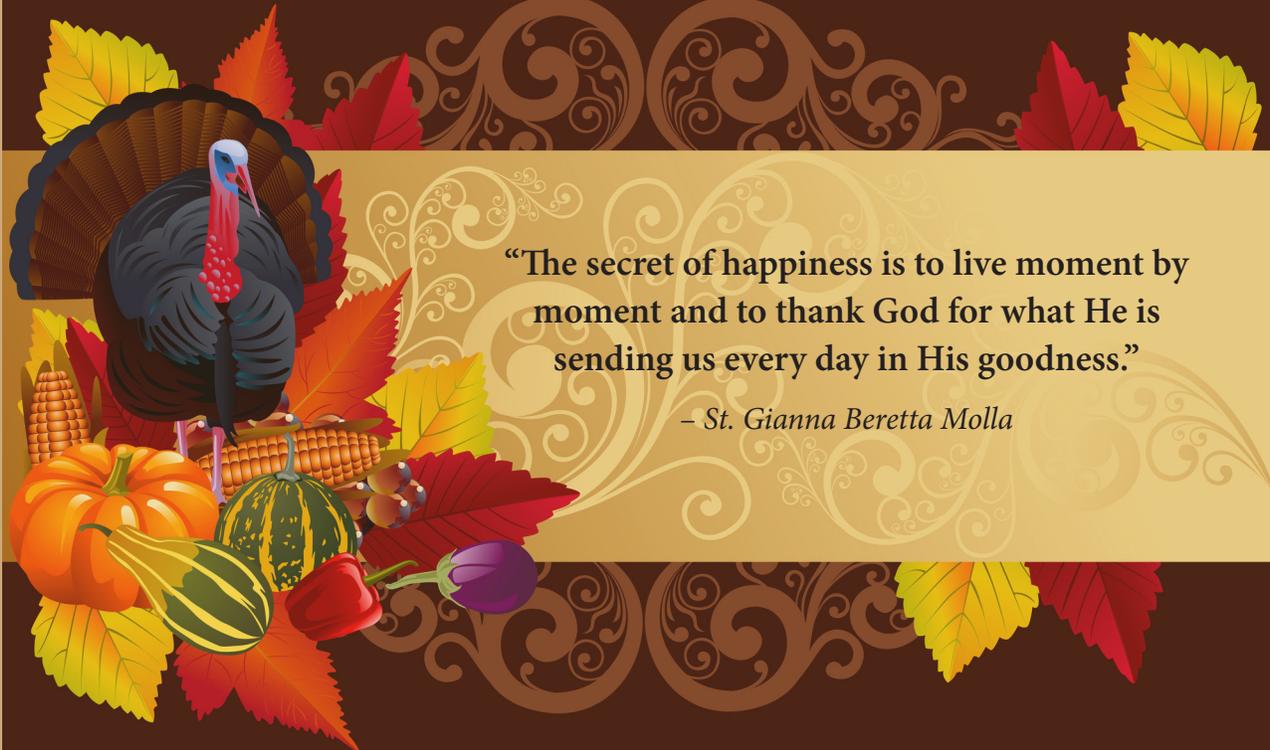
Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman

NOVEMBER EVENTS



November 4 – December 2 Online Workshop for Parents: Building Family Connections

The Archdiocese of Washington Office for Family Life along with the Christian Family Movement will offer virtual workshops for parents on four Wednesdays starting November 4 through December 2 from 7:00pm - 8:00pm. Topics include recognizing God in our families, using our time faithfully, caring for our relationships, faith building customs and activities, and guiding our children to live for Christ. For more information, contact the Office for Family Life at 301-853-4546 or visiblesign@adw.org.



“The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for what He is sending us every day in His goodness.”

– St. Gianna Beretta Molla

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, December 6



Please join the Council of Catholic Women-Archdiocese of Washington (CCW-ADW) for a

Virtual Tea and Prayer

on Sunday, December 6 at 3 p.m. as we celebrate the

Advent of Joy!

Truly this is the time for warm fellowship and spiritual growth as we seek the loving guidance of Mary, our Blessed Mother for the days ahead. For our added enjoyment, we will have

the music of Gretchen Erlichman

a PhD student at the Catholic University of America. Gretchen has discerned a vocation as a Dominican contemplative nun. The only thing holding her back from entering Our Lady of Grace monastery in Connecticut is -- paying off her student debt! See an interview with this joyful and talented young woman at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FX7aQMih3Qo&t=5s>

Email your RSVP for the tea and piano performance to ArchdioceseCCW@gmail.com by December 4 to receive the ZOOM link for our gathering. We look forward to seeing you.

Begins Wednesday, January 6



January 6 – 27, 2021: “Strength & Dignity” Virtual Spiritual Series for Women

The Archdiocesan Office for Family Life is sponsoring a virtual spiritual series for women hosted by the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women based on St. John Paul II’s encyclical *Mulieris Dignitatem* (On the Dignity and Vocation of Women). We will read and discuss the nine sections of the letter during four consecutive Wednesdays to better understand God’s beautiful design for women, and their essential contribution to the world. For more information, contact the Archdiocesan Office for Family Life at 301-853-4546 or visiblesign@adw.org. We will meet on Wednesday evening from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.



In the Beginning There Were Black Catholics

St. Elesbaan, King of Ethiopia (c. 510-540)

In 1993, Father Cyprian Davis sat down with the editors of *U.S. Catholic* to talk about Black Catholic history and the future of the Black Catholic Church. The interview was published in *U.S. Catholic* on October 12, 2020. Read the entire interview at <https://uscatholic.org/articles/202010/in-the-beginning-there-were-black-catholics/>

Would it surprise you to learn that some people believe St. Augustine, St. Monica, and St. Cyril of Alexandria were Black? Well, were they? “It’s hard to say what color St. Augustine’s skin was,” says Father Cyprian Davis, O.S.B., but “I’m convinced he wasn’t a blond. You could say he was culturally African.”

Davis, a professor of church history at St. Meinrad School of Theology and author of *The History of Black Catholics in the United States* (Crossroad, 1992), reminds us that the Catholic Church was not European originally but Mediterranean. He adds, “Remember, Ethiopia was a Christian nation earlier than many nations in Europe. It was a Christian kingdom before Ireland was evangelized, before more of North Germany was evangelized, and before Poland was a Catholic country.”

Why is it so important for Black Catholics to examine their religious history?

“Black Catholics want a sense of being Catholic, especially if they are converts; but they don’t want to be cut off from their roots. They desperately need and want a sense of identity. So many were not able to tell their children about what it means to be Black Catholics or about Black saints or Black priests. But now they have that background information, and they can use it. They have a good reason to be Catholic and to be proud of it and not feel they have given up being Black.”

How long have Black Catholics been in the United States?

“Black Catholics arrived with the Spaniards in Florida in the 16th century. There is an article in the *American Historical Review* that looks at an event known as the Stono rebellion in Georgia in the 1700s. Some of the slaves who rebelled in that incident had come from the Congo region, part of what is now Angola. The writer hypothesizes that these slaves considered themselves Catholic.

“We do know that there were African Muslims who had been enslaved, and so there may well have been enslaved Catholics. The Congo became Catholic in the 15th century, when the king, Alphonso the Good, converted to Catholicism. After they conquered the area, the Portuguese had converted many Congo natives to Catholicism, so there was definitely a Catholic tradition in the area.

“Later there were many Blacks in Maryland and Louisiana who were traditionally Catholic because the Jesuits evangelized them there. But we don’t know for certain how many African slaves might already have been Catholics because the study of the Catholic Church in Africa is still going on.”

Donation requests: Harriet Tubman Women’s Center Catholic Charities

Support our homeless sisters by donating women’s socks, flip flops for showers, rain ponchos, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, lotion, and soap. Call the Front Desk to arrange drop off: 202-795-9966

CCW-ADW WEBSITE

<https://www.councilofcatholicwomen-adw.com/>

gives you up-to-the-minute news on what's happening for women in the Archdiocese.



Archdiocese of Washington's
Council of Catholic
Women

Our website features useful information such as:

- a calendar of events
- a page for parish website links
- a photo gallery of past events
- easy access to the CCW's newsletter The "Link"

For more information contact Mary Leibolt by email at mfleib@verizon.net

CCW NIGHTLY ROSARY FOR HEALING OF THE CHURCH



Since September 2018, the Council of Catholic Women has been hosting a nightly Rosary call for the healing of the Church. We believe that prayer is the foundation of action. We are blessed to have so many faithful callers.

**Call in at 8:00 p.m. seven days a week
605-468-8016, code 357090#**

With the intercession of our Blessed Mother and by the power of the Holy Trinity, praying the Rosary can help restore the Church to a place of safety and moral guidance during this time of great need. "Prayer will help us move forward," says Sharon O'Brien, CCW's Immediate Past President. In our effort to connect Catholic Women, we want to thank **Lisa Williams**, Sodality Union President; **Margaret Short** of the Knights of St. John International Supreme Ladies Auxiliary; and **Cynthia Morris** of the Knights of St. Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary for joining our Rosary Call.

All are welcome to participate.

Each night, individuals dial 605-468-8016, ID 357090#, read meditations on the Rosary's mysteries, and pray together.

–Carol Monaco, *Spirituality Commission Chair*

PONDER WITH MARY



by Carol Monaco
<https://www.journeytoourlady.com/>

To see God working in our lives
is difficult at times—
especially when we are under stress.
We do not always understand why events happen as they do,
which begs the question: Does God know best?
Where is God when we journey through sin and darkness;
Where is God when we can't find love or tenderness?
In our search, we must recall:
God is everywhere—in each creation great and small.
In our losses, in our triumphs, in our joys, in our sorrows,
Our Lord is with us every day;
ready to embrace us and to show us the Way.
In those times when we cannot see,
let us step back and make an earnest plea.
Our Blessed Mother will surely intercede
and help us find God's graces—all that we need.
We may have worries, we may have fear,
but remember:
the love of our Lord is always here.
So let us be thankful in good days and bad
and
let us praise our God for all that we have.

Let us continue our Journey.



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 Kathy Foley, Treasurer
3306 Farthing Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20906

Membership Contact:
Carol-Ann Parker, President
904-699-6255
ArchdioceseCCW@gmail.com



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
- ❖ E-newsletters
- ❖ Facebook group
- ❖ Access to NCCW program information and 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.