



THE “LINK”

February 2021

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Sisters in Christ:

Our next Virtual Tea (via zoom) is Sunday, February 14. See page 2 for details. This is always a wonderful way to enjoy your Catholic sisters from the comfort of your own home. Hope you can join us!

Ready for an in-person Bible study series? EncounterGrace.co offers a series on Mondays and Tuesdays in Southern Maryland. Sign-up link is on page 2.

Looking ahead, the Archdiocese is offering a series for young marrieds and a series on parenting for all parents. Sounds like a great resource! Registration info on pages 2 and 3.

Tribute to Jacqueline Wilson on page 4. A stirring account of her importance to Black Catholics, and all Catholics, in communities across the country.

Have you prayed with us yet? Read one woman's experience as she prays the Rosary with CCD-ADW every evening at 8:00 pm. See page 7 for details.

Ponder With Mary on page 8 reminds us that life for the Blessed Mother was bumpy at times, too, and we can find inspiration in her faith, hope, and love.

With prayers for a fruitful and blessed Lent.

In Christ,
Carol-Ann Parker
President

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

2019-2021

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*Ash Wednesday is
February 17*

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Begins Monday, February 1

BeLoved [2] in-person Bible Series

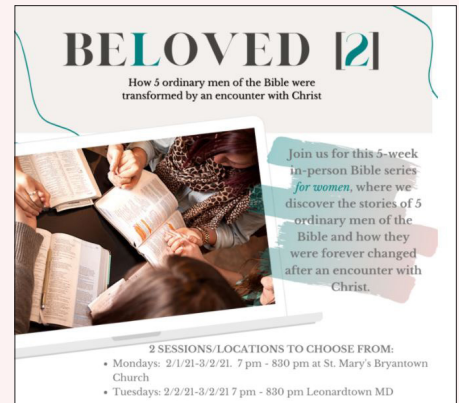
We'll look at how five ordinary men in the Bible were transformed after an encounter with Jesus Christ. We will also ask ourselves where we encounter Jesus, and how we might be changed by Him.

Our goal will be to examine how we, like they, are called by God in the midst of our ordinary lives, to do rather extraordinary things.

\$49.00. Register today at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beloved-2-bible-series-monday-session-tickets-133338508067>

Can't make it Mondays?

Call 301.848.2980 for info on the Tuesday sessions.



Sunday, February 14, at 3:00 pm

CCW-ADW Monthly Virtual Tea

These teas have been such a hit, we're making them a tradition! In honor of St. Josephine Bakhita's feast day on February 8, we will have a brief presentation on Human Trafficking. (Trafficking info at: <https://www.nccw.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Human-Trafficking-Feb-24-16.pdf>)

Register for the tea by emailing ArchdioceseCCW@gmail.com.

February 27–March 31



Tools for Marriage: Marriage Enrichment for Young Married Couples

Are you engaged or newly married? Looking for a way to grow closer to God and each other? The Archdiocese of Washington Office for Family Life is offering a 6-week small group series for young married couples, in collaboration with Teams of Our Lady entitled: *Tools for Marriage*. Topics will include: praying as a couple, the reality of married love, love in daily life, enriching married love, serving others, and your marriage in action. The series will take place on Wednesday evenings from February 27–March 31 from 8:00pm-9:00pm. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tools-for-marriage-tickets-125660749685> to register. For more information, contact the Archdiocese of Washington Office for Family Life at 301-853-4546 or visiblesign@adw.org.

LOOKING AHEAD

March 4–25



Workshop for Parents

Every Thursday, March 4 through March 25 from 7:00pm–8:00pm the Archdiocese of Washington Office for Family Life in collaboration with the Christian Family Movement will be offering a four-week virtual workshop series for parents. Topics will 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. Materials for all sessions will be provided. The cost per family is \$10.00. To register go to: <https://workshopforparents.eventbrite.com> or call the Archdiocese of Washington Office for Family Life for more information at 301-853-4546 or email visiblesign@adw.org



TRIBUTE TO JACQUELINE ETHERIDGE WILSON



Catholic Standard file photo

1937–2021

Excerpts of an article by Patricia Zapor for the Catholic Standard. Entire article is at <https://cathstan.org/news/local/after-a-lifetime-of-work-for-black-catholics-jacqueline-wilson-is-memorialized-as-a-mentor-and-teacher>

Jacqueline Wilson, who served as executive director of the Office of Black Catholics for the Archdiocese of Washington from 1979 to 2002, died on January 8. She was 83.

Jacqueline Etheridge Wilson was remembered at her January 18 Funeral Mass for a string of accomplishments on behalf of Black Catholics, as a mentor, visionary, unfailing friend and the kind of mother, aunt, grandmother and great-grandmother who thought of “family” as a huge umbrella under which all were welcome.

The underlying theme of Wilson’s memorial service, though, was that all those attributes were rooted in her unfailing faith in God and her willingness to serve in whatever small or large way necessary. Wilson was born December 16, 1937, and died January 8, 2021, at Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care Center in Wilmington, Delaware.

Among her many accomplishments, Wilson was a charter board member and officer of the first Black Catholic Secretariat of the Archdiocese of Washington, serving as executive director of the Office of Black Catholics from 1979-2002. She also was in leadership of the National Association of Black Catholic Administrators from 1974-2002.



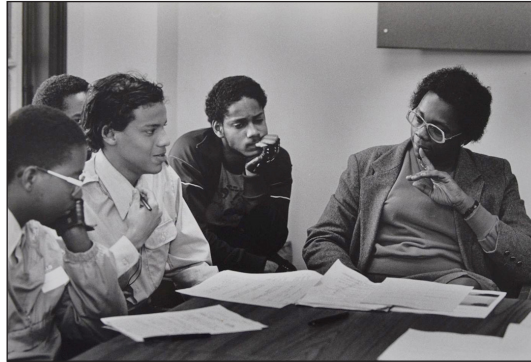
Jacqueline Wilson, shown in a 1978 photo, became the executive director of the Archdiocese of Washington’s Office of Black Catholics the next year. (Catholic Standard file photo)

“She was a teacher/preacher,” said homilist Msgr. Raymond East, the pastor of St. Teresa of Avila Parish in Washington. “She not only taught like Jesus, she preached like Jesus.” Msgr. East made note of the funeral’s date, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and found a parallel between Wilson and King. “She was also a leader/follower.... She led like Dr. King, not putting herself first.” Washington Cardinal Wilton Gregory was the main celebrant for her Funeral Mass.

Other tributes at the celebration of life that preceded the funeral focused on Wilson’s leadership characteristics. “When Jackie spoke, people were attentive,” said a tribute sent by Pam Harris, president of the National Association of Black Catholic Administrators. Harris called her “an influential, visionary leader,” who was known for

motivating others to “go beyond” expectations.

Spouses Charlene and Michael Howard described Wilson having that kind of influence on their lives. Charlene Howard, a religion teacher at Archbishop Carroll High School in Washington, described herself and her husband as a products of Wilson’s mentoring. She said her friend “was probably the most highly respected Black Catholic in the Archdiocese of Washington,” who “made it possible for me to go up there and know I belonged there.”



Jacqueline Wilson is shown meeting with young Black Catholics in 1985. (Catholic Standard file photo)

Michael Howard said Wilson’s influence changed his life, beginning with his participation in a Black Catholic Revival begun in 1982, with significant organizing effort from Wilson who was a co-founder. He said he considered Wilson to be the person called for by the prophet Ezekiel who would “stand in the gap before me. You see the bishops over here,” Howard said, gesturing, “and the Black Catholics over there. She stood in the gap. She pulled the bishops over here and she pulled black Catholics over here. That was the beginning of the revival.”

Howard said at the time he went to the revival at St. Matthew’s Cathedral, he was adrift in life. But after joining in the revival, he felt called to stand up when the presenters made an altar call and walked to the front of the church where then-Cardinal James Hickey blessed him. “That is what Jackie did for me,” he said. “She helped me to worship. She stood in the gap.” Then Howard broke into song as he returned to his seat in the church, singing, “This is my story, this is my song, this is my Savior, all day long....”

Wilson’s son, John Wilson III, said his mother’s devotion to education helped lead him to a career “dedicated to fixing education,” beginning with him helping her grade students’ papers when he was a child. Wilson added a note of levity, recognizing that he bears a strong physical resemblance to his mother. That has more than once, he said, led to him getting a notice from Facebook that someone had posted a picture of him on another page. “God has a sense of humor. It was her.”

A native of Washington, Jacqueline Wilson’s influence eventually stretched beyond her beloved hometown to national and international roles in developing ministry by and for Black Catholics. She was a prolific writer of many reviews and articles. She authored a booklet on “Combating Racism” for the Archdiocese of Washington, and with Loretta Butler, she coauthored the booklet “O, Write My Name: African-American Catholics in the Archdiocese of Washington, 1634-1990.”

In addition to helping organize the first Black Catholic Revivals for the Archdiocese of Washington, Wilson served as the administrator for the archdiocese’s Black Catholic History Project, she helped plan the Rejoice! Conferences on Black Catholic Liturgy, and worked with Leon Roberts, then the music director at St. Augustine Parish, to form the Archdiocese of Washington Mass Choir in 1983. Also during her leadership of the archdiocese’s Office of Black Catholics, Washington hosted the sixth National Black Catholic Congress in 1987, continuing the historic legacy of the first congresses for the nation’s Black Catholics that were held between 1889 and 1894.

“The Black Catholic church owes much to Jackie Wilson,” Msgr. East said. “Whenever anything got formed in the United States for Black Catholics Jackie was right there, pushing behind the scenes, she was a mother giving birth.”

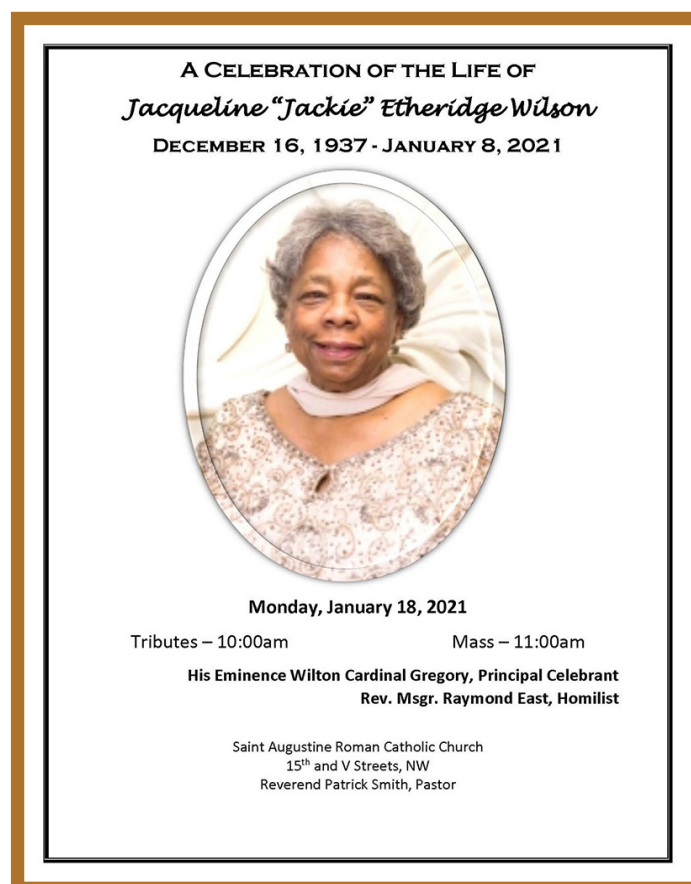
In 1979, when Wilson was elected as the president of the National Association of Black Catholic Administrators, she said, “We (African Americans) have a rich history and contribution in this Church and in this world.” She stressed the importance of the Catholic Church’s ministry to Black Catholics, saying it offered “a sign and witness of the Church to evangelization.” Wilson added, “The Church should be countercultural and say, ‘We are universal, we are all people,’ and then be true to that.”

After earning a bachelor’s degree in education at the Catholic University of America, Wilson began her professional life as an elementary school teacher, while also serving as a tutor for various organizations, as a parish council member and a catechist. She later earned a master’s in administration and supervision from Howard University. In 1973 she became a charter board member and officer of the first Black Catholic Secretariat in the Archdiocese of Washington.

Her work led her to an appointment by St. John Paul II as an observer and speaker at the 1997 Synod on Evangelization in the Americas, which brought her to South Africa for an evangelism conference. She also traveled to Germany, Paris, Mexico and Canada and extensively in Africa.

She retired to Wilmington in 2004 and was active there at St. Helena’s Catholic Church as a lector, member of the social ministry committee and the Diocesan Respect Life Committee. Wilson also was a volunteer for the St. Helena Parish social outreach office, was an adviser to the diocesan Ministry for Black Catholics and was active in the Knights of Peter Claver, Court 383.

Cardinal Gregory, in concluding the funeral Mass, said although Wilson retired before he came to the Archdiocese of Washington as the archbishop in 2019, their paths had crossed regularly over the years. “The whole church owes an incredible debt to Jackie,” he said. The cardinal noted that her funeral might have been held in many parishes in the archdiocese that could claim “she was ours.” But, he said, “she was all of ours.”

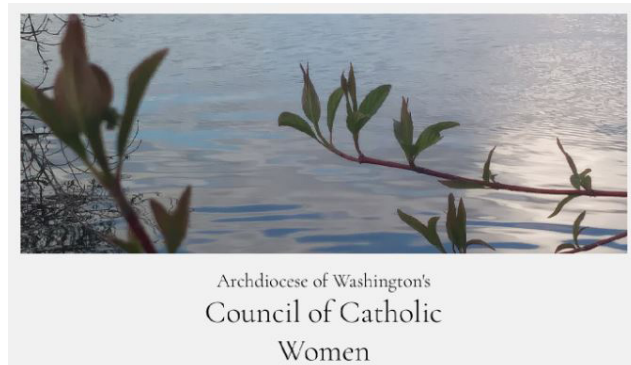


Cover of the program for the tributes and Funeral Mass held for Jacqueline Wilson on January 18, 2021 at St. Augustine Church in Washington and livestreamed for people who could not attend.

CCW-ADW WEBSITE

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

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



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



**Call in at 8:00 p.m. 7 days a week
605-468-8016, code 357090#**

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, like Donna, who says this about the nightly Rosary:

***“Prayer means I am not—& never will be— ‘alone.’
Nor do I have to have all the answers.”***

“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 leading our Rosary Call.

All are welcome to participate.

Join us as we read meditations on the Rosary’s mysteries, and pray together every evening at 8:00 pm.

–Carol Monaco, *Spirituality Commission Chair*

PONDER WITH MARY



God's Way

by Carol Monaco
JourneyToOurLady.com

When we open our hearts to God as Mary our Blessed Mother did in her lifetime and allow Him to work through us as He did with Mary—we have everything we need in life. We have God. How much or how little we accumulate in terms of material goods during our lifetime is meaningless, when we see what it truly means to magnify the Lord.

Whatever we do in life, we should use the opportunity to draw closer to God and allow Him to use us in carrying out His plan on earth. We may not always understand God's plan. What Mary did not understand, Our Lady pondered in her heart. More importantly, when we allow God into our hearts, our outlook and priorities change.

The sacrifices we make and the challenges we meet are no longer overwhelming because with God, there is nothing we cannot handle. God will provide us all that we need to live the life He wants us to live.

Let us look at Mary—the Mother of God. Mary endured challenges, sacrifices, and pain in her lifetime, but she knew the purpose—to bring our Savior into the world and to magnify the Lord. We too have a purpose—to keep Jesus in the world and by being Christ-like in our daily living, we can be active participants in our salvation and the salvation of the world.

Yes, we may falter at times, which is why we have the sacrament—the gift—of penance and reconciliation. When we go to confession, we are given the chance to start fresh, to grow in faith, and succeed in doing God's Will. So let us accept God's will and abide by His way because living life for God's sake is the most fulfilling and rewarding way of life we will ever experience.



Dear Guardian Angel, help me to find you in my times of trouble and discontent. So often I am in a fog of doubts and confusion; does God really care? Please give me shelter under your protective wing until the fog clears and may our Blessed Mother shine her kindly light so that I am able to see God's love in my life.

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