



## Council of Catholic Women– Archdiocese of Washington

ArchdioceseCCW@gmail.com

Facebook: WashACCW

<https://www.councilof-catholicwomen-adw.com/>

2021-2023

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# THE “LINK”

October 2022

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Sisters in Christ,

**Fall is starting off strong** with exciting events for Catholic women – including things at the very beginning of October, so be sure to look at them now!

**Annual Mass to begin Domestic Violence Awareness month** will be celebrated at the Basilica Vigil Mass on Saturday, October 1. See page 2.

**Servant of God Thea Bowman** is the subject of a brand new documentary airing on October 2. Find out when and where on page 3.

**Join the Southeast Deanery** for the 33rd Annual East of the River Fall Revival for 3 days of Praise, Worship, and Spiritual Presentations. More info on page 6.

**“How Mary and the Eucharist Change the World,”** a talk by Fr. James Brent, OP, will be offered, along with Adoration and Confession, at St. Andrew Apostle on October 3. Details on page 5.

**CCW-ADW’s Virtual Tea** on October 23 marks Domestic Violence Awareness month by providing 7 ways we can promote safe, healthy relationships, free of abuse and violence. See page 9.

**CCW-ADW has some exciting new initiatives** to promote peace in our communities. Several ways to participate are being planned. Discover how you can be a community peacemaker with your CCW sisters on page 7.

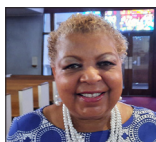
**Registration closes soon** for this year’s National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) Convention in November. See page 8.

**Thank you to the volunteers** who made the celebration of the 25th anniversary of Our Mother of Africa chapel such a success. See page 11 for more info.

**Not a CCW-ADW member yet?** We hope you’ll join us. Why become a member? Read all about it on pages 11 and 12!

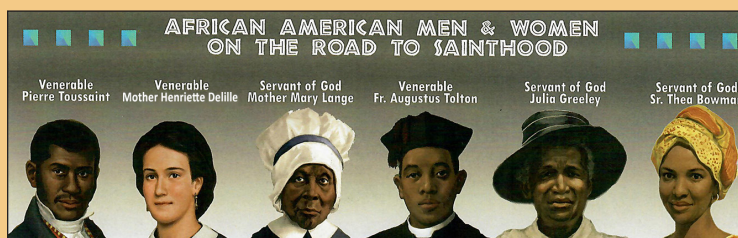
**Please share** the flyers and information in LINK with your community.

Your sister in Christ Jesus,



Cheryl Holley  
President

*Let’s keep our six African Americans on the road to sainthood in our daily prayers.*



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1**

# VIGIL MASS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

**Nourish Peace at Home:  
Faith Resources  
for Help and Healing**

**Saturday, October 1, 2022  
4:30 p.m.**

The National Catholic Domestic Violence Awareness Partners invite you to a vigil Mass for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

## CELEBRANT

**Bishop Bruce Lewandowski**

*Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Baltimore*



## LOCATION

**Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (Great Upper Church)**

400 Michigan Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017. Free parking is available.



## Registration for Reserved Seating is Requested

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mass-in-observance-of-domestic-violence-awareness-month-washington-dc-tickets-344425454807>



Secretariat of Laity, Marriage,  
Family Life and Youth

This Mass is hosted by a subcommittee of the National Catholic DVAM Partners that is coordinated by Catholics For Family Peace and the USCCB Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, in collaboration with the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

For more information, email [catholicfamilypeace@gmail.com](mailto:catholicfamilypeace@gmail.com).



**A new documentary on Sister Thea Bowman** shines a light on her life and work as an advocate for racial justice and intercultural understanding.

The idea for the documentary came to Franciscan Sister Judith Ann Zielinski, who wrote and produced the film, after the 2020 death of George Floyd while in police custody in Minneapolis.

“I thought, I have to do something, what can I do?” and “Thea Bowman popped into my head. She was a Franciscan sister, a woman who had been fighting systemic racism in her own time and in her own way.”

The documentary is a comprehensive look at Sister Thea, the first African American member of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration and one of six Black Catholics known as a “Servant of God.”

It also makes a case for her sainthood and for contemporary spirituality, Sister Zielinski said.

“Going Home Like a Shooting Star: Thea Bowman’s Journey to Sainthood” comes from NewGroup Media and the Diocese of Jackson, Mississippi. Along with archival media of Sister Thea, the documentary features interviews with her colleagues, friends, fellow Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, former students and African American scholars, priests and bishops.

The one-hour film, a part of the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission’s fall documentary season, will begin airing on ABC stations nationwide October 2.

Redemptorist Father Maurice Nutt, associate producer and biographer of Sister Thea, called her an “apostle for racial reconciliation in our church today.”

Noting that she died in 1990, Father Nutt said the film would make her known to a new generation. He also said her life resonates with much of what younger Catholics are looking for in the church — someone who speaks truth to power.

“Her call for justice, justice for the roles of women, justice for those who experience no matter what ethnicity, oppression or hatred” speaks to “us as a church being the body of Christ,” he said.

He also said her call for people to come together and share their gifts is a pivotal message to put a stop to “some of the racial hatred that we see in our society even today,” Father Nutt told Catholic News Service.

Bishop Joseph R. Kopacz of Jackson, Mississippi, petitioner for Sister’s Thea’s cause and executive producer of the documentary, said the film “speaks the need for the church to never give up that desire to be more united and more universal.”



He said Sister Thea had a “timeless message” that included a desire for greater harmony, unity, racial understanding and reconciliation and “being the body of Christ in a more faithful way.”

The bishop also remarked at the depth of her call, describing her as gifted, charismatic, prophetic and a “dynamo of energy.”

Sister Thea was born Bertha Bowman in 1937 in Yazoo City, Mississippi, to Dr. Theon Bowman, a physician and Mary Esther Bowman, a teacher. Her family moved to Canton where she encountered the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration at Holy Child Jesus School.

At age 9, Bertha became Catholic and at age 15, she left home for La Crosse, Wisconsin, to attend the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration’s high school, later joining the community and taking the name Sister Mary Thea.

Sister Thea went on to receive her doctorate from The Catholic University of America and returned to La Crosse to teach English and linguistics at Viterbo University.

Her parents’ deteriorating health called her back to Canton, where she led the Diocese of Jackson’s first Office for Intercultural Affairs. Her gifts for preaching, singing and teaching led her to countless speaking engagements across the United States.

In 1984, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She died March 30, 1990, at age 52.

She was declared a “Servant of God” in May 2018 and the U.S. bishops voiced their consent to her canonization cause at their November 2018 fall general meeting in Baltimore.

Sister Eileen McKenzie, president of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, said Sister Thea’s canonization would “hold up the spirituality and the gift of the Black Catholic Church” and “give courage to our African American brothers and sisters who often don’t have platform.”

It would also be significant for her order. One of the primary values of Franciscans is continual conversion, Sister McKenzie explained, noting that Sister’s Thea’s canonization would call the community into deeper conversion.

“Her spirituality, her witness, her prophetic spirit resonates with us today. It’s hard to even speak of Thea in the past tense. It’s as if she’s with us today,” Father Nutt said.

“Going Home Like a Shooting Star” was funded in part by the Catholic Communication Campaign. Streaming opportunities will be announced by the Diocese of Jackson. To watch a preview of the film, visit: <https://youtu.be/tkzhnKG7mx>.



*This article was originally published at <https://catholicnews.com/new-documentary-on-sister-thea-bowman-highlights-her-faith-justice-work>*

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 3**

St. Andrew Apostle Church, 11600 Kemp Mill Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20902



*Month of the Rosary*

# NIGHT OF REFLECTION

*for men and women*

**Monday, October 3, 2022**

**6:30pm - 8:00pm**

**The Luminous Heart:  
How Mary and the Eucharist  
Change the World**

*with*

**Father James Brent, O.P.**

Dominican House of Studies

*The reflection will be offered during Eucharistic Adoration.*

*The opportunity for confession will be available.*

Saint Andrew Apostle Catholic Church

*No registration required.*

*The Rosary is a long chain that links heaven and earth.  
One end of it is in our hands and the other end is in the hands of the Holy Virgin.*



Sponsored by the Saint Andrew Apostle Women's Ministry

**MON, OCTOBER 3 – WED, OCTOBER 5**

The Southeast Deanery and Partnering Churches Present the  
**33rd Annual East of the River Fall Revival**

**"We have come this far by Faith"**

**October 3, 2022 through October 5, 2022**

**Starts at 7 PM with Praise and Worship**

**This is a Live and Virtual event Hosted by and live streamed from  
St. Luke Catholic Church  
Revivalists:**

**Monday, October 3, 2022**



Rev. Monsignor Raymond G. East,  
Pastor, St. Teresa of Avila,  
Washington, DC

**Tuesday, October 4, 2022**



Rev. Patrick A. Smith, Pastor,  
St. Augustine Catholic Church,  
Washington, DC

**Wednesday, October 5, 2022**



Rev. Raymond B. Kemp,  
Professor, Georgetown University,  
Washington, DC

To join the Revival Live Stream, please go to Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stluke.stlukesdc/>  
Or Dial: 425-436-6339. Access code: 269615  
The East of the River Fall Revival video will be available on YouTube @  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxLUPGPb4HGGIYm9NWkBN7g/videos?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxLUPGPb4HGGIYm9NWkBN7g/videos?view_as=subscriber)

**Follow the East of the River Fall Revival  
on Social Media at:**

**Facebook: Southeast Deanery Revival**

**Instagram: @eastoftheriverrevival**

**Twitter: errc\_dc**

**Support the Revival**

mail checks to:

ERRC / ST. LUKE CATHOLIC CHURCH  
4925 E. CAPITOL STREET  
WASHINGTON, DC 20019

or submit electronically via the St. Luke  
WEBSITE

<http://www.stlukechurchssj.org/Donate>

Click on Fund ERRC

**Contact us at: [errcommittee.sedc@outlook.com](mailto:errcommittee.sedc@outlook.com)**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4**

**Feast of St. Francis of Assisi 2022**

**Eco-Spirituality: Behold God in Everything!**



This year's program focuses on Ecological Spirituality, one of the seven goals of the Vatican's *Laudato Si'* Action Platform. The 90-minute program includes prayers, readings, reflection/discussion questions, a short video, a Franciscan contemplation exercise, and suggested activities.

Downloading the program gives you an email with all of the links to the Facilitator Program Guide, an In-person Program Guide, an Online or Individual Program Guide, and a Blessing of the Animals Liturgy.

Download the program guide at

<https://catholicclimatecovenant.salsalabs.org/feastofstfrancis2022downloadform/index.html>



### **Peace in Our Communities**

**Let us come together in prayer** for healing and prevention as horrible mass shootings and all violence in our communities tear at the heart of humanity. Please join the Council of Catholic Women-Archdiocese of Washington in praying the Rosary, starting on October 31 and concluding on All Souls Day by clicking here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f084fa5a929aa8-adoration1>

**Let us unite in prayer with Mary** our Blessed Mother and all the angels and saints to help break the cycle of violence and bring peace to every heart and mind in our communities. Please sign up by selecting a 30-minute slot(s) at which time(s) you will commit to pray the Rosary and any other prayers of your choosing. This Rosary prayer-a-thon is just the beginning.

**In the coming weeks and months**, the CCW-ADW Peace Builders Committee is pursuing the following initiatives:

- + Establish a nationwide perpetual Rosary for healing of all people impacted by violent crime.
- + Hold a day of prayer and reflection with the Celebration of Mass to bring peace to our communities.
- + Call on every pastor to offer up the prayer intention at daily Mass to change the hearts and minds of individuals who would commit such violence.
- + Encourage communities to hold interfaith and outdoor prayer services for peace.
- + Advocate and track local, state, and federal initiatives to improve safety in our communities and prevent violence.

**We hope you will join our efforts** to bring peace to our communities. For more information about the Peace Builders Committee and these initiatives, please contact CCW-ADW at [archdioceseCCW@gmail.com](mailto:archdioceseCCW@gmail.com). Thank you and God bless you!

*How powerful prayer is!  
May we never lose the courage to say:  
Lord, give us your peace.*

*Pope Francis*



## FROM THE PROVINCE DIRECTOR

*The National Council of Catholic women (NCCW) was founded in 1920 and is the parent organization of the local Council of Catholic Women ministries throughout the country. We, the Washington Archdiocese Council of Catholic Women (Council of Catholic Women-ADW) is part of the Washington Province of NCCW and Shelia Parker is our Province Director!!*

# National Council of Catholic Women



Shelia Parker

**Mission:** The National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) acts through its members to support, empower and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. NCCW programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world

**Purpose:** To unite the Catholic women of the United States to develop their spiritual growth and leadership potential, and to motivate and assist them to act upon current issues in the church and society through service.

Please contact me at (240) 687-6167 or [Scparker61@verizon.net](mailto:Scparker61@verizon.net) if you have any questions or want more information about NCCW. To register for this year's Convention, click the link in the green box below.

May your life be filled with blessings!!

Shelia

Join us for the 2022 Convention  
in Minneapolis, Minnesota

**Registration for NCCW Convention CLOSING SOON!**

**<https://www.nccw.org/nccw-convention/>**

WIDE *open* HEARTS  
Abiding in Faith, Hope and Love

2022 CONVENTION

NCCW

November 2-5, 2022



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**CCW-ADW Monthly Virtual Tea**

*Seven Ways the Church Responds to Intimate Partner Violence,  
One Way You Can Help*

Council of Catholic Women invites YOU to our free Zoom event with

**Dr. Sharon A. O'Brien**

October 23, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

Join this Virtual Tea to learn the 30 year history of how the Church has addressed and continues to address intimate partner violence (IPV). IPV used to be called marital/spouse abuse but now also includes dating and elder abuse. Come learn what we've done and choose one thing you can do to promote safe, healthy relationships – free of abuse and violence.

*Sharon O'Brien, Co-founder and Director of Catholics For Family Peace: Education and Research on Abuse, will be our presenter. She is a Past President of our Council and Past Province Director.*

All are welcome: members, guests, family, and friends.

**To register for this free event, email [ArchdioceseCCW@gmail.com](mailto:ArchdioceseCCW@gmail.com)  
or call 301-651-8190 for more information.**



**2022 Saint Bakhita  
Youth Video Contest**

U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking

A great opportunity for high school students to learn more about trafficking  
and share with us their creativity in a 3-minute video.

The deadline is March 30th, 2023. Cash Prizes!

Share this with your local schools, teachers, youth groups, etc.

Video Contest Information Link:

<https://www.sistersagainsttraffickingfilmfest.com/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=754220ed-ab5b-4891-a806-d295f575384b>



## AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE



**Like Mary and Joseph, families have a mission to welcome Jesus into their homes and lives**, to “listen to him, speak with him, take care of him, protect him and grow with him, and in this way improve the world” (Pope Francis, 2014). The Holy Family of Nazareth shows families how to be holy and how to help others be holy. The witness of families who answer God’s call, who open the doors of their hearts, reaches far beyond the walls of their home. This witness speaks the Gospel by their example to their extended family, to neighbors, to friends, to schoolmates, to everyone. It brings Christ to the world.

**Explore resources for Family Life at <https://adw.org/living-the-faith/marriage-family/family/>**

**Resources for the family provided by the Archdiocese include:**

**Anti-Pornography.** Here you’ll find links to resources for men and women to find healing and for families to educate themselves on the harms of pornography so that they are better able to protect their children: <https://adw.org/living-the-faith/marriage-family/family/anti-pornography/>

**“At the Well”** Ministry for Separated and Divorced Catholics. Advocates for and encourages the spiritual, emotional, and social recovery and development of those who are separated, divorced, or are Catholics in irregular marriages following a divorce. <https://adw.org/living-the-faith/marriage-family/ministry-separated-divorced-catholics/>

**Courage** is an apostolate of the Roman Catholic Church to assist those with same-sex attraction. Endorsed by the Pontifical Council for the Family, Courage seeks to help people develop an interior life of chastity and move beyond the confines of the homosexual identity to a more complete identity in Christ. Courage meetings provide members a place to share their concerns and struggles, to support one another and find support for themselves. Strict confidentiality is maintained. <https://adw.org/living-the-faith/marriage-family/family/courage-apostolate/>

**Domestic Abuse.** Catholics for Family Peace aims to inform everyone on ways the Catholic community can promote family peace and prevent and respond to domestic abuse. We provide resources and promote prayer for all families. Our initiative provides education, resources, and research that help pastoral leaders, clergy, and parishioners recognize domestic abuse and respond with compassion. <http://www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org/>

***“The joy of love experienced by families is also the joy of the church.”***

Pope Francis

## CCW-ADW IN ACTION

### Become a member today and be part of the “Can’t Miss a Thing” Club

We thank CCW-ADW Members for their contributions and dues, which support our social, spiritual, and educational gatherings and our service projects. Without our members, none of this good work would be possible! Your membership dues and the fire of the Holy Spirit in our souls make it possible to be the hands, feet, and heart of Jesus to address current needs in our church and community.



On Saturday, September 17th, 2022, we celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Our Mother of Africa Chapel at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. The Council of Catholic Women-Archdiocese of Washington, (CCW-ADW) led the charge in providing volunteers to serve. I am so elated to say, the CCW-ADW stepped up to the plate. Volunteers included members of CCW-ADW, the Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver, the Tolton Ambassadors-DC, students from Archbishop Carroll High School, and our parking attendants.

Thank you all for your service!!

*Cheryl Holley*  
President



*Cheryl Holley with Ed Dwight, sculptor of the Mother of Africa sculpture, and his wife.*

**If you're not a member yet, join today with the form on the next page  
and be a part of CCW-ADW Catholic women in action.  
We need your voice and visibility!**

Watch a replay of the Mass and celebration, sponsored by the National Black Catholic Congress, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKvXOmSs834>

Read articles on the celebration and see more photographs of the event at <https://cathstan.org/news/faith/pilgrims-visit-our-mother-of-africa-chapel-ahead-of-national-black-catholic-congress> and <https://catholicreview.org/pilgrims-mark-anniversary-of-national-shrines-our-mother-of-africa-chapel/>

# 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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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.

**Shelia Parker, Province Director**  
[scparker61@verizon.net](mailto:scparker61@verizon.net)