



THE “LINK”

January 2022

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy and blessed New Year!

This issue of LINK keeps you up-to-date on happenings for Catholic women in the Archdiocese. Be sure to email your event info to us at the address on the blue sidebar. We'll let everyone know about it!

Natural Family Planning. If you want to discover how to space pregnancies in a pro-life way, here's your chance. The Archdiocese is offering a Natural Family Planning Introductory Class on March 10. See page 3.

But wait! The Archdiocese is offering quite a few opportunities to strengthen your marriage, family, and spiritual life. Details on pages 2 and 3.

Get your New Year off to a strong spiritual start by praying the Rosary with us. We're here seven days a week at 8:00 pm. Join us when you can — all are welcome! Call-in number on page 4.

Not a member of ADW-CCW yet? Check out page 8 — we'd love you to join us.

In Christ,

Carol-Ann Parker



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

2021-2023

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JANUARY EVENTS AND BEYOND



Marriage Prep Weekend

Thursday to Sunday / January 20–23 or February 10–13 (both in person)

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.

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



Strengthening Your Love: Marriage Renewal Workshop Saturday, February 26-Sunday, February 27

The Christ-Centered Marriage Renewal Workshop for married or engaged couples looking to reconnect, repair, and re-energize their marriage and nurture emotional closeness in your marriage. Facilitated by an expert team of Catholic therapists, this workshop will offer a road-map for addressing sensitive issues, encourage healthy conversations framed in faith and guide you and your spouse toward forgiveness and re-bonding.

You will not have to “share” with anyone except your spouse. Cost: \$400 per couple. Not an overnight event.

More info and to register: <https://ourladyofbethesda.org/strengthening-your-marriage-communication-workshop>



The Way Women's Retreat February 18–20, 2022

Please register for free by contacting Deborah McDonald at mcdonald@adw.org or 301-853-4466.

https://adw.org/the-way-retreat/?fbclid=IwAR2siwSgIxGoOr7bbycNGa_b2AVI9UIIjaLDA8vxJqFXsX741ScEc_smBw



Save the Date! February 23 – April 2, 2022 Virtual Women’s Spiritual Series

The Archdiocesan Office of Family Life and the Council of Catholic Women, invites you to join women around the Archdiocese for a seven-part spiritual series on the “Real Presence.” We will meet virtually every Wednesday evening from February 23 to March 30 from 7:00pm – 8:30pm and conclude with an in-person gathering on Saturday, April 2 at St. Mary’s Church in Rockville. Registration link coming soon. For more information, contact the Office of Family Life at visiblesign@adw.org or 301-853-4546.



March 10, 2022: Natural Family Planning Introductory Class

Couples interested in learning about Natural Family Planning are invited to join in a virtual class on Thursday, March 10 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/introduction-to-nfp-for-engaged-or-married-couples-tickets-167103919321>. For more information, contact the Archdiocesan Office of Family Life at 301-853-4546 or visiblesign@adw.org.



March 10 – 24, 2022 Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation Class

St. John Neumann Parish 9000 Warfield Road, Gaithersburg, MD will be offering a virtual marriage preparation class for 3 consecutive Thursdays, March 10, 17, 24 from 6:00pm – 9:00pm. Please meet with your parish priest or deacon who is preparing you for the sacrament of matrimony prior to registering. To register, contact the Archdiocesan Office of Family Life at visiblesign@adw.org or 301-853-4546.

March 26 & April 2, 2022 Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation Class

St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 805 Wayne Avenue, Silver Spring, MD will be offering an in-person marriage preparation class for two consecutive Saturdays on March 26 & April 2 from 8:30am – 5:00pm. Please meet with your parish priest or deacon who is preparing you for the sacrament of matrimony prior to registering. To register, contact the Archdiocesan Office of Family Life at visiblesign@adw.org or 301-853-4546.

TAKING TIME FOR PRAYER

As our world opens up from COVID, our time fills up quickly.

Do we still have time to pray?

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



Since September 2018, the Council of Catholic Women (CCW) has been hosting 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.

How about once a month on your birthdate?

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.

Carol Monaco, Spirituality Commission Chair
ArchdioceseCCW@gmail.com

Mary joins us, she fights at our side.

***She supports Christians in the fight against the forces of evil.
Especially through prayer, through the Rosary. Hear me out, the Rosary...***

Do you pray the Rosary each day?

Pope Francis

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: DEADLINE JANUARY 9



Tutor English Remotely with Zoom Help Hispanic Parish Leaders in 2022

Do you have experience as an ESOL teacher? Would you like to learn how to tutor English by Zoom? You are invited to volunteer with the Catholic Charities virtual ESOL team at St. Matthias Catholic church in Lanham, Maryland. Tutors are assisting Hispanic leaders of the Vincentian Friends on the Peripheries, a tri-parish group (St. Matthias, St. Mary's Landover Hills, St. Ambrose) in Prince George's County serving vulnerable families. Tutoring will occur one hour a week mid-February through mid-May.

Apply online before Sunday, January 9: <http://bttr.im/dspnu>

And then, plan to attend by Zoom: Catholic Charities Volunteer Orientation, Wed, January 19, 6:00-8:30 pm. ESOL Ventures Tutor Training is held on the following Tuesdays: January 25, February 1, and February 8, from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. For more information contact Laura.Yeomans@CC-DC.org, (202) 315-9440.

YOUR SUPERPOWERS ARE NEEDED!



Many thanks to the volunteers who keep the gears turning here at CCW-ADW. Not participating yet? Please pray about how you can share what only you can give!

In this “unprecedented time” CCW-ADW has been able to reach and touch the hearts of more Catholic women than ever before, bringing us closer to God and to each other as a Catholic sisterhood. To continue that growth, we need women with foresight, tenacity, and the wisdom to listen. Under the guidance of the Executive Board, many individual women took on one specific task or program to make the past year a success.

Tasks like what?

- **Join the “list keeper” team.** Helping to keep our email list up to date is a manageable job with a **big** impact!
- Know how to **set up an eventbrite invitation**? With very little time, you can have a big impact on bringing together your Catholic sisters in the Archdiocese.
- **Bake cookies** (or know where to buy good ones)? We'll need those for upcoming in-person gatherings. Email me at ArchdioceseCCW@gmail.com to learn more! –*Carol-Ann Parker, President*

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CATHOLIC CHURCH
1600 Morris Road, SE
Washington, DC 20020
Very Rev. Michael L. Thompson, S.S.J. - Pastor

"GLOBAL MEALS FOR THE HUNGRY"



Volunteers packing meals



.....
Checks may be made payable to:
OLPH Church
(write on memo line of check: "Global Meals")
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(type in envelope # section: "Global Meals")
.....

DATES & TIME:

Fundraising Begins/Ends
November 28, 2021 - February 13, 2022

Packing Meals
Saturday, March 26, 2022
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

PLACE:

Church Hall—Panorama Room
1600 Morris Road, SE
Washington, DC 20020

GOAL:

Raise \$13,150.00
Pack & Ship 35,000 meals
Volunteers Needed 100 -150



Our Neighbor's Children

If you would like to volunteer, or have question about volunteering please contact Cheryl Holley (queenholley@comcast.net) or Nicky Wilkinson (fishingnicky@verizon.net).



Sound of Silence

by

Carol Monaco

<https://www.journeytoourlady.com>

In my neighborhood, a lot of construction is going on. Buildings are going up in every available space. Each day, I have to tune out all the sounds associated with construction and the traffic congestion it causes. Not easy.

When our heads are pounding from the noise and tensions in our daily lives, it's hard to think straight at all. Believe me there are days when I want to scream SHUT UP!! Truly, the sound of silence is a welcome relief.

We are meant to have quiet time in our daily lives. We need that space to clear our minds. What's more, we need to commune with our Lord. Remember, Jesus Christ often went off by himself to pray and spend quiet time with God the Father to renew and to refresh himself.

Pause, Ponder, Pray

In our Father's House, we can find that quiet space. So whenever we pass by a Church, let us take time to go inside and just sit in silence. Our Lord knows our needs before we say anything. And if we have time during the work week, let's stay for Mass.

At Mass, we are given time to pause, ponder, and pray. During that time we can open ourselves to Jesus, ponder his presence in the Spirit, and pray for God's graces to take hold in our lives. We also can pause, ponder, and pray in our own homes provided we follow Christ's way.

This is Jesus' instruction: "go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret." [Mt.6: 6]. We need that quiet room in our lives to be silent, to be still. Otherwise, how can we adhere to God's will, participate in Jesus' redemptive work, and follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit if we are distracted?

So whether it's by turning off the television, radio, or any other electronic device and tuning out the distractions, we can make the sound of silence. The calming influence of quiet time can help us center our lives in the Holy Trinity. In silence we can contemplate Christ's teachings in the Scriptures and feel his guidance by way of the Holy Spirit, drawing us into God's embrace.

Refresh and Renew

However, for some of us, spending time alone in silence may not be a welcome relief. Our quiet time easily fills with worried thoughts over what is occurring in our lives. Chances are we give ourselves plenty of time to worry. What does that accomplish?

"Can any of you by worrying add a moment to your life-span?" [Luke 12: 25] Probably not. Therefore, remember what Mary said to the wine servers regarding Jesus at the Wedding Feast at Cana—"Do whatever he tells you." [John 2: 5] And God our Father said at the Transfiguration: "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." [Luke 9: 35]

By listening to Jesus and following his instructions we are renewed and refreshed in unity with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. In silence with God in Three Persons, we can feel the healing joy this union brings. "My strength and my refuge is the Lord, and he has become my savior." [Exodus 15:2] Amen.



This article was originally published at <https://www.catholic365.com/article/13160/sound-of-silence.html>

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ACCW
WASHINGTON
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CATHOLIC WOMEN

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

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- ❖ Monthly tea
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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.