



**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”

February 2023

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Sisters in Christ,

**I pray you will join us in celebrating Black History Month** on February 19 at our Virtual Tea. See page 3 for registration details.

**The National Day of Prayer** for the African American and African family is February 5. See page 2 for a beautiful prayer to pray that day.

**There’s still time to register** for the series “Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist.” Find out how on page 4.

**Do you know a young person** who loves to make videos? See page 4 for info on entering a video contest.

**Looking ahead:** claim your spot now for the National Black Catholic Congress in July. Lots more info on page 5.

**Are you a CCW-ADW member?** You know how great it feels to support us in connecting Catholic women in the Archdiocese. If you haven’t joined yet, you can do that on page 6!

**Our Lady of Guadalupe** is our new patroness. Join us in asking for her intercession with the beautiful prayer on page 7.

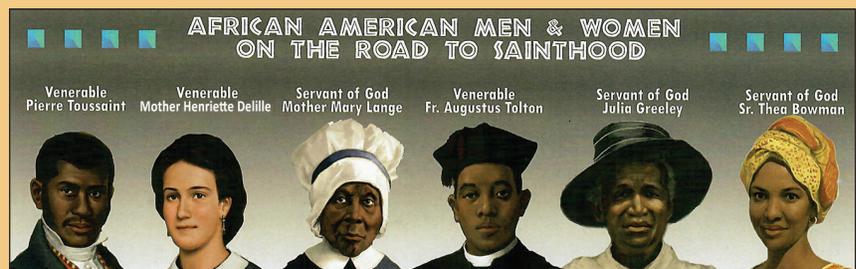
**Ash Wednesday** is February 22. Carol Monaco offers thoughts worth pondering on how we can have a Eucharistic Lent this year.

Your Sister in Christ Jesus,



*Cheryl Holley*  
President

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



## GOD OF MERCY AND LOVE

WE place our African American and African Families before You today. May we be proud of our history and never forget those who paid a great price for our liberation. Bless us one by one and keep our hearts and minds fixed on higher ground. Help us to live for you and not for ourselves, and may we cherish and proclaim the gift of life. Bless our parents, guardians and grandparents, relatives and friends. Give us the amazing grace to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Help us, as Your children, to live in such a way that the beauty and greatness of authentic love is reflected in all that we say and do. Give a healing anointing to those less fortunate, especially the motherless, the fatherless, the broken, the sick and the lonely. Bless our departed family members and friends. May they be led into the light of Your dwelling place where we will never grow old, where we will share the fullness of redemption and shout the victory for all eternity. This we ask in the Precious Name of Jesus, our Savior and Blessed Assurance. Amen. Holy Mary, Mother of Our Families, pray for us.

Prayer composed by FR. JIM GOODE, OFM, who in 1989 founded this National Day of Prayer for the African American and African Family

© Fr. Jim Goode, 1990

## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN FAMILY

FEBRUARY 5, 2023

CELEBRATING OUR  
**BLESSED  
ASSURANCE**  
THIS IS OUR STORY  
THIS IS OUR SONG

IN LOVING TRIBUTE  
TO  
FR. JAMES E. GOODE, OFM, PH.D.  
FOUNDER OF THE  
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE  
AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN FAMILY

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/>

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19



VIRTUAL MONTHLY TEA  
CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN- ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON



Email:  
[archdioceseccw@gmail.com](mailto:archdioceseccw@gmail.com)

2023 Black History Month  
Afternoon Tea and Reflection  
February 19, 2023 via ZOOM 3:00pm  
Register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/527888748457>

Special Guest: Sister Patty Chappell, SNDdeN

You Don't want to miss it!!

“Those who say it can't be done  
are usually interrupted by others doing it.”

– James Baldwin

## YOU CAN STILL REGISTER!

### Join Us

Our Lord invites us to the source and summit of our Faith—The Holy Eucharist. For this Eucharistic Revival journey, the Council of Catholic Women-Archdiocese of Washington is hosting a special **virtual** series:

### Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist.

#### Session 1: God is With Us

Jan. 30- Part 1

February 6- Part 2

#### Session 2: Story of the Eucharist

February 20 – Part 1

March 6 – Part 2

#### Session 3: Bread for the Journey

March 20– Part 1

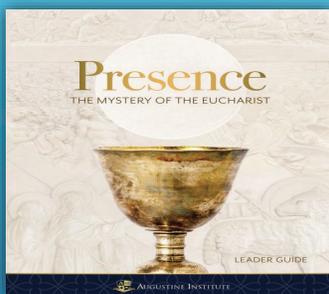
April 3 – Part 2

#### Session 4: Biblical Foundations

April 17 – Part 1

May 1 – Part 2

May 15 – Part 3



#### Explores:

- The truth and beauty of Christ's real presence in the Eucharist,
- From its origins in Sacred Scripture,
- To its profound role in the life of the Church and her members.
- Join us Mondays, 7:00-8:00 p.m.
- To Register (it's free):

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/515299975097>

Starting Feb. 20, join us for **Session 2: Story of the Eucharist** as we explore how the Eucharist is prefigured in the Old Testament and in Christ's miracles and teaching.

This series, carefully designed by the Augustine Institute, helps us discover the powerful way that God is present to us in the Eucharist, the beauty of Holy Communion, and the transformative power of the grace God offers us in this sacrament.



## 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>





The National  
BLACK CATHOLIC  
Congress

# CONGRESS XIII

## JULY 20-23, 2023

Founded in 1987, the National Black Catholic Congress organizes a national gathering every five years, renewing our mission with a Pastoral Plan.



*Write the Vision*  
A PROPHETIC CALL TO THRIVE  
THE NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS

FEATURING:



### WILTON CARDINAL GREGORY

Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC will give the opening Keynote Speech and celebrate the Opening Eucharistic Liturgy



### LYNNE' GRAY

Director of Music for Congress XIII. Ms. Gray is Music Ministry Director at St. Anthony of Padua Church, Washington, D.C.; Chair, NPM African-American Musicians Interest Section.



### RAWN HARBOR

Director of Liturgy for Congress XIII, Rawan is one of the preeminent African American Catholic liturgists and musicians in the U.S. today.

Early Registration ends February 28, 2023.  
Regular registration ends July 15, 2023.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING  
A PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF EVENTS,  
AND TO REGISTER:

[nbccgathering2023.org](http://nbccgathering2023.org)

Join with other Black Catholics and those who minister to Black Catholics in the United States for a celebration of our faith and culture.



Scan Me for  
More Information!

## VENUE: GAYLORD

## NATIONAL RESORT NATIONAL HARBOR, MARYLAND

201 WATERFRONT ST., NATIONAL HARBOR, MD 20745



# Membership is now opened!

If you're a member, thank you!

If you haven't joined us yet, please complete the form below and return to us.

## JOIN US TODAY!



### Individual Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday month \_\_\_\_\_ day \_\_\_\_\_

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)



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).

## PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

CCW-ADW is pleased to announce that the “Patroness of all Americas,” of unborn children, and of the New Evangelization is CCW-ADW’s Patroness Saint.



Remember, O most gracious Virgin of Guadalupe, that in your heavenly apparitions on the mount of Tepeyac, you promised to show your compassion and pity towards all who, loving and trusting in you, seek your help and call upon you in their necessities and afflictions; you promised to hear our supplications, to dry our tears, and to give us consolation and relief.

Never has it been known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, we fly to you,  
O Mary, ever-Virgin Mother of the true God!

Though grieving under the weight of our sins, we come to prostrate ourselves before you. We fully trust that, standing beneath your shadow and protection, nothing will trouble or afflict us, nor do we need to fear illness or misfortune, or any other sorrow.

O Virgin of Guadalupe, you want to remain with us through your admirable image, you who are our Mother, our health, and our life. Placing ourselves beneath your maternal gaze, and having recourse to you in all our necessities, we need do nothing more.

O Holy Mother of God, despise not our petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer us.  
*Amen.*

# Resolve

by Carol Monaco

**A month into the New Year and I have not kept my New Year's resolution.** That's because I did not actually make one. I thought about it though.

Who has time to keep a resolution?! Tough enough just to have the resolve to keep up with daily demands. So how does that bode for the Season of Lent? Remember, Ash Wednesday will be here February 22nd.

Lent is reminiscent of our Lord's 40 days of fasting and prayer. For the 40 days of Lent, we are called to practice penance—prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. That certainly requires resolve!

## Prepare for Lent

Each time I think of Lent, I end up negotiating with myself. How can I work it into my daily routine? What can I do that's not too difficult or distracting? If I give up chocolate, can I have a butter cookie instead?

What we do during this liturgical season is meant to draw us closer to our Lord; certainly not to lose sight of Him! So in preparing for Lent, time would be well-spent contemplating the Holy Eucharist. In the Eucharist we see our Lord's loving resolve.

God wants to unite each one of us to himself, to give us his merciful love, and to accompany us on life's daily journey. Therefore, our Lord comes to us in the Eucharist. Through this Blessed Sacrament, our Savior Jesus Christ offers us his Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. What do we do in return?

## Food for Thought

I confess, I grouse during Lent. What's the point of it when the tendency is to fall back into old habits and vices after Lent? Oh, to relish the taste of chocolate after 40 days of abstaining from it! Do we relish the Holy Eucharist?

Christ, the living bread, is present to us. When we partake in the Eucharist, we feed on our Lord's divine life and love. Do we really have an appetite for our Lord's saving grace? For it is through the Eucharist, we consume God's grace for eternal life.

Therefore, how willing are we to make sacrifices for the Eucharist? How much time are we willing to spend in Eucharistic Adoration? Do we go to Confession before receiving the Holy Eucharist? Our Lord gives us the gift of Himself in **the Eucharist**, do we give the gift of ourselves in return?

## Strength for Our Resolve

Lent gives us the opportunity to focus on cleansing ourselves in body, mind, heart, and soul. Such cleansing clears the way for a deeper relationship with God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Lent also is the time of spiritual preparation for the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ. At Easter, and at each time we celebrate the Mass, our Lord's sacrifice, crowned by the resurrection, is re-presented to us. Recalling these mysteries at Mass, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are offered God's saving grace in the Eucharist.

The more we learn about the Eucharist, the more we realize and appreciate its purpose for our lives. The Eucharist augments our union with Jesus our Savior, separates us from sin, and strengthens our charity. Truly the Bread of Life nourishes us for our Lenten journey and all the days of our lives. Strengthening our resolve, by way of the Eucharist, **we become more Christ-like in our daily living. Amen!**