



THE “LINK”

April 2023

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Sisters in Christ,

As we look to the beginning of Passion Week and Easter, I pray the Lord showers down his richest blessings on you and your family.

Our Virtual Tea this month offers expert speakers on how to help prevent and stop abuse in teen dating. Registration on page 2.

The Archdiocese offers a safe space for youth to share views on Catholic Social Teaching, and once again offers “The Way” retreat for survivors of abuse. See page 3 for how to participate in these Archdiocesan events.

There are still several opportunities to join us for our series, “Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist.” A great way to celebrate the National Eucharistic Revival. See page 4 for details.

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!

One of our Black Catholic Shepherds, Bishop Fernand Cheri, III, OFM, went home to be with the Lord on March 21, 2023. Read about his life, contributions to the Church and Homegoing plans on page 7.

Your Sister in Christ Jesus,



Cheryl Holley
President

**Council of Catholic Women–
Archdiocese of Washington**
ArchdioceseCCW@gmail.com
Facebook: WashACCW
<https://www.councilof-catholicwomen-adw.com/>

2021-2023

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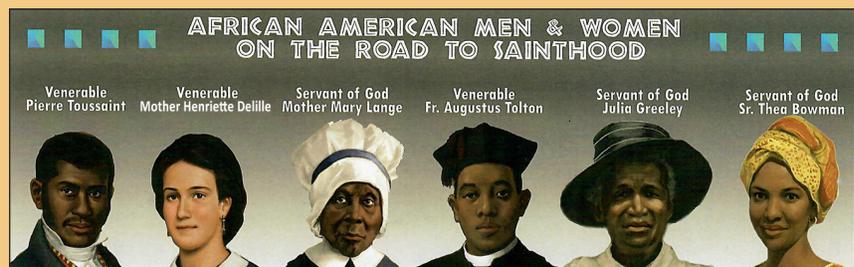
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Let’s keep our six African Americans on the road to sainthood in our daily prayers.



SUNDAY, APRIL 16



VIRTUAL MONTHLY TEA

Join us to learn the warning signs of teen dating abuse and how you can help stop it.

Understanding Teen Dating Abuse and What We Can Do to Help

presented by the Council of Catholic Women–Archdiocese of Washington

April 16 from 3 to 4 pm via zoom.

Speakers:

Laura Yeomans

Coordinator for Catholic Charities Washington DC's Domestic Violence Outreach

Gail Ruffin

Music Director at Mt. Calvary Catholic Church and retired Catholic school principal

Two out of three teens experience some form of teen dating abuse.
Come learn warning signs and ways to help.

**Register today for this free event at
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/605209386567>.**

National Domestic Violence Hotline 800-799-7233



*"Always, peace is possible! We have to seek it...
Prayer is the very root of peace. Peace is always
possible and our prayer is at the root of peace."
Pope Francis*

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE



The Catholic Civil Dialogue Initiative

provides a safe space for youth to discuss Catholic Social Teaching and share perspectives on relevant topics.

It is a collaboration between the Archdiocese of Washington, the Archdiocese of Newark, the Archdiocese of Mobile, the Diocese of Scranton, and the McGrath Institute at the University of Notre Dame.

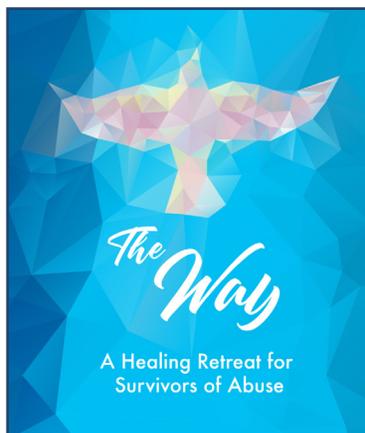
Upcoming Virtual Dialogues:

Sunday, April 23 at 1:00 pm ET

Tuesday, April 25 at 7:00 pm ET

Join us for a virtual dialogue on one of the above dates. During these dialogues, you will join peers from across the country to engage in a dialogue on Catholic teaching. These dialogues are open to people of all ages, with separate breakout rooms for youth and adults. You must register at least three days in advance to attend.

Register at: <https://adw.org/catholic-civil-dialogue-initiative/>



The Way Retreat

The Way is a free, 3-day guided meditation and prayer program. It is an opportunity for healing and prayer and for survivors to reflect on God's plan for their lives.

April 28 – 30, 2023

Cost: Free!

Please register by contacting Deborah McDonald at mcdonaldd@adw.org or 301-853-4466.
<https://adw.org/event/the-way-womens-retreat-3/>

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

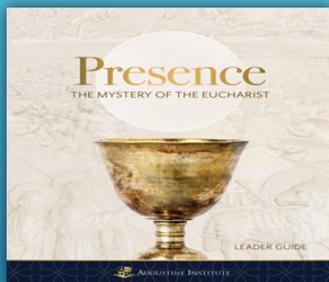
April 3 – Part 2

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.
- Registration is free. To register for Session 4:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/516956509837>

Starting April 17, join us for the **Biblical Foundations of the Eucharist** to help foster a deeper appreciation for the gift of the Eucharist. This series, carefully designed by the Augustine Institute, examines the effects of the sacrament and its setting in the Mass; explores the scriptural foundation of the sacrament; and discover the beauty of Holy Communion and the transformative power of the grace God offers us in this sacrament.

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.

“Prayer will help us move forward,” says Sharon O’Brien, Director of Catholics for Family Peace. In our effort to connect Catholic Women, we want to thank **Lisa Williams**, Sodality Union Immediate Past Prefect; **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.

Questions? Email me at ArchdioceseCCW@gmail.com –Carol Monaco, *Spirituality Commission Chair*



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

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



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.

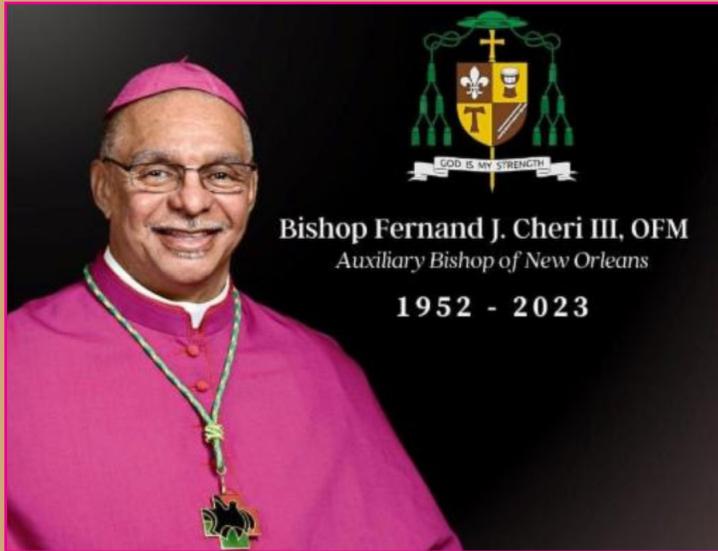
Membership Benefits

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.



Homegoing services for Bishop Fernand J. Cheri III, OFM can be seen on the Archdiocese of New Orleans YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/ArchdioceseOfNO

Saturday, April 1, 2023:
Visitation 9:00-11:00 am
Mass of Christian Burial: 11:00 am

To read more about his life and work:
<https://clarionherald.org/news/auxiliary-bishop-cheri-dies-at-71-after-lengthy-illness>

“Bishop Cheri was a pillar in the Black Catholic community. His death is a great loss to the Church and Black Catholics.”

– Cheryl Holley, President CCW-ADW



Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe, “Patroness of all Americas,” and 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.

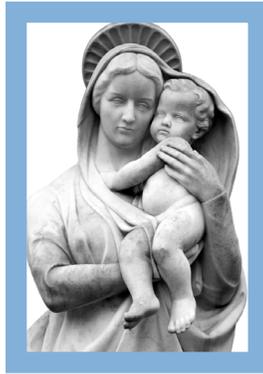
Never has it been known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, we fly to you, O Mary, ever-Virgin Mother of the true God!

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.

PONDER WITH MARY



Jesus Has Outsmarted Death

Because the Incarnation is impossible for the human mind to fully grasp, its importance can sometimes slip from our minds. The words of the fourth-century Syrian, St. Ephrem (306-373 AD), powerfully remind us what the Incarnation of Jesus accomplished and continues to accomplish! Here are some words of Easter hope from a wise man who lived 1600 years ago!



“Death trampled our Lord underfoot, but he in his turn treated death as a highroad for his own feet. He submitted to it, enduring it willingly, because by this means he would be able to destroy death in spite of itself. Death had its own way when our Lord went out from Jerusalem carrying his cross; but when by a loud cry from that cross he summoned the dead from the underworld, death was powerless to prevent it.

“Death slew him by means of the body which he had assumed, but that same body proved to be the weapon with which he conquered death. Concealed beneath the cloak of his manhood, his godhead engaged death in combat; but in slaying our Lord, death itself was slain. It was able to kill natural human life, but was itself killed by the life that is above the nature of man.

“Death could not devour our Lord unless he possessed a body, neither could hell swallow him up unless he bore our flesh; and so he came in search of a chariot in which to ride to the underworld. This chariot was the body which he received from the Virgin; in it he invaded death’s fortress, broke open its strong-room and scattered all its treasure.

“We give glory to you, Lord, who raised up your cross to span the jaws of death like a bridge by which souls might pass from the region of the dead to the land of the living. We give glory to you who put on the body of a single mortal man and made it the source of life for every other mortal man. You are incontestably alive. Your murderers sowed your living body in the earth as farmers sow grain, but it sprang up and yielded an abundant harvest of men raised from the dead.

“Come then, my brothers and sisters, let us offer our Lord the great and all-embracing sacrifice of our love, pouring out our treasury of hymns and prayers before him who offered his cross in sacrifice to God for the enrichment of us all.”

