

# MCCW Winter 2017 Well

[View this email in your browser](#)



## **2017: Ripe with Anticipation and Expectation!**

Happy New Year in the Year of Our Lord 2017! I pray that God may bless all of you and your families by providing the necessary graces for your state in life. I am sure all of you took a moment at the close of 2016 to reflect on how GOD and Our Blessed Mother have been present in your lives and those you are close to and thank HIM for all of HIS generosity.

I am using the “Woman at the Well” to be the inspiration for my servant leadership role over the course of the remaining time as MCCW Worldwide President and boy oh boy has she led me to these thoughts for all of you for the upcoming year.

Like the Woman at the Well the Samaritan woman was searching for happiness, but she also allowed me the opportunity to see where JESUS was seeking her salvation. In this Year of Our Lord, MCCW is affording all of you to drink from the “Well” of Divine life through our Regional Retreats in 2017 that have prayerfully been orchestrated through devoted and committed women who are relying on the Holy Power of our Lord to

orchestrate and execute them in all the regions. The swamp of sin can take over quickly so stay close to the WELL. Our Journey of Faith Spiritual Leadership and Development encounters will provide enhancement to your journey of faith in your communities by assisting in living for Christ and through Christ. We look forward to visiting you at “YOUR WELL” and providing for your thirst.

The Woman at the Well desires peace and the happiness that the things of this world cannot provide, the LORD promises better, JOY true JOY it cannot be robbed.

The Samaritan Woman becomes a true apostle once she encounters the LORD JESUS, for who HE truly IS. Here, in this encounter like so many other parts of the Gospels, we see that the TRUE disciple of the LORD will always be a passionate apostle.

This year like so many others we get to make choices and say YES to invitations. Jesus surprises us in encounters where we may never expect! Every day we are faced with choices and challenges that affect our relationship with the LORD. It is not easy to stay faithful or faithfilled. God’s grace makes discipleship not only possible but a real adventure.

Conversion is change and who in 2017 would not benefit from change we are always in need of change, thank goodness for LENT, yes I said it the other great time for conversion , and LENT is fast approaching.

We pray with anticipation and expectation for all the benefits that the LORD will provide in 2017. I don’t need to share with all of you the way that we as a military catholic worldwide community celebrate in different time zones with different customs and all very different but one golden thread remains the same , we all share a common HOPE! New beginnings! Ripe with anticipation and Expectation!

On the first day, of the New Year, Catholic Christians celebrate the Feast of the Solemnity of the Mother of God, this is not a liturgical accident but a very intentional one at that. “She who beheld the face of the Savior, invites us to hear the words of HER SON and our Savior Jesus Christ, “Behold I make all things New!” (Rev. 21:5)

I look forward to meeting YOU at the WELL in this 2017 year and all the encounters that we will share in our Journey of Faith along “THE WAY”.

In His Service Always,

Humbly,

Michelle Nash

MCCW President 2016-2018

---



Dear Ladies of the MCCW-Worldwide and all Catholic Women of the Chapel,

Every year as Christmas approaches I carve out some time to quietly sit before a rendition of a Nativity Creche and read the Christmas story. In particular, Luke's Gospel, chapter 2 leads me to the birth of Jesus. There is so much richness to the story that each year I let myself read the story, stop, and ponder where the story (or the Spirit) invite me to stop.

This year, my reading stopped at verse seven, "She gave birth to her first-born and wrapped him in swaddling clothes..." My thoughts went to a cold December Sunday of Advent as a young family entered the Chapel for Sunday Mass. Mom was holding a very young infant, wrapped in a warm baby blanket. Dad was holding another child half wrapped in a blanket and the child half holding the other half of the blanket. I teased the child asking if I could have the blanket to keep me warm. The encounter that followed brought smiles to the parents then and continues to bring smiles to me now. The child was very attached to that baby blanket! Without perhaps knowing, the child communicated that the blanket represented much more than simple relief from the cold...but also the warmth of love!

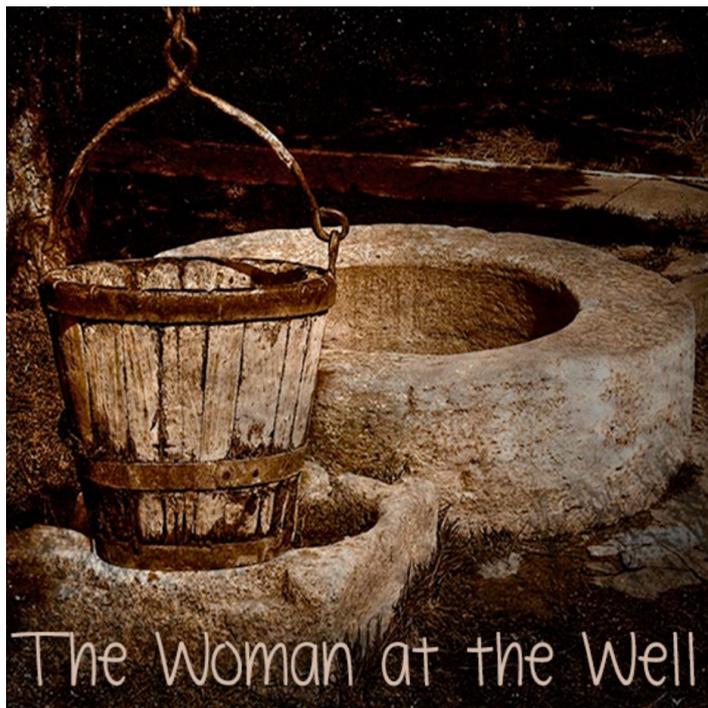
My Christmas thoughts continue on the child wrapped in swaddling clothes. The God of the universe put the life of his Son into the hands of a human mother and swaddling clothes. The mother held the savior of the universe in her hands, swaddled him...and swaddled him...and swaddled him...and after they crucified him, they laid him in her arms for the last time! God put the life of his Son into the arms of a Mother to swaddle. In between, we know the Son wasn't here for his own purpose, but was on a mission.

As I write these thoughts, I am keenly aware that days after a child is born, the grandmother, for those who are so fortunate have parental assistance after childbirth, leaves for home after insuring the transitions within the new family. The routines of the hard work of raising a family develop a cadence all their own for the parents. Now life is changed, so is the family, and so are the responsibilities.

Dear ladies, with the Christmas Feast behind us the Savior and his mission are put into our hands to swaddle, nurture, and to raise. So too, is the work of the MCCW gift given us. With the child to lead, now with the inaugural excitement passed, the cadence of selfless service commences anew. We embrace this service because swaddling the truth Christ teaches and brings is our fulfillment and our joy. Our work to find, encourage, and nurture the souls of the women and families of the AMS is in our arms.

I wish you and your loved ones every swaddling blessing this year,

Father Joe Deichert



The Woman at the Well

Forum~

Your MCCW Worldwide Board is pleased to announce the theme for the 2018 Worldwide Forum!



**Journey of Faith~**

Happy New Year!

As we approach our exciting "Retreat Season" across the MCCW Regions, I wanted to highlight some of the exciting information that we will be sharing at each gathering through 2017. Journey of Faith 101

## The Woman At The Well

If You Knew The Gifts  
You Were Given

Be sure to mark your calendars so  
you can join us on April 19-22, 2018

Join us at the Sheraton San Diego  
Hotel & Marina  
San Diego, California



will be a thoughtful and spiritual walk through our lovely organization. As we share details of what MCCW has to offer, where and how we support our chapel groups and priests, we will also be reaching out to our W.I.N.E. Women (Women in New Evangelization) to bring their stories into realization, and witness Christ's love as He works through them.

Many of you have had very personal encounters with Christ and have felt a calling to share how He has had a powerful impact on your life. We would love to hear from you!

We cannot thrive without more hands lightening the burden. To make Journey of Faith truly successful, and to implement the vision of the many talented women who have come before us, your MCCW Board is anxious to come along beside each of you, and our chapel groups, to give you a voice to share the Love of Christ.

Peace and Aloha!

Muffy Patterson ~ VP Journey of Faith



The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

Luke 10:2

---

## Discerning to be a Servant-Leader for MCCW/CWOC

Spiritual Discernment is a holy process in which you evaluate your life through the eyes of our Lord. It really isn't an end result but a journey that brings you to a position + holy purpose.

MCCW/CWOC discernment particularly defines your ability to be a servant-leader in a position. It is a form of submission. It is leading a flock entrusted in your care. Jesus guided us by his life, he walked with us not to be served, but instead to serve. It is a beautiful balance between being confident in doing God's will while maintaining personal humility. In essence it is saying yes to being used as HIS vessel.

To be a servant-leader for MCCW/CWOC means to first, discern if you are "called", using the St. Ignatius principles.

Within MCCW/CWOC we have begun to use a discernment process rather than a secular election process. In the next few months regional retreats will meet and go through the discernment process and will explain how the process works at the chapel level. The Discernment process should be conducted at least one month before the end of your CWOC season. For most chapels, it is; May.

How does discernment work?

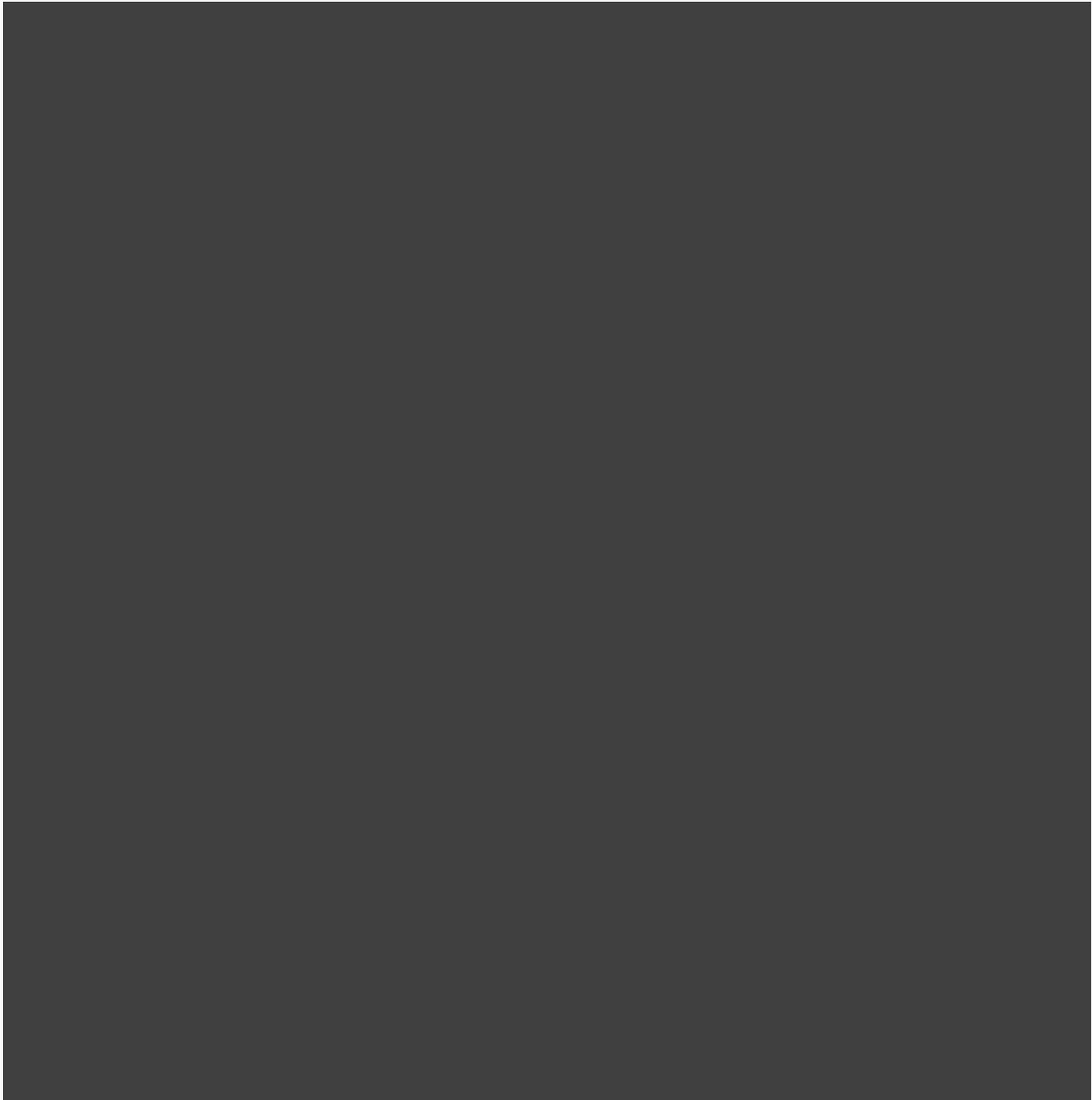
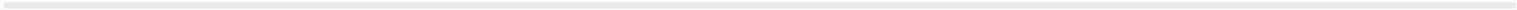
1. Go to our current website... [MCCW.org](http://MCCW.org), press the "resources" tab. You will see drop down to "leadership discernment". Prayerfully fill out, "**Discernment Prayers** and **Spiritual Gifts**

- Inventory.**” The Discernment Procedure is for your understanding of the process.
2. Then pray! (Consult with spouse or family members regarding time required).
  3. Go to your priest for advisement. (You will need an endorsement by your priest).
  4. Talk with the current people that are currently in positions. Ask them what they do, how much time it takes, what skills would be helpful to have...I also recommend looking at the “ CWOC Sourcebook” which is on the MCCW.org website
  5. Once you believe you are called to move forward, please contact me so I can obtain your contact information.

I look forward to meeting many of you who will be attending regional retreats throughout America this spring! Please contact me as you discern or if you have any questions, I am available to you!

Kelly Oliver  
Discernment/Leadership Coordinator

- 





# Listen & Open Your Heart

a practical teaching on recognizing the “motions of our soul” as St. Ignatius of Loyola taught, and learning to discern God’s will in our daily lives with St. Lydia as our heavenly mentor.



*Conception Abbey, Missouri  
February 16-19, 2017.*

Registration fee \$35 due 31st December  
Retreat Fee \$180 double /\$225 for a private room  
<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/mccw-central-region-faith-formation-retreat-registration-fee-only-tickets-26979077146>

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

“  
*One of them a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth, from the city of Thyatira, a worshipper of God, listened, and the Lord opened her heart to pay attention...*” -Acts 16:14

PAPAYA BLOOM

## Greetings from the Central Region~

The Central Region Retreat At Conception Abbey in Conception, MO, will be held February 16-19, 2017. “Listen and Open Your Heart” will be full of speakers all on different paths of life and how they live their Catholic Spirituality. So I am pleased to introduce them as the “heart” of the retreat!

Fr. Daniel Petsche is a Benedictine priest and monk at the Abbey. He is also the Abbey Prior. Fr. Daniel will be speaking on Recognizing St. Ignatius of Loyola's "Movements of the Spirits" to guide us while discerning.

Karen Ceckowski is the Retreat Moderator at Conception Abbey. She was also the first woman to receive her Master's from the Seminary at Conception. Her spirituality is definitely Benedictine as she is an Oblate. An Oblate is what the Benedictine Order calls their third order, or their Lay Order. A Third Order is for lay people of the Church who feel a special association with a specific Order to have a relationship with them, and to participate, identify with, and practice some of the Order's Charisms and Spirituality without taking the vows to be a Religious. Karen will be speaking on learning to use the Spiritual Exercises and Rules for Discernment written by St. Ignatius of Loyola, father of the Jesuits.

Muffy Patterson is the Vice President of Journey of Faith for MCCW. She is an active duty Army Chaplain's wife currently stationed in Hawaii, and will be using her love of Archaeology, History, and Storytelling to acquaint us with St. Lydia. We will discover Lydia's special ability to hear God's plans for her life as a friend of St. Paul. She is also our biblical and heavenly mentor during this retreat.

Lynda MacFarland is a long standing member of MCCW. Her contributions and volunteerism to our organization was recently recognized at the most recent Worldwide Conference with a MaryAnn Ernst Harmony Award for the Central Region. Lynda is an active duty Army spouse for over 30 years and is a Catholic author and speaker. Lynda will be discussing Discerning our Army Lifestyle and the unique positions we find ourselves in, and the decisions that must be made during this season of our life no matter if we are 2 years in or over 30 years in!

Lisa Miklos is a past President of MCCW. She served MCCW in this capacity from 2004-2008. Her contributions to MCCW were also recognized at the most recent Worldwide Conference as the recipient of the Sheila Baker Award. The Archdiocese for the Military Services has also recognized Lisa for her contributions with their Medal of the Archdiocese. Lisa's husband is recently retired from the Army and she will be speaking on Discerning Transitions and how they affect and influence our lives as Catholics.

Kelly Oliver is MCCW's Discernment Chair. Her husband has also retired from the Army. Kelly will be discussing how to discern for volunteer positions within MCCW, at the chapel, regional, and worldwide level. She will also be facilitating the Central Regional Discernment that will take place during the retreat.

Blessings-  
Dollia Lemus



**~From the Northeast~**

The Northeast has been busy as we soared through the fall with many kick-off events, days of reflection, retreats and celebrating cider services! We have more than 12 chapel groups running towards the Kingdom of God! Growing in faith, fellowship and knowledge.

Picture 1) Langley CWOC Day Retreat on October 22nd. We were joined by our guest speaker, Dr. Susan Timoney.

Pictures 2-4) Most Holy Trinity Chapel at West Point's annual All Saints and All Souls day (a day off of school) where we celebrated with our school aged children, learning about Chaplain Father Emil Kapuan whose cause for sainthood has been elevated. Followed by a walk to the national cemetery to live out the Works of Mercy praying for the dead! The WP group visited 10 graves, prayed for all that have died serving our country, the dead of our enemies. The last grave pictured in that of Cadet Tom Surdyke, United States Military Academy Class of 2019.

Picture 5) - West Point retreat at the Marian Help of Christians Shrine in Stony Point, NY. Guest speaker Lisa Miklos - theme - God's Still Small Voice.

Picture 6) Joint Base McGuire - Dix-Lakehurst cider service.

Pictures 7-8) Langley Christmas Party - Quantico CWOC Christmas Celebration

We enjoyed our final meeting in December with the Saran-Wrap Ball Game. One person rolls the dice until doubles are found. In the meantime, the other person unwraps the saran-wrapped ball --- Once doubles are rolled, the ball is passed onto the next person. We had so so much fun -- Prizes wrapped in the ball included: prayer cards, mints, gum, Tiny Saints, and gift cards! A fun activity for any celebration.

Pictures 9-10) Quantico CWOC

Annual Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on

January 4, 2016. We met Elizabeth Tomlin to celebrate mass on St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's Feast Day

~Amanda Fox  
mccw.ne.region@gmail.com







MCCW  
Pacific Region  
Petals of Peace  
Retreat

St. Anthony Retreat Center

3351 Kalia St. Honolulu, HI 96819

APRIL 6-9 2017

Contact Jennifer Carter  
MCCWPacificRegion@gmail.com

[www.facebook.com/MCCWPacificRegion](http://www.facebook.com/MCCWPacificRegion)

PosterMyWall.com

**~From the Pacific~**

Aloha sisters in Christ,

I hope you all had a wonderful Advent and Christmas season with your families and loved ones. I have been enjoying learning more about the various Chapel Groups in the Pacific. We currently have 12 active CWOC groups in the Pacific Region and are hopeful that new groups will continue to develop and grow across the various military installations in the Pacific. These groups are a great place to grow in our Catholic faith and sisterhood. If you are in the region and would like to know more about CWOC groups in your area, please contact me.

Over Thanksgiving, I had the opportunity to travel to Alaska and meet with the catholic women of the chapel ladies of Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER). They meet on Tuesday evenings and share a potluck meal together as they participate in their study. The JBER CWOC will be hosting an Alaskan retreat held at the Holy Spirit Retreat Center Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>-Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. This retreat is being led by two Dominican Sisters and will focus on holiness for women. All Catholic women in the Alaska area are invited to attend. In March, chapel groups in Korea and Japan will be hosting days of reflection with Meg Hunter Kilmer as their guest speaker.

Ladies of the Pacific Region, I hope you have marked on your calendar April 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> to attend our Petals of Peace Pacific Regional Retreat. We would like to invite and welcome all ladies who desire tranquility and inner peace. During December, I had the privilege to spend a full day with the Pacific Regional Retreat team solidifying details on this upcoming retreat. We are very excited for all of you to attend and experience a transformative weekend in the beautiful serene atmosphere of Kalihi Valley at the St. Anthony Retreat Center on the island of Oahu. You can look forward to spending your time retreating in prayer, reflection, and meditation through Adoration, Confession, Daily Mass, Contemplative Prayer, Healing Service, Stations of the Cross, Lectio Divina and more. You can look forward to registration opening up by the end of January.

Blessings,

Jennifer Carter

Pacific Regional Retreat

---

---





### ~From the European Region~

At the conclusion of the 2016 MCCW-European Region retreat at Schoenstatt Retreat House in Germany, a time of discernment of new officers to stand at the helm for the coming year was conducted. It was an honor to witness the process as the individuals who felt called to serve in leadership positions shared their gifts, goals and motivation to become part of the MCCW-E team. Open to the working of the Holy Spirit, the then discerned who was called to serve in each position.

A month later, we gathered for a day of reflection and prayer and to set goals and aims for the coming year to include the planning of the annual retreat in Europe. I was in awe of the gifts these individual women from various military communities throughout Europe brought to the table. Their willingness to serve and their desire to provide opportunities for women throughout Europe to deepen their own spiritual journey and enrich their faith was incredible. Such energy and passion flowed from the group as they seek ways to implement MCCW programs here in Europe and provide resources to women's groups, so that they may prosper and grow.

As the Spiritual Moderator for MCCW-Europe it is a pleasure to serve such a vibrant and innovative group of women. May God bless them and the women and families they serve here in Europe. The MCCW-Europe board may be contacted at [europemccw@gmail.com](mailto:europemccw@gmail.com).

Father Red



### AMS Seminarian Liaison~



Supporting our priests and seminarians is a top priority for the Military Council of Catholic Women. Members of our local Catholic Women of the Chapel groups do a wonderful job of supporting our priests in prayer and with in-person support. Our seminarians, however, are not as accessible, so MCCW has created a program in which seminarians can be supported by local CWOC groups through spiritual adoption.

Please prayerfully consider adopting a seminarian. Seminarian adoption requires very little time or effort: many groups support their seminarian through prayer at their meetings and

at home, holiday or seasonal care packages, and cards or letters of encouragement.

Coming this Lenten Season: Seminarian Fund Pledge Drive! Our goal is to raise \$50,000 in pledges for our seminarians before our next MCCW Worldwide Forum next spring. More details to come in our next edition of The Well and on our Facebook page.

For more information please contact the AMS Seminarian and Priest Liaison, Jamie Pertl: [mccwAMSliaison@gmail.com](mailto:mccwAMSliaison@gmail.com).

---



### **Stewardship~**

If you are anything like me, you have probably spent these early days of the new year setting goals and making resolutions. I'd like to earnestly ask that you add one more goal to your list: supporting MCCW. Through the Archdiocese for Military Services, MCCW is called to serve women at 220 installations in 29 countries around the world. MCCW fulfills this mission with an all-volunteer staff and a budget entirely made up of generous gifts and grants from individuals, military chapels, and charitable organizations. Adding support of MCCW to your list of goals for 2017 need not be a daunting challenge. Let me share with you six easy ways you can support MCCW:

- We all know the amazing power of prayer and ask that you remember MCCW, our board, and our worldwide sisterhood in your daily prayers.

**Time & Talent:** Consider reaching out to your regional coordinator to find out how you can help with your region's upcoming retreat or her ongoing administrative tasks. Or use your other skills -- photography, writing, editing, graphic design, teaching, (the list goes on) – to help with a worldwide project.

- To support MCCW through Amazon Smile, visit [www.Smile.Amazon.com](http://www.Smile.Amazon.com) and select "The Military Council of Catholic Women – Worldwide, Inc." as your designated charity. Always visit [www.Smile.Amazon.com](http://www.Smile.Amazon.com) to do your Amazon shopping and your eligible purchases will automatically benefit MCCW.

**The Catholic Company:** Every purchase made through the MCCW storefront on the Catholic Company

provides MCCW with a royalty payment.. To access the storefront visit [www.MCCWW.parishstore.com](http://www.MCCWW.parishstore.com).

**Designated Offerings:** Designated offerings from military chapels make up a critical portion of MCCW's budget. Talk to your chaplain about scheduling a designated offering for MCCW in 2017.

**Sharing your Treasure:** Direct cash gifts allow MCCW the greatest flexibility in turning your generosity into faith formation opportunities for our Catholic military sisterhood. Every gift is valued – whether \$10 or \$100. All gifts are tax-deductable and can be made by mail or online at [www.MCCW.org](http://www.MCCW.org).

In the coming days, I encourage you to give prayerful consideration to how you can be a part of MCCW's mission to form our sisters in Christ.

To learn more about how to support MCCW in these or other ways, visit [www.MCCW.org](http://www.MCCW.org) or contact Kim Miller at [MCCWStewardship@gmail.com](mailto:MCCWStewardship@gmail.com).



### ~Chaplain's Corner~

It's the cusp of a brand new year. Brand new jammies for Christmas, new outfits for Christmas Mass, new toys for the kids and new books for the grown-ups. I have heard bad news from at least 3 people in the past 6 weeks. An uncle has passed away. A friend's husband is no longer here. And a sorority sister's aggressive cancer has returned and she has entered hospice. Even though, I've not met my sister with the cancer, it pains me greatly to see my friends; my family- suffer with the thought of her mortality, at such a young age. She has 2 young daughters and a husband, which hurts more and is another reason we are all trying to preserve her memory, while she is still breathing.

So, as the year begins, I resolve to be there for my family more. The family that raised me and the family I brought into this world. The family that chose me in college and my family forged in the crucible known as this military life. And my MCCW sisters, who have been there for me with meals, and encouragement and prayers when it felt like all had been lost.

I am challenging myself and you this year to spend an hour in a Eucharistic adoration chapel for 1 hour/week. It's really not that much time, in the big scheme of things. I find that even with such a short period of time in the chapel, I emerge feeling refreshed and lifted and always with a positive outlook on things. And I always feel less anxious after spending time with the Lord and casting my cares on him.

In the new year, when everyone is resolving to have a bikini ready body, resolve to have a soul that can dead lift massive amounts of anxiety and depression and cares. In this New Year, while everyone is spending time in the gym for a better body, spend some time in the Eucharistic chapel for a better soul.

God Bless,  
Cari Tedesco

---



*Copyright © 2016 MCCW Worldwide  
All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

---

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>  
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)  
Military Council of Catholic Women - Worldwide, Inc. · PO Box 4456 · Washington, DC 20017-9997 · USA

MailChimp.