



# THE WELL

MILITARY COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN - WORLDWIDE, INC.



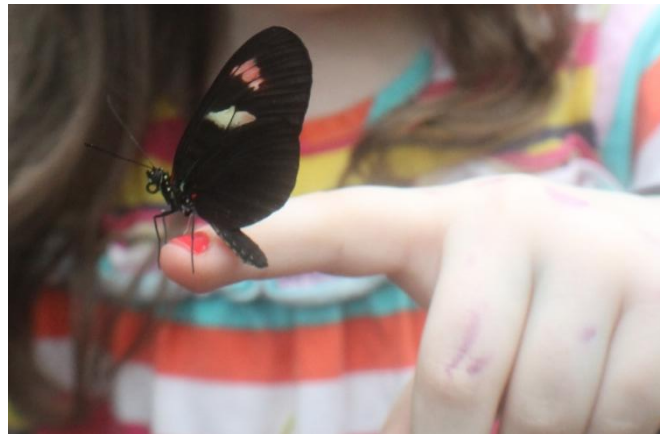
FEBRUARY 2014

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“How can there be too many children? That is like saying there are too many flowers.”

Mother Theresa

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***MCCW reflects a visible presence of Christ in military communities by fostering and nourishing women in spirituality, leadership and service. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, MCCW serves as a vital enhancement of the religious support mission of military chapels.***



## LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

In New York, Winter has definitely spread her snowy blanket down, but I dream of the first purple crocus to burst through the snow, the return of those lovely red-breasted robins, and celebrating Spring in Chattanooga, TN with you! This issue of *The Well* is full of great information about our ever-growing organization and I hope it teases you with that invigoration of Spring.



Erin Raymond  
President

The first thing I want to point out is the hard work that has gone into preparing our 2014 Worldwide Conference. With a shortened timeline and a shoe-string budget, April Golden and her team have put together an amazing weekend for you. Make sure you register soon to take advantage of the early-bird discounted rate. Your \$185 registration fee (\$210 after March 1) will pay for 5 meals and all conference materials – you'll need to contact the hotel directly for your lodging payment and reservations.

Next, I'd like to ask you to prayerfully consider supporting MCCW-Worldwide with a donation – any amount you have to give is appreciated more than you can know. If you have ever been the beneficiary of a trip to conference, Journey of Faith training, or just the love & support of the sisters in your chapel group, please consider sending in a gift. All checks can be made payable to MCCW Worldwide and mailed to MCCW-Worldwide, PO Box 4456, Washington, DC 20017-9997. Make sure you include your email address, so that we can send you your tax receipt.

I would be remiss if I didn't introduce Ashli Dunphy to you. Ashli has stepped up to take on a very important position with MCCW as the Financial Manager. She brings enthusiasm, organization and intelligence to our Board, and we are truly blessed to have her.

The Conference this April will be more than just a great opportunity for training and fellowship, it will also be the installation of a new Board of Directors. If you have ever felt the call to serve – to give back to this organization that has provided a lifeline to so many women – this is your chance! All positions, including Regional Coordinators, will be open. And we are pleased and excited to use a discernment process to fill these positions. For more information, please look for Marlene Cullum's article.

Finally, I would ask that you continue to hold us in prayer, and extend us grace as we work through the many kinks of this evolving enterprise. While the blessings of MCCW have been around for over half a century, this new iteration as a 501(c)3 is most definitely in its infancy. As always, we exist as a resource for you, and I hope you are able help us fulfill this mission through your time, talents and treasure.

## WORLDWIDE BOARD UPDATES

On the next five pages, you will find the 2014 Worldwide Conference Registration Packet. It should answer any questions you may have about this event; however, if you have any unanswered questions, please reach out! The Conference team and I have been working tirelessly to plan a refreshing and rejuvenating event for all women of MCCW Worldwide. We hope that you will be able to attend!



April Golden  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

The Military Council of Catholic Women-Worldwide Inc



# TELEGRAM

## Conference Registration Packet



**"EVANGELIZING YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH"**

**24- 28 April, 2014**

**Sheraton Read House Hotel**

**Chattanooga, Tennessee**

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here I am! Send me!"

Isaiah 6:8

Website: [www.mccw.org](http://www.mccw.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/MCCW.WORLDWIDE](https://www.facebook.com/MCCW.WORLDWIDE)

REGISTER NOW!

REGISTER NOW!

REGISTER NOW!

*We are very excited to plan this Conference for you. Take advantage of the early bird rate and Register NOW!*

*BTW... check out the "donate" button on the Conference Registration site - Eventbrite!*

*See you in Chattanooga!*

**-MCCW-Worldwide Board**



## 2014 MCCW-Worldwide Conference Vision

As planning began for the 2014 MCCW-Worldwide Conference, a common theme echoed with the year of Evangelizing Your Catholic Faith, and what that truly means in our lives – Knowing, Living, and Sharing our faith. It's easy to draw inspiration from Isaiah 6:8

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here I am! Send me!"*

We are humbled to have the privilege to worship within the inspirational Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul. The current building was dedicated in 1890 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Artist, Louis Comfort Tiffany, designed the stained-glass windows, which has 14 polychrome Stations of the Cross created by a French artist who spent 17 years designing and three years producing them.

Our goal is to educate, inform, nourish and energize you as we:

- Celebrate with a vibrant concert kick-off
- Offer opportunities for spiritual reflection through Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and Reconciliation
- Reflect on God's gift of love during Divine Mercy weekend with an Illuminated Divine Mercy Chaplet
- Celebrate John Paul II's April 27th Canonization with an inspirational movie about his life
- Enjoy dynamic speakers, including breakout sessions
- Raise money and support for our designated charity, the Bishop John J. Kaising Scholarship Fund for the Co-sponsorship of Seminarians
- Conduct business meetings on both the Worldwide and Regional levels, giving local installations a voice, and informing on the resources and opportunities provided by MCCW-Worldwide Inc.
- Meet a variety of Catholic vendors eager to help invigorate your chapel programs
- Provide occasions to create and renew friendships with sisters from around the world

We pray that this Conference will rejuvenate and excite you and hope that on your return to your chapels you continue serving—sharing your experiences and extending the warm embrace of Christ.

Many Blessings,

April Golden  
1<sup>ST</sup> Vice President  
MCCW-Worldwide Inc.

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

- <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/evangelizing-our-catholic-faith-mccw-worldwide-conference-2014-tickets-971911123>
- **The early bird Conference Registration fee** is \$185 before March 1<sup>st</sup>. (Non-refundable).
- After March 1<sup>st</sup> conference fee is \$210 (Non-refundable).
- Your registration fee covers breakfast daily and a banquet dinner on Sunday, and conference-related expenses (i.e. speakers, music, printed materials, etc.).
- **Day Tripper** fee is \$140 (This includes Registration Fee and the Sunday banquet).
- **Online Payment:** If paying online, choose the online payment ticket option on Eventbrite. A credit card processing fee of \$11 will be applied to your payment.
- **Mail In:** If paying by mail, choose the mail in ticket option on Eventbrite. Registration fee, Day Tripper fee and if you would like to help by donating, make Checks payable to “MCCW-Worldwide, Inc.” Mail to:

**Ashli Dunphy**  
**MCCW Financial Manager**  
**5455 Hwy. 51**  
**New Brockton, AL 36351**

## HOTEL and CONFERENCE CHECK-IN

- We will be staying at the beautiful Sheraton Read House Hotel Chattanooga, located at 827 Broad Street.
- Guests can access the site to book, modify, or cancel a reservation.  
<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=1311184090&key=E0400> (copy and paste the following link into a web browser)
- **Cost for hotel rooms is \$109 per room per night (4 nights = \$436 plus applicable tax). You may choose to find a roommate or two to help reduce the cost.**
- Conference check-in will begin on Thursday at 2:30pm. Hotel check-in starts at 3pm. The Vendor Fair will be open starting at 12noon, so you will have plenty to occupy you if you arrive early and your room isn't ready yet.
- There will be a Conference Program provided that clearly outlines the schedule of events. You should familiarize yourself with all events, schedules and locations.



## HOTEL CHECK-OUT

- You can check out of your hotel room any time before 11:00am on Monday.



## **MEALS**

The Sheraton Read House Hotel Chattanooga is highly reputed for their catering of delicious healthy meals. You will find a complete listing of the menu at [www.mccw.org](http://www.mccw.org) as the Conference dates are a little closer. **You will also have the opportunity to enjoy everything downtown Chattanooga has to offer by eating 3 dinners and 3 lunches on your own. (Breakfast each morning and the Sunday night banquet are included in your registration fee).** You will be provided with a list of restaurants close to the hotel when you arrive—but why wait, you can always go online to scout out some great places to eat.

## **SPEAKERS AND TOPICS**

We are so excited to welcome Father Jerry Sherbourne, Lynda MacFarland, Kurt and Julie Carrick and Pam Parker as our Speakers.

- Father Jerry Sherbourne- “Evangelizing Faith through the Blessed Mother”
- Lynda MacFarland- “Living Our Faith; Trusting God”
- Kurt and Julie Carrick “Living in the Grace of Reconciliation”
- Julie Carrick -“Living Our Catholic Creed”
- Pam Parker- “The Word Made Flesh”

### *Breakout Session Speakers:*

- Linda Rufi - “Lectio Divina”
- Kirsten Simonsgaard- “Genesis Revisited: The Roles of Men and Women”
- Chris Johnson- “Yes, They’ll Know we are Christians By Our Love”
- Marlo Dowdy—“Inspire [D]: Missionary Where the Military Sends You”
- Lynda MacFarland—Mother’s Prayers
- Julie Carrick- “The Life Giving Grace of the Sacraments”
- Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia- “Living Our Prayer Experiences”
- Rachel Granger- “Praying with Expectation”

## **VENDOR FAIR**

For the first time, MCCW is excited to offer you the chance to mingle with a variety of Catholic publishers and service providers at our Vendor Fair. The Fair will be open throughout the conference, starting at noon on Thursday April 24th and ending on Sunday, April 27th at 5pm. Please contact Michelle Nash for further details or questions at [kmn444@hotmail.com](mailto:kmn444@hotmail.com)



## **SILENT AUCTION and OPPORTUNITY DRAWING**

One of the most fulfilling parts of conference is our financial contribution to our perpetual charity the Bishop John J. Kaising Scholarship Fund for Seminarians. We have raised thousands of dollars for this great cause, and we can’t wait to continue our support this year! We are going to have both an Opportunity Drawing and a Silent Auction, and we are hoping that your Chapel groups will help us by providing themed baskets or large dollar items for prizes. Be creative! We have seen fabulous baskets—Reading, Family Game Night, Wine, and Spa—whatever your group can think of!

## **PRAYER SISTERS**

The purpose of the Prayer Sister program is to lift each other with prayerful intentions during conference. If you choose to participate in this program, you will need to bring with you a few notecards or prayer cards to write positive and encouraging messages for your Prayer Sister. You can register for this program on April 24<sup>th</sup>. In keeping with the simple spirituality of this program, we urge you to avoid excessive gifting.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

In addition to the meals and hotel room already mentioned, your primary additional expense relates to your transportation to the conference.

- If you are driving, you may park in a covered garage owned by the hotel for \$9 per night.
- Additional Airports: *McGhee Tyson Airport (TYS) - Louisville, TN (Serves the Knoxville area) - 90 miles, Huntsville International Airport (HSV) - Huntsville, AL - 117 miles, Nashville International Airport (BNA) - Nashville, TN - 129 miles, Hartsfield–Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) - Atlanta, GA- 124 miles*
- The hotel doesn't have an airport shuttle: A cab ride is around \$25.00 to the hotel per person
- Ryan with Checker Cab: 423-315-0794, Travis with Millennium Taxi: 423-760-1396, Valeria with Checker Cab: 423-401-8255
- Chattanooga has a free shuttle for the downtown/north/south side area:  
<http://assets.sheratonreadhouse.com/lps/assets/u/ShuttleMap.pdf>



## **RESOURCES:**

[www.mccw.org](http://www.mccw.org) , [www.facebook.com/MCCW.Worldwide](https://www.facebook.com/MCCW.Worldwide)



## Journey of Faith Presentations at Conference

Your Journey of Faith Team is looking forward to our conference in Chattanooga! Our line-up of Journey of Faith presentations is sure to have something for everyone. In addition to four presentations presented by Journey of Faith trainers, we are partnering with the American Bible Society to present Engage Your Strengths training! Engage Your Strengths will help women discover their gifts and consider concrete ways to put their gifts into practice for God's Church. Our Journey of Faith presentations at conference will be:



Elizabeth Tomlin  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

**Praying with Icons:** Do you love the imagery and art of Christianity? If so, we have a presentation for you! Praying with Icons will instruct attendees in the steps of writing icons and in the practice of praying with icons as windows to heaven. Come see how this spiritual practice can enrich your prayer life.

**Growing Leaders - Best Practices for Chapel Group Boards:** Through the analogy of gardening, this program will help current chapel leaders consider how to identify the talents within the chapel groups. It will also help chapel leaders learn how to grow future leaders. Participants will have an opportunity to share their best practices and experiences in chapel leadership.

**Feminine Spirituality:** Have you ever struggled to find balance in your role as a wife, mother, professional, and disciple of Christ? If so, you're not alone! This presentation will explore how each of us uniquely lives out our Christian calling, and how, as Blessed Pope John Paul II said, all of our roles "should be harmoniously combined" as we seek discipleship.

**Our Continuing Journey: Apologetics, a Lifelong Journey of Learning and Sharing:** Apologetics is a call to share what we know with others. In this program, we will explore how we each arrived at our current point on our spiritual journey, and how we might grow in our own faith and be an example for others to grow forward in theirs through. We will consider ways to teach others about the Catholic Faith through examining some frequently raised questions about Catholicism.

## Introducing The Sheila Baker Award

Happy February! As promised, I am sharing the write-up for the Sheila Baker Award. This award is a little different than the one from last month in that it is more for longevity of service at a level that serves a greater number of our women. Look for the complete packets for both the Sheila Baker and the Mary Ann Ernst Award on our website, on Facebook, and through distribution from our Regional Coordinators and Chapel Presidents.

Ladies, I greatly encourage you to realize that YOU can take the reins and nominate a deserving woman. You do the nominating and the Awards and Recognition Committee will prayerfully do the rest.

I now have the privilege of introducing to you (and in some cases re-introducing to you) the Sheila Baker Award for Outstanding Achievement.



Lisa Miklos  
Awards & Appreciation

## **Military Council of Catholic Women-Worldwide: The Sheila Baker Award for Outstanding Achievement**

### **Description**

The Sheila Baker Award for Outstanding Achievement is established by the Board of Directors of the Military Council of Catholic Women – Worldwide in memory of Sheila Baker. Sheila was a true leader and role model. She was a mentor and friend of MCCW for nearly thirty years.

Sheila Baker began her involvement with MCCW in the early 1970's. She worked tirelessly at all levels of MCCW...at the chapel level, at the area (now reorganized as regions) level and at the national level. Sheila was president of MCCW-Europe for two terms in the early 1990's.

When she returned to the states, Sheila held several board positions with MCCW-USA. She was the Northeast Area Coordinator until her death in 2005.

Sheila's dedication to the mission of MCCW to empower, educate and support Catholic women in spirituality, faith, leadership and service was evident by her loving service to the Catholic chapel communities at which she worshipped. In addition to her involvement in MCCW, Sheila was active in religious education, RCIA and many other chapel ministries.

In 1992, Sheila was awarded the Archdiocese for the Military Services Award. This award recognizes persons who "in their personal lives are outstanding in all respects, motivated by religious values, practice religion faithfully, give good example to others and are held in high esteem by associates."

Clearly, Sheila was well loved and respected. She faithfully served as a mentor to many subsequent and future leaders of MCCW-Worldwide.

In order to honor Sheila and her memory, this award is to be presented to members of MCCW... members who have exhibited enduring and outstanding support and accomplishments in furthering the goals and mission of MCCW-Worldwide.

Sheila Baker's legacy to the Military Council of Catholic Women is one of dedicated leadership, love and grace. May we all strive to live up to this legacy and may Sheila enjoy eternal rest in God's heavenly kingdom as we honor her memory.

# A Season to Serve

Marlene Cullum, Policy & Procedures Chair/Nominations Committee Chair

Greetings from Policies and Procedures and the Nominations Committee for MCCW-Worldwide. This is an exciting time for both of these connected entities as we embark on a new path. I am so excited to see the new process for filling board positions come to fruition. Michelle Hokenson has blessed us with her time and talent and has worked very hard to plan our new Discernment Process. I believe it will add more thought by women interested in serving our blessed group, and will bring more prayer to the entire process.

Conference is soon upon us. This has traditionally been and continues to be the venue where we install our new board. This year we will not only install a new Executive Board but also install new Regional Coordinators. In the past this has been done in alternating years. So, there are many opportunities to serve the group that continues to serve you!

We are looking to fill your Executive Committee with a President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Financial Manager and Secretary. Each region must also have a Regional Coordinator. Are you wondering if you have the abilities to serve in any of these positions? I will post duty descriptions in the next week on our Facebook page.

Have you felt a call to serve? Many different chapel groups and wonderful ladies have supported me through different seasons of my military life. There were other seasons I knew I could give back and really felt I had something to offer. Is this your season?

In order to serve on the Executive Committee or as a Regional Coordinator a nominee must:

1. Be an Active Duty Service Member or female spouse of an Active Duty Service Member for Executive Board positions, or Active Duty retiree or female spouse of an Active Duty Retiree for the Regional Coordinator positions.
2. Be a Catholic in good standing.
3. Must have the endorsement and support of her local priest.
4. Be affiliated with an active local chapel group.
5. Support the goals and mission statement of MCCW-Worldwide.
6. Have the capability, gifts and talents to perform the duties of the office.

Have you felt a call to serve? It is a commitment and should not be entered into lightly. Here are a few questions to help you discern. Is this your season?

Please pray: "Holy Spirit, please bring me clarity and truth."

1. As I stay in touch with reality, what pre-existing conditions exist in my life that I cannot change that may interfere with my serving on the MCCW Board?
2. Be honest and realistic about your timetable. Don't be hasty about making this decision but don't procrastinate either. Have I prayed about serving and sufficiently thought out the sacrifices that may be needed?
3. Bounce your thoughts and plans off of those you trust. Your friends and confidants are more objective. Have I confided in those who truly know me well, those who can recognize my strengths and weaknesses without being subject to my personal issues?
4. Listen to your heart, mind, and intuitions. Make sure they are all rising from your soul. Consider practicality, functionality and rationality as well as emotions. Am I coming from a place of common sense along with the emotional side of this decision?
5. The "Evil Spirit" often tends to complicate decision making with confusion and fear.



6. Avoid decision-making during a crisis. A level head and internal peace will allow you to judge freely and honestly. Which choice yields the most peace, justice, faith and love as well as will bear the most fruit? Have I cleansed myself of selfish tendencies?

7. Know your limits! To honestly know ourselves requires humility, common sense and love. I do not seek the cross, but am I prepared to accept it?

8. Mourn the possibilities not chosen and the opportunities missed. Life is a path of letting go and dying. "Every time we let go of something we die a little." Eventually we will be asked to let go of everything (when we die) and will gain our salvation. Have I let go of that which was not meant to be in my life?

9. Jesus is key. God gave us Jesus to show what it truly means to be a human being. If we follow Jesus' teachings and imitate how he treated people with mercy, truth, faith, fairness, justice and love we will be inspired in every decision we make and we will grow to know, love and serve him more profoundly. Do I try to live the message of Jesus to all the people I encounter in my daily life?

10. Holy Spirit please inspire me to make this decision.

Discernment should include meditation on Mark 10:42-45 where Jesus defines for us the servant-leader concept: Jesus summoned them and said to them, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve.

If, after prayer and a time of discernment, you feel this is your season and you are ready to serve please contact me at [marlene.cullum@gmail.com](mailto:marlene.cullum@gmail.com)

## February Prayers for Brian Ebenau, AMS Co-Sponsored Seminarian

Loretta Endres, AMS Co-Sponsorship Liaison

Does your military chapel have a full-time Catholic priest? Was your service member able to attend Mass and the sacraments regularly on their last deployment? The answers to these questions probably brought home the fact that the number of Catholic chaplains has dropped almost 50% since 2001. Today there are less than 250 active-duty Catholic chaplains for the 275,000 active-duty troops who identify themselves as Catholic (the largest religious group except for those who list no faith preference at all).<sup>1</sup> Catholics make up about 25% of the military while Catholic priests account for less than 8% of military chaplains.<sup>1</sup>

The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS) and Fr. Aidan Logan, O.C.S.O., the AMS Director of Vocations, are working hard to increase the number of priests for the military. Currently there are 35 seminarians who have made a commitment to become Catholic military chaplains. It takes time and money for these men to become priests and this is where we as Catholic women can help.

All of the current seminarians have designated sponsors, but funds are still needed. The AMS has two retreats a year for men discerning a call to the priesthood and military chaplaincy. In addition, the Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program provides monetary and moral support for seminarians approved by their bishops for future assignment as military chaplains. These programs make continual demands on the financial resources of the Archdiocese. The AMS receives no government funds. Please consider making individual donations to the Archdiocese for the Military Services and designate them for the Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program. Donate to the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, PO Box 4469, Washington, D.C. 20017 or online at [www.milarch.org](http://www.milarch.org).

Each month, the Well will highlight one of the co-sponsored seminarians. February's seminarian is Brian Ebenau. Below is a copy of the interview he gave in a previous edition of Salute, the magazine of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA. Please pray for this seminarian. Consider saying three Hail Mary's for him every day. Offer up a weekly rosary for his studies and commitment. Pray for him during your Catholic Women of the Chapel meeting and Mass each week. Consider writing Brian a letter of encouragement and gratitude. You can do it with the women in your chapel group, with your family or on your own. Your letter could be exactly what he needs to hear today. Letters may be sent to the AMS and they will be forwarded on to him (addressed: Brian Ebenau, Co-Sponsored Seminarian, Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, PO Box 4469, Washington, D.C. 20017). My family will be praying for him and thanking God that he has answered God's call to serve our community and our military members overseas.

### **Brian W. Ebenau**

Armed Forces Branch: Formerly USAF ('02-'08), active duty, finished inactive reserves 21 September 2009

Rank: Formerly Staff Sergeant/E-5

When was the first time you thought you might have a vocation to the priesthood?

Very shortly after my return from Bagram/Kandahar, Afghanistan (June 2006). The insights and changes that took place then were strengthened and affirmed in the midst of my next deployment to the United Arab Emirates (Al Dhafra AB – March 2007). There, I returned to the Sacraments on a regular basis and established a great rapport with the Catholic Chaplain, Fr. Ernie Berthelette, whom I continually maintain contact with today. This is when I first experienced communion with priests in a real way and acknowledged my growing interest/passion for Church affairs and Roman Catholic doctrine.

What is your favorite scripture passage and why?

I always return to the beginning of my knowledge of God and walk of faith. For this, the Psalms, Wisdom, and Proverbs hold a special place in my faith because they were the first books that God used to introduce Himself to me. Proverbs 2 truly captures the essence of my conversion and initial understanding of God – that He is Wisdom Itself, which surpasses all human knowledge and understanding. Proverbs 2 not only recalls my initial encounter with God but the reality that my own life and experiences actually passed through the truth contained in Proverbs 2. Eternal wisdom and understanding begins with receiving the Lord instead of human ambition, as the opening chapter of Proverbs writes.



My Dear Sisters in Christ-

This is truly a historic time for our organization—we have come through this transition from OCCH Auxiliary to 501(c)(3) stronger than ever, due in large part to your unwavering support. Now that the paperwork is complete and we are an independent corporation under the tax-exempt umbrella of the Archdiocese, it is time for us to rebuild our financial resources.

I can't help but think of the story of the 5 loaves and 2 fish—how Jesus was able to meet the needs of so many with the simple offering of one boy. MCCW-Worldwide, Inc. has a variety of programs and trainings we invite you to use to enrich your Chapel group (like the Conferences that have spiritually fed so many women, and our training programs that have nourished Chapel groups all over the world), but we need your offering to make that happen.



Are you able to share your 5 loaves and 2 fish with us, so that we may continue to feed Catholic military women's groups around the world? Please consider sending in an individual contribution, or taking up a collection at your next gathering. (Check with your chapel fund manager regarding the regulations for taking up an offering—it could be as simple as having the fund clerk supply an offering control sheet.) All contributions are tax deductible, but we must have the donor's email address to send an electronic receipt (we will send *only* electronic receipts).

Thank you for your prayers, and I look forward to meeting you at the 2014 MCCW-Worldwide Conference in Chattanooga, TN in April. Your sister in Christ,

*Erin Raymond*

Erin Raymond

President, MCCW-Worldwide, Inc.

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Detach here and mail to: MCCW-Worldwide, Inc., PO Box 4456, Washington, DC 20017-9997. Questions? Email Michelle Hokenson, Stewardship Manager at [stewardship@mccw.org](mailto:stewardship@mccw.org)

YES! I would love to support MCCW-Worldwide, Inc.  
Enclosed please find my tax deductible donation of:

- ☐ \$25  
☐ \$35  
☐ \$50  
☐ \$75  
☐ \$100  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_



Name	_____
Address	_____ _____ _____
Phone	_____
Email*	_____

*\*Email address is necessary for tax receipt*

Chapel Group \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to *MCCW-Worldwide, Inc.*  
Thank you for your gift!



## AROUND THE REGIONS

Epiphany - On January 6 my sisters in faith visited my home to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany and one another. Fr. Ohm was gracious to come and perform a house blessing of health, purity, humility, mercy, strength and goodness; I pray that the blessings of health, purity, humility, mercy, strength and goodness fill every fiber of us all.

Lent - March 5 marks the beginning of the Lenten Season. During Lent let us allow Christ to enter into the deepest depths of our hearts. Let us do whatever it takes to stay focused on Christ as well as on one another throughout this season. A friend of mine rises two hours early each day to spend time with Christ in prayer and reading scripture. She has been doing this so long that she cannot fathom missing her visits with Christ. We have many women in our chapels that epitomize pure love of Christ and these women can be great teachers to us, as they live to serve Christ. They breathe him in with every breath.



Jane Gottardi  
Europe Regional Director

Lent is a time to especially empty ourselves of the things that give interference to our relationship with Christ. Daily conversion of heart should be at the center of our psyche and with a little discipline in coming to prayer we can transform our lives and the lives around us.

Christian communities are bound by love and cannot exist without us loving one another. At the level of the heart we change one another for the better. As Disciples of Christ let us all take more time to be still, to allow our hearts quiet reflection in prayer so that his truth has an opportunity to shine into our hearts. The time to visit Christ is now. Give glory to him in all circumstances and cease every opportunity to open your heart to new friendships and to rekindling friendships of old. The heart of every woman we meet should feel our love. Only together can we build strong Christian Communities. Every minute in prayer builds up the love within you. Prayer brings understanding, pure heart, humility, strength and goodness. There are lives waiting to be touched by you.

Christ is the light of nations and he is calling on each of us to come to him, to be still, to listen to his heart and to grow in our own holiness. Grow in the light of Christ, follow a path of charity and let us build up one another in love.

### *Prayer of St. Claude*

"Sacred Heart of Jesus, teach me perfect selflessness since this is the only path to you."

"It is through the Heart of Jesus that the heart of man learns the true and unique meaning of his own life and his destiny and it is thanks to the Heart of Jesus that man learns to love".

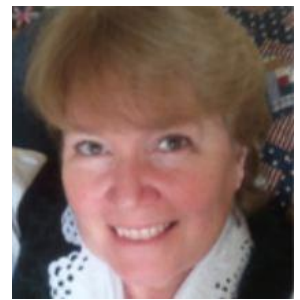
*Jean-Paul II Mgr Seguy, Bishop of Autun, 1990*



Beth Manning  
Central Regional Director

On Thursday, December 5th, Women of St Ignatius hosted a one day Advent retreat with Meg Hunter-Kilmer as the speaker. We had 32 women present to experience the talks, reconciliation, adoration, mass and fellowship. We will be having a one day Lenten retreat on Thursday, March 6th with Cheri Bowe from School of Faith.com speak on the passion of Christ. The Catholic Women of the Chapel at Fort Riley were not able to make the Advent retreat but hopefully some of the women will be able to come in March. It is very exciting looking forward to the MCCW-WW conference in April, and the theme of evangelization which coincides with Pope Francis' apostolic document *Evangelii Gaudium* (Joy of the Gospel). The Central region will be running the silent auction with the intention of raising funds for the AMS Co-Sponsorship Seminarians, so now is the time for everyone coming to conference to look for treasures they would like to donate to raise money for this great cause. We are working on having an address that we might be able to send donations ahead of time, so you do not need to travel with your donated items especially if you are flying in for the conference. May you all continue to spread the light of Christ in all you do within your communities, churches, and families.

My dear sisters! This has been such a rewarding time since Christmas, still feeling all the energy and love and peace of our Lord! See what is happening! So much I will have to include the other chapel groups next month! Read on! In His Love, Karen



Karen Fletcher  
Western Regional Director

Welcome to CWOC 2014 at **Fort Carson**! President, Annette Kurrus posted that they have many great things planned for the remainder of the CWOC year; to come walk by faith. Remember to let God be involved in your decisions, from the small ones to the large ones, and you might just find calmer waters this year. That is her goal for this year! They are beginning their spring Bible study this week, Chapter one of *Courageous Generosity*. They are also in planning mode for a CWOC Spring Lenten Retreat on Saturday, March 15, 2014.. Please put it on your calendar now. Registrations will begin the first part of February. Guest speaker for this event will be Sr. Philip Marie Burle. This group keeps a prayer book with their sisters' requests, and asks each member to say a daily Memorare as a way to collectively pray for the prayer requests in the prayer book. Thank you, Annette for all these and so many other opportunities for these ladies to share our faith!

From Vicki Jurgensmeier and Joanne Scully, the leaders of **JB Lewis-McChord, WA**. We had Meg Hunter-Kilmer come and speak May 29-30 and she was fabulous. If you are looking for a speaker she is great! We had our newest priest Father Glasgow as our guest speaker so the ladies could get to know him. We continue to meet every Thursday morning from 9:30-11:30 and childcare is still provided by our chapel which is a huge blessing. The rosary maker group meets at the same time. We still continue to get new ladies (to replace the ones who have just PCS'd) - we are truly blessed! At Fort Bliss, Savannah Bass our president had to move on to Fort Riley, but before she left, the MCCW group changed their name to CWOC, and had a Fall Retreat, "*The Virtues of a Woman, in Imitation of the Ten Evangelical Virtues of Mother Mary*". The retreat given by: Elizabeth Berquist and Karleen Smith was well attended and proved to be very thought provoking. The new board now contains the talents of these ladies: Dolores Catarroja, President; Monica Ramon, Vice President; Tina Hariston, Secretary; and Amanda Parker, Treasurer. We meet every Friday, and Rosary/ Prayer Shawl makers still meet every Tuesday. Rosaries were made for the Knights of Columbus' Walk for Life in January and successfully made over 1,200 for the Knights to distribute! The CWOC hosted a luncheon with the Bishop Buchon while he was here to celebrate Confirmation at Fort Bliss. This year the Bible study is Acts of the Apostles. Each month, we are also exploring the information on the Apparitions of our Blessed Mother. Our VP Monica shared with us Our Lady Of Schoenstatt. Dolores presented a special Bread Prayer Service that honors women who have led us, inspired us and challenged us. They are making Valentines for donations, in which special intentions and prayers for individuals will be displayed in a vase near the altar for the February 14th Mass. A Mother's Prayers group is still in the works, and many outreach activities continue each month.

Maggie Conway from **Fort Irwin** here! The group re-elected me as President this year and as we've grown by about 20% since this time last year, we have an entire board planning and coordinating our meetings and events this year, being faithfully supported by our own Father Paul Madej! Allow me to introduce you:

Stephanie McCullagh - Vice President

Shawn Shumate - Secretary

Jamie Martinez - Treasurer

Lisa Bowers - Community Service Coordinator

Rhonda Kimura - Hospitality

Melinda Shopa - Spiritual Leadership and Guidance Counselor



The Fort Irwin Catholic ladies group has officially changed our name from Military Council of Catholic Women (MCCW) to Catholic Women of the Chapel (CWOC). The email address is changing as well. Please update your records with the new address for the Fort Irwin CWOC: [cwoc.fortirwin@gmail.com](mailto:cwoc.fortirwin@gmail.com)

We can also be reached on FaceBook! Search CWOC: Fort Irwin Chapter and request to be a member.

We still meet every Thursday but have expanded our meeting time to 8:30am - 11:00am (formally 9 to 11) because after surveying our group last Spring, we found out our ladies want MORE. We start every meeting with the Rosary and end every meeting with Divine Mercy.. We eat together and fellowship at each meeting for about 20 minutes, then we have some announcements that usually don't take more than 10 minutes or so which allows us an hour or more for our Bible study.

Here are the studies we're doing this year;

Courageous Love (8 weeks)

Theology of the Body (8 weeks)

Catholicism (approximately 24 weeks, this will likely spread over the summer into next year)

The first Thursday of each month is our "Saint of the Month Potluck" meeting. We take a break from our study, we acknowledge Birthdays for the month, and Melinda, our resident Catholic expert, gives us a tutorial on Saints of her choice! We've had 2 so far and have covered True Devotion to Mary, Saint Padre Pio, 7 Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Choir of Angels and Arch Angels! Amazing information is shared and we're seeing positive spiritual growth! Our first big, post wide community services event is a 5K Walk for St. Jude's Children Research Hospital. Our event goal is to raise \$3000 dollars for research and treatment on terminal illnesses that impact children. St. Jude is known for never turning away a family because of their inability to pay for treatment and care!

### **St Michaels Military Council of Catholic Women (MCCW)**

At the USAFA, CO we meet every Wednesday from 10 am- 11:15 for Faith Study, and then we attend daily mass from 11:30-12:00. Faith studies and books we have done are a Jeff Cavin's study Galatians, we are doing Mothers Prayers (we continue to get the books from wonderful Lynda MacFarland) and we are also getting involved in the Frontline Faith Project (sending MP3 players to those deployed and purchasing Lynda MacFarland's book Drowning in Lemonade). Check out the website, [www.frontlinefaithproject.org](http://www.frontlinefaithproject.org) One of our outreach projects, collecting clothing items for veterans at the VA Nursing Center in Pueblo, CO was very successful. We have gone to Mother Cabrini's Shrine in Golden, CO, it is also one of the locations for a pilgrimage as a part of Year of Faith, and have had a day retreat in Sedelia, CO at Sacred Heart as a part of their "Days of Prayer" focusing on "Advent with the Gospel of Matthew." We were sorry to say goodbye to our President, Jennifer Sturgeon, as she moved in December. Brenda Wile has graciously stepped up to lead. Thank you, Brenda!

I just spoke with Carey Falter, the President for **Fort Huachuca**, where they meet monthly on the first Friday at 9am. She was so delightful and energetic that I wished I was there to attend their CWOC meeting! In December, they had a shower for baby Jesus and all items were donated to the CareNet organization there in Sierra Vista. "In January, our saint was St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and we finished up studying The Liturgy of the Word: The gospel, the homily, the profession of faith, and the prayer of the faithful. Our saint in February is St. Valentine, and our studies for February and March involve the Liturgy of the Eucharist. For February, we are reading about the Preparation of the Gifts and the Eucharistic Prayer."



Cheri Black and Megan Rosario are the co-coordinators of the **Beale AFB CWOC** in northern California. I have spoken to and emailed with Paulette Comeaux-Padua, who is the RE coordinator for the chapel and all around guru for this group. "We are a young group, in that we re-booted the CWOC at Beale last fall with a weekly Bible Study. We have been thrilled to have our attendance be steady throughout the fall and now that the Spring semester has started we are seeing even more new ladies arrive to join us. We are also looking to add new activities to grow as friends and a fellowship." We warmly welcome this group, and send our prayers for their continued growth!



# PRAYER INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER

## General Intention: Elders.

That the Church and society may respect the wisdom and experience of older people.

## Mission Intention: Collaboration in Evangelization.

That priests, religious, and lay people may work together with generosity for evangelization.



### Prayer for Vocations

Father, we're your people, the work of your hands.  
So precious are we in your sight that you sent your Son, Jesus.  
Jesus calls us to heal the broken-hearted,  
to dry the tears of those who mourn,  
to give hope to those who despair,  
and to rejoice in your steadfast love.  
We, the baptized, realize our call to serve.  
Help us to know how.  
Call forth from among us priests, sisters,  
brothers and lay ministers.  
With our hearts you continue to love your people.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God forever and ever.

"I join the March for Life  
in Washington with my  
prayers. May God help us  
respect all life, especially  
the most vulnerable."

Pope Francis via Twitter, @Pontifex

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## MCCW Prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel

O Lord of heavenly wisdom,  
Who has given us Your own Mother Mary  
to be our guide and counselor in this our lives,  
Grant that in all things we may have the grace to seek  
maternal instruction

and to profit by it in humility and love.

O Mother of Good Counsel,  
Patroness of the Military Council of Catholic Women,  
help us to understand and fulfill  
the mind and will of your Divine Son, Jesus Christ.

Under the blessing of the Father,  
and by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
may we be responsible and intelligent  
daughters of the Church.

May we labor in the spirit of renewal  
to realize more perfectly the kingdom of God here below  
as the only true preparation for our share  
in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Amen.