



The Well



The Military Council of Catholic Women-Worldwide **connects, unites, and inspires** U.S. military affiliated women to grow in their Catholic faith.

*connect * unite * inspire*

June 2019

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Volunteer of the Month Brenda Nonnweiler



If you have been lucky enough to be stationed in Hawaii in recent years, you probably know Brenda. If you have attended recent MCCW events, you might have met Brenda at the MCCW swag table. And if you haven't met Brenda, you should. Brenda has been on the MCCW team for more than three years and is the first to step up and help out wherever needed.

Because of that willingness to say "yes," Brenda is currently wearing two hats for MCCW. She continues her role as the MCCW Merchandise Coordinator and has taken on the role of Pacific Region Communications Coordinator.

Her work with MCCW swag has helped the organization overcome many of the challenges of maintaining and shipping inventory to women and CWOC groups all over the world. And her current project, creating an online store for MCCW and CWOC items, is sure to be a hit when it launches. She does all of that while also being a vital member of the Pacific regional team.

Thanks, Brenda, for saying yes and being an amazing member of the MCCW team.



From the President

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Wow! Time just flies by and here we are with less than a year until Forum 2020. Plans are well underway, but so much will happen between now and when we welcome you all to San Antonio next April.

One of the things that has to happen in advance is preparation for discernment of new leaders for the MCCW Worldwide Board. As part of our new staggered leadership plan, we will discern five of the nine board positions at Forum: President, Director of Forum, Director of Communications, Director of Financial Stewardship and one At-large Director position.

In order to fully prepare those women who might be prayerfully considering the role of MCCW President, we are asking anyone who feels a call to this position to self-identify by the end of the summer. You can do this by emailing me at president@mccw.org and letting me know that you are thinking about it.

Once you do, you will be part of our board-shadowing program. You will listen in during board meetings, participate in planning activities, and have opportunities to visit with me and other board members about this job. It is our hope that giving you this preparation time will help our next president step confidently into her role immediately following discernment.

If you want to learn more about the role of MCCW President, or any of the other positions we will be discerning at Forum, you can visit www.mccw.org for full job descriptions, expectations, and other important information.

And speaking of Forum, check out the rest of this issue and follow us on social media for new details about this exciting event in 2020. We can't wait to welcome you all to San Antonio in just ten short months.

Yours in Christ,
Kim



Seminarian Spotlight

Promised Priests -- Goal Achieved!

Let us give thanks to each and every one of you who have helped MCCW achieve our goal of reaching \$50,000 and establishing the Military Council of Catholic Women Endowed Co-Sponsored Seminarian Scholarship.

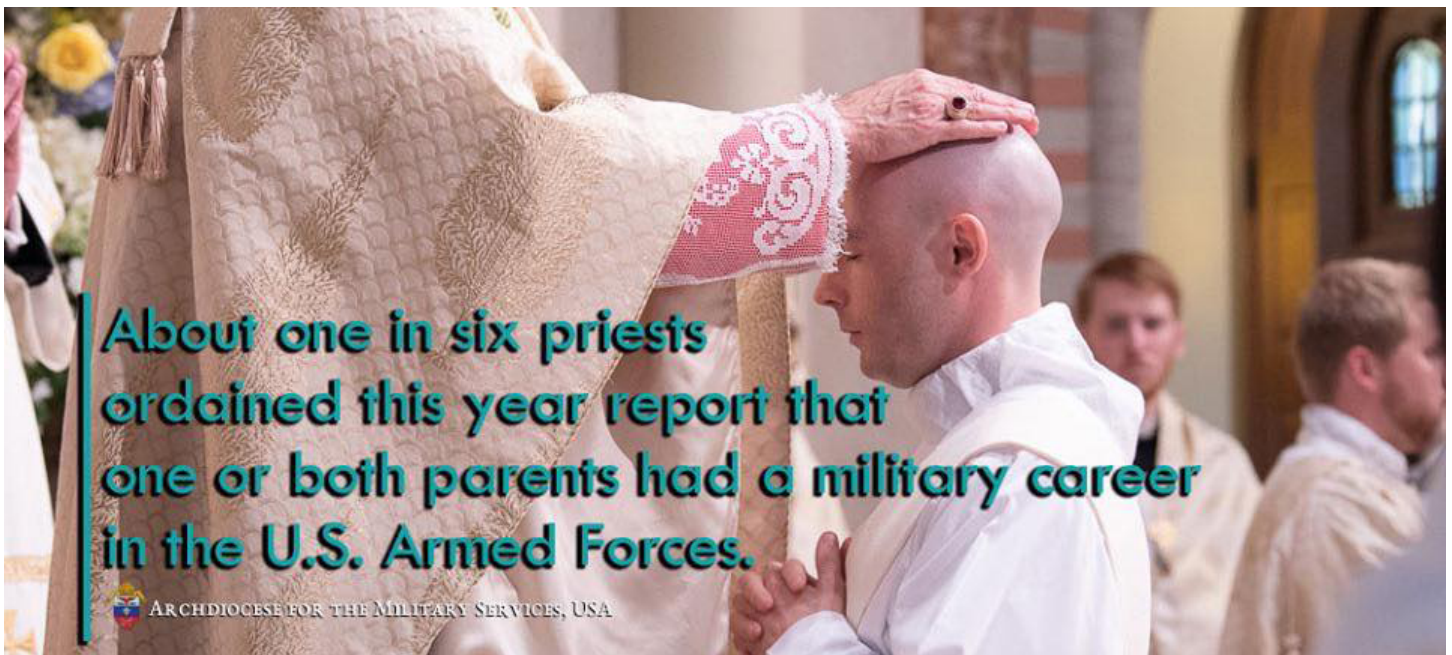
In 2017, a goal of \$50,000 was set and MCCW members from all around the globe diligently focused on supporting this goal. As we approached our 2018 Forum, we had collected \$17,000. Within one short year, the additional



\$33,000 needed was surpassed and our goal was achieved.

Perhaps you donated an item for your CWOC's basket at a regional retreat's silent auction. Maybe you generously wrote a personal check to show your love and support. Or maybe you are making a recurring monthly contribution to our perpetual charity.

However you choose to best support the Co-Sponsored Seminarians of the Archdiocese for the Military Services (AMS), we thank you. We appreciate your donations and pray you will continue to show your support for many years to come.



About one in six priests ordained this year report that one or both parents had a military career in the U.S. Armed Forces.

ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE MILITARY SERVICES, USA

2019 AMS Deacon Ordinations

Adam Marchese
6 April



Miguel Flores-Perez
18 May



Daniel Duplantis
28 May



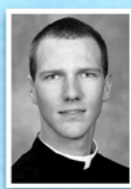
Adam Woodward
31 May



Tim Mergen
3 October



Steven Booth
11 May



James Dvorak
25 May



Tyler Harris
31 May

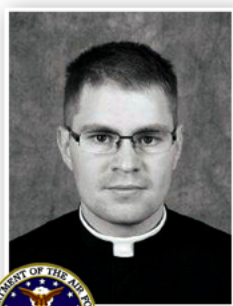


Joseph Baltz
6 June

Our Promised Priests

“Answering a call within a call,” to serve both God and country.

Carignan Rouse



Diocese of Boston
18 May 2019

Christopher Yakkell



Diocese of Columbus
25 May 2019

Vinny Gillmore



Archdiocese of Indianapolis
1 June 2019

Sean Koehr



Diocese of Arlington
8 June 2019

Matthew Faucett



Diocese of Green Bay
22 June 2019

Our Promised Priests

Save the Date

MCCW 2019 Fall Regional Retreats

Strengthened by Grace

Southeast Regional Retreat

August 16-18

Bethany Retreat House

Dickson, Tennessee

*Registration
Now Open*

[Click here to register for the Southeast Regional Retreat!](#)

European Regional Retreat

November 7-10

Hotel Villa EUR Parco dei Pini

Rome, Italy

Asia Regional Retreat

November 15-17

Mirinae Anseong, Gyeonggi-do

South Korea





Stewardship Corner

Sharing MCCW Two-by-Two

I think when people hear the term “stewardship” in nonprofits, they assume fundraising. Yes, sustaining MCCW financially is part of stewardship, but even more than that, being a good steward of MCCW is being a good *ambassador* for the ministry. Every time I attend a MCCW event, I hear stories from women whose lives have been transformed because of the relationships they have formed through MCCW. These relationships have pointed women back to the Sacraments, encouraged couples to have their marriages convalidated or to go through the annulment process, and helped women begin or renew a personal relationship with Jesus.

With this summer being PCS season, military families are moving all over the globe. As you meet new Catholic women this summer, perhaps you can help MCCW’s stewardship and share your MCCW story. How has MCCW helped you grow in faith or friendship? Invite a new friend to a MCCW event, connect them to our social media, or share your positive MCCW experience with your chaplain.

Two-by-two. Our Faith is so often propagated two-by-two: Paul and Timothy, Priscilla and Aquila, Lois and Eunice, Felicity and Perpetua. With whom will you share? How will you help to **connect**, **unite**, and **inspire** a sister in Christ?

MCCW
**Faith Formation
Forum 2020**

April 23 - 26

Marriott Riverwalk, San Antonio, Texas

*“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your word.”*

Luke 1:38



*connect * unite * inspire*

Forum 2020

Sisters In Christ,

As we reflect on the 2020 Forum theme of Mary's FIAT, I would like to invite you to read this [article from The Word Among Us](#). Mary's FIAT is a shining example more than 2000 years later of how we can give our own yes to the Lord's will in our lives.

As an organization, MCCW functions under the blessing of our Heavenly Father and by the power of the Holy Spirit. When we say yes to God's plan for us, we emulate and imitate Mary's actions.

Thank you to all of those who have given their FIAT to MCCW, past and present. I also want to thank those of you who have taken time to prayerfully discern for positions that you may not have filled. Your FIAT to let the Holy Spirit lead you is exactly what Our Holy Mother did when the Angel Gabriel appeared to her.

Mary's FIAT will always be an exemplar as we navigate this military life in all its complexities.

I CAN'T WAIT to see ALL OF YOU in April!

Peace and Aloha,
Aly Tugaoen
Director of Forum 2020

CWOC and Regional Updates

During their last meeting of the year, the **Fort Huachuca CWOC** celebrated the Marian month of May with crownings, discussing the Catholic meaning of flowers, and investing in a Mary statue. They all received gladioli bulbs to take home.



The **Fort Bragg CWOC** completed discernment during their May meeting.

Fort Campbell CWOC celebrated the end of the

year with a ceremony focused on Catholic womanhood and then each of the women took home custom made coasters.



Camp Humphreys CWOC celebrated the end of their year with a class photo.



Members of the **MCCW European region** participated in the Warriors to Lourdes pilgrimage.



During their May meeting, the ladies of the **Fort Wainwright CWOC** created Marian gardens.



Get to Know the MCCW-W Board

MCCW-Worldwide is run by a board of women, with spiritual guidance and moderation provided by an active duty Catholic Air Force Chaplain. Get to know each of your current MCCW-Worldwide board members in this month's feature. Through their daily lives, these faithful volunteers make it a priority to connect, unite, and inspire Catholic military women worldwide!



Meet Kim, in her own words:

"Hi, I am Kim, and I am the MCCW-W President!

I first got involved with CWOC at Hohenfels in 2009, and attended my first

Forum in Chattanooga in 2014, where I joined the worldwide board as the stewardship chair. We are a proud Army family! One of the places I have found God's Grace is in the Catholic military women He has placed in my life and with whom deep friendships have grown. I feel closest to Christ right before Mass, when I kneel down to say my prayers. I always start with "Thank you, Jesus," and am always filled with such gratitude in that moment. My advice to a new military woman would be to seek out that Catholic community every time you move - grounding yourself and your family in faith first will help make everything easier (not easy, but easier!)"

Meet Aly, our MCCW-W Director of Forum!



Aly's husband is a retired Army soldier, and she currently serves in the U.S. Army Reserves. Hailing from the Pacific Region, Aly first became involved in a Catholic Women of the Chapel group at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina in 2007. She credits her love of duty stations not for the station itself, but the hearts and people she has connected with at each installation. She shares that God has strengthened her with grace by those He has placed in her path, explaining how, when her son was injured and required brain surgery, the people lifting her family in prayer and assisting in their time of need was God's way of helping strengthen her.

Every time her husband deployed or went TDY to a combat zone was an opportunity in which Aly found herself saying to God, "Be it done unto me according to Your will" (our Forum theme for 2020). She feels closest to Christ on the islands, outside in the early morning, watching the sunrise.



Meet Bevin, our MCCW-W Director of Communications

Proud Army wife, Bevin has been involved with CWOC since 2004, after being confirmed through RCIA. She has been involved with MCCW for the last three years, doing the website. While her favorite duty location has been Italy,

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Bevin is looking forward to maybe moving closer to her family now that she is a proud Grammy!

When asked how she was strengthened by God's Grace during her family's time in the military, Bevin replied, "if not for God's sustaining grace, and faith in our reward in Heaven, I wouldn't have been able to handle the difficult times in deployment," as she recounted her mother being diagnosed with cancer, their first child moving away to college, and her father going through a terminal illness all while Bevin's husband was deployed! Bevin expresses a devotion to the Divine Mercy, and when she can't be in the Church of the Holy Spirit (in Rome), she feels closest to Christ when contemplating His Passion and the Mercy He offers each of us.

Her advice to new Catholic military women is: "Pray. Pray for your husband. Pray for the military and government. Pray for your children (born and unborn). Pray for your extended family. Pray for your friends. Pray for your CWOC fellowship. Pray for your MCCW friends. Pray for your fellow Catholic wives. Lift each other up in prayer and create a rich network of prayer warriors."

**Meet Joan, our MCCW-W
Director of Regional
Coordinators**



As a proud Air Force wife, she has been active with CWOC on and off for 19 years, and active with MCCW since 2013.

Her favorite place to live so far is: "wherever the Lord sends me!" She would like to live: "wherever the next job takes us. I learned not to have locations preconceived long ago."

When asked how she has been strengthened by the grace that is found with Christ Jesus, she responded, "with all the volunteering I have done over the years." She feels the closest to Christ at work in the Catholic Campus Ministry at Wright State University, and at Mass.

The best advice she would give a new Catholic military woman is: "Get involved when you are able, and learn to step back when you are not able to volunteer. It's a graceful balance that takes time to acquire."

To relax, she enjoys "cooking with her daughters and anyone brave enough to join" her in the kitchen!



**Meet Bernadette, MCCW-W
Director at Large**

Bernadette has been involved with MCCW-W for the past 11 years, and with her individual Catholic Women of the Chapel groups for the past 18 years. She is a proud U.S. Army retiree.

There have been many times she has felt strengthened by the Grace of God numerous times in her life. She recounts, "It goes without saying that the life of a military family defines flexibility, determination, hope and faith. With

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many obstacles that can redefine your day growing in faith has given me the ultimate 'weapon' to fight the many challenges. That is my centering in Christ. Beginning with a prayer each morning to start the day and truly ask for His Divine guidance where to lead me. There has been no time that I did not have a conversation with God. Whether alone and walking across the desert or sitting in a parking lot asking Him what is your will? He may not address my concerns then, but I know He is working His miracle behind the scenes as always for me."

When asked about a time she has said, "Be it done to me according to Your will," Bernadette shares, "As a Mom the most frightening time was being told after my youngest, then an infant and we were stationed in Germany in a drawdown community, had multiple seizures and placed several times on a ventilator was told, 'I am sorry but he may never walk, talk or be capable of self care.' All hope from others were given up and even suggested to place him in a "facility". One of his hospitalizations I crawled in bed near him with all the wires that was attached to his little body and prayed. I asked God to tell me what to do for my son. Please bear in mind I was nearing six months out toward retirement and leaving the military was a consideration which meant losing twenty years and a pension. The tears that had been cold turned warm on my face and I knew right then God would walk side by side with my son and me. I can happily report that although

there are learning concerns he walks, talks and does very well on his own."

Bernadette recommends all women ask God to guide them and show them His will.



Meet Eleanor, MCCW-W Director at Large

As a proud Army wife, Eleanor has been involved with her local Catholic Women of the Chapel chapters since 1969, and has rarely missed an MCCW-W conference in 40 years.

Eleanor cites Germany as her favorite place to live while her husband was in the Army, and are still incontact with the friends they made during the three separate assignments there. During their time in the military, Eleanor credits having been strengthened by God's Grace through, "Keeping is going during difficult times: frequent moves, excessively long work hours, not being involved with family, and having a rebellious child." Eleanor and her husband will be married 50 years on the upcoming Feast of St. Francis (4 October), and believes, "has to be His grace." Eleanor feels closest to Christ at Mass, and when out admiring His creation of spectacular scenery, with special love of the scenery in Colorado.

While Eleanor loves traveling, having lunch with friends, and doing artwork to relax, her advice for new military women is to, "Get involved with something!

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There is no reason to ever be bored in the military – there are so many ways to help, whether in the chapel, school, or community. Plan ahead to save money, get a babysitter, and treat yourself to an MCCW conference, retreat or forum every year.”

Thank you for connecting with us, uniting together in our mission, and inspiring Catholic military women through your own networks! How will you lean into God, and let Him carry you to serve Him this weekend?

**Meet Elizabeth Tomlin,
Director of Financial
Stewardship**

Elizabeth has served on the MCCW board since 2012 and was President from 2014-2016. These days, she most enjoys helping from the wings.

A proud Army wife, her favorite assignments have been West Point, New York, and Fort Bliss, Texas. Despite the contrast of terrain between the Hudson Highlands of New York, and the Chihuahuan Desert of Fort Bliss, both locations brought Elizabeth and her family life-long friends, which they made mostly through the military chapel.

Her best advice to a new Catholic military woman is two-fold. First, taking inspiration from John 14:1, “Do not let your hearts be troubled,” let your “yes” to military life be your “yes,” even on the hard days. Military life is wonderful and a privilege, but it brings challenges:



family separations; tragedies in the unit; bureaucracy of Tricare; children changing schools; you name it! Especially on the hard days, take heart with 1 Cor 16:13, “Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong. Your every act should be done with love.” Secondly, get involved with the Catholic chapel wherever military life sends you. There, you and your family will grow in the Faith, make wonderful friends, and find mentors to accompany you in navigating military life.

To relax, Elizabeth enjoys writing or digging in her garden, where she grows flowers, veggies and herbs she happily distributes to neighbors and colleagues. She has a forthcoming book with Ave Maria Press about parish women’s ministries, which should be in print in January 2020. She also blogs at joyfulmomentum.org and for the WINE: Women In the New Evangelization blog, and on her Instagram @elizabethannetomlin.



**We are excited to
introduce the newest
member of our
MCCW-W board.**

Serving as our newly discerned Director of Faith

Formation, Nancy Belmont has been involved with local CWOC groups since February 2002. Having served as a chapel board president and faith study leader, she also presented a

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Journey of Faith module on ministry to women with young children at the 2016 MCCW Worldwide Forum.

As a proud Army spouse, one of her favorite assignments was when the family lived on the outskirts of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.. She explains that the Catholic parish they attended, and the many cultural opportunities, were top reasons for this favorite location. She would also love to go back to Europe with teenagers, and San Antonio is also a top contender because she, “appreciates the Catholic flair and vibrance.”

When asked how she has been strengthened by God’s Grace during her family’s military service, Nancy had this to say, “We have had to trust that God would shepherd us the entire way. Whether it’s making tough career choices or ranking duty stations, we educate ourselves, make the best decision for our family, and trust in God’s provision. He has always brought amazing people into our lives to support us if we were open to His help.”

And, she encourages new military women to get involved with CWOC and MCCW, as a way to build community, a sense of family when we live so far from our own families, and to sustain our faith life.

Bringing MCCW to You

Hello MCCW sisters,

In an effort to expand our in-person offerings to military-affiliated Catholic women, MCCW will pilot a new Day of Reflection initiative this fall. These mini-retreats will compliment the theme of this year’s regional weekend retreats, “Strengthened by Grace.” Women will gather to pray, listen to speakers, reflect, and interact, harvesting spiritual and practical fruit they can bring back to their chapel groups at the end of the day. We will pilot the program this fall in select areas, desiring to build upon it and offer more opportunities to **connect, unite, and inspire** in all our regions next year.

Stay tuned for more information as this program unfolds.

Nancy Belmont,
Director of Faith Formation



Scattered but United

In a recent Mass reading, we heard of some of the persecution and difficulties of the early Church. We are reminded that, during a time of, “severe persecution...all were scattered...” That first reading then goes on to say, “Now those who had been scattered went about preaching the word...”

During a time of great difficulty, the early Christians continued to preach the word in all their actions and deeds.

April was the Month of the Military Child. May included Military Spouse Appreciation Day. Now, in June, many of us are loading up household goods, boarding planes and heading off to new duty stations.

So, here at MCCW we want to draw your eye to the dandelion.

We, as a worldwide group of Catholic women, are scattered...we are members of a diocese that spans the globe! And, we are preparing, as a collective group of military-connected individuals to scatter again during the PCS season.

Yet, in the middle of the dandelion stands our reminder to be, “A visible presence of Christ.” As MCCW-Worldwide, we are that visible presence of Christ, much like our early Church! We stand as a visible presence of Christ – **connected, united**, and ready to **inspire** wherever the winds blow us – in our thoughts, in our words, and in our actions.

-- How often are each of us, at our duty stations, preaching the word in our thoughts?

-- How are we preaching the word in our words?

-- How are we preaching the word in our actions?

Let us draw from the early Christians’ example in the first reading, and take some time to reflect on how we, as individuals and as a collective group of Catholic military women, can be that visible presence of Christ in our military communities.



June dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	 6 Diaconate Ordination of Joseph Baltz	7	 8 Presbyterate Ordination of Sean Koehr
 9 Pentecost Sunday	10	11	12	13	14	15
 16 Father's Day/ Solemnity of The Most Holy Trinity	17	18	19	 20 Feast of Corpus Christi	21	 22 Presbyterate Ordination of Matthew Faucett
23	 24 The Nativity of St. John the Baptist	25		 27 Our Lady of Perpetual Help	 28 Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	 29 The Immaculate Heart of Mary
30						

*"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,
and I will give you rest.*

*Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am meek and humble of heart;
and you will find rest for yourselves.*

For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

Mathew 11: 28-30



Book Recommendation

One of our MCCW board members recently read this book and really enjoyed it. While it is technically classified as a young adult novel (which makes it an easy read), it's absolutely serious enough to recommend to any Catholic reader. There is even a sequel set in Scotland.



Written by Catholic former Army brat Ashlee Cowles, the story follows a teenage Army brat who walks the Camino de Santiago through Spain to honor her brother, a soldier who was wounded in Afghanistan. The main character comes from a very Catholic family (dad is a chaplain's assistant), but this pilgrimage is about her journey to develop her own faith in the face of fear, death, adulthood, and love.

The book was a winner of the 2017 Colorado Book Award.

Recap from Amazon: After her soldier brother is horribly wounded in Afghanistan, Gabriela must honor the vow she made: If anything ever happened to him, she would walk the Camino de Santiago through Spain, making a pilgrimage in his name. The worst part is that the promise stipulates that she must travel with her brother's best friend--a boy she has despised all her life. Her brother is in a coma, and Gabi feels that she has no time to waste, but she is unsure. Will she hesitate too long, or risk her own happiness to keep a promise? An up-close look at the lives of the children of military families, *Beneath Wandering Stars* takes readers on a journey of love, danger, laughter, and friendship, against all odds.

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