

Table of Contents

President's Letter

Seminarian Spotlight

Advent Calendar

Deacon Ordination

CWOC and Regional Updates

November Calendar

December Calendar

Team AMS at the Army Ten Miler

Vocation Awareness Week

MCCW Forum 2020 Update

Faith Toolkit: Advent Activities

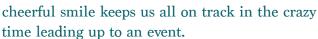
MCCW Sponsorship

Contact Us



Volunteer Spotlight: Sue Parker

If you have ever attended an MCCW event, you probably know Sue Parker. Sue has been MCCW's registrar for many years and her no-nonsense attitude and



As our registrar, Sue is responsible for all the behind-the-scenes work on the Eventbrite registration website as well as "nuts and bolts" tasks like sending invoices, keeping track of registration changes, and ensuring that name tags get printed for all attendees at MCCW events. She also handles all the intricacies of chapel payments from each branch of service no easy task and one we are all grateful to Sue for handling.

In the past twelve months, Sue has created the event registrations for all seven MCCW retreats as well as Forum. She has also trained each regional team on how to use Eventbrite in their region — so they can help in the registration work and be ready to welcome each attendee to each event, with all the right registration information.

Next time you register for an event, join us in saying a little prayer of thanksgiving for Sue!



Dear Sisters in Christ,

Time flies, doesn't it? As I write, we are wrapping up October and charging full-steam into November and I can hardly believe that another year will soon be over.

For us in the Catholic Church, the year will be over even sooner — the first Sunday of Advent, Dec. 1, marks the first day of the new liturgical year. We want to help you prepare for the start of Advent (it will be here before you know it!), so

resources and ideas in this issue of *The Well*.

vou will find several Advent

The end of the year is also a great time for reflecting on all that has happened in the previous twelve months and this year. MCCW is spending some time reflecting on our role in promoting and encouraging vocations, especially those to the priesthood in the Archdiocese for the Military Services.

We are remembering with gratitude all of your generous gifts that made it possible for MCCW to endow its scholarship for co-sponsored seminarians, and we are excited about the number of chapels and seminarians participating in our Adopta-Seminarian program this year. We are also thinking about other ways we can

encourage vocations — through our organization, in our chapels,

and in our families. Have you ever asked your son if he has thought about the priesthood? Read on for some of the ideas we share.

Want more on vocations?

Make sure you register for Forum today, www.mccw.org/forum2020 where we will be joined by one of our very own

AMS seminarians, and will have the opportunity to participate in a very special auction for our promised priests.

As we move into November, it is also a time for gratitude, and I am grateful for each and every one of you -- the women we serve in MCCW. Thanks for the opportunity to *connect*, *unite*, and *inspire* you each month!

In Christ, Kim Miller

Seminarian Spotlight

Meet David Chacko

By: Denise Hummel, MCCW Director at Large: Seminarian Support



The Archdiocese of the Military Services (AMS) proudly supports 46 cosponsored seminarians. These men have answered a call to serve both God and country and are busy completing their academic years of training and

formation at various seminaries around the United States. As plans are underway for an exciting Forum 2020, we will be blessed to have David Chacko present with us as we *connect* with one of these 46 promised priests.

David is the second of seven children and grew up in San Antonio. As we prepare to gather and *unite* in his hometown next April, let's take a moment to get to know him. His parents were both Army doctors stationed at Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston where David was born. The Chacko family was lucky enough to keep the same assignment until his father's retirement from the Army.

When asked, "David, who do you admire the most?" he shares, "My mother — because of her steadfast example of faith, joy, and trust in the Lord that has shaped my own relationship with God and continues to inspire me today."

David has always shown pride in academics. He applied, and was accepted, to both West Point and the Air Force Academy his senior year of high school. The acceptance letter for West Point arrived in the mail first; marking the beginning of his journey to serve the Army and continue in his parent's footsteps.

Regarding David's personal call to the vocation of the priesthood, he shares, "A conversion experience at the end of high school prompted me to enter into my faith more deeply. One day at Mass as a cadet at West Point, I felt a strong desire to bring Jesus in the Eucharist to others. Continued discernment led me to the seminary. I am grateful to be on this journey towards priesthood and Army chaplaincy so that I might have the opportunity to serve both God and country."

As we prepare to gather in San Antonio, next April, we look forward to having David speak and share his journey to the priesthood. He will *inspire* you and encourage you to invite others to answer the call to the vocation of the priesthood. May God bless all of our promised priests — those who



answer the call to serve a vocation within a vocation --- serving both God and country.

Promised Priest Advent Calendar December Pray

Pray, by name, for our Co-Sponsored Seminarians each day!

1

Jason Allan Darren Balkey 2

Deacon Joseph Baltz Deacon Steven Booth 3

Carrett Braun David Campo

2

David Chacko Paul Collins 5

Will Cook Patrick Costello •

James Craig Anthony Davis

7

Patrick DiLoreto

Erin Donlon

8

Deacon Daniel Duplantis Deacon James Dyorak 6

Bradley Easterbrooks Deacon Miguel Flores-Perez

10

Zachary Glick Ray Goins 11

Henry Graebe Deacon Tyler Harris 12

Madison Hayes Armando Herrera-DosReis 13

Eddie Hoffman Alexander Houston

14

Stephen Hughes Brian Jacobson 15

Michael Kapolka Matthew Kurt 16

Andrew Lane Caleb Magowan 17

Deacon Adam Marchese Deacon Timothy Mergen

18

Joshua Miller Michael Nugent 19

Colin Patrick Michael Samp 20

Andrew Sanchez Upton Sewell 21

Peter St. George Callan Sweeney

22

Brent Thayer Carlos Warfield 23

Charles Wilton Deacon Adam Woodward 24

All Co-Sponsored Priests 25

All Military Chaplains



Photo courtesy of AMS Website.

Deacon Ordination

The Reverend Mr. Timothy G. Mergen was ordained a transitional deacon on Thursday, Oct. 3 in Rome, Italy. He hopes eventually to serve as a Catholic chaplain in the United States Air Force. His home diocese is Madison, Wisconsin. May God bless our promised priests.





Stewardship

Archdiocese for the Military Services
AMS Appeal

The Archdiocese of Military Services' third
National Collection will be taking place the
weekend of Nov. 9-10 in most dioceses. If
you feel called to donate, you can either
mail in a donation or click here
https://www.milarch.org/amsappeal/
to donate electronically.

Mailing instructions:

Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA
1025 Michigan Avenue NE
P.O. Box 96168
Washington, D.C. 20017
Attn: AMS Appeal 2019

Please prayerfully consider financially supporting AMS!

CWOC and Regional Updates

Asian Region

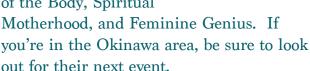
Kadena Air Force Base in Okinawa



had a morning of reflection this month. They met for a full day's schedule including mass, talks, adoration, confession, and lunch. The theme

was "True

Femininity" with talks, all lead by CWOC members, focused on Theology of the Body, Spiritual



European Region



The CWOC at Lakenheath Air Force Base kicked off the month of the rosary by hosting an illuminated rosary followed by a soup and chilli potluck dinner. Adding to the beautiful atmosphere of the

event, each decade was read in a different language.

Fr James Peak arranged for the Vicenza CWOC group to attend Mass at St. Peter's and tour the Basilica.



At the end of last month, the **Fort Bliss** CWOC hosted a baby shower for their local pro life center.





As our MCCW ladies meet for their European Regional Retreat, in



Rome, they carry on the tradition of hosting a Promised Priest Silent Auction to benefit our MCCW endowed scholarship for the AMS cosponsored seminarians.

A special thank you to everyone who has given generously to our endowed scholarship, at regional retreats, this past year. Together we can *connect*, *unite*, and *inspire* all promised priests who will serve both God and country.



Northeast Region For Such a Time As This

By: Courtney Power, Quantico CWOC Secretary

On October 16, the Quantico CWOC had the distinct pleasure of hearing the witness of the reigning Mrs. Virginia, former CWOC member Mrs. Lisa Stover. While her husband is no longer a Marine, Mrs. Stover has a special connection to the Quantico CWOC and was glad



to visit and share. Her key Bible verse was Esther 4:14 "...perhaps this is the moment for which you have been created?"



Often times, we experience events and circumstances in life that throw us for a loop and for which we can see no reason. Miscarriage is one such experience. Lisa shared openly how in the span of less than a month

she lost a daughter to miscarriage (Chloe, pray for us) and her mother to cancer. Following that devastating time, clinging to God and the hope that good can come from anything, she competed in the Mrs. Virginia pageant. She was crowned Mrs. Virginia 2019 and recently competed in Mrs. America at 5 months pregnant! Her lesson from all this — her witness to life and its dignity is that much stronger because she has been open in sharing about the loss of Chloe as well as competing while pregnant and showing the beauty and dignity of motherhood.

Following her talk, Fr Gerry Kasule came to offer a special blessing over our group in remembrance of all children lost to miscarriage, stillbirth and in infancy. Ladies were then invited to add a white carnation to a vase in honor of any child lost. This beautiful bouquet of life was then presented at the altar during the Mass that followed.





"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Luke 1:38



connect * unite * inspire



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3	4	5	6		All Saints Day	All Souls Day
10	11	12	13	7-10 European Regional Retreat	15-1	7 16
17	18	19	20	21	Asia Regional Retre	23
24	25	26	27	20	8 29	30
				Thanksgiving Day		

O gentle Heart of Jesus, ever present in the Blessed Sacrament, ever consumed with burning love for the poor captive souls in Purgatory, have mercy on them. Be not severe in Your judgments, but let some drops of Your Precious Blood fall upon the devouring flames.

And, Merciful Saviour, send Your angels to conduct them to a place of refreshment, light and peace. Amen.





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	Jaman He Conseption	10	11	12	13	14
15	Blessed Vingin Mary 16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	+ 25	26	27	28
29	30	31	Nativity of the Lord			

O most Holy Virgin, immaculate in body and spirit, look kindly on me as I implore your powerful intercession.

O most Holy Mother, receive my propers

as I present them to God.

(state your intentions here) O Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, you intercede for as with your Son. O Mary conceived without sin,

pray for as who have recourse to thee. Amen.



Faith Features Team Alvis Supporting Seminarians at the Army Ten-Miles By Mancy Belmont, Director of Tailh Tormation

Katie Hanna is a member of the U.S. Army Reserve who supports vocations in a very interesting and inspiring way—by running ten miles! Katie was a member of the Archdiocese for the Military Service's Army Ten-Miler Team. She raised almost \$800 towards seminarian formation and Catholic religious support for servicemembers and their families stationed all over the world. Katie spoke with us about the impact priest chaplains have had on her family and why she supports the Archdiocese for the Military Services (AMS).

What impact have chaplains had on your faith life?

I love our military chaplains, especially chaplain priests. I have to credit chaplains in part for helping me and my family in surviving 23 years of military life. I've worked as a pastoral coordinator at three different military chapels and have seen firsthand how much our military chaplains and priests do for Soldiers and their families. They have a greater devotion because many of them work as a unit chaplain and also have a Catholic community to provide pastoral care for as

L-R: CH (CPT) Phil Trah, USA, Katie Hanna, Randy Mueller.

well. It's a huge undertaking. Many of our Soldiers and families depend on our military priests to live out their faith and make sacraments, especially in remote or deployed locations. My husband came into the faith through Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) while deployed. I'm so grateful that God opened that door for him and a priest chaplain was available to help him in the process.

Why did you run the Army Ten-Miler to benefit seminarians?

The co-sponsored seminarians are the future of our military priest chaplaincy. They are such a treasure as they are committing to serving not only as military officers but also military priests. We need to support them however we can.

Here's a question just for fun...how did you FEEL after running ten miles (physically, spiritually, mentally, emotionally)? Was it worth it?

I felt tired after the run but also exhilarated from accomplishing my 4th ATM. It's always fun to see other AMS runners, especially this year with continued on page 18



"My vocation is love!" - St. Therese of Lisieux

"National Vocation Awareness Week, celebrated November 3-9, 2019, is an annual week-long celebration of the Catholic Church in the United States dedicated to promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life through prayer and education, and to renew our prayers and support for those who are considering one of these particular vocations."

Source: USCCB: http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/national-vocation-awareness-week.cfm

How can we support and encourage vocations?

- 1. Through prayer
- 2. By encouraging people to "consider the call."
- 3. By donating to the MCCW Co-Sponsored Seminarian Scholarship. mccw.org

"Again, (amen), I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father." Matthew 18:19 (NAB)

Consider publishing this Prayer for Vocations in your parish bulletin and asking your pastor to include these Prayers for the Faithful during Mass. Hang the current group photo of the Archdiocese for the Military's Co-Sponsored Seminarians in the back of your sanctuary for all to see so they can remember these young men in their prayers.





Northeast Region

Day of Reflection

Saturday, 7 Dec 2019

Featuring our Guest Speakers Lisa Miklos and Erin Raymond

Most Holy Trinity Catholic Chapel, West Point, NY

0900-1500

For more information, contact Nancy Belmont
at faithformation@meew.org



Source: USCCB http://www.usccb.org/prayerand-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/ prayers-for-vocations.cfm

Prayers for the Faithful

For young people in our community that they may respond generously with open hearts and willing spirits if the Lord calls them to the priesthood, diaconate, or consecrated life. We pray to the Lord ...

For men and women to be open to God's call to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ as priests, deacons, or consecrated persons. We pray to the Lord ...

Source: USCCB http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/national-vocation-awareness-week.cfm

We Have a Shared Responsibility

We have a responsibility to encourage vocations, we should pray for discernment and courage; identify people we recognize as having gifts and talents that would make them good priests, sisters, and brothers; and invite them to consider the call.

This includes people in our own families. MCCW's own AMS Seminarian Liaison, Denise Hummel, reflected on this responsibility:

"For me personally, as a recent convert (1995), I never mentioned the priesthood to my oldest son.... not even once. Why? It just never crossed my mind.

You know the conversation you have when they are little, 'What do you want to be when you grow up?'

Over many years, and growing in my

personal faith, and witnessing a priest over for dinner turn and ask my son (then a young college student), 'Have you thought of the priesthood?', I realized that we are ALL called to extend the invitation to young men and women to answer the call to serve as priests and religious.

The future of our faith we all love so very much depends and relies on it.

So, if you now ask my youngest son, seven years old, 'What do you want to be when you grow up?' he might say a policeman, firefighter, or even a priest. Although, when he was about five, and I asked him if he might ever like to be a priest one day, he responded, 'No...all they do is so much talking! Talking! Talking! Talking!

Kids are so cute (and honest!)"





One of my favorite new-to-me quotes is from Saint (Pope) John Paul II. He said that

"For people of faith, there is no such thing as coincidence; only instances of divine providence that we have not yet fully understood."

While I love this, I am also hard headed. God has a way of putting things and people in our lives that help us fulfill our mission here on earth, but we don't always see it right away. Sometimes I need a hammer hitting me over the head in order for me to realize what is actually happening and how God is working through things in my life.

This is how some see the discernment process. They feel they need to be hit over the head with the hammer before considering the possibility of what God is putting before them. Others are able to feel a gentle nudge in prayer and run with it. No matter where you are on the spectrum, discernment does not have to be a fearful process.

Let me ask you a question. When you find out what your next duty station will

be do you just sit around and wait for the movers to show up? Of course not. We all start looking for people we know that have been stationed there previously, or we call someone we know currently there to start asking about housing, schools, the main post chapel, CWOC, and perhaps how to get your family enrolled in the EFMP program. We work proactively to collect information that will help us make the decisions that are part of a PCS move. The same can be said for discernment.

If you feel called to discern for an MCCW board position during Forum, or for a board position at your local CWOC, then here are a few things you can do to help you discern whether this is the right move for you and your family.

1. Spend time in prayer.

Consider daily prayer and/ or praying a novena with the special intention of discerning God's will for you regarding the position you are thinking about.

continued on next page



2. Visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Face to face time with Jesus is never a bad thing. Perhaps your chapel has a first
Friday exposition

or a local parish has perpetual adoration that fits your schedule better. I once read that just as you can still get sunburned from the sun's rays on a cloudy day, we never leave our time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament without being blessed with the rays of Jesus's love and grace.

3. Talk to your family. Tell

them what you are thinking

about and ask them to pray with and for you. Discuss the position you are discerning and why you feel God is calling you to be a part of the organization at this time in your life. Ask for their input.

4. Get a copy of the position description. And on that note, ask questions. As an example, if you are discerning for the Director of Financial Stewardship, MCCW will be happy to provide a copy of the position description. It will give

you an idea of what's expected from the

person that fills that position. And if you have questions, ASK THEM, PLEASE! Ask the person that currently holds it. She will give you an honest assessment. Ask anyone on the board or anyone that has held that position in the past. We are always happy to answer any questions that will make the discernment process more clear for you.

5. **Make a list of pros and cons.** See how things shake out.

6. Look for the fruits of the spirit, particularly love, joy and peace.

The decision to discern for a position should not be wrought with doubt and anger or anxiousness, but with love and peace. If you are not at peace with the decision to discern, then perhaps the timing is not right.

Discernment does not have to be overwhelming. We do not

walk into this process with our eyes closed, taking each step without a guide. Jesus is there in each step. Just because a person goes through discernment and decides not to pursue a position on the MCCW board or on a CWOC board does not

You have done EXACTLY what the discernment process was designed to do.

mean that it was all a waste.

And that makes God happy.

Peace and Aloha! Aly

Do not conform yourselves to this age

but be transformed by the renewal of

your mind, that you may discern what

is the will of God, what is good and



Featured Faith Toolkit: Advent activities By: Maney Belmont, Director of Taith Formation

We're talking Advent ALREADY? It's not even Thanksgiving. I know what you're thinking, "Nancy, you're as bad as the Christmas displays in Wal-Mart! I haven't even BEGUN baking pumpkin pies!"

Bear with me, ladies. You need a plan for Advent. How many times have you had the best intentions to make Advent a focused time of prayer and reflection for yourself and your family, but got bulldozed by the run-up to the holidays? I'm here to help you get ahead of all that.

What follows are two simple suggestions — one for yourself or your CWOC group, and one for your family. Check out these studies, order WAAAAAY in advance (but don't inadvertently store them with your secret Christmas present stash.), and relish the extra, dedicated time with God during the season of joyful anticipation.

For yourself or to share with your CWOC group

Journey Through Advent: A Daily Advent Devotional for the Catholic Military Woman by Annaliese Harry (Author), Caitlyn Anderson (Illustrator)

https://www.amazon.com/gp/ product/1723911798/ref=ppx yo dt b search asin title?ie=UTF8&psc=1 Written by a military spouse for military-affiliated women, this devotional guides the reader through Advent with scripture, prayer, reflections, and ideas for service. It invites you to spend time with God each day of Advent, preparing your heart and soul to receive God's precious Gift more completely this Christmas.

I suggest ordering this book with a beautiful notebook so you can write down your own insights and prayers in response to the daily inspirational verses. I also invite you to share this resource with your chapel group. You can use it independently each day and come together as a group once a week to talk about the insights you gained.

Mosaic Jesse Tree ornaments

https://www.etsy.com/listing/561449517/mosaic-jesse-tree-ornaments-assembly

Sara Estabrook blogs at *To Jesus Sincerely*, she is the spouse of a West Point professor, and she is a talented artist.

The Jesse Tree is a devotion that explores the "family tree" of Jesus. Jesse was the father of King David, and they are Jesus' ancestors through Joseph. We call it a "Jesse Tree" because of the verse in the Advent hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," "Oh come, now rod of Jesse's stem."

continued on next page

Toolkit continued

For this Jesse Tree activity, you'll need Sara's book and a tree on which to hang 25 ornaments. You can print out a picture of a tree and tape the ornaments to it. You can cut a branch from a real tree and leave it on your table. My Jesse Tree is made of metal, hangs on my wall, and has lots of branches. I found at TJ Maxx, but there are many good choices available on Amazon.

Sara's Jesse tree begins on December 1 and ends on Christmas Day. Each day, your family will read scripture, reflections, and prayers together from the booklet and learn about one of Jesus' ancestors. Then, you hang the ornament corresponding with the day's reading. On December 17, you will hear the O Antiphons, which you'll recognize from "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." The entire exercise teaches your children about how Jesus fulfills the prophecies of the Old Testament. The Jesse Tree is an Advent tradition my children look forward to every year. As they grow, they gain new insights into Our Savior and His miraculous birth.

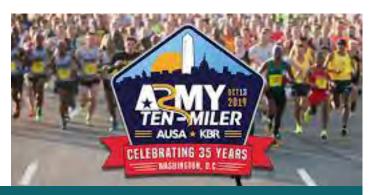
Faith Features Army Ten Miler continued



Team AMS with Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio

bright gold shirts! I love being nourished spiritually at Mass as a group the night before as well as physically at the pasta dinner. For me, running the AMS Army Ten-Miler is worth all the sacrifice.

I would tell anyone thinking about running the ATM next year — do it! Running/walking is fine but plan and make time to train. It's for a good cause and you'll have lots of prayer warriors with you. If you can't run it, try to donate a little something toward it. We have the power of numbers. Together we can support our cosponsored seminarians.





connect * unite * inspire

Think back on your favorite MCCW experience. Was it meeting new friends at Forum? Spending time with Jesus during a retreat? Supporting our seminarians? Or a reunion with sisters in Christ? I hope that when you think about your time in MCCW, you recall beautiful friendships, warm hospitality, inspiring forum and retreat speakers, and intentional time participating in prayer services, and the liturgy and Sacraments of our Faith.

Remembering all the riches that you have experienced personally through MCCW, today MCCW humbly asks you to become an MCCW Sponsor and make a gift to support MCCW's good work for Catholic military women and the AMS. MCCW accomplishes its work through the efforts of an all-volunteer leadership

team and the financial support of chapel offerings and individual giving.

Your gift of MCCW sponsorship will help us to host a high quality Forum from April 23-26, 2020, in San Antonio, Texas, for more than 250 women, while simultaneously making preparations for seven regional retreats that will draw in nearly 500 more participants, and continuing to spread the work of MCCW's ministry through digital communications and our online community that has grown to over 2700 participants.

Your support will help to ensure that future Catholic military women will continue to experience the blessing of the MCCW community. To become an MCCW Sponsor, please visit www.mccw.org/giving today.







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