



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*

May 2019

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Volunteer of the Month Kelly Oliver

If you have been involved in MCCW at any time in the past few years, you probably know Kelly Oliver. Her gentle nature, kind words, and deep faith have been an inspiration to many military women over the years as she has served at the chapel, regional, and worldwide levels.



Kelly continues to serve MCCW in many ways, most recently by leading the Northeast regional team through daily prayer devotions as they prepared for their retreat and by helping tackle many tasks during the retreat.

Kelly also served as the Discernment Coordinator for the spring discernment of the new Director of Formation Resources. Kelly's gentle counseling guided the many women who were prayerfully considering this position through their individual discernment, and on the day of discernment led those who came to the table through the group process.

Kelly is a gift to MCCW and we are grateful for her many years of generous service.

From the President

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Where are you reading our May issue of The Well? Will the June or July issue find you somewhere completely different?

I am writing at my desk in El Paso, but there is a good chance that my June and July letters will be written from the road during family vacation or other travel this summer.

Luckily for my family, this isn't a PCS year for us, but for so many military families, this will be another season of packing up, saying goodbye, and making a new home in a new place.

During these busy times -- whether for family vacations, work travel, or military moves -- MCCW wants to help you stay connected, united, and inspired!

If you will be traveling through military towns this summer, use MCCW's social media to reach out to the local Catholic chapel or CWOC to see if you can meet up for a quick connection while you are in town!

If you are PCSing this summer, check out the introductions of our new regional teams so you can get connected to all the great events and activities going on in your new region. These ladies are ready and excited to serve you! And use our social media communities to connect with the Catholic women at your new duty station -- they are waiting with open arms to welcome you to your new home!

Our Southeast, Europe, and Asia teams are working hard on plans for their fall retreats -- start planning now to unite or reunite with your friends in these regions (see the ad on page 5 for details!)

And if you need reading material to keep you entertained and inspired during your travels this summer, check out the book review in this issue or visit www.mccw.org for more summer reading ideas!

As for my travels this summer -- I am hoping to visit many chapel communities while on the road for MCCW and with my family -- I hope I can connect with many of you in person soon!

Yours in Christ,
Kim



Seminarian Spotlight

Priestly Ordinations

Join me this Easter Season in praying and celebrating as five of our Co-Sponsored Seminarians are ordained priests for the Archdiocese for the Military Services. For the next three years, these men will serve their home dioceses and receive the experience they need to then begin their journey as an active duty military priest.

Collectively, they will serve all branches of service (Navy chaplains serve both our Marines and Navy.) They are co-sponsored by their home dioceses of

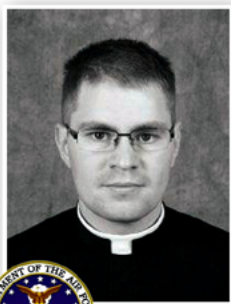
Green Bay, Wisconsin; Indianapolis, Indiana; Arlington, Virginia; Boston, Massachusetts; and Columbus, Ohio.

Let us be reminded as our shepherd, Archbishop Timothy Broglio, shares, "These men are answering a call within a call," to serve both God and country. May we always pray for more vocations and pray for all priests (active duty, retired, and contract) who serve our military communities.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

**Carignan
Rouse**



Diocese of
Boston
18 May 2019

**Christopher
Yakkel**



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

2019 AMS Deacon Ordinations

Adam
Marchese
6 April



Miguel
Flores-Perez
18 May



Daniel
Duplantis
28 May



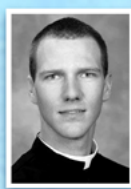
Adam
Woodward
31 May



Tim
Mergen
3 October



Steven
Booth
11 May



James
Dvorak
25 May



Tyler
Harris
31 May



Joseph
Baltz
6 June

Adopt seminarian

Please continue to pray daily for our AMS
Co-Sponsored Seminarians.

If your CWOC would like to adopt a
seminarian—to pray for him, send care
packages, and/or spiritual bouquets,
please contact Denise Hummel at

"We **pray** that they will grow in faith, hope, and charity.

May their hearts overflow with your compassion,
understanding, and generosity, and may their desire to
serve you, inspire others to answer your call.

Lord Jesus, give our seminarians
the grace to follow you more perfectly."



You are My Mother, the
Mother of Mercy, and the
consolation of the souls in
Purgatory.

St. Bridget





An Answered Prayer

Please join us in celebrating and sharing the good news -- The Military Council of Catholic Women Endowed Co-Sponsored Seminarian Scholarship has been officially established! Thanks to your generous gifts, the initial deposit of \$50,000 has been made to the Archdiocese for the Military Services and our beloved perpetual charity continues to flourish.

The newly endowed scholarship will accomplish so much. It will **connect** our members from around the globe to our effort to support seminarians, **unite** our financial contributions for even greater impact, and **inspire** future MCCW members to continue supporting our promised priests.

We kindly thank you for your financial contributions over the past three years as we worked toward this goal and ask for your continued loving prayers for each of our AMS Co-Sponsored Seminarians. Together we can support our promised priests --- those men called to serve both God and our military families.

Encourage your children and the young people in your military communities to consider a vocation to the priesthood, religious, or consecrated life. You never know when a word of encouragement, a question, or a thoughtful reflection might be the catalyst that a young person needs.

—Archbishop Broglio

Save the Date

MCCW 2019 Fall Regional Retreats

Strengthened by Grace

Southeast Regional Retreat

August 16-18

Bethany Retreat House

Dickson, Tennessee

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



Grace



Stewardship Corner

How has MCCW touched your life? Have you attended an MCCW retreat or Forum? Has your CWOC used resources you found at www.mccw.org? Have you reached out for prayers, support, or help via one of MCCW's social media networks?

All of the ways that MCCW **connects, unites, and inspires** you each day wouldn't be possible without the generous financial support of many women, families, priests, chapel communities, and donors.

One of the ways you can help is by asking your chapel community to schedule a designated offering (AKA "a special collection") for MCCW. Even if you don't attend a military chapel, you can ask your civilian parish to consider a special collection for MCCW, especially if there are a lot of military families in your parish.

The guide below will help you with all the information you need to help plan a designated offering for MCCW.

How can my chapel support MCCW?

MCCW is entirely funded by generous donations from military chapels, private donations, and grants. Taking a designated offering or planning a chapel donation to MCCW is a great way to support the women's ministry arm of the AMS, which in turn supports the women's ministry activities in military chapels like yours. Even civilian parishes can get involved -- if your parish has a lot of military families, ask your priest if he will schedule a special collection for MCCW.

When should it be done?

Designated offerings or chapel donations for MCCW can be scheduled at any time during the year. We encourage you to showcase the work of your CWOC or women's ministry group(s), as well as MCCW, during the weekend of your offering. In a civilian parish, you might consider highlighting all the ways military families are making a difference in your parish. Visit www.mccw.org/giving for ideas and resources.

Continued on next page.

Who does the donation benefit?

MCCW conducts women's ministry activities for the Archdiocese for Military Services as an independent non-profit organization, operating as a subsidiary of the AMS. All donations to MCCW are funneled back into the programming and administrative costs of supporting women's ministry across the Archdiocese.

To whom should donations by check be written?

Checks can be made payable to MCCW-Worldwide, Inc.

Where should donations be sent?

All funds can be mailed to:

Military Council of Catholic Women-
Worldwide, Inc.
PO Box 4456
Washington, DC 20017

Can our donation be sent electronically?

Yes! To arrange an electronic transfer, email MCCW's finance manager at finance@mccw.org.

Can donations be made directly to MCCW?

Yes! All donations to MCCW are 100% tax deductible and can be made by mailing your contribution to the address above. Individual donations can also be made online at www.mccw.org/giving.

CWOC and Regional Updates

Fort Bliss: The CWOC had a busy few days at the beginning of April. First, after their monthly "First Friday" mass



on April 5, the ladies gathered for fellowship and garden rock painting. These rocks will be added to the existing garden outside the base chapel. Then, on April 6, the ladies held a Fiat Retreat. Working their way through 10 prayer stations, the ladies took time to reflect on selected Bible verses while accomplishing specific actions that amplified the verses.



Schofield

Barracks: During their meeting in March, the ladies took a class picture (including little ones) to celebrate their successful year.



Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson:

To celebrate Easter and the end of Lent, the CWOC put together and delivered over 50 Easter baskets to their local women's shelter.

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*



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

Luke 1:38

Attendees can look forward to exploring this theme through reflections on this scripture, the examples of saints and fellow military-affiliated women and finally, learning what God may be calling them to do and how they can offer God their fiat, their yes to His will.

The Forum schedule will offer activities both familiar and exciting. Keynote speakers, leadership development breakout sessions, an auction to the support our seminarians, and a fun closing banquet will be highlights of the familiar. Opportunities to explore our host city's Catholic heritage and chances to form deeper connections with your military sisters from around the globe will be some of the exciting additions to Forum 2020.

Start Exploring

Visit these sites to learn more about San Antonio:

- [San Antonio Visitors Center](#)
- [Archdiocese of San Antonio](#)
- [San Antonio Missions National Historic Park](#)
- [Basilica of the National Shrine of the Little Flower](#)



May

the Month of Our Lady.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	 11 Diaconate Ordination of Steven Booth
 12 Mother's Day	 13 Feast of Our Lady of Fatima	14	15	16	 18 Diaconate Ordination of Miguel Flores-Perez	 18 Presbyterate Ordination of Carignan Rouse
19	20	21	22	23	24	 25 Presbyterate Ordination of Christopher Yakkel
26	27	28	 30 The Ascension of the Lord	 31 Feast of The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary		

*Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
 that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection,
 implored your help or sought your intercession,
 was left unaided.*

*Inspired with this confidence,
 I fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother;
 to you do I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful.*

*O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
 despise not my petitions,
 but in your mercy hear and answer me. Amen.*



Introducing our Newly *Discerned* Regional Coordinators



Hello! I am Elizabeth Wheeler. My wonderful husband of almost 12 years has served in the Army for almost 16 years. We currently have four children. I attended my

first CWOC meeting in 2015; from there on, it's held a special place in my heart. I served my first year as the special projects coordinator and the following year as the Vice President. For the past year and a half I have focused on homeschooling my children, but missed serving this wonderful community of women. God always has a plan and led me back to serving even with my little crew at hand! I am blessed and grateful for the opportunity to serve as the Pacific Regional Coordinator.



Mary Garcia is a devout Catholic mom, Catechist, mentor, and current MCCW Central Regional Coordinator. After the birth of her two miracle babies, in every sense of

the word, she re-encountered her faith in self, Church and God. As a strong believer in what the Catholic Church teaches, guiding Confirmation students is an easy fit. She is a current Board

Adviser to her local CWOC chapter and Community Outreach Chair to her local Parish Advisory Board. She is also the Troop Leader to her daughter's Girl Scout troop, loves geocache hiking with her family, and enjoys glamping most long weekend! When looking for a time to unwind, she loves a good book, a family BBQ and a good glass of wine.



Hi, my name is Patti Ramos and I am the incoming MCCW Northeast Regional Coordinator. I am also the mother of three beautiful children, an Army

Veteran, and a recently retired Army Spouse.

I am a "Cradle Catholic," so I began my faith journey at birth, but it wasn't until I experienced the military faith community that I was truly called to serve. I feel an enormous sense of Grace when volunteering or working for the Church. I have met some of the most amazing people through my experiences as the Catholic Pastoral Coordinator, a Catechist, within the Chapel ministries, coordinating MCCW retreats or chapel pilgrimages and within my local CWOCs. Meeting these Brothers and Sisters in Christ is one of the greatest blessings I have received

continued on next page.

through volunteering and they have FOREVER changed my life! I am truly humbled that I have been a part of their faith journey and eternally grateful that they have been a part of mine.

I would be remiss not to mention that every time He calls me by name, my family is so remarkably supportive and we benefit immensely from His love... every...single...time! Fully embracing Him in our lives continues to transform my entire family and everyone we encounter.

A few key things that I have learned over time and through trial and tribulation are: We must love unconditionally, which includes forgiveness. We need this as much as those around us do. Welcome our bishops, priests and all consecrated men and women into your lives and families. They are amazing people who have so much faith, love and wisdom to share. They are also “human” and thrive on your genuine friendship with them. Volunteer when you are called, it will change your life!

One thing I am certain of...I know He has a glorious plan for us and I am eager to share in this journey with each of you; I truly cannot wait to meet all of you in person! When we do meet, you can expect a sincere

and loving hug; I LOVE hugs! With your encouragement, devotion, and contributions, I’m certain we will achieve together even more than we could imagine separately.



A native of the beautiful Great Lakes State,

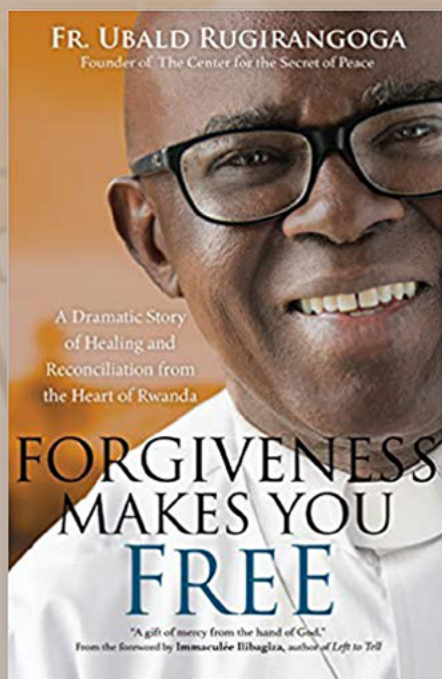
Muffy is a native of Birmingham, Michigan, and a graduate of Michigan State

University. Soon after

graduation, Muffy took her business and networking opportunities where the wind would blow, becoming an LPGA Golf Professional in southern California, and in short-order, she quickly saw other avenues to spread her wings, starting her own Public Relations and Development firm. After 16 glorious years in LA, Muffy met her soon-to-be husband...a military man, and life would quickly change. Muffy has developed a unique background and is all about the “side hustle” way of keeping busy. She is a baker who has been seen on the Food Network, freelances for ESPN, and now lends her energy to the aloha of Mai Tais and Monet, as one of their instructors launching the “Colorado Collection” of MT&M throughout the Rocky Mountain state.

Book Recommendation

Run out today, buy this book and read *Forgiveness Makes You Free* by Father Ubald. In this poignant book, he shares his personal story of losing his family and 45,000 parishioners in the Rwandan genocide. In the aftermath, Father Ubald has worked for reconciliation between the Rwandan people -- to include ministering with the man who gave the order to kill his family. His book teaches spiritual practices of forgiveness and healing. If you are a fan of Immaculee Ilibagiza, if you have ever held a grudge and need to let go of it, or if you simply need a good Catholic book, get a copy of *Forgiveness Makes You Free* and read it. Father Ubald is an incredible living saint and the testimony of his life experience is good for the soul.



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