



# 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*

July 2019

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## CWOC and Regional Updates

Over the past month, CWOCs and MCCW regions have celebrated the end of the school year with end of year parties and the election of new board members ready to create new experiences starting in the Fall.



### Fort Bliss CWOC

played Catholic Jeopardy to celebrate the end of the year. They also planned out an exciting summer full of events that

will welcome new ladies to the community. If you're PCSing to Fort Bliss, look out for monthly summer CWOC lemonade socials, weekly summer rosary makers meetings, and a summer book study.



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## From the President

Dear Sisters in Christ,

As the moving trucks come and go in our neighborhood and my

Facebook feed is filled with pictures of friends saying goodbye to one installation and setting out on new adventures, I have spent a lot of time thinking about transitions.

The usual piece of transition advice I give military family members I meet (and one I repeat to myself each time we PCS) is to find a place in your new community to jump in and get involved. And for many years now, that place for me has been with the women's ministry in my community (as I know it is for many of you).

But I also know that it isn't always easy -- sometimes finding your place in a new women's ministry group can be a downright rocky road. Leaving a dynamic group you love for a new one you aren't sure about, arriving in a place that is thriving and feeling unsure of your place, or finding out that your new home doesn't have a women's ministry at all

can all leave you feeling uncertain. And what about the transitions that happen in years in which you don't move - changes brought about by new leaders or a new chaplain, being the one left behind when friends leave, or stepping into or out of a leadership role? All of these changes can bring challenges that may require you to step out of your comfort zone.

My friend, Kelly, a longtime MCCW member and leader, always reminds me that these journeys need to begin with and be rooted in prayer. Pray that God will help you find the path He has for you, even if that isn't the path you had in mind.

We on the MCCW team will be praying for all of your transitions this summer and for all women's ministries, the women who participate in them, and the chaplains who advise them to flourish this coming year.

We've filled this issue of "The Well" with lots of practical tips, resources, and ideas to help that happen. We've also included information about Forum 2020 - another great opportunity for filling your ministry toolbox!

I'll be praying that each of you finds the path He has laid out for you this year!

Yours in Christ,  
Kim





# Seminarian Spotlight

## A Promised Priest's Mother Shares

*Interview with Susan Yakkel*

*By: Denise Hummel*

Over the past two months, five Archdiocese for the Military Services (AMS) Co-Sponsored Seminarians have been ordained priests. During their ordinations, family and friends gathered to celebrate a vocation within a vocation at their home dioceses. Mrs. Susan Yakkel and retired Air Force Col. Ron Yakkel were among those present on May 25 as their middle child, Christopher, was ordained a priest. Recently, Mrs. Yakkel shared her personal experience with us. May we all continue to pray for those who answer the call within a call – our military chaplains who serve both God and Country.

### Susan Yakkel shares...

When it comes to vocations to the priesthood, I would suggest that moms be encouraging to their sons and other young men discerning this very important vocation.

I believe you can encourage and pray for your son's discernment without pushing or pressuring him. At the same time, I would hope that moms would also be

*Continued on next page*



*Father Carignan Rouse  
Ordination Anniversary: May 18, 2019  
United States Air Force  
Photo Credit: AMS Website*



*Father Sean Koehr  
Ordination Anniversary: June 8, 2019  
United States Navy  
Photo courtesy of Joe Cashwell | Diocese of Arlington*



*Father Vinny Gillmore  
Ordination Anniversary: June 1, 2019  
United States Air Force  
Photo Credit: Sean Gallagher/The Criterion*

open and encouraging to the process. It's not a decision that can be made by any of us; it's a calling that young men are feeling or hearing and open to receiving. It shouldn't be forced or suppressed.

I also believe that the parent's example to their children of attending Mass and receiving the Sacraments regularly is very helpful for those Catholic young men considering the priesthood. However, we do know of a few young priests whose parents are not Catholic and did not grow up Catholic, yet were still called to be Catholic priests. Ultimately, it's their choice with God's help.

Ron and I are very proud of Chris and happy for him. He is very excited to be a priest and begin his ministry. It's been a wonderful time for our family to see Fr. Chris be ordained! We were able to witness Fr. Chris celebrate Mass,



*Father Christopher Yakkel  
Ordination Anniversary: May 25, 2019  
United States Air Force  
Photo Credit: AMS Website*

baptize our third grandchild and offer First Blessings even to one young man outside the subway on the streets of New York City. Wow! To witness the Catholic faith of a young man on the streets of New York City requesting a First Blessing and to see our granddaughter baptized by our son is awesome, but to watch him transubstantiate the host to Christ's body is a special gift from God and we are truly grateful for Our Lord's Goodness!

## 2019 AMS Deacon Ordinations

Adam  
Marchese  
6 April



Miguel  
Flores-Perez  
18 May



Daniel  
Duplantis  
28 May



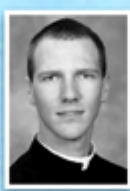
Adam  
Woodward  
31 May



Tim  
Mergen  
3 October



Steven  
Booth  
11 May



James  
Dvorak  
25 May



Tyler  
Harris  
31 May



Joseph  
Baltz  
6 June



# Save the Date

## MCCW 2019 Fall Regional Retreats

### Strengthened by Grace

*Southeast Regional Retreat*

*August 16-18*

*Bethany Retreat House*

*Dickson, Tennessee*

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

*European Regional Retreat*

*November 7-10*

*Hotel Villa EUR Parco dei Pini*

*Rome, Italy*

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

*Asia Regional Retreat*

*November 15-17*

*Mirinae Anseong, Gyeonggi-do*

*South Korea*

*Registration  
Now Open*





by Elizabeth Tomlin



# Ideas

to Support MCCW & CWOC

this Summer!

It's PCS season, and Catholic, military women are moving across the globe. This adventurous season in military life brings a chance for our Catholic communities to help spread the word and support MCCW and our Sisters in Christ. Here are just five ideas to be a helpful steward of MCCW and our CWOCs this summer:

1. **Invite a new friend!** As you meet new friends, invite them to the MCCW or CWOC gathering at your installation. Lots of groups are hosting summer meet-ups at the playgrounds, rosary groups, and ladies night out events. I'm writing this from a hotel room, so I can say with certainty that newcomers are craving ways to escape PCS hotel life and plug in to a new faith community.
2. **Serve!** Whether you are new to an installation or staying put, the need for volunteers is great in the summer. Installations need Vacation Bible School teachers and catechists for the fall. Background checks can often take some time, so sign up to serve early! Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you toward where our Lord wants you to serve your community.
3. **Introduce Your Priest to MCCW!** I'm often surprised at the number of priests who are not familiar with MCCW – we are, after all, the Archdiocesan women's ministry. If your priest is not familiar with MCCW or CWOC, make an office call with him to talk about opportunities for your community to participate in MCCW events such as the fall retreats in the Southeast, Europe, and Asia.
4. **Shopping time!** We know that PCS brings with it the need to buy new curtains, dish drains, welcome mats, electrical outlet covers, window boxes, hangers, area rugs, storage containers, and so many other supplies for the new house. Don't forget to shop Amazon Smile! When you visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), search for the Military Council of Catholic Women and designate MCCW as your charity. A small percentage of your purchase will be donated directly to MCCW to help us hold future Faith Formation Retreats and the 2020 Forum in San Antonio.
5. **Start a Women's Group at Your Chapel!** The summer is a great time to join hands with other Catholic women in your community and start a ministry if one does not already exist. MacDill Air Force Base, for example, is just getting their women's ministry off the ground. If the Holy Spirit is stirring your heart to build a community of faith with other women, jump in. MCCW can help you – just reach out to [faithformation@mccw.org](mailto:faithformation@mccw.org).



# MCCW 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*



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# mccw Forum 2020

## Churches of Forum

by Aly Tugaoen

As we continue to gather momentum for the Worldwide Forum 2020, I want to share with you information about the two Catholic churches we will be utilizing during our time together and to share with all of you a few other places of Catholic interest.

The first church is St. Joseph's. It is a multi-cultural parish with a distinctly German flair. One example is their Stations of the Cross. Each station's description is written in both English and German. This beautiful church is a quick 3-minute walk from our Forum hotel.

[St. Joseph's Catholic Parish:](#)

623 East Commerce Street, San Antonio, TX 78205





The next site is St. Mary's. It is the second oldest church in San Antonio after San Fernando Cathedral and is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception. It has been a beacon for the downtown community for almost 100 years. Its ornate décor is truly a visual inspiration. This stunning church is a short 12-minute walk from our Forum hotel.

[St. Mary's Catholic Church](#)  
202 North St. Mary's Street,  
San Antonio, Tx  
78205-2397

There are a few other Catholic places of interest in the local San Antonio area you may want to visit. While we will not be officially visiting them during Forum, they are amazing places to add to your bucket list!

[The San Fernando Cathedral](#)  
115 Main Plaza, San Antonio,  
TX 78205

The San Fernando Cathedral is the mother church of the Archdiocese of San Antonio and has three patron saints: The Virgin of Candelaria, the Virgin of Guadalupe and San Fernando.

[The Oblate Grotto and Shrine to Our Lady of Guadalupe](#)  
5712 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216

This grotto is considered to have the most accurate replica of the original shrine in Lourdes. There is also a replica of Tepeyac Hill in Mexico where Our Lady appeared to Saint Juan Diego as Our Lady of Guadalupe.

[Basilica of the National Shrine of the Little Flower](#)  
1715 N Zarzamora, San Antonio, TX  
78201

The Basilica was built during the Great Depression, following the 1925 canonization of St. Thérèse and was designated a Minor Basilica of the Catholic Church in 1998.



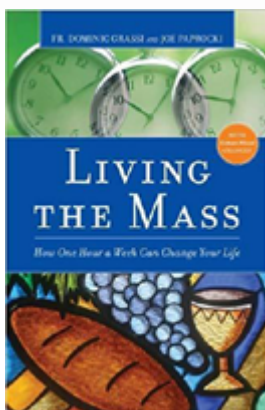
## CWOC Fall Kick Off Ideas and Resources

by Nancy Belmont

Greetings from New York, where my children just finished school on June 26! We may just be easing into summer here, but while I sink my toes in the sand, I'm thinking and planning for our next catechetical year! Faith study leaders, have you submitted your purchase orders for the fall? If you haven't, here's a "cheat sheet" filled with some of my favorite studies and exciting new publications!

### Studying the Mass

[Living the Mass: How One Hour a Week](#)



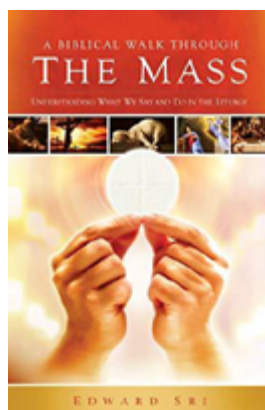
[Can Change Your Life](#) by Dominic Grassi and Joe Paprocki

This accessible study explains each part of the Mass and invites readers to let the Mass influence each part of their lives. It offers practical guidance on living the liturgy

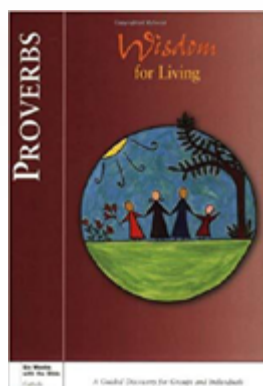
throughout the week.

[A Biblical Walk Through the Mass: Understanding What We Say and Do in the Liturgy](#) by Dr. Edward Sri

This book explains the Mass more deeply by making connections between Scripture and the liturgy.



For more enrichment, order the [5-part video study](#). Each video is 30 minutes long.



[Bible Study: Six Weeks with the Bible](#)

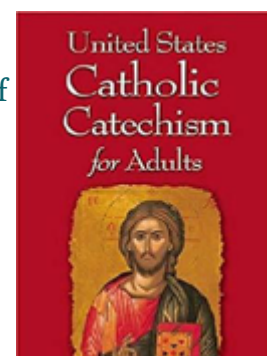
by Kevin Perrotta

This book series offers variety! Study different books of the Bible for six weeks at a time. These volumes are affordable and accessible but are also penetrating.

### For Deep Thinkers

[United States Catholic Catechism for Adults](#) by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

This easy-to-read catechism has a saint profile at the beginning of each chapter, discussion questions, meditations, prayers, and simplified guides to doctrinal statements. While is 36 chapters long, study leaders can break it into parts (for example, Part I, the Creed, is 13 chapters). This is an accessible way to learn the catechism in a group setting.





## MCCW Online Book Club

### Be Brave in the Scared

by Mary Lenaburg

by Nancy Belmont

I didn't want to read this book. When MCCW WW's Director of Financial Stewardship, Elizabeth Tomlin, suggested we build an entire online summer book club around a former Navy wife's account of caring for her disabled daughter, my face smiled and my head nodded, but I thought to myself, "This book? A beach read? Okay...well, Elizabeth knows Mary and she knows what she's talking about, so I'll trust her..."

I ended up inhaling this volume in two days. It has all the suspense of a thrilling novel, the humor of chick lit, and the heart and soul of a deep devotional told within a genuine memoir. Mary thought she had the perfect life. She was in love with her successful military husband and they had created the ideal family, composed of two beautiful children, a boy and a girl. However, on the day of their infant daughter's baptism, their life changed forever when Courtney began seizing uncontrollably. Mary prayed fervently over the course of the next week, begging grace and mercy from a God she viewed as a disciplinarian.

While Courtney survived her first trial, an experimental treatment left her profoundly handicapped, and Mary felt guilty, afraid, and ashamed. Her husband, Jerry, pulled away and threw himself into work, grad

school, and pornography while she turned to food for comfort.

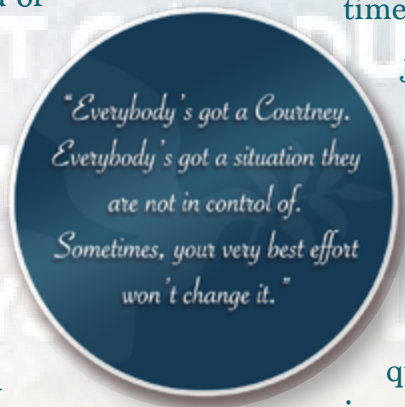
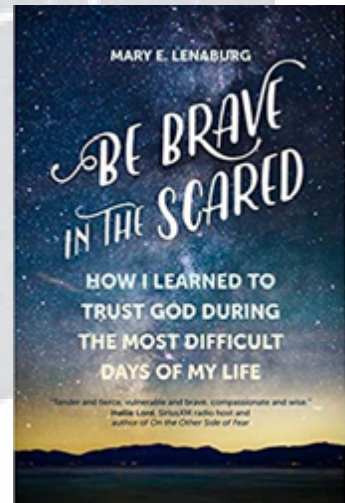
Read the book to learn how Mary and Jerry came to rely on God and each other to help them through their struggles.

Mary told me, "Everybody's got a Courtney. Everybody's got a situation they are not in control of. Sometimes, your very best effort won't change it."

Mary's story is a journey towards surrender to God's will and trust in His constant provision. Are you, in the words of Mary, "Carrying around a bunch of stuff you don't need to be?"

Do you know someone who is? Please join us for this book club, as we'll learn together how to "be brave one breath at a time."

Join us every Sunday starting on July 7 on MCCW's public Facebook page, The Military Council of Catholic Women - MCCW-Worldwide. Mary has personally curated a devotional guide for us that contains deep questions and describes her story in more detail. We will read three chapters each week, discussing online for four weeks in row. Our study will culminate on Sunday, July 28 with a Facebook Live discussion event with Mary. Time to be determined, so stay tuned!





# July

Month of the  
Most Precious Blood

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4  Independence Day	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16  Our Lady of Mount Carmel	17	18	19	20
21	22  Feast of St. Mary Magdalene	23	24	25	26  Feast of St. Ann & St. Joachim	27
28		30	31			

*"O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a Fount of Mercy for us, I trust in You."*

*Prayer of St. Faustina*







# August

Month of the  
Immaculate Heart of Mary

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	 <i>Transfiguration of the Lord</i>	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	 <i>The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	16	17
18	19	20	21	 <i>The Queenship of Mary</i>	23	24
25	26	27	28		30	31

*O Immaculate Heart of Mary, refuge of sinners,  
I beg of you by the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus,  
and by the graces God has granted to you since your Immaculate Conception,  
the grace of never going astray again.  
Mother, keep me, a sinner,  
constantly bathed in the light of your Immaculate Heart.  
Amen.*





## Finding your Place

by Kim Miller

Finding yourself in a new hometown, on a new military installation is an experience we military women repeat many times. And finding your place in that new community is key to feeling settled. But what to do when finding that place in a new women's ministry group doesn't come easy? Here are some tips and resources to help you!

### **You've come from a thriving women's ministry and you feel like your new group is lacking somehow....**

- Figure out what is missing. Is it the people you miss or a particular prayer, devotion, or activity? Once you know what you are missing, you can make a plan to move forward.
- If it's your friends you are missing, find out if your new ministry group has social events, girls night out events, or fellowship time during their normal meetings. Use this time to start making connections with new friends.
- If it is a particular devotion or activity you are missing, consider offering to lead that activity in your new group. Approach the leaders gently – your words should convey your genuine interest in helping and not your dissatisfaction with this group as it is.
- Be prepared to graciously accept a “no.” For any number of reasons, your offer may be denied. If this happens, be gracious and continue to give the group a chance. You may come to love this group in whole new ways by being patient with it.

### **You find out your new community has no women's ministry!**

- Talk to others in the chapel community and find out why there isn't a ministry currently. You might find that the time is right to start one!
- Start with your chaplain! Find a few others who might be interested in helping start a group and set a time to visit with your chaplain. Share your ideas with him and ask for his ideas.
- Remember, a chaplain's primary job in his chapel is to ensure that service members and their families have access to the sacraments. Consider how your new group can support that. Does he need lectors? EMHCs? Could your group commit to attending First Friday mass or adoration to ensure that these programs have the attendance they need to continue? How will your group benefit the chapel community while helping your women grow in their faith?
- Be willing to start small. Growing a large, dynamic group takes time. Consider what your community needs and can support right now. Maybe it's a monthly gathering with prayer and

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fellowship, maybe it's a small book club, maybe it is three or four special gatherings a year. Be comfortable with planting the seeds and letting them grow as they should in your community.

**You helped start (or grow!) an amazing group in your old community and now it's time to leave.**

- Recognize and accept that this will be a hard goodbye! It's okay (and totally normal!) to feel sad and uncertain about leaving something you helped build.
- Prepare the next team for success. Leaving behind great after action reports, orderly files, and clear instructions for recurring programs will help those who come after you continue to build on your success. Check out the Think Local Sourcebook on

[www.mccw.org](http://www.mccw.org) for tips on creating great after action resources.

- Assure the new team that you will be available to them after you leave, if they want it! You can answer questions, offer suggestions, and share ideas with them when they ask, in order to help them continue the momentum the group had.
- Plan your exit. Figure out when your family will be leaving and plan ahead for the last time you will participate in an event with your women's ministry. If there are formal goodbyes to be made, plan to do those then, but also save your personal goodbyes for then. Nothing is more emotionally draining than saying goodbyes over and over and over again.

Looking for more tips and resources to help you start, grow, or lead your women's ministry? Check out the Think Local Sourcebook at [www.mccw.org](http://www.mccw.org) for a complete guide!

## CWOC and Regional Updates continued

**MCCW Pacific Region** proudly announced that Tracey Harger, the Catholic Pastoral Life Coordinator at U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii, received the Medal of the Archdiocese from His Excellency, the Most Reverend Timothy R. Broglio, in recognition of her exemplary character, fidelity, and devotion. Congratulations Tracey!!





Are you receiving our  
monthly newsletter?

The  
Well



Contact us today at [digitalmanger@mccw.org](mailto:digitalmanger@mccw.org)  
to get the next issue sent to your email!



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# 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  
[amsliaison@mccw.org](mailto:amsliaison@mccw.org)



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