



Dear Women of MCCW,

MCCW has always been led by called, committed, and competent women who answer the call of our Lord to serve in His Kingdom. In November, we will hold a virtual discernment to identify MCCW's next President, Director of Forum, Director of Communications, Director of Finance, and one Director at Large. We prayerfully ask you to consider if you are being called to serve MCCW in one of these roles.

These women will lead MCCW over the next two years, ministering to a diverse group of military-affiliated women around the globe while setting the strategic goals for the organization and overseeing the day-to-day business of this ministry.

MCCW uses discernment, a prayerful way of making decisions, as its method for selecting new leadership. MCCW discernment is done in two parts: first, a personal discernment process that gives a possible servant leader a guide to praying and talking with God about the decision; and second, a group prayer service during which possible leaders share their gifts and talents and new leaders are selected.

In the attached packet, you will find a guide to the personal portion of discernment as well as links to the position descriptions. If you feel even the slightest tug on your heart, please spend the time to complete this packet prayerfully. It truly will help you determine if you are being called to service at this time. We ask that all who come to the group portion of discernment please bring this packet with them.

All who discern a MCCW position are also asked to provide a letter of support from their priest or chaplain. This letter does not have to be anything fancy – simply a letter stating that you are a member in good standing of the Church and your chapel community or parish.

Please submit your completed packet and your letter of support to discernment@mccw.org. Once you submit your packet, the Discernment Facilitator will contact you with additional details about the group discernment process.

Serving on the MCCW board will be fun and fulfilling work. You will learn and grow in ways you never expected. It will help not just the women you serve, but also you to grow in all of MCCW's pillar values: spirituality, leadership, and service. Will you answer the call to serve?

Your sister in Christ,

Kim Miller
MCCW-W President, 2018-2020



Servant Leader Information Form

Being a servant leader in MCCW will involve time, talent, treasure, travel, and an endorsement by your priest. Please begin by completing the information below:

1. Please provide the following information *(Print Clearly)*

Name _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Cell Phone # _____ Best time/day/place to call _____

Email address _____

Current Occupation/Vocation _____

Number of years affiliated with MCCW/CWOC/Other Catholic Women's Group: _____

Current Chapel Group: _____

Priest/Chaplain: _____ Chaplain's Phone # _____

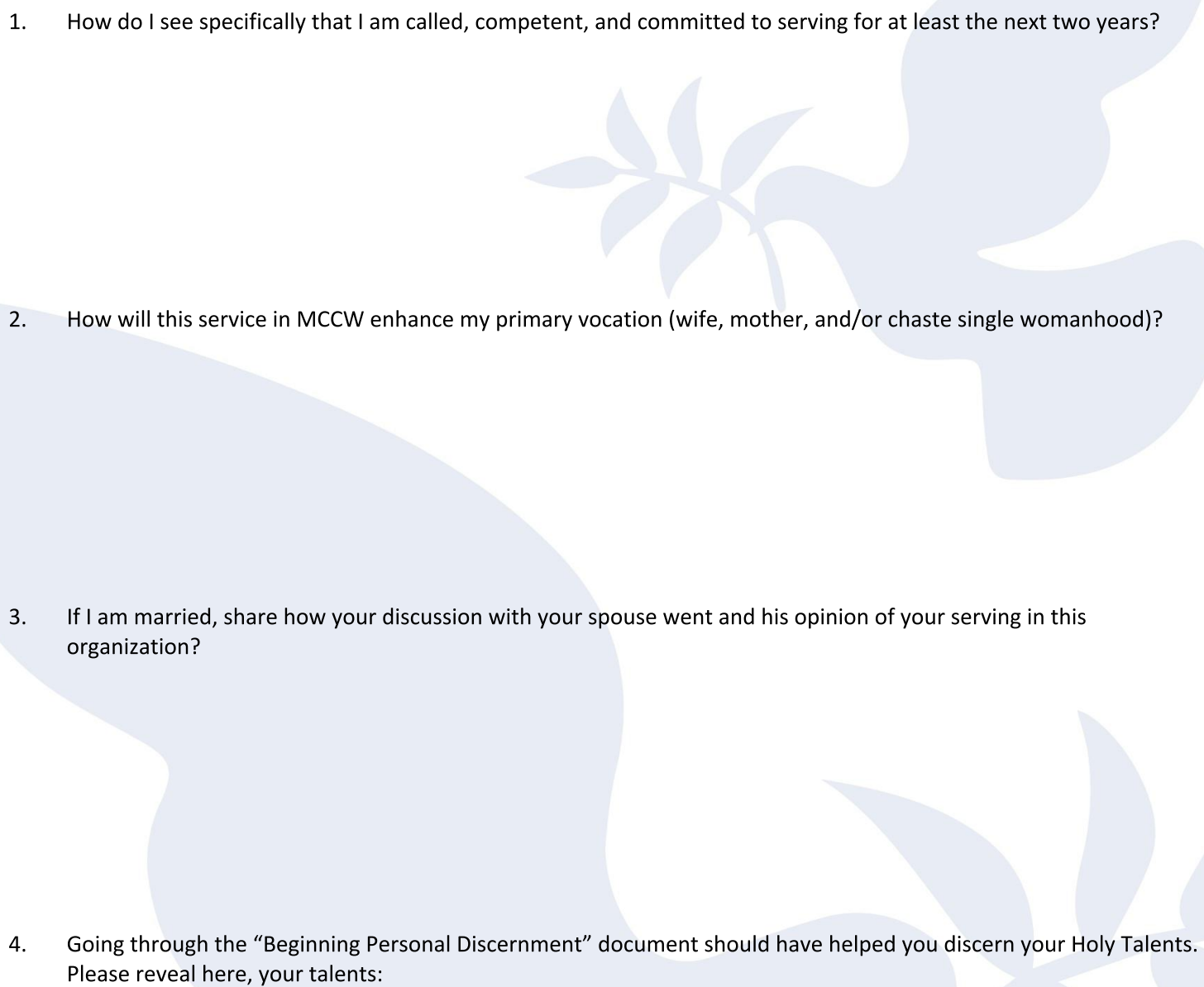
What other ministries or volunteer activities are you involved in? _____

2. Are you willing and able to occasionally travel for in-person meetings, regional retreats, and Forum? (Please consult with family before answering.)

3. How much time would you realistically be able to offer MCCW?

- ☐ Weekly (____ number of hours)
- ☐ More than once a month (____ number of hours)
- ☐ Monthly (____ number of hours)
- ☐ Special projects only (____ number of hours)

4. If I am married, is my marriage validated or con-validated in the Catholic Church?

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1. How do I see specifically that I am called, competent, and committed to serving for at least the next two years?
 2. How will this service in MCCW enhance my primary vocation (wife, mother, and/or chaste single womanhood)?
 3. If I am married, share how your discussion with your spouse went and his opinion of your serving in this organization?
 4. Going through the “Beginning Personal Discernment” document should have helped you discern your Holy Talents. Please reveal here, your talents:

Beginning Personal Discernment

Discernment is a beautiful, prayerful, and Holy Spirit-led method of making decisions. It takes time to discern well – for some, weeks; for others, months; so take your time in consideration. As you use discernment to guide your decisions about serving in a leadership role in Military Council of Catholic Women, we ask that you do the following:

1. Pray, spend time with the Holy Spirit and ask what is to be revealed to you. It is especially fruitful if you are able to spend time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.
2. Complete the Sharing Your Gifts Exercise (see below).
3. Ponder St Ignatius' Ten Guiding Principles of Discernment (see below).
4. Talk with your priest. Share with him why you feel called, committed, and competent to serve and ask for his written endorsement.
5. Fill out the Servant Leader Information Form and submit it, as well as your letter of good standing to MCCW Discernment Coordinator, Kelly Oliver, by email at discernment@mccw.org, no later than **19 October 2020**.

The group discernment process will be held during the week of **Nov. 1** based on the availability of those participating.

An in-person board transition meeting is being planned tentatively to be held **Friday, Dec. 4 through Sunday, Dec. 6, 2020**. Travel and arrangements will be finalized once the new board members have been discerned and will be dependent on current pandemic conditions. Participation in this meeting is required, but virtual participation is an option for those unable to travel.

If you have questions during the discernment process, please contact Kelly Oliver, discernment coordinator, at discernment@mccw.org.

Sharing your Gifts

Every person has personal gifts and abilities, some of which are already known and others which may be cultivated. The following brief self-questionnaire is to help you ponder those gifts and how you can use them as servant leader within MCCW. Give yourself plenty of time to prayerfully ponder these questions. Ask yourself these questions and write down your thoughts – this will deepen your discernment.

1. How do I bring out the best in others? (Letting others shine)
2. Can I seek the most common good for the matter at hand? (Cohesive)
3. Am I self motivated to reach a goal? (Initiative)
4. Do I have a heart to serve unselfishly? (Humility)
5. Do I try to live out the virtues I proclaim to others (Integrity)
6. What are the desires that the Lord has placed on my heart? (Introspection)
7. How does God want me to serve within MCCW? (Assurance)
8. If you are being prompted by the Holy Spirit to be a servant leader, submit with humility and trust God. Write down some of your gifts or attributes that come to mind.

**St Ignatius's 10 Guiding Principles of Discernment
(Adapted for the Military Council of Catholic Women)**

Jeremiah 29:11-13

For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for the woe! Plans to give you a future full of hope. When you call me, when you go to pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart, you will find me with you, says the Lord.

When you begin discerning, it very important to start in prayer and open your life completely to the Holy Spirit, for it is in the Spirit where the revealing process of clarity and truth begins.

1. Look deeply into all areas of your life. Ask, "What is my **vocation**: a mother, wife, armed forces personnel?" Would serving within Military Council of Catholic Women ministry enhance or distract from your vocation?
2. When discerning, be honest in evaluating your **time**. Being a servant leader for MCCW does involve time, travel, and financial commitments, some positions more than others. Prayerfully evaluate your life in essence of time to ponder if you have the ability to serve.
3. To discern properly it is important to **confide** in people who know you well and in whom you trust. A friend, spouse, or priest can help reveal to you, out of love, your strengths, weakness and natural abilities.
4. **Listen** to your whole person; your heart, mind, intellect and intuition. All "facets" should play a role. One should not dominate another. For example, our emotions can be so strong that we don't consider things practically.
5. Fear complicates and distorts discernments. Instead **trust** and courage will move you forward in the discerning process.

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6. The discernment process should be a calm process where internal **peace** lies. To become a servant leader takes a bit of time and self-evaluation. Don't make a decision in haste. Rather, trust that choices that are well-guided will yield peace, justice, faith, and love and bear fruit!
 7. At the center of servant leadership is **humility**. It is saying yes to be a vessel for our Lord in which HE can do HIS great work. Being humble is a process not a destination.
 8. Ask yourself, "What are the areas in my life that I may have difficulty **letting go**? How would letting go of those areas enhance my being a servant leader?" Ask yourself, "Is this the time in my life that God has chosen me to become a servant leader for MCCW?" Honest discernment will reveal this.
 9. **Jesus** is THE example of true servant leadership. His teachings show us how to treat people with mercy, truth, faith, fairness, justice, and love. Ask yourself, "How do I emulate the teachings of Jesus to people I encounter each day. Have I put on the garment of love?"
 10. Call upon the Holy Spirit to inspire you to make a decision. An answer "Yes" or an answer "No" are both holy decisions. When answering yes, you have full peace that the Spirit is moving you forward to servant leadership. If the answer is no, it is because it may not be your time yet, and the Holy Spirit has other plans for you. Either way, when the Holy Spirit is involved, the decision itself is **holy**!

Mark 10:42-45

Jesus summoned them and said to them, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Amen!