

THE MESSENGER



Atlanta Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women Newsletter

November 2019



**CYNTHIA SIMIEN,
PRESIDENT**

Dear Sisters in Christ,

The 63rd AACCW annual convention was a success. Being an election year, the election was held at the Saturday Business Meeting and the new officers were installed at the Mass on Saturday. The new roster will provide all updates.

As President of AACCW, I look forward to working with everyone. My hope is to get more ladies actively involved. I have heard from many of you that we need to get younger ladies involved. I am open to hearing ideas and making this happen. We have some challenges to work through, but I know we can do it if we all work together.

NCCW 99th convention was held here in Atlanta. I was not able to make the entire convention, but I heard it was well done. The women of AACCW did a fantastic job. NCCW will celebrate their 100th year with convention in Arlington VA in 2020.

The Recognition Day is scheduled for February 22, 2020 at St. Andrews Catholic Church in Roswell. Planning is underway.

Our next board meeting will be March 7, 2020 at the Chancery. I hope to see everyone there. We need everyone's prayers and help to make our Council the best.

Please continue praying the Rosary!

Many Blessings to you all!

Cynthia Simien
AACCW
President



**VICTORIA NIMMO-WALTERS,
PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

First of all, thank you for your vote of confidence that brought me onboard as your AACCW President Elect. My prayer is that by God's grace I may serve you as you serve others, and

together we will build the Kingdom of God through the **Spirituality, Leadership, and Service** commissions of the AACCW; reaching far beyond today, into future generations of Catholic women.

Spirituality: We as the "older women" of our Archdiocese must make it a priority to reach out to the younger women in our parishes to **ENCOURAGE** them by:

Fostering their RECOGNITION of WHO they are in Christ; and

Assisting them to DISCERN their ROLE in the Body of Christ.

Leadership: As leaders, we must raise up the leaders who will follow us by

EQUIPPING them with the tools of leadership; and

EMPOWERING them to take on roles of leadership by giving them our support.

Service: As Servant-Leaders, we must serve our successors even as we put our hands to the service of societal needs. In this way we will **ENGAGE** tomorrow's leaders by

LAUNCHING them into their own servant-leadership roles; and

APPLAUDING their successes, while helping them analyze the reasons behind some efforts are not as effective as others.

How can we do this?

By pouring our lives into those of the younger women.

By recognizing our responsibility to them (as mothers in the faith to daughters,) not simply needing their strengths to do the heavy lifting we've grown tired of.

Continued →

Most of my adult life has been dedicated to mentoring and encouraging others in their mentoring efforts as well. If each one of us employed the maxim "Each one reach one," our AACCW membership would double; and if we encourage the members of our Parish Councils to do the same, just imagine the potential for growth that would result.

If any of you have ideas for how your parish council can expand or build upon these concepts, please reach out and share them. I welcome your input and will gladly embrace your assistance.

Pressing onward,
Victoria "Vicky" Nimmo-Walters
AACCW President Elect.



NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Welcome to the 2019 - 2020 CCW year. We have a new board both for AACCW and NWCCW.

Here is your new NWCCW board for 2019-2020.

President – Peggy Fritz – St. Francis of Assisi – Cartersville
404-444-5017 pjf41@att.net
President-elect – Ann Cubillas – St.

**Northwest President,
Peggy Fritz**

Theresa of the Child Jesus – Douglasville
305-206-8632 ann.cubillas@gmail.com
Secretary – Dianne Peabody – St. Andrew – Roswell
678-762-6918 motormom102@gmail.com
Treasurer – Lynn Anderson – St. Francis of Assisi - Cartersville
404-931-5103 lynn_anderson84@att.net
Spiritually Commission – Wanda Newell – St. Andrew – Roswell
847-489-5695 wanda_newell@yahoo.com
Leadership Commission – Bonnie Petrukovich – St. Andrew – Roswell
678-488-4043 bpetrukovich@gmail.com
Service Commission – Cynthia Ashby – St. Paul of the Cross – Atlanta
678-428-8954 ashbycwa@bellsouth.net
Please feel free to contact us with questions and suggestions.

SAVE THE DATES:

October was Breast Cancer Awareness month. It may not be October but please remember those who have passed, those who are still fighting and those who are cancer free. May God's Blessings be on each of them.

November 9 NWCCW district meeting – St. Francis of Assisi, Cartersville All women of the parishes in the Northwest District are encouraged to attend. Raffle tickets

available for purchase. See more information below.

December 7 AACCW board meeting – Raffle drawing for 2-night stay at Renaissance Waverly Galleria

February 8, 2020 NWCCW district meeting Our Lady of LaSalette - Canton

February 22, 2020 Recognition Day at Saint Andrews - Women and Teens of the year will be recognized.

March 7, 2020 AACCW board meeting

May 23, 2020 NWCCW district meeting - St. Gerard – Ft. Oglethorpe

July 11, 2020 Leadership seminar

September 17-20, 2020 AACCW Convention Marriott, Marietta. More details below.

Details of activities:

Convention – Marriott Galleria Make your reservations NOW. Your credit card will not be charged until you check in. Cancellations may be made up to the day before the convention start on September 17. Rooms have gone up \$5.00 over last year.

District meeting November 9 – Raffle – Gwen Scott has donated two nights, dinner for 2 with complimentary parking at the Renaissance Waverly Galleria. The stay must take place by August 2020, and reservations must be made within 90 days of expected stay. Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each and may be purchased at the November 9 district meeting. Drawing will be held December 7.

YOUR NWCCW FELLOW MEMBERS LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING AT THE DISTRICT MEETING ON NOVEMBER 7. Peggy, Ann, Dianne, Lynn, Wanda, Bonnie and Cynthia

**We are striving to serve God as Jesus did.
Peggy Fritz**



**Southeast President,
Lynette Reid**

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

Dear Sisters in Christ,
Our 63rd Annual Atlanta Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (ACCW) Convention was held September 13 - 14, 2019. During convention, it was an honor to be installed as your new SE District President. I am eager to begin my two-year term working with each and every one of you as we serve our communities. I am committed to building relationships

and collaborating with current and new initiatives throughout our SE District.

Congratulations to our new SE District officers:

Spiritual Advisor - Father Bryan Small
President Elect - Judy Watson
Secretary - Melissa McCormack
Treasurer - Angela Hudson

Commissions Chairs:

Leadership - Edna Taylor
Service - Cindy Sencidiver
Spirituality - Mary Hargaden

We must stand together as one and urge participation throughout our district. Come and "be the change" by sharing your activities and ideas. Every voice is valued so please attend our SE District meetings!

November 2, 1019 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church - 110 N. Jefferson Street NE, Milledgeville, GA 31061
February 1, 2020 at St. Pius X Catholic Church - 2621 Highway 20 SE, Conyers, GA 30013
April 4, 2020 at Villa International - 1749 Clifton Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30329
Note: breakfast and lunch is served - \$10 donation

As your incoming president, I have:

- Attended and assisted with various volunteer opportunities associated with our 2019 National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) and Atlanta Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (ACCW) conventions.
- Completed the VIRTUS Training - "Protecting God's Children for Adults". This training makes participants aware of the signs of child abuse, the methods and means by which offenders commit abuse, and five easy steps one can use to prevent child sexual abuse.
- Attended Catholic Lay Interparish Partnership (CLIP) meetings. Our mission is to build an interparish community that will engage with the Archdiocese to advocate for inclusion of the laity in the governance of the church. Visions include transparency, accountability and co-responsibility.
- Attended AACCW Board meeting.

Created a SE District email & event calendar account - aaccwsedistrict@gmail.com

Note: two women from each parish will be given authorization to post events to the calendar (still in-progress)

Our district represents a dynamic and impressive group of women who actively engage in advocating for social change, foster numerous community service projects and still find time for social activities. There will be new opportunities, new challenges, and new accomplishments. I look forward to building relationships and serving our communities together. So, let's strive to be the best version of our SE District.

Cheerfully in Christ,
Lynette Reid
SE District President



Southwest President,
Judy Maurer

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

Hello my Sisters in Christ,

Greetings from the Southwest District! I am so excited to be writing to you as the new President and hope that with our board we can make some changes that will excite and encourage our members to attend the District meetings to gather information, to network, and most importantly to pray for

one another and those who could not be with us fulfilling our purpose of Educating, Empowering and Supporting our women.

We took on a different adventure, starting small this year. Boxes of Joy, we hope to add 100 boxes to the shipment going to one of the 5 countries that they service, El Salvador, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and Nicaragua. I volunteered to be the Local Project Leader for the area and the AACCW. It is an initiative for us to do Community Service outside of our "immediate area." Each of our 4 officers took 25 boxes back to their parishes to see if their members would be interested in participating in filling the boxes.

As we journey together, we will hear how to help our organizations grow, embrace the technology we have available and learn how to be better leaders and listeners. God has blessed me with wonderful people to work with and it has given me a new sense of purpose.

As the season of Advent fast approaches, we anticipating the birth of the Infant Jesus. The word Advent comes from the word Adventus, meaning coming. So, it with hope that we wait for the coming of the Infant Jesus, with open hearts ready to give him our gifts of love, hope and good works. He does not look for material gifts. He looks for gifts of the heart, the time we spend doing good works utilizing both our talents and treasures.

I wish you all the blessings of the Advent Season and as it will culminate in the Birth of the Christ child and holy Christmas to you all.

Blessings,

Judith Maurer

Southwest President



**SHIRLEY TOWLE
SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION
CHAIR**

My Sisters in Christ!

7 Practical Lessons from Martha

They were faithful Martha and Mary and they were hosting the Son of God. Pretty amazing! If the

Savior knocked at your door what would you do? How would you act? You might relate to Mary, who calmly sat at the Jesus' feet, or you might relate to Martha – buzzing with anxiety.

1 Slowing down,
Mary did! But oh, Martha was a whirlwind of excitement and wanting to serve the Lord perfectly. Serving is a great attribute, but Martha was missing out on some important statements of the Lord's visit like being in the presence of God. Serving is a great attribute, but Martha was missing out on some important elements of the Lord's visit, such as being in the presence of God.

2 Resentment:
How many times do we become resentful because we have to do all the work, while others get to have all the fun? Yeah, Martha was feeling this something fierce, so much that she questioned Jesus about this, "Don't You care Lord?" I mean, Hello? I'm doing all the work to serve, and Mary gets to relax?" Resentment is very sly and it is very easy to get distracted. Sometimes we need to mind our business and stay focused on what God want, not what others are doing

3 Stay Focused.
Mary was able to tune into Jesus, without allowing chores to get in the way when Martha was all over the place.

4 Being humble:
Martha wanted to get recognized by working hard and taking control. Being humble and by letting God prompt us in His due time, is another lesson we can learn from Martha.

5 Be still:
Unplug. I don't know about you, but I am a Martha. I don't wear this badge to proudly at times. In a world full of distractions, businesses, and racing toward the next meeting we can learn that unplugging is order sit in prayer, read His Word, and be still.

6 Worry:
Jesus observed that Martha was troubled. Trouble, pain, anxiety and worry, zap our strength to serve God, friends, and family and directly affect our health.

7 You can do it:
Jesus told Martha that Mary was wise. I'm sure that this didn't set well with Martha, "But one thing is clear Mary had had chosen that good part which, shall not away from her." (Luke 10:42) Martha loved the Lord and was willing to be corrected, as to be encouraged to grow in many areas. There are no one that is perfect, and we will all struggle with the issues of life daily but being willing to sit at the feet of Jesus, acknowledge our faults and sins, prepares us for our own journey here today and for the kingdom that awaits us. If Martha was here today, she'd be proud of many of us who are willing to listen, discern, and embrace her lessons for a better life.

God bless,
Shirley Towle



**PEGGY ASHE
HISTORIAN**

This summer 2019, the activities of the AACCW filled our hearts with joy and our minds with incredible memories as we hosted the 99th National Council of Catholic Women Convention. Almost 700 Catholic Women from across the nation gathered in Atlanta to celebrate the service to the Catholic Church. The theme, Caring for God's Creation, was carried out in educational and spiritual presentations. The keynote speaker, The Most Reverend Peter A. Rosazza, D.D. Auxiliary Bishop at the Archdiocese of Hartford. We were given four days of other notable speakers that included Mother Delores Hart, O.S.B., (known for being a former actress with Elvis to transforming her life as a Nun) , Michael Polote, Matt Hotzmann, and Dan Misleh, founding Executive Director of Catholic Climate. The Most Reverend Joel Konzen, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, presided at the opening liturgy. Workshops addressed ways our Commissions of Leadership, Spirituality, and Service can fill the needs of the Church and protect our Earth.

A notable presentation was The Virtual Pilgrimage Experience, recreates a holy pilgrimage, through photos of the Grotto, music that is played at the Grotto; touching rocks and water from Lourdes; and a candlelight Rosary procession and Eucharistic blessings. The presentation includes the footsteps of Bernadette, the Apparitions, the message of Lourdes, and an invitation and history of Pilgrimage. Taking your love ones that are sick and disabled can be arranged through the Virtual Pilgrimage, There is also an invitation to volunteer at the Grotto. The contact information is as follows: Email info@LourdesVolunteers.org and phone number (315) 476-0026.



BETH ANTOINE
SERVICE COMMISSION CHAIR

My name is Beth Antoine and am a member of Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. I serve as the Vice-President of our parish Women's Council, choir member, Knights of Peter Claver Ladies' Auxiliary, and Parish Collection Count Team. I am a

wife and mother of 3 fantastic children – Christopher, Cameron, and Kasi.

Service is my true heart's desire and it is my pleasure to assume this role. I previously served as the Community Service chair for the Knights of Peter Claver Ladies' Auxiliary Court 376 at Most Blessed Sacrament. Our faith tells us that we are called to serve others by God and the gifts we are given are to be a blessing to all His people. Please pray that God will guide us to those most in need.

Communication is the biggest key to collaboration and my goal is to coordinate with the Service Commission chairs from each district. I intend to visit at least one meeting of each district this year. My ears and heart are always open for your input so do not hesitate to contact me via phone at 404-667-4306 or email myrtantoine@gmail.com.

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men" Luke 6:35



PEGGY BALLOU
LEADERSHIP COMM.ISSION CHAIR

I look forward to working with the AACCW leadership throughout this next term, including the leadership workshop, to ensure we offer AACCW members the educational leadership skills that will assist with the growth of their spiritual lives.

Regards,
Peggy Ballou





ALISON MIMMS
PARLIMENTARIAN

What Happens When We're No Longer Here? Part I

A friend of mine in Florida and I were chatting on the telephone recently, and she told me that she had seen photos of the recent NCCW Convention on its website. Her comment was, "Everyone looked so old! Weren't there any younger women there?" I replied, "Yes, but they were a very small minority." Concerns about aging membership are prevalent in all areas of council and in all areas of the country, including Atlanta, but the title of this article should cause us to pause and address the matter.

It's only natural for us to want to remain active and involved, to hold an office or other position in council or in other organizations. We don't want to just sit in a rocking chair and sink into some kind of dotage. We all know or have known relatives or friends with dementia, and that prospect is unsettling to say the least. There is nothing wrong with having these fears, but we have to come to terms with the reality that one day we will no longer be here—time will run out.

When we accept that fact, we can then begin to consider ways to mentor and train younger women to serve in council, and yes, to take our places. When we are willing to take these steps, we should be able to take satisfaction in knowing that council is in good hands for the future. In my next article, I will discuss some of these steps. May Our Lady of Good Counsel be our mentor and guide.



Autumn BLESSINGS



Thank you to all who gave so generously to the BIB layette program, we would not be able to continue to support these mothers who strive to deliver a healthy baby. The mothers must attend all Dr. appointments and classes to educate themselves on the care and health of their babies.

God Bless
Deirdre Holler
Better Infant Birth

CONGRATULATIONS
from the Catholic Women of North Georgia
and the
South DeKalb Community
Layette Program
sponsored by
Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Community
and
Better Infant Births



ATLANTA ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

Upcoming Events

- ◇ November 2– **Southeast** Dist. Meeting - Sacred Heart, Milledgeville
- ◇ November 9-**Southwest** District Meeting-Most Blessed Sacrament, Atlanta
- ◇ November 9-**Northwest** District Meeting-St. Francis of Assisi, Cartersville
- ◇ December 6-Letters mailed out for Woman & Youth of the Year
- ◇ December 7-**Board Planning Meeting**
- ◇ January 16-AACCW Annual Appeal mailed to all churches
- ◇ February 1-**Southeast** District Meeting-St. Pius X, Conyers
- ◇ February 1-**Southwest** District Meeting-St. Mary Magdalene, Sharpsburg
- ◇ February 8-**Nortwest** District Meeting-Our Lady of LaSalette, Canton

We Are Called To Be Disciples

The Messenger

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