

Atlanta Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women

THE MESSENGER

Special points of interest:

- Refugee Families program
- Leadership day
- Convention & Cruise

WEB PAGE:
www.archatl.com

Under Catholic Life

Joan Brown, President



We are in the final phase of creating one more Deanery. We have had so much growth in the Atlanta area, especially in the North and Northeast section that our Northeast Deanery had about twice as many churches under it which created the need of creating another Deanery. We now have the four set up and are in the process of bringing names for new officers for each of the districts.

They will be elected at the April and May meetings and will be installed at our September convention. I cannot stress enough of how important it is for everyone to attend these upcoming Deanery meetings to vote on your new slate of officers. I know some of them will be a distance for us to drive, but you will enjoy the countryside views on the way to them! We only have three (3) meetings per year for you to drive to and give you the opportunity to see where other women in the Archdiocese gather to worship our Lord. So I urge you to set aside these three Saturdays in the year to attend the District meetings.

Only the President of the women's organizations from each parish will receive a copy of this newsletter, so I ask that you, as President, share it with the other members of your group, or tell them to go to our web page under Catholic Life link and read it there. Then invite everyone of them to attend the Deanery meetings with you. It is one way they will get to know more about this great organization. The women of our Archdiocese (and all over the country) do many things for our parishes and communities except for one thing... that is to spread the word that we all belong to the Atlanta Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women and the National Council of Catholic Women. What a voice to be dealt with, only if we would all band together and let it be known and our voice heard!

Nancy Jones, one of our National Council leaders sums up what we are all about below:

What is the Council of Catholic Women?

By: Nancy Jones

1. We are a service organization. Trough our commissions and projects, we serve our parish, community and the world.
2. Our primary focus is empowering and educating women in leadership roles. We sponsor a yearly convention, yearly leadership day with speakers.
3. We are a spiritual group. We feed our souls and do God's work here on earth, through Our Lady of Good Counsel. We are pro life advocates.
4. We are nationally and internationally affiliated.

So, I ask that all of us go out and spread the word to every woman in your parish of what they are missing by not getting involved with the Council of Catholic Women. Then after that, I want to see at least 500 women at our September convention!!! (or am I asking too much, I don't think so!) May God give us the courage to take action!



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NORTHEAST DEANERY
Colette St Cyr, President

Dear Sisters in Christ,
May is the months of Mary. I remember during my youth every night at 7pm the family would kneel in front of the radio and say the rosary with Most Rev Cardinal Leger. During this 20 minutes exercise, it was hard to stay focus, and look reverent at all time. As soon as I left home this habit was quickly lost. Until one day my friend's mother call to say she was in a motorcycle accident, I instinctively reach for a rosary. My prayer was a desperate plea for my friend's life. My friend made a complete recovery. I discover that the secret to prayer is to start praying for the desire to pray. Once I took this approach the rosary became a tool, a reflection and a portal. Nowadays, it's my favorite prayer, it's with me at all time (purse, car). I do love to share it with you'll on Friday night at the convention. Mary is our Mother, in these hard and scary times we need her on our side. She promises to intercede for us to her Son our Lord Jesus Christ. Let's all make an effort to pray our BLESSED MOTHER this month.

MARY, our mother in haven, keep us close to you as you intercede for us. We love and thank you for loving us as you love you Son Jesus. We bless your name for you are filled with grace. Amen

God bless, Colette St-Cyr



Something to think about

1. God Himself does not propose to judge a man until he is dead. So why should you?
2. Some minds are like concrete, thoroughly mixed up and permanently set
3. Peace starts with a smile
4. Be ye fishers of men, You catch them—He'll clean them.
5. God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called
6. The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us
7. We don't change the message, the message changes us

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 16—Northwest Deanery meeting

June 27—Leadership Conference

September 11-13—53rd Annual Convention

October 3—OLPH Luncheon

COMMUNITY CONCERNS
Molly Gamblin, Chair

I write this article as we draw close to Earth Day 2009. When God created this Earth, He had every intention that we would take care of it and it would last an eternity. Everyone from the political leaders, to the NCCW to the Pope Himself is telling us to be kind to our Earth and preserve it for future generations.

The first Earth Day was celebrated or recognized in 1970, so for a good 39 years, we've been conscience of the need to recycle, conscious of environmental pollutants, oil spills, and toxic dumps to name a few. Millions of concerned individuals rallied and protested that day in an unprecedented political alignment which led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the passage of the Clean Air, Water and Endangered Species Act.

Earth Day isn't known only in the United States, for it stretches far beyond its borders as people around the world continue to petition for a healthy and sustainable environment. Earth Day calls for citizens to take action to put into practice the changes needed to protect our environment.

Don't shoot for one BIG change, but several small somethings will add up to change. After all, isn't that our word of the year...change?

Plant a tree. A simple act that produces many benefits. Trees absorb carbon dioxide and filter the air we breathe. They help reduce storm runoff and flooding. In summer, they produce much needed shade from the sun. And their natural beauty makes life more pleasant!



Change a light bulb. Replacing burned out light bulbs with energy efficient compact fluorescent bulbs raises a fixture's efficiency by up to 30% and saves up to \$30.00 per year.



Adjust the thermostat. Buy a programmable thermostat to regulate different temperatures for different times of the day. These thermostats reduce energy use by 5-30% which translates to \$100.00-\$150.00 per year in savings.



By doing these small somethings and living with heightened environmental awareness, you contribute to a clean and sustainable future and make every day Earth Day.



SOUTH DEANERY PRESIDENT - Maureen Harty

We have entered into Eastertide, the most joyous and richest of the Liturgical Year! For fifty days, we keep on celebrating the Resurrection of Our Lord, and additionally mark the feasts of the Ascension and Pentecost. But although we are celebrating in our church life, for a great many people, there isn't much in other parts of their lives to celebrate - these days are filled with anxiety, suffering, and for some, even despair.

Our difficult economic times have caused so many people to suddenly find themselves in need, and for some, in dire straits. I doubt any of us does not know someone who is out of work, or has lost their home, or has been forced to move their family to find the next job. There are so many sad stories, but we must not lose the hope that is promised by the Resurrection.

During times like these, those of us who are not facing a dismal future should redouble our efforts to help others through their difficulties and bring smiles to as many as we are able.

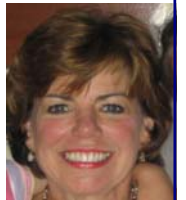
Parish groups have worked to fill Food Banks, which are struggling now to keep up with the demand, and are volunteering time and money to make sure people around us are not going hungry, especially our children. We can hire some of the people laid-off by their employers to do many tasks - whether it is painting, landscaping, carpentry, etc. Helping people find sources of aid is also a positive way to assist them.

Opportunities also exist for giving others material things they may need - furniture, equipment or clothing which they may put to good use. Our parish has been collecting diapers, formula and other baby goods which are so costly and distributing them to our young immigrant families, many of whom have several children, and many of whom are in very difficult financial situations. The extra sadness of the plight of the immigrants is that a large portion of their incomes usually went back home to care for parents and other relatives left behind in poverty, and that funding has dried up. So there are many elsewhere who are suffering because those here are not working.

Listening to others who are in distress is a beautiful way to keep them hopeful and encouraged - and an offer of prayers always seems to be received with gratitude! Those who have much are asked to return much, and so perhaps an individual or family may be quietly supported through a special gift, given anonymously or at least with no fanfare, and no publicity, thus sparing them embarrassment.

The Good Friday Intercessions are some of the most powerfully-written intercessions prayed during the year. I was struck by the beautiful words of the tenth Intercession - For Those in Special Need. The final part of the prayer is "Almighty, ever-living God, you give new strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need."

We are planning for a convention this year with the theme: "Ordinary Women Doing God's Extraordinary Work." In these extraordinary times, we really need to do "extra" ordinary things!



BETTER INFANT BIRTH Jean Driskell, Liaison

The layette collection from the AACCW 52nd annual convention was good. Deirdre Holler, president of Better Infant Births (BIB) was able to make up 75 layettes and deliver them to area health clinic.

Saints Peter and Paul Parish held its annual Epiphany layette collection on January 4, 2009. Deirdre Holler was able to make up 20 layettes and deliver them to the Georgia Extension Services. Money collected totaled \$532.00.

Also, Ginny Fuller of St. James' Women's Council sent \$100 to BIB. The money was collected by the parish's Women's Co8uncil and will be used to buy layette items.

Last year March of Di9mes accepted BIB's request for grant money to have the Mothers of the Year Ceremony. The money totaled \$500 and will be used to purchase gift cards from Babies R Us to give to the mothers for their babies.

The Mothers of the Year Ceremony recognizes new mothers who had to overcome obstacles to meet all their prenatal care and educational appointments. The nurses at the health clinics choose these mothers who each will receive a gift card, certificate of excellence, and a bib for the baby.

Deirdre is planning to have the ceremony in May, 2009.

WE ARE NOW ON THE INTERNET!!!

PLEASE GO TO THE ARCHDIOCESAN WEB SITE— www.archatl.com AND CLICK ON CATHOLIC LIFE and you will find AACCW, click it on and read all about us.

Organization Commission Chair, Gwendolyn Scott

It is close the conclusion of my second year as Organization Chair and I must say that it has been very rewarding, but also a very busy two years. It is my responsibility to make sure that mailings and preparation for Recognition Day, the Leadership Conference and the rosters are done. There is a lot of work associated with this job and by trying to do it correctly I hope that the outcomes were positive ones.

On February 28, 2009, we had our Recognition Day at the Cathedral of Christ Our King. Archbishop Emeritus Donoghue spoke to the award recipients and told them how important they were to the work that is done by the AACCW. It was a beautiful event with 63 women and 46 seniors being honored. I received a letter from one of the seniors who had not been registered, but attended and was recognized. He expressed his appreciation for the event and how good it made him feel to be a part of the program. Everyone involved in putting this program together worked hard with a quality program as the only goal.

Working together for the benefit of our organization is just what we need to get us through the changes we will be facing this year with our restructuring. There have been some concerns about the proposed name changes, but I would like to suggest that we keep in mind the old adage "What is in a name?" It is not what the districts will be called that will make them effective, but rather, what happens in those districts once they are activated. The restructuring is in the process, but this is not what will make it work. It will still take all of the members to help in the rebuilding of the districts.

In the last *Catholic Woman*, Evelyn Lompa, Organization Chair of NCCW says that every organization has the potential for motivation and "momentum busters". We need to avoid being "momentum busters" by trying not to stay in the past by thinking that it is the only way to do things, and by trying not to resist change as if it will make us less functional than we are already. We need to grab this opportunity to motivate those inactive churches and become stronger districts than we were deaneries.

We will be sending the Roster Update forms in April. It is critical that presidents return the form with the new president's name or their own if no changes have occurred. We need this information as well as the President's Annual Report that will be included so that we can keep in contact with all churches.

Leadership Day will be June 27, 2009 at St. Andrew's in Roswell. It will run from 9 AM until 2:30 PM. Father Tim will be the speaker. The subjects will be regarding leadership and change. We will have breakout sessions for officers and anyone who wishes to learn about being an officer. The cost will be \$15 dollars to take care of the lunch and essentials. Flyers will be sent in April. We would be happy to see you.

Sincerely,
Gwendolyn Scott
Organization Chair



Legislation Commission, Norma Matthews

The Red Envelope Project reports the White House received 2 Million Red envelopes. The name has changed to LIFE ENVELOPE PROJECT (same address www.redenvelopeproject.org) continue to send baby blue or baby pink envelopes or white with red or blue or pink writing same message to the President, Senators, Representatives and judges.

GEORGIA News

SB.169 The Ethical Treatment of Human Embryos Act Passed the Senate and must go to House in 2010

HB388 The Option of Adoption Act passed and is waiting for Gov. Perdue's signature

SB223 The Womans' Reproduction Health Oversight Committee passed the Senate and waits 2010

HR5 The Parmount Right of Life Amendment is in House Judiciary Committee awaiting a hearing

Hr334 Opposing FOCA passed House waiting

SR156 Opposing FOCA passed Senate waiting

OTHER

Protect Conscience Right waiting for more info
Notredamescandel.com to give your opinion on the President speaking at Notre Dame

Leadership 2009 Conference

Atlanta Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women

Theme: Leadership and Change: Powerful Partners

**Speaker: Father Tim Gadziala, Spiritual Moderator,
AACCW**

When: Saturday, June 27, 2009

Time: 9:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

**Where: St. Andrew's Catholic Church
575 Riverside Road
Roswell, GA 30075**

Cost: \$15.00 (\$20.00 on-site registration)

****Breakout sessions: training of officers and
commission chairs**

All women in the Archdiocese are invited to come to this annual training program For more information call Gwendolyn Scott 770-786-1429 or email teerainbow@aol.com

CHURCH COMMISSION, Mary Hargaden, Chair.

HAPPY SPRING!

I am writing this as we begin the wonderful Holy Week Liturgies that lead up to Easter Sunday and the glorious celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. I hope it is a time of spiritual uplift and renewal for all of you.

Looking back, in February we had a wonderful Recognition Day event at Christ the King Cathedral celebrating the commitment of many women and senior youth to their parishes and communities. The liturgy, presided over by Archbishop emeritus John Donoghue, was beautiful. As Church Commission Chair it is my responsibility, with the Deanery Church Chair to set in place the needed lectors, acolytes, and musicians for the occasion. My gratitude to Deirdre Holler who invited all these wonderful persons from Corpus Christi Church to join us this year, and to all of them for so generously giving of their time and talent. You all made my job very easy.

Every year at the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) Convention they suggest a 'book of the year' for us ladies to read, and maybe discuss in our book clubs. This year the book is "My Monastery is a Minivan - Where the Daily is Divine and the Routine becomes Prayer" by Denise Roy. I am reading it now, have been for a while and am enjoying it immensely. It comprises of 30 or so vignettes, entertaining or touching, how family moments can bring a spiritual rewards. How we can find in the ordinary routines we have all we need for spiritual growth. Many are situations we would find familiar. I suggest you get a copy, it can be obtained from NCCW, and enjoy.

It does not need to be read in one bite, in fact, a few chapters at a time is best. Discuss it with you book clubs and enjoy hearing the stories your group has to tell.

In these difficult times let us keep our President and Congress in our prayers that the work they are doing will be successful in making life easier for all, especially the many who have lost their jobs, homes, etc.

God Bless you all and may the joyous spirit of Easter remain with you throughout the year.

PUBLICITY CHAIR, MARY WELLS

Please remember to share your parish events with us by sending articles, fliers and pictures letting us know what is going on in your parish and the community. All information is due three weeks before the up coming events to the Georgia Bulletin.

Please send your information to me at the following address: Mary Wells

63 Holly Road, NW
Atlanta, GA 30314-2150

AACCW 53rd ANNUAL CONVENTION WHEN; SEPTEMBER 11-13, 2009

WHERE: WYNDHAM PEACHTREE
CONFERENCE CENTER

2443 Hwy 54 West

Peachtree City, GA 30269

Room reservations can be made at any time by calling (770) 487-2000 (ask for AACCW Conv. Rates). Call now and fill our blocked rooms so we can reserve more.

Single or Double Occupancy is \$95.00 per night They also now have PURE rooms available at a cost of \$115 per night. A PURE room is an allergen-resistant room.

Inform all the women in your parish and encourage them to come to this convention. There will be something for everyone.



The National Council of Catholic Women's
2009 "FUN"RAISER CRUISE----
Mark Your Calendar and Plan to Join Us!!
NOVEMBER 14- 21 2009

7 FUN-filled days

aboard the Carnival Liberty

with Council Women, their family and friends from all over the U.S.

Balcony Cabin	\$895.00 per person/double occ.
Ocean View Cabin	\$745.00 per person/double occ.
Inside Cabin	\$645.00 per person/double occ.

Our Eastern Caribbean Cruise leaves from the **PORT OF MIAMI** and stops at

Half Moon Cay (private island in the Bahamas)
St Thomas, San Juan and Grand Turk.

Call Paula today at Going Places Travel at (866-458-0308) to make reservations or for more information. Be sure to mention the National Council of Catholic Women.

**Executive Vice President ,
Shirley Towle**

The One Flaw In Women

By the time the Lord made woman
He was into his sixth day of working overtime.

An angel appeared and said,
"Why are you spending so much time on this
one?"

And the Lord answered, "Have you seen my
spec sheet on her?"

She has to be completely washable, but not
plastic,
have over 200 movable parts, all replaceable
able to run on diet coke and leftovers,
have a lap that can hold four children at one
time,

have a kiss that can cure anything from a
scraped knee to a broken heart --and she will
do everything with only two hands."

The angel was astounded at the requirements.

"Only two hands!? No way!

And that's just on the standard model?

That's too much work for one day..

Wait until tomorrow to finish."

"But I won't," the Lord protested.

"I am so close to finishing this creation that is
so close to my own heart.

She already heals herself when she is sick
AND can work 18-hour days.."

The angel moved closer and touched the woman.

"But you have made her so soft, Lord."

"She is soft," the Lord agreed,

"but I have also made her tough.

You have no idea what she can endure or
accomplish."

"Will she be able to think?", asked the angel.

The Lord replied,

"Not only will she be able to think,
she will be able to reason and negotiate."

The angel then noticed something,
and reaching out, touched the woman's cheek.

"Oops, it looks like you have a leak in this model.

I told you that you were trying to put too much into this
one." "That's not a leak,"

the Lord corrected, "that's a tear!"

"What's the tear for?" the angel asked.

The Lord said, "The tear is her way of expressing her
joy, her sorrow, her pain, her disappointment, her love,

her loneliness, her grief and her pride." The
angel was impressed. "You are a genius,
Lord.

You thought of everything!

Woman is truly amazing."

And she is!

Women have strengths that amaze men.
They bear hardships and they carry burdens,
but they hold happiness, love and joy.

They smile when they want to scream.

They sing when they want to cry.

They cry when they are happy
and laugh when they are nervous.

They fight for what they believe in.

They stand up to injustice. They don't
take "no" for an answer when they believe
there is a better solution.

They go without so their family can have.

They go to the doctor with a frightened
friend.

They love unconditionally. They cry
when their children excel and cheer when
their friends get awards.

They are happy when they hear about
a birth or a wedding.

Their hearts break when a friend dies.

They grieve at the loss of a family member,
yet they are strong when they think there is no
strength left.

They know that a hug and a kiss can heal a
broken heart.

Women come in all shapes, sizes and colors.

They'll drive, fly, walk, run or e-mail you
to show how much they care about you.

The heart of a woman is what makes the
world keep turning.

They bring joy, hope and love.

They have compassion and ideals.

They give moral support to their family and
friends.

Women have vital things to say and everything
to give



HOWEVER, IF THERE IS ONE TINY
FLAW IN WOMEN,

**IT IS THAT THEY FORGET THEIR
WORTH.**

Arriving Refugee Families

“My fellow parishioners would like to help refugees rebuild their lives in America, but we don’t know where to begin.”

Catholic Charities will resettle 170 refugees in the Atlanta area in 2008 and more in 2009. We offer hope to some of the world’s most desperate people. Refugees arrive in Atlanta after losing their homes, countries, livelihoods, families, friends, and even their health. After facing so many challenges, they need help rebuilding their lives.

[A Refugee Story](#)

[Who Is A Refugee?](#)

You can find an answer by going to Catholic Charities web site.

As you know I, Simone Blanchard, work for Catholic Relief Services, the US Catholic agency that works overseas in over 100 countries, our partner Catholic Charities, the US Catholic agency that works with the poor domestically is in need of furniture donations for refugees they are resettling this year. If you or your church can help please see below announcement and contact Margaret Prickett at Catholic Charities Atlanta.

Help Catholic Charities resettle over 200 refugees in 2009 – Catholic Charities’ Refugee Resettlement Program resettled 161 refugees in 2008 in the Atlanta area. The agency expects more than 200 Refugees in 2009. Charged with furnishing over 50 apartments this year for families fleeing violence and persecution there is a great need for 40 small couches, 40 coffee tables, 100 lamps, 200 metal bed frames, and 40 dinette sets. If you can help contact Margaret Prickett, Manager Volunteer Resources, at **404-885-7271** or mprickett@archatl.com.

For information about holding a Refugee Welcome Box drive visit:

www.catholiccharitiesatlanta.org/donate/refbox.html.

FAMILY CONCERNS COMMISSION

Dana Lee Willis, Chair

We as Catholic women and caretakers of our family must embrace the stewardship of the planet we inhabit. We are bound by the church’s teaching to respect and care for God’s creation. The church’s teaching on the stewardship of the environment has two main principles: Sustaining the Earth and Standing with the poor.

How can we participate? The NCCW has established a program wherein we can participate in a positive way to help ensure the environment here on our planet earth. They established and are recommitting to the environmental stewardship through the 2009 NCCW Earth: In Our Hands Program and Award.

The NCCW has been given a grant to assist individual diocesan councils in educating and promoting programs to foster a more caring population towards the environment. To be a part of this movement to save our earth visit the USCCB website Environmental Justice Program www.usccb.org/sdwp/ejp and the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change <http://catholicsandclimatechange.org>. Plan projects to help improve the environment and its effect on the poor and disadvantage. Have your efforts recognized by applying for the Earth: In Our Hands Award on the NCCW website. As Catholics and as members of the AACCW we can all find ways to help save the planet God created.

Until next time.. Dana Lee Willis, Chair ACCW Family Concerns
 Marion Conroy, Vice Chair Northeast Deanery
 Shirley Vollenweider, Vice Chair Northwest Deanery
 Jayne Phillips, Vice Chair South Deanery



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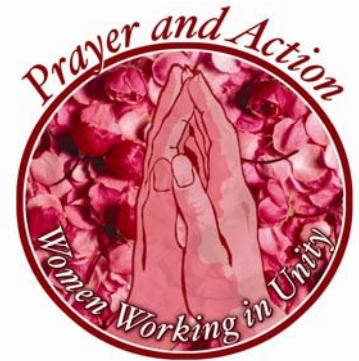
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www.archatl.com AND CLICK ON CATHOLIC LIFE
and you will find AACCW, click it on and read all about
us.**

April General Intentions chosen by Pope Benedict XVI

That the Lord may bless farmers' work with an abundant harvest and sensitize the richer populations to the drama of hunger in the world."

The Holy Father also chooses an apostolic (missionary) intention for each month.

In April he is praying:

"That the Christians who operate in the territories where the conditions of the poor, the weak and the women and children are most tragic, may be signs of hope, thanks to their courageous testimony to the Gospel of solidarity and love."



Joan Brown pinning a Spiritual Moderator pin on Father Tim. He was told that he will need to wear it forever.

A. A. C. C. W. GOALS

A.A.C.C.W.GOALS: To give the Catholic women of our Archdiocese a common voice and to be an instrument for united action in matters affecting our Catholic principles. To insure proper recognition and representation of Catholic principles when addressing committees and problems of local, National and International importance. To stimulate the work of existing Catholic Women's Groups to service and usefulness in meeting the needs of the time.