

# THE GRAPEVINE

Volume 32 Issue 6

June 2004

The Military Council of Catholic Women acts through its members to support empower and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, MCCW-USA coordinates ministries to meet the needs of women within the military community.

## Count Your Blessings

**O**h, summer is soon upon us and it will fade fast. Father's day is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of this month. The third Sunday in September is MCCW Sunday, October 7 is Our Lady of the Rosary, 7-11 October is our Conference and 31 October is Priest Sunday. If you start looking at this list you can see that there is a lot to be done in a very few short months.

Do something special for your father this Sunday. Have a mass said in his honor, make his special meal or even a call to him (if he is not near) and tell him that you love him. While doing this do not forget that we need to also thank our Father in Heaven for sending his only Son to earth for us.

Make plans for MCCW Sunday with a few of the women of the community as Lectors, EMs etc. Acknowledge them.

Be sure to make plans for the conference in October. Make sure that the monies that you will be needing will be there for you. Make sure you advertise this conference and encourage new, young women to join everyone in Tucson.

On 31 October celebrate your priest. According to the USSCCB there is only one priest in 4000 of the 19000 parishes across this wonderful country of ours. Our military is suffering also and many communities will not have a priest when theirs leaves. The days when they took care of the whole community is gone. They need our help. Let them know that they are important to us and that we will help in any way possible. You may have to hold Communion Services during the week instead of a daily Mass if there is no available priest. At [www.priestsunday.org](http://www.priestsunday.org) there are plenty of ideas of what the community can do to show their priest that they are appreciated.

Your sister in Christ, *Laine*

## President's Place

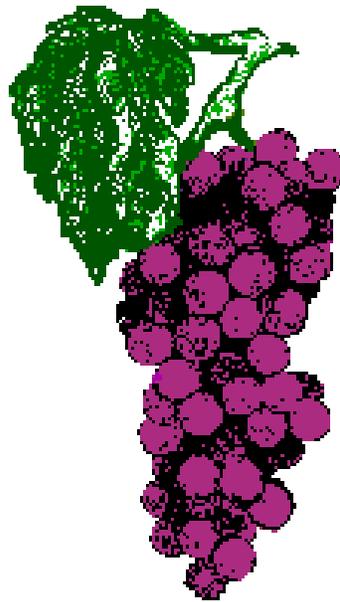
**O**n May 7th, our archdiocese announced the appointment by His Holiness Pope John Paul II of Monsignor Richard B. Higgins and Monsignor Joseph W. Estabrook as Auxiliary bishops of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A. The Military Council of Catholic Women welcome this good news!

Monsignor Higgins has been a priest for 37 years and an Air Force Chaplain since 1974. His current assignment is at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Monsignor Estabrook is currently assigned to the Navy Chief of Chaplains Office. He was ordained in 1969 and has been a Navy Chaplain since 1977

As of press time, the effect of these appointments on MCCW both here in the US and in Europe has not been announced. In Archbishop O'Brien's official statement, he notes the impending retirement of Bishops Madera and Rogue, but no timeline was included.

The Episcopal ordination of the Bishops-elect will be celebrated on Saturday, 3 July, 2004, 2:00 p.m. at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C. The Military Council of Catholic Women look forward to continuing its work within the Archdiocese in serving the Catholic communities of military installations around the world. May Our Lady of Good Counsel pray for us!



*Veep's Peeps --*

Ladies, I'm not sure if you are aware or not, but the National Board members have suffered greatly this past year. We have suffered thru grave illnesses, and many deaths of family and dear friends. It occurred to me that, if the Board members are suffering, our ladies are probably suffering too. With the war going on, death is hitting closer and closer to us all. What are we to do?? I'll tell you what. We can pray, support each other, and pray some more. When my uncle lost his life to cancer last year, I called Carol Fountain, who in turn called the rest of the Board. They all prayed and put my uncle and me on their prayer chains. In about two hours from the time I made that phone call, I suddenly felt the peace that came from those prayers. Rather than driving to northern California as a total basket case, I was able to drive safely, knowing that the Grace of God would carry me through. Carol was extremely supportive as she listened to me cry and calmly offered to help me with a few things she knew I needed to do, but probably wouldn't be able to manage. The ladies from 29 Palms, who don't even know me, put together a bag of travel items to help me on my trip, which Kelleen brought to me when she offered to meet me for dinner along my way. It is sometimes the simple things which mean the most. Sometimes we feel helpless and are afraid that we will not be able to do anything for our friends who are suffering, but we have one very important thing we can and should do. We as a Catholic community can pray for all of us who have lost, grieved, or suffered illnesses in our lives. There is no greater support we can offer than the prayers of all the faithful. We offer up our loved ones at every Mass. And we pray for the suffering. Prayer is the best thing we have going. We should all understand the value of our prayers for others. It means the world to those in need. Please uphold each other in prayer. Be there for one another, if not physically present, then be there in prayer. In prayer, we show our love and support, and in prayer, We Are One Body.

In His Grace, *Dawn*

*-- Blast from the Past --*

"When Crisis Strikes"

When personal crisis strikes one of our MCCW members, what can we as individuals and as a group do to ease the suffering? Here are some practical ways to prepare for tragedy and to react:

-Be aware when a crisis occurs. This requires getting to know our MCCW ladies, not just on a superficial level, but deeper. Is there ample time at our meetings or other activities for ladies to become friends, rather than acquaintances? Is there a prayer intention list that allows everyone to pray for one another's needs? Is there a vehicle for following up on these intentions? Do

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our members communicate with each other outside the meetings/programs?

-Do not assume that someone else is responding. If the member involved has closer friends, make sure they are meeting the immediate needs and offer to pitch in. Your simple presence, your listening ear can mean so much to someone in crisis. Don't let someone "fall through the cracks".

-Many times the crises our ladies face occur out of town. Will the family head for home? Does the house/pet/children need looking after? Lawn mowed? Ride to the airport? Help with volunteer (carpooling, sports, scouts, chapel, unit etc.) obligations? If the crisis is local, is there someone to fetch relatives from the airport? Meals prepared? Extra bed space available? Babysitting issues? Rides to and from the hospital for out-of-town visitors? Getting groceries?

-Of course, we are called to pray. It is up to us as individuals and as an organization to raise this person, this family, this situation up to God in prayer in confidence that He hears us. Make this crisis a special Mass and/or rosary intention and encourage MCCW members to be in attendance. There we will find comfort as we suffer together through a personal tragedy of one of our members. Oscar Wilde said, "Where there is sorrow, there is holy ground."

*Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us!*

*-- Bishop's Bytes --***RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP**

The Vatican and several bishops, aware that the presidential election is near, have issued some words of encouragement to all people, but especially to the Catholic population reminding them of the responsibility we have as American citizens to cast our vote in a responsible manner. Let me share with you some of the guidance we received.

First of all, we must be very conscious of the responsibility we have as citizens to be involved in political life. To be a citizen is the highest title we can have as Americans.

The two basic services we can offer as citizens of the country are: to vote and to serve when called for Jury duty.

It has been said that the main components of good citizenship are: awareness, commitment and action. If we want to be responsible citizens and part of the well-being of the community, we need to be acquainted with what is happening in the society in which we live and with all matters concerning the life of our country.

The future of the country depends on the power of our vote. We determine the kind of government we have in the country and must be responsible of the way we select our representatives.

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This is the time to prepare ourselves for the already-close elections. How can we enhance our awareness? It is recommended that:

- We read a newspaper;
- We take some time every day to watch the local and national news on television;
- We listen to a radio news station;
- We read something that presents the profile of the candidates.
- We consult the experts on politics;
- We must try to understand the law to increase the awareness or our citizens' rights and responsibilities.

We must be informed about the reality of our country with its needs, challenges, failures, international relations and its projection upon other countries. We must be ready to select, to the best of our ability, the most qualified and convenient candidates as our leaders, to offer them our support and ensure that they are accountable to their constituents.

Information is a start, but we must commit ourselves, according to our capacity, to the life of the country and to be people of action, at least in being effective in the casting of our votes and encouraging others to do the same. Some citizens even offer their services in helping at the registrations tables, transporting senior citizens to the voting stations or serving at the voting desks.

The Church has been reminding our Catholic politicians of the responsibility they have in fulfilling and performing their political duties in accord with the richness of the Catholic faith they profess. That is part of the integrity and authenticity of their Christian values. Society is in dire need of solid principles and wise guidance and our Catholic politicians, if well informed, are equipped to render such a valuable service.

The church does not pretend to impose its beliefs and principles upon the government but is convinced that if Catholic politicians act as people of faith, God's will would be the reason and motive of their political action, not the mere human pleasing of the people, whose vote they need.

Our vote is our strength, and our prayer guarantees the success of society. *Bishop + Joseph J. Madera, M.Sp.S*

#### **-- Moderator's Moments --**

Well, we have finished the celebrations of Holy Week and Easter. The Holiest week and the most important day of our Catholic year. I like many of my brother priests experienced an abundance of people at all the services – especially at Easter Day Masses. It seemed to me that the numbers were greater than the usual annual increase added by the so-called Christmas and Easter Catholics. In addition to this here is a little gem of information for you – this Easter the Church, through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, grew by over 700 in the Archdiocese of Baltimore and 150,000+ nation- wide. What could have caused such great attendance increases? There

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could be many reasons – some say it is Mel Gibson's movie, *The Passion of the Christ*, others say it is the general world situations, still others say it is the war, church attendance always increases during time of war, whatever the reason, they came. Let us all pray for those who come weekly, those who come seldom, and especially for all of our new Catholics not born Catholic but Catholic by decision!

This is also a time for us to take a look at faith, our faith in particular. I don't think there is a single one of us who has not at one time or another questioned our faith, or even thought about abandoning our faith in both God and the words of the Bible. These times more than any other have seen both the Bible and our faith attacked. Before too much time is spent walking down a road of despair – consider this.

The Bible has been attacked for many centuries, but it is still the best selling book of all times. King Antiochus Epiphanes (175—174BC) and the Emperor Diocletian (AD) 284-305), both ordered all copies of the scriptures burned and those who owned them killed. The Scriptures and the faith survived. Voltaire, the French infidel and critic of the Bible and the faith, who died in 1778 made this claim: 100 years from this time, because of man's own enlightenment and reason, Christianity would be swept away from the earth and the only place anyone would find a Bible would be in a museum. Less than 50 years after his death the Geneva Bible Society purchased his printing press to print thousands of Bibles and his house to store them.

These were not all on the only attacks. Closer to our own the Communism has tied its hand at the same destruction. Yet it is not the Bible and the faith, but Communism that has ended up in the dustbin of history. I recall that one of the first TV programs broadcast world wide in December 1989, was Christmas Mass from Moscow!

Over the years no other book has been so attacked as the book that recounts our faith for us. Yet, both the faith and the book that recounts it have survived. Like the anvil that wears out many a hammer without apparent wear or word – so the Bible and the faith survive.

Resolve to hold the faith we have received at so great cost dear above all. Pray for each other and those who have just joined us for their and our journey is still long. Pray even for those who are the Catholics who come only once or twice a year – that faith may grow in them.

God Bless all of you and your family.

GREGORY J. D'EMMA Chaplain (COL) USA

#### **-- Area Coordinators' Cranny --**

**Rosalie Tullos – Central Area Coordinator:** While waiting at the hospital, I went to the chapel to say a prayer. When I finished, I looked at the bookrack. There were few items available. An item about an Irish harp on the cover of a Guidepost drew my attention. I had never before read a Guidepost, thinking it was not for Catholics. I found an article entitled "A House for Katherine Red

Feather" and it immediately brought to mind the Gallop NM Diocese Missions, our MCCW charity. There is still time for us to do something to help them. Pray about this. What can your group do? "Amen, I say to you, whatsoever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." Matt 25:40.

First Call to Conference has gone out. Our national conference is in Tucson AZ, October 7-11, 2004. Start making plans. If you don't have the information I sent by e-mail and post, contact your chapel president. Cost is \$250 conference fee per person, \$89 hotel room for two, and @\$20 each for transportation from the airport to the hotel. Each installation will have transportation costs to and from Tucson. Here is some food for thought: elections to our national board are in October. Is this perhaps your call? Please pray about the idea.

Our Central Area is responsible for organizing (1) Angel Gifts, (2) Secret Prayer Partner Exchange (3) Skit Night Emcee and coordination.

Hurray! Scott AFB has started up MCCW again. They had 27 sign up the first week. Welcome from all of us! That's the way to go, Linda Worth.

Much is happening now. We are all preparing for conference, summer break from schools, plans for vacations, reassignments, and election of new officers to our chapel boards. Amid this hustle and bustle, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all new arrivals to our Central Area. Some will jump right in, but others will need a little time, encouragement and support. We are Jesus' hands to reach out and His smile of greeting.

As a retiree, I know we serve as a stabilizing force within our larger groups. Our focus, according to our by-laws, encompasses the needs of the women of the entire military Catholic community. With all those moves and elections come changes. New ideas, like new faces, should be welcomed and encouraged. After input from all, we should, as a group, implement decisions and move forward together. We should each be a good example of a Christian woman. Jesus asked us to love as he loved and to not judge. Please remember this when changes take place around our communities, large and small. Call on the Holy Spirit to breath freshness into our groups. Ask for guidance from Our Lady of Good Council. We must be good stewards of the talents we are given and the monies allocated for operation.

Please keep the families of Lisa Donahue and Kelleen Walusz in your prayers and all who may be going through difficult times. God knows who they are. Maybe you do, too.

Keep me in your prayers as you are in mine. May God bless you and keep you in His tender, loving care. My e-mail address is [catullos@juno.com](mailto:catullos@juno.com)

Send mail to 4510 Avalon Ave, Lawton OK, 73501. Ph# 580-357-5582. Your sister in Christ, Rosalie Tullos, Central Area Coordinator.

Your Central Area Board members are:

Lisa White, Fort Sill, Treasurer;

Dawn Harding, Fort Gordon, Secretary;

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Roxie Rapino, Tinker AFB, Vice-President;

**Sheila Baker – Northeast Area Coordinator:** On April 13 The Northeast Area Board comprised of myself, the Area Coordinator; Maria Scott the Assistant Area Coordinator; Mary Clark, the Secretary; and Paula Gallagher, the Treasurer met at my house in Hampton, Virginia to discuss the role of the Northeast Chapels at the National Conference in October 2004. We will be in charge of the opening evening icebreakers. We will also be providing welcome gifts for the VIPs attending. The guest speakers, the Bishop and any chapel moderators will receive a welcome basket of goodies. Paula Gallagher and the ladies from Fort Drum have planned two icebreakers for the first evening.

Please be sure that each chapel group attending has discussed the additions, deletions and corrections to the constitution and bylaws. Any questions will be answered by contacting Alba Thompson, the chairperson of the Bylaws Committee. Each Chapel President, or her representative, with written permission to vote in her place, will have one vote. Each chapel will also vote for the incoming officers.

Please encourage all of our chapel groups to attend this conference and the 2005 Area Conference. We will have more information for you next month.

**Eleanor Gentilini – Western Area Coordinator:** I am sure by now that many if not most of you have seen Mel Gibson's movie *The Passion of the Christ*. It definitely was intense and certainly made an impact far beyond expectations. Much of the support was generated by word of mouth (or word of e-mail) among friends.

Perhaps you are aware of another movie on the horizon :

***THERESE*** – Ordinary Girl, Extraordinary Soul, *The Story of Saint Therese of Lisieux*. This film will be out October 1<sup>st</sup> of this year in time for the feast day of St. Therese. It is the story of her short but meaningful life. The filmmakers, Leonardo and Patti Defilippis, who produce films with positive values under the name of Luke Films, were inspired by the autobiography of Saint Therese which he had read many years ago. In the process of making this film he says, "All the key players in the making of *THERESE* possessed a sensitivity to the spirit working through us, and a dedication that would take us over many obstacles." Hundreds of actresses auditioned to play the lead part until he found Lindsay Younce, a high school girl with a fresh honest quality that would capture the purity and innocence of Therese.

For more information on this film, you may check out [www.theresemovie.com](http://www.theresemovie.com) and if you register, you will receive a monthly update. It asks that the word be spread about this remarkable movie, so that the opening will be as successful as *The Passion*, and it suggests several ways we can help with this endeavor. Perhaps your chapel group would plan to attend a showing together for October First Friday, which is opening day!

**“All the key players in the making of THERESE possessed a sensitivity to the spirit working through us, and a dedication that would take us over many obstacles.”**

**-- Bylaws revision --**

In May, I accepted the invitation of Alice O'Hara, President MCCW - USA, to chair the By-Laws Revision Committee. It was agreed that I, with her permission, would select women from my local area to serve on this committee. The committee comprised of Susan Boling, Carol Fountain, Ellyn Koski and Valentina (Tina) Sachs are all spouses of either Army or Air Force Active Duty personnel. These intelligent and knowledgeable women provided excellent input and valuable guidance for the mission ahead.

We took the task to heart. In prayer and in confidence we went about the business of streamlining the by-laws in the hope that it will in turn become the basis for a even better organization. After many hours over many weeks we were able to submit the proposed revisions to the Executive Board and with the approval of Alice O'Hara, to the Area Coordinators. The proposed revisions were also sent to Chaplain (Colonel) Gregory D'Emma.

The proposed revisions were approved at the MCCW Board Meeting that was held in Tucson, Arizona January 16-18, 2004. They are now in the process of being distributed by the Area Coordinators to their chapel groups. Much of the revision required us to eliminate all the sections that based membership upon the payment of dues. Since we no longer charge dues these sections were deleted and do not require a vote. There are other changes that do need to be voted upon. The vote will be conducted at the MCCW National Conference in Tucson, Arizona October 2004. I ask that you take the time to look over the proposed by-laws and to contact me if you have any questions, concerns or for that matter if you need some clarification. I'll enclose my email and home address as well as my phone number. Please know that your questions/concerns are of value to MCCW and to me and I welcome them.

His peace and continued blessings, Alba  
Alba Thompson (Mrs. Lee)  
(703) 787-6936  
By-Laws Revision Committee

**--HELP WANTED --**

MCCW Executive Board  
4 Positions  
President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.  
Available October 2004 - 2006

Qualifications: Active participants of MCCW who are active duty military members or spouses of active duty

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military members and are committed to meeting the needs of women in our Military Catholic communities are urged to apply.

If you wish to consider the possibilities please contact me. Please send your name, address, phone number, email address if you have one, and the name of your military chapel. You will be contacted upon receipt of this information for further discussions.

His peace and continued blessings,  
Alba

Alba Thompson (Mrs. Lee)  
1264 Woodbrook Court  
Reston, Va.  
703 787-6936  
[nonnax8@webtv.net](mailto:nonnax8@webtv.net)

**-- Needing Volunteers --**

Are you being called to serve? Many times we just tend to think we know what a job entails but do not take the time to really find out. The job descriptions are all laid out in the Blue Book. They are simple and concise but a position on the MCCW National Board is really about commitment.

Are you being called to serve? Now more than ever we need to reach out to meet the needs of the spouses of our active duty members, we need to work closely with our chaplains to build community and we need to define who we are and what we bring to the table. We need to remember that actions speak more than words, that we are there to meet the needs of the community and not the other way around, and we need to be there not by just talking the talk but by walking the walk. It all comes down to commitment.

Are you being called to serve? If you are reading this and if just the thought of the possibility crosses your mind, please contact me. If someone asks you if you would consider a board position, take it seriously. They may see in you what you may be failing to recognize. Remember, God doesn't send telegrams...he uses people.

Are you be called to serve? Yes, Father I come to do you will.

His peace and continued blessings, Alba

**--Prayer Requests --**

Let us Pray

- ? For all members of MCCW and NCCW and their families.
- ? For Anna Maria S., that she underwent surgery well and is on the road to recovery.
- ? Repose of the soul of Sylvia, her four children and her family

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- ? Repose of the soul of the mother of Lisa D., and for her family in this time of sorrow
- ? For Margie, who is undergoing surgery
- ? For of our Chaplains who are doing more and more with less and less.
- ? For all the unborn children and their parents.
- ? For Rich D., Debbie B., Kathy H., Lorna S., Tori S., Tim W., Pam R., Sheila B., and Marian P., that God Bless them in their battle with cancer.
- ? For all of the chaplains who provide strength, support, love and caring for our deployed troops and their families.
- ? For those whose marriages are being torn asunder, May God make them whole again. For all of our deployed and their families, that God will keep them safe from harm.
- ? For all of our members who have lost loved ones, that God will console them in their mourning.
- ? For all of our members and Chaplains as they continue to bring Christ to the world
- ? For the success of our National Conference in October 2004.

### **-- Board Members --**

#### President

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Army

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Army (Ret) at Langley AFB

#### Southeast Area Coordinator

In need of a volunteer – if active duty and interested please contact the President or Vice President

#### Western Area Coordinator

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Military Arch Diocese

### **-- Parting Prayer --**

"Prayer for Those Who Await a Soldier's Return"  
God of all goodness,  
look with love on those who wait  
for the safe return of their loved ones  
who serve in the armed forces of their country.  
In faith and hope, we turn to you for comfort.  
Grant that we may trust in your mercy  
and send an angel to sustain us as we await their  
safe return.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
*courtesy of the United States Conference of  
Catholic Bishops*

# MCCW-USA 2004 National Training Conference

## REGISTRATION FORM



Please fill out registration and mail (each chapel should send only **one** envelope with **all** participants' registrations enclosed) together with check or purchase order for \$250 for each participant no later than **September 10, 2004** to

Lisa Donahue, MCCW-USA Treasurer  
 110 Robin Hood Court  
 Yorktown, VA 23683

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapel/Installation: \_\_\_\_\_

**May we use the above information for a roster for the convenience of our conference attendees?**

**Yes**      **No**      **Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

Your association with the military (please circle):

Army      Navy      Air Force      Marine Corps      Coast Guard      DOD Civ.

Status (please circle):

Active Duty      Reserve      National Guard      Retired  
 Spouse of Active Duty      Spouse of Retiree

Special Dietary Needs (Very important for our meal planning):

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you made hotel reservations at the Hilton Tucson East?      Yes      No

If no, where will you be staying during Conference? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you sharing your hotel room?      Yes      No      With whom? \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about this conference? (Please circle):

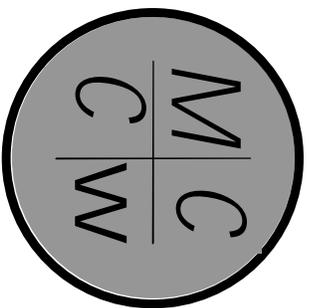
*The Grapevine*      Chapel Group      Moderator      www.mccw-usa.org      Other \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first time to attend an MCCW-USA Conference?      Yes      No

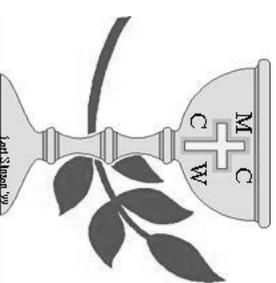
How long have you been active in MCCW-USA? \_\_\_\_\_

**Conference Policies**

1. Babes in arms (nursing and under age 1) are welcome, however mothers must care for their infants at all times during conference events. At the discretion of the National Board, mothers may be asked to remove disruptive children from the room. Childcare is not available at the hotel.
2. Voting during business meetings will be limited to one representative per chapel group in attendance and the National



# Military Council of Catholic Women 2nd Call to Conference



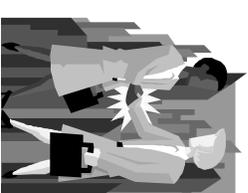
Theme: *We Are One Body*

*Let's get together!!*

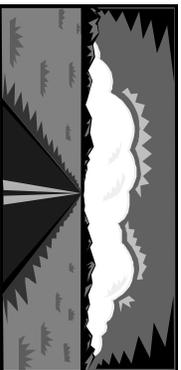


Mark your calendars!!

- > Registration fee is \$250
- > When? 7-11 October 2004



> Where? *At the Tucson Hilton East in Tucson, Arizona*



Make your hotel reservation by calling Ana at 520-721-5600. Tell her you are with MCCW to get our special rates: \$89/single or double, \$104/triple, or \$119/quadruple

+ Keynote Speaker is Carol Eipers of Sadlier Books to talk on Catholic Spirituality

+ Mariachi Band

+ visit the San Xavier Mission – the White Dove of the Desert

+ Three book/gift vendors

Conference Traditions

Prayer Partners

Election of new officers

Skit night

Raffle for charity

Workshops