



ODCCW Mission Statement

To promote among our Catholic women a greater devotion to Christ and the Church, as we share the Blessed Mother's role of bringing others to Christ through spirituality

We have missed you!

We pray we find you in good health and navigating your way through this new world we live in with ease. Keeping up with the daily changes can be overwhelming at times. This year comes with many unexpected changes to the way ODCCW and other non-profit's and businesses operate.

*Unfortunately, due to the Covid 19 restrictions by our Governor and Dioceses, ODCCW is **cancelling the General Gathering on September 15, 2020 and all scheduled gatherings through the end of 2020.***

We look forward to seeing you in January 2021, hopefully with God's grace we can resume our General Gatherings once again. Stay tuned for more information to follow.

The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you." Psalm 32:8





We are excited to announce ODCCW will be launching our new website on Friday, **September 25th**. This is the perfect way to stay in touch with our members and community through uniting women from the Diocese of Orange County and surrounding areas. The new website will offer the opportunity keep all our members updated with the latest events, general gatherings, prayer

request, happenings around the Diocese of Orange, events within our parish communities, how to pray the Rosary and donation/registration online options. Stay tuned for further information.

Reflection by Janine Meckler

My simple reflection for 2020 reminds me that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”
Hebrews 13:8

In spite of our daily circumstances, which honestly seem to change hourly, I take solace in knowing that The Lord God does NOT change and Is in control. May we lift each other up in prayer, especially when it seems difficult to pray. All we need is “Jesus I trust in you.”



Our Wounds Will Heal...

*Remembering 9/11,
Seven Years Later.*



and We Will Not Forget...

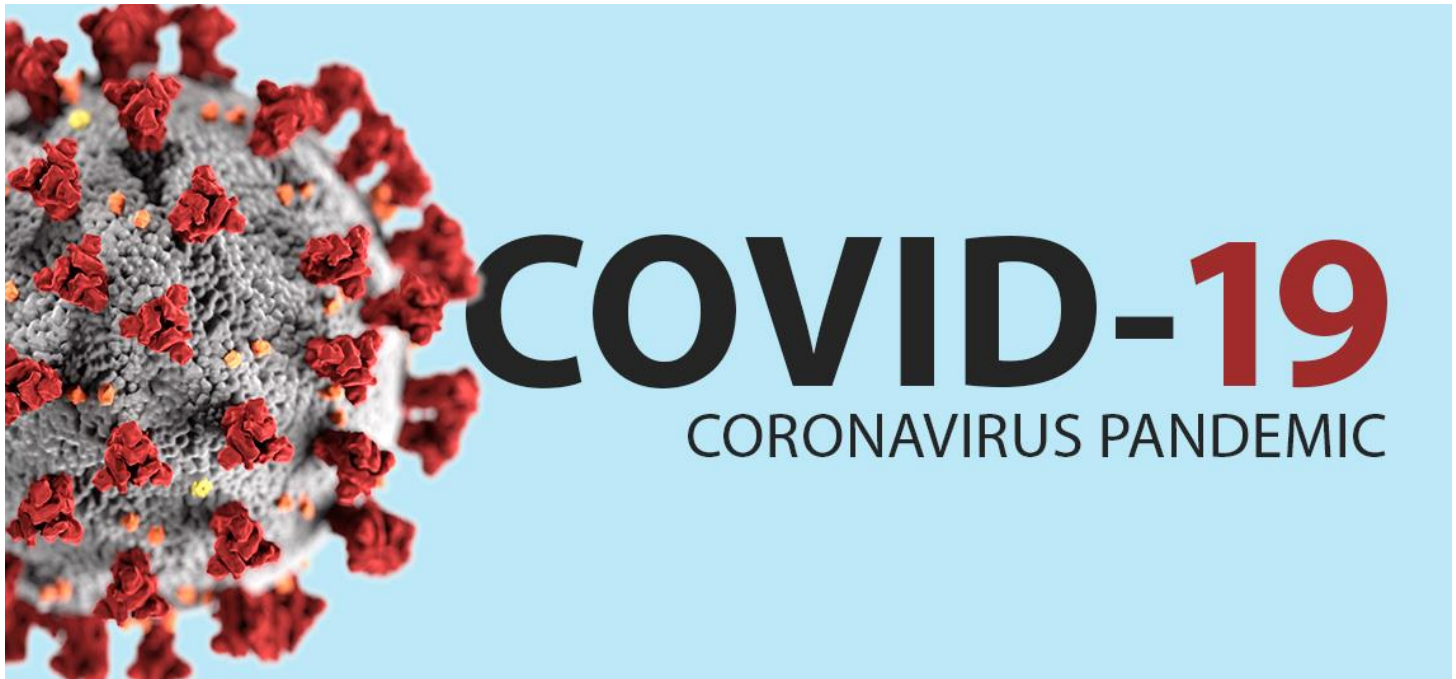
Coping with coronavirus by



Harvard Health Publishing
HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

Trusted advice for a healthier life

Dealing with daily stress, anxiety, and a range of other emotions



Perhaps you're older, worried that you may become infected and seriously ill. Maybe you're doing your best to keep your family healthy while trying to balance work with caring for your children while schools are closed. Or you're feeling isolated, separated from friends and loved ones during this period of social distancing.

Regardless of your specific circumstances, it's likely that you're wondering how to cope with the stress, anxiety, and other feelings that are surfacing.

Worrying about all the news on the new coronavirus and the illness it causes? Well, that makes good sense. If you're wondering how to cope with anxious feelings that are surfacing, this blog post can guide you through steps that may be helpful to many people.

Steady yourself around worries about the new coronavirus

Knowing how to manage your own anxiety always takes a little thought. Ask and answer these questions:

- What typically happens to your body when worries mount?
- How worried are you?

When anxiety rises because we're facing a distressing threat like the new coronavirus, we need to focus on what tends to work for us to ease anxiety — that, plus doing a little bit more of some actions and a little bit less of others.

Keep these thoughts in mind. You're fully prepared to help yourself. You can take steps to calm and steady yourself. Remember what works for *you* — because as fellow humans we're not so dissimilar, but we do tend to have our own preferences and best practices.

Try doing these things more

Annual Pledge

Due to the unfortunate circumstances caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, which has prevented us from receiving the necessary funds from our monthly gatherings as of March 2020. We rely on the ODCCW community to help sustain our operations and the ministries we support.

Since ODCCW will not resume General Gatherings until January 2021, we are asking you to consider making a tax-deductible donation to ODCCW as a gift of sustainability. These funds will be used to sustain our new website and other costs associated with our ministry. You have the option to print and fill out the tear-off below to mail in your donation or visit the new website on **September 25th** to make a secured online donation.

[2 Corinthians 9:8](#)

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

***PLEASE detach/send with your check payable to: ODCCW**
***MAIL to: Susan Navarrete, 14245 Utrillo Drive, Irvine, CA 92606**
Susan Navarrete 949-345-9130 Email: info@odccw.org

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

PARISH _____

Donation Amount _____ (I authorize ODCCW to charge my account for the amount listed).

Check # _____ or Credit Card: Visa MC AMEX Discover

Name on Card _____

Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____ CVN _____

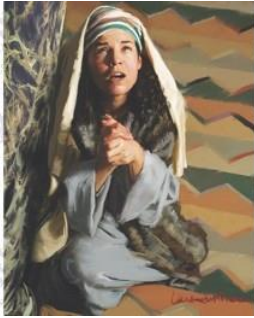
Council of Catholic Women (ODCCW) Board Meeting

DATE: TUESDAY, October 6, 2020

Location: Via Zoom

TIME: 9:00 am -10:30 am

Heroic Women of The Bible: Hannah – A Woman Of Patience And Character



By Kelly Wise Valdes

Throughout the Bible, there are many stories of strong and heroic women. In this series, we will explore a story of faithful biblical woman each month. With their strong faith, the women of the Bible continue to teach us how to live authentic, faith-filled lives. No matter what our circumstances are, we can find ourselves in their stories.

The Book of Samuel tells us of a young woman named Hannah who was married to a man called Elkanah. They were very much in love; however, Hannah was infertile. It is speculated that because Hannah was unable to have children, Elkanah took another wife at Hannah's request. At the time, this was a common practice. He loved Hannah more than his other wife, Peninnah, but Peninnah was remarkably fertile and gave birth to several sons and daughters.

Elkanah was deeply in love with his barren wife Hannah, instead of the fertile Peninnah. Peninnah hoped that her ability to provide children for her husband would make him love her more than Hannah. This caused substantial grief for both

women. One wife was barren and wanted children and one wife fertile and wanted love.

One can sympathize with their pain. Instead of comforting each other, Peninnah's jealousy caused her to torment Hannah, constantly mocking Hannah's inability to become pregnant. This went on for years. However, Hannah demonstrated grace and dignity by holding her tongue and continued to pray for a child.

One day, Hannah visited the temple and was in such distress that she mouthed her prayer silently and was seen by the priest, Eli. When he approached her, she explained that she was praying for a child, and she promised God that if he gave her a son, she would dedicate him to the priest.

God honored her diligence and patience, and Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son, Samuel. She kept him until he was weaned at about three years old. When the time came, she took him to the temple, just as she had promised, and dedicated him to God's service in a special ceremony. Even at this stage, she could have redeemed her vow by paying a sum of money to the priests, but she kept her vow.

Hannah continued to visit Samuel as he grew into a man of God. She was blessed with more children: three sons and two daughters. The Bible bears no more mention of Peninnah.

Before Hannah, three other women endured the despair of not being able to conceive. Sarah was the first, followed by Rebekah and then Rachel. However, Hannah accepted God's promise with unwavering faith. The other three did not.

Hannah trusted God without doubt or concern. Hannah's story teaches us that our faith in God allows Him to bless us. Her trust in God as she turned to Him, her deep desire for children and her faithfulness in bringing Samuel to God as promised are all evidences of God working in Hannah's life.

Every person experiences circumstances that cause grief. Many times, we simply don't understand why the desire of our hearts is not met. But in the life of Hannah we see that God knows our hearts, that everything has a purpose and that trust in Him is never misplaced.



“Sir, do you remember me?” Hannah asked. “I am the woman who stood here several years ago praying to the Lord. I asked the Lord to give me this boy, and he has granted my request.” – 1 Samuel, 1:26-27

ARE YOU HUNGRY?

Dr. Ida Pennella, PhD



Are you 'hungry' for God? September is "Hungry Action Month". When we hunger for God, we can serve Him by easing the human hunger of others.

How are you called to serve God? Feeding the hungry, one of the Corporal Works of Mercy, is a good way to get started serving God and His people. Does your parish have a food program or food bank? If not, consider partnering with St. Vincent De Paul, or Second Harvest.

According to the website, <http://feedoc.org>, the Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County, Society of St. Vincent De Paul, is a member of Feeding America, and stated that *September is hunger action month. Second Harvest provides food to Catholic and non-Catholic centers on designated days and times.

Perhaps you could organize an on-going program at your parish. Plan a food drive or establish a distribution center at your church. One of the parishes that I occasionally attend for daily mass, *Beatitudes of Our Lord*, has such a program called, Good Sam's Pantry. A basket is placed in the foyer of the church with a list of preferred food for people to donate on a daily basis. *Every Thursday*, for one hour, the poor of the community go to the hall where dedicated servers have bagged the food for distribution. This parish program is not assisted by St. Vincent De Paul or any other agency.

Are you ready to make a difference and serve God through feeding the hungry? Make a commitment this month to do something.

Are you hungry?
Bloom where you are planted!





Autobiography Very Rev. Scott Borgman
ODCCW Spiritual Advisor

I was born on August 3rd, 1971 in Fort Collins, Colorado, twelve minutes after my twin sister, Maggie May Borgman. My father, Richard Charles Borgman, taught Neuroanatomy at Colorado State University and married my mother, Odette Danelle Borgman, who was a concert violinist in Denver Colorado. When we twins were four years old, my parents moved, also with my older brother Jim, to Abidjan in the Ivory Coast to become protestant missionaries. We would spend the next seventeen years in West Africa, homeschooling almost exclusively. We would stay in Ivory Coast (Cote d'Ivoire) for about four years at a time and then spend one year back in Colorado with the community "Mercy Farm" which supported my parents missionary work. At 17 years old, I moved from Africa to Costa Mesa, CA to pursue my Bachelor's degree in Communications, with an emphasis in television and film at Vanguard University (then Southern California College). Over the following 10 years, I worked as a Key Grip in the film industry. During this time I also moved to Jackson Mississippi for three years in order to mentor under a friend of my fathers, the Baptist Pastor Dan Hall who was at an evangelical protestant Church called Cornerstone.

It was about this time of soul searching that my parents went through a conversion experience and were confirmed in the Catholic Church. I was intrigued as my father had always taught us that God loved us and that he had a plan for our lives. He also taught us to memorize scripture and we grew up pretty much in the evangelical world, without knowing anything of the Catholic Church. When they converted, I began looking into the historical Church and was grateful to learn how much history contained God's plan of salvation. I learned that Jesus Christ had founded the Catholic Church and that it was faithful today to all the essential elements which were evident in the teachings of the Apostles and Fathers of the Church from the very beginning.

This was a significant discovery for me, as I had been searching for significance and the meaning of life. I had not found this either in Hollywood, nor in the evangelical movements which seemed to provide a great variety of worship styles and scripture based entertainment without any ties to the early Christian Church. Following two years of research into the Catholic Church, my studies took me to the South of France where my parents were living at the time. There I received the Sacraments of Confession, Confirmation and First Communion. Upon returning to my job in Southern California, I received a letter of invitation from Bishop Dominique Rey to join his seminary in France for a year of discernment, in order to deepen my faith, learn to live in community and discern my vocation. I wasn't sure if I was called to the priesthood, but I did want to deepen my faith, learn more about the historical Church that I was enthusiastically discovering and, besides, who wouldn't want to live in the French Riviera for a year? Over that time, I learned to pray, to sit in silence away from the noise of life and to hear the voice of God in the depths of my interior life. This was probably the greatest thrill which I experienced over that year, along with discovering countless Catholic monastic, artistic and charitable communities. I was introduced to philosophy, theology, liturgy and the life of the early Christians. I learned to study the Fathers of the Church, to research theological questions and to rely on the deposit of the Faith as passed down honestly and truthfully throughout the centuries.

Following that year, I moved to Rome to begin studies in Philosophy at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross. I was excited to learn about the love of wisdom and the various accompanying topics like epistemology about how we know things, the historical section about various philosophers, from the Greeks to the Germans and French along with many others who proposed theories of existence and the world in general. Following this, Theology was another universe of historical connection with great people of faith like St. Augustine and St. Thomas along with many others.

My seminary life was an introduction to another world of formation which brought together 86 seminarians from 27 different countries and revealed the true Universality of the Church. The seminary was dedicated to “Sedes Sapientiae,” the ‘seat of Wisdom,’ and was run by the remarkable priests of Opus Dei. Every aspect of formation had been well thought out and integrated into seminary life, from our three hours of daily prayer, including the celebration of Holy Mass, to the morning class time, study in the afternoon, as well as, the times of meals together, sports and cultural education. Being in Rome allowed us to soak up the innumerable contributions of Italian life and culture in music, museums, architecture and even food and gardening. The proximity to the Holy Father, allowed me also to get a close up look at the end of St. John Paul II’s pontificate and those of Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis whom I would later work with in two Vatican offices.

Bishop Dominique Rey ordained me to the priesthood on the happiest day of my life, June 27, 2010 for the Diocese of Toulon in Southern France. Surrounded by family and friends, this moment when Christ changed my character through the Sacrament of Holy Orders to serve the Church in the Person of Christ, making Him present in the Sacraments is indescribable. The 12 other priests ordained that day outside the Seminary of La Castille in Provence, surrounded by 140 acres of vineyards would forever be united in service to the true Church and love for the Priesthood. I returned to Rome to work in the Pontifical Academy for Life as the Coordinating Secretary, managing the main office, which was sort of the scientific think-tank for bioethics in the Vatican. Another entire world was opened up for me at this time in the revelation that both faith and science are given by God for our benefit. They will never contradict each other and actually help to complete the extraordinary picture of God’s creation. Over the course of the next six years, I would learn about bioethics and the work which the Vatican is doing in so many areas throughout the entire world for the protection and defense of human life from conception until natural death.

Alongside my duties at the Academy, I served as an assistant Master of Ceremonies for the Office of Liturgical Celebrations for the Holy Father. This would allow me to continue my studies in liturgy, as well as, to be close to the Pope on various occasions of his public ceremonies in Rome. I would serve for four years under Pope Benedict XVI and for three years under Pope Francis. The importance of the unity around the Pope evidenced God’s benevolent provision in the Magisterium and the Tradition of the Catholic Church. During these years, I would subsequently complete an Ecclesiastical Doctoral degree in Canon Law (JCD) at Rome’s Pontifical University of the Holy Cross. I found ample use of my priestly faculties during this time also preaching retreats and serving as chaplain to the Missionaries of Charity sisters as well as for American students on their Rome campus.

I currently serve on multiple boards and as Judicial Vicar for the Ecclesiastical Tribunal in the diocese of Orange in California, while residing and serving at St. Columban parish. I love being a Roman Catholic Priest and can’t imagine doing anything else.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is my great honor to begin my term as President of the Board of Directors of the Orange Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (ODCCW) for 2020-2022.

My career includes 20 years as an Executive Assistant in the pharmaceutical industry. I am currently employed with Precious Life Shelter in an administrative role as well. I am involved with Orange County Cursillo, in which I served as Rectora in July 2019. For the past 11 years I served on the organizational team at St. Thomas More for the When Women Pray (WWP) breakfast ministry, two of those 11 years I led the WWP organizational team. Leading the WWP team has prepared me for this new, exciting role with ODCCW, which is close to my heart.

With God by my side, I know I can do the task He has set before me. I promised I would serve Him for the rest of my life and that is what I intend to accomplish with ODCCW. I plan to bring this ministry to the forefront for all Catholic women of Orange County. I look forward to the conferences, gatherings, spirituality, leadership, and service that will be come forth in the future.

I am excited about growing this ministry that includes all Catholic women of Orange County by bringing fresh ideas and staying true to our mission statement. ODCCW is the best kept secret of Orange County, however with me at the helm, it will no longer be a secret. I look forward to the guidance of our Spiritual Advisor Father Scott Borgman as well as the entire Executive Board Members for 2020-2022.

The ODCCW mission statement:

"To promote among our Catholic Women a greater devotion to Christ and the church, as we share the Blessed Mother's role of bringing others to Christ, through spirituality, leadership and service".

*Blessings,
Susan Navarrete, President ODCCW 2020-2022*

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plan I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you not to harm you, Plans for hope and a future...

**Orange Diocesan
Council of Catholic
Women
13280 Chapman
Ave.
Garden Grove, CA
92840**

**Coming soon
ODCCW Website
September 25th**



Stay Connect at:

**Information
info@odccw.org**

ODCCW Executive Board 2020-2022

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Past President	Penelope Hecker	(949) 525-3010	
Parliamentarian	Elena Freeman	(657) 226-7770	freeman.e@sbcglobal.net



Orange Diocesan Council of Catholic Women
is affiliated with and supports the
National Council of Catholic Women

Acts through its members to support, empower, and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership, and service. NCCW programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world.

For information on benefits, voting privileges and dues contact:

Email address: nccw01@nccw.org

Website: <https://www.nccw.org>