

Salt Lake Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

President's Report to the Board

San Francisco Province Meeting, March 29-31, 2019

I was honored to represent you, as was Becky Colombo, your 1st Vice-President, at the San Francisco Province Meeting on March 29-31, 2019, at the beautiful Vallombrosa Retreat Center in Menlo Park, California. Kathryn Parish-Reese, our San Francisco Province Director, organized and led the meeting.

We began on Friday afternoon with a meet-and-greet. It was good to see some of our Council sisters from California again and to meet several we didn't know. We moved to the main dining room for dinner, then back to the meeting room for Diocesan President/Representative reports. Our Province Director shared remarks, and we reviewed the revised Province Bylaws. We were treated to a small reception, then headed to our rooms for the evening.

Saturday began with a lovely breakfast, followed by the recitation of the Rosary. The nineteen attendees that morning were given time to introduce themselves and tell something about themselves. Vickie Evans, a bioethicist, then presented "Vatican Documents: The Key to Pro-Life Principles" wherein she gave a papal history of pro-life thought and teachings, scientific terminology and how it is used, and Catholic teaching regarding euthanasia.

After lunch, we heard from Joy Thompson and Steve Mullins, who gave a compelling and frightening account of human trafficking with emphasis on what the East Bay Catholic Charities is doing to combat the situation. The session was educational and heartbreaking. After a small break, we were honored to have Fr. Cameron Faller and Fr. Gerald Geronimo, two new young priests, tell us their stories of vocation. They helped us understand how vocation discernment is different for everyone and how we can help support those who are thinking about a religious vocation. After a break to allow us to walk around the grounds, we attended a private Mass in the on-site church. After another delicious dinner, we ended the day by playing bingo and celebrating with a wine and cheese reception.

Sunday morning began with breakfast in the main dining room, which we shared with young couples who had just finished their Pre-Cana experience at the Center. It was so touching to see all those couples beginning their new lives together, and we all enjoyed a rendition of "My Girl", sung by the men to their fiances. We moved back to the meeting room for a prayer service led by Gloria Krsyzanowski, then Joan Higgins and Cathy Mibach facilitated a discussion with the theme "Recruit and Retain: First Aid for our Groups". MaryAnn Schwab followed with a presentation entitled "Robert's Rules: A Pattern for Today's Meeting". She reviewed the history of Robert's Rules, explained why we need them, gave us options for using technology for meetings, and took some of the stuffiness out of parliamentary procedure.

We then checked out of the Center, ate lunch, said our good-byes, let the women know we sincerely hoped to see them at the NCCW Convention, and headed back to Utah.

Respectfully submitted,

Casey Pond
DCCW President