

Dear Friends,

My heartfelt thanks to all of you for the incredible NCCW Convention you made happen last month. I have never been prouder to say I am a member of the Salt Lake City Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. The Intermountain Catholic article on September 8, 2023, said it well: "Utah Catholic women came out in force and showed their strengths". I have heard nothing but wonderful statements of gratitude to you for your gracious hospitality, your tenacious hard work, and your amazing spirit.

As I write my last President's Report, I am reflecting on the Prayer to the Creator at the end of *Fratelli Tutti*, "May our hearts be open, To all the peoples and nations of the earth. May we recognize the goodness and beauty, That you have sown in each of us, And thus, forge bonds of unity, common projects, And shared dreams. Amen."

It doesn't seem possible that 2 years have passed since my installation as President in Arlington, Virginia. The time goes by very quickly. Looking back and taking stock is something people do when they are leaving a position so pardon the reminiscing.

Throughout my two year term, we made a difference for you, the members, because NCCW was always first and the goal was to accomplish our mission to support, empower, and educate all Catholic women in Gospel values. We covered chapter 7 of *Fratelli Tutti* at the 2022 convention in Minneapolis. With wide open hearts abiding in faith, hope and Love we embarked on the Path of Renewed Encounter with Christ journeying to Salt Lake City, Utah to cover Chapter 4 of *Fratelli Tutti*.

In 2022 we participated in Synod 2021-2023 *For a synodal Church Communion, Participation, Mission* and initiated special funds for natural disasters occurring in the United States like Hurricane Ian and the Kentucky tornado as well as Internationally for Ukraine.

We made a difference by providing resources, projects, and programs to help the members accomplish the goals of our mission statement: **Resources** such as Regain, Retain and Grow Your Council & Why Vote, Updated Anti Trafficking Resources & Called to the Joy of Love, a Prayer for Adoration prayer card, My Faith Journey, *Pray the Rosary with the National Council of Catholic Women*, Eucharistic Journal, a study guide to *On the Eucharist in its Relationship to the Church*, a resource to start a Latina group, and how to start a junior council. **Projects** such as establishing and awarding the first National Golden Rose Award. **Programs** such as updating the *Women Healing the Wounds* Resource.

After two years of leading the National Council of Catholic Women, I turned over the gavel to Beth Mahoney for her to lead, forge bonds of unity, common projects, and shared dreams.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel ask her Divine Son to bless the SLC DCCW and the NCCW. May we recognize the goodness and beauty in each other,

Pat Voorhes

NCCW Immediate Past President