

Immediate Past President's Report to the DCCW Board

September 26, 2020

Out of curiosity, I looked back and reread the September President's report I gave the two years ago. One line seems eerily appropriate for this September: "Jesus did not promise us happiness, He promised joy". Joy? With the world, and especially our country, in such a chaotic, uncertain, rancorous state? Happiness comes and goes, but Christian joy is a deep and abiding sense of contentment that arises from one's relationship with God.

But we humans still need that transitory feeling of happiness; being grateful for all we have - big things and small - is a very good way to achieve it. And we, as Catholic women, have often heard of the many rewarding results of service for those we serve and for ourselves.

The late, great Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg firmly supported community service and often spoke about it: "You will get satisfaction out of doing something to give back to the community that you never get in any other way." Pope Francis said, "Do we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit, so as to be an active part of our communities, or do we close in on ourselves, saying 'I have so many things to do, that's not my job'?"

With that in mind, I want to thank all of you here – leaders in the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, in the deaneries, and in the parishes – for having chosen to give your time and talent to your Church communities, and especially to the women within those communities, through service in Council. We are all at different levels of busyness in our lives, but yet, we are all graciously giving valuable time to what is a very good cause. And the rewards are many, not only for us, but for the women we impact and for the strength and future of our Church. In 1988, Pope John Paul II wrote *Mulieris Dignitatem*, and in it he said, "...the witness and the achievements of Christian women have had a significant impact on the life of the Church as well as of society..." So, here we go!

Congratulations again to Becky Colombo, our new DCCW President, and to her board; congratulations to all the new and returning Deanery Presidents and their boards; and congratulations to all the new and returning Affiliate Presidents and officers! We look forward to working together; creating happiness through service; and doing our parts to make this world, our country, our communities better places for all.

Yours in faith and service,

Casey Pond