



Dear Council Sisters and Spiritual Advisors,

I hope you have plans to come to the 2023 NCCW Convention at the Salt Lake City Hyatt Regency Hotel on August 24-26, 2023 and the preconvention days of Tuesday, August 22nd and Wednesday, August 23rd.

The theme I have chosen for the 2023 Convention is ***Path of Renewed Encounter*** based on Chapter 7 of *Fratelli Tutti* written by our Holy Father Pope Francis, with subthemes of peace, forgiveness, harmony, social justice, and an end to the death penalty, violence, and war as well as *The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church* written by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

We have a great lineup of speakers and all, but one is from Utah. Wednesday's speaker: Donna Stoering from Blessed Sacrament Parish in Sandy. Thursday's speaker: Krisanne Vaillancourt Murphy, Executive Director of Catholic Mobilizing Network. Friday's panel: Julie Boerio-Goates from St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Orem, Susan Northway SLC Director of Faith Formation, and Kimberly Tosti from St. Mary's Parish in Park City. Saturday's speaker is Jean Welch Hill from St. Vincent de Paul's Parish in Salt Lake City.

We are so happy to announce that the Madeleine Choir School will be our fundraiser on Friday night.

Your Salt Lake City DCCW Volunteers are working very hard to bring you great tours for Tuesday as well as some other surprises.

Bishop Solis will celebrate the Opening Mass and possibly concelebrate the closing Mass with his brother bishops, Bishop Timothy Broglio (President of the USCCB) and Bishop Edgar da Cunha (Bishop of Fall River-Beth Mahoney's Diocesan Bishop). Bishop Wack will celebrate Friday's Mass and Fr. Miguel will celebrate Wednesday's Mass.

Meditate on some of my favorite quotes from the two documents mentioned above regarding encounter to get you in the mindset of the theme. "In many parts of the world, there is a need for paths of peace to heal open wounds. There is also a need for peacemakers, men and women prepared to work boldly and creatively to initiate processes of peace and renewed encounter." (Fratelli Tutti 225) and "The Lord accompanies us in many ways, but none as profound as when we encounter Him in the Eucharist." (Mystery of the Eucharist, pg. 3). Pope Francis explains in a homily he gave in the Diocese of Rome on December 1, 2013, "Life is a journey. It is a path, a journey to meet Jesus. Our whole life is an encounter with Jesus: in prayer, when we go to Mass, when we receive Communion, when we do good works, when we visit the sick, when we help the poor, when we think of others, when we are not selfish, when we are loving, in these things we always meet Jesus."

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide us to Jesus.

Patricia Voorhes
NCCW President