



DCCW PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Marcie Downs

I began my journey as the DCCW President after being installed in April 2016 at our annual DCCW convention with much anticipation, joy, and humility. Thank you to all for putting your confidence in me. With God's help, I will do my best to represent our Diocese of Salt Lake City.

I never really had a dream of being the president of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. I do remember observing as a young child my dear mother and her friend, Mary Gibson, doing what they would refer to as "church lady work". The organization at that time was called the Altar Society. I watched as they prepared the linens which they so carefully ironed for the altar, the silver tea set that needed to be polished before the arrival of the bishop for Confirmation, going to the priest's home to take a dinner or two, washing all those dishes after a spring luncheon, and transcribing all that shorthand taken during their Altar Society meetings. My mother and Mary were two Catholic women dedicated to their Catholic Faith and serving God. A question I have often asked myself, "was it in my very young life that service to God was instilled in me?" Everyone knows the value of service. We give of ourselves each day. To our families, our parishes, our jobs, our communities.

So, that brings us to today, April 29, 2017, which means I have held this position in council for almost one year (short of a few days). I have learned so much. I remember Michael O'Shea, a past DCCW President saying one day, "you don't have to know everything; there is always someone in Council who is there to help." I have had to rely on the wisdom and expertise of those around me.

These are a few of the highlights of the past year. Phone calls were made to past members of the board to see who would like to stay on, and calls made to women taking on new roles. Our roster was established. Together we will continue the mission and goals of our Diocesan Council. Our Finance Committee was appointed. This committee is chaired by our DCCW Treasurer, Becky Hicks. All five deaneries are represented. The DCCW Board Meeting calendar was prepared and we have held four board meetings with a quorum present at all four meetings. The board's pastoral visit with our Diocesan Administrator, Rev. Monsignor Colin F. Bircumshaw was scheduled. At that point, we were still without a bishop. We went over our budget and goals for the year. Msgr. Bircumshaw has always supported the works of our women's councils. We supported and attended the Daughters of Charity Give Me A Chance program with donations and attendance at their annual dinner/auction fundraiser. Several women from the Diocese of Salt Lake City attended the 2016 NCCW Convention which was held in Indianapolis, Indiana on September 8 – 11, 2016. We supported the Carmelites through candy and jam sales at our convention as well as donations for memorial enrollments in the Carmelite's Spiritual Association of the Little Flower prayer program. At each board meeting, board members are asked to bring an item of goods for the Carmelites food pantry. We promote ourselves through the AWARE Newsletter, articles, and advertising in the Intermountain Catholic, attendance at diocesan, deanery and parish meetings and events, our DCCW website and DCCW Facebook page.

Lisa Adamson, our Service Commission Chair, was in my office one day and our Past President Bonnie Siegrist was visiting. Bonnie, talked of how nice it would be to have a service project that included everyone in the entire diocese. Fill The Box Feed A Child was born shortly after that discussion and was kicked off by Lisa at our September board meeting. A lofty goal was set of filling 150 boxes. The number we have reached will be announced at this year's convention.

In closing I would like to give a special thanks to the ladies of the Northern Deanery for all the hard work that goes into hosting a convention. Our theme is "Catholic Women: Instruments of Joy". We are featuring Susan Neilson, Mollie Murphy Dale, and James C. and Karyn Anderson on Saturday. On Sunday morning, Most Reverend Oscar A. Solis, Bishop of the Diocese of Salt Lake City, will be joining us as our special guest speaker. We have assembled a full, informative, and inspiring program for our convention.

Every time you welcome a newcomer to your parish, support a local charity, serve on a committee you are sharing your God given talents. I look forward to another year serving as your president and appreciate all my sister's in council.

Blessed to be among you,
Marcie

'Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day.'

Fr. Henri J.M. Nouwen