



## **PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT**

**BARB KEROUAC**

What a fabulous year in so many ways. It has been an honor to serve as president of the DCCW the past 2 years. It has been very busy with some unique projects.

The Salt Lake City Diocese Council of Catholic Women typically have a hiatus during the summer months, but that was not the case after the 2023 Convention.

The DCCW supported the World Youth Day delegation to Lisbon Spain in July monetarily. We were invited to attend the send-off retreat. Our DCCW Blessed Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Miracles Display, and documentary was shown at the retreat followed by a special Mass with Bishop Solis at the Carmelite Monastery. The 29 delegates were so inspired and excited to have this special opportunity to experience this special Holy event. What a special day.

Many of the DCCW Women throughout the Diocese were busy helping plan and implement the Diocesan wide Eucharistic Mass and Rally held at the Mountain America Expo Center, July 9, 2024. A huge undertaking that took so many people who gave of their time so generously. The DCCW was well represented in so many of the activities leading up to , during , and after the event. The DCCW had an exhibit table that received much interest. It was quite amazing to find out that many of the women who stopped and inquired had never heard of the DCCW. It proves we need to work on putting a face to our organization and reach out to them. Our MDR team and members have much to do to put a face to our great organization. One of the Bishops challenges to us, the DCCW, was to use the social network platforms to do this. We have formed a committee to work on a video presentation to put on the Diocesan and Parish websites. The Eucharistic Mass was so spiritually moving....to see so many Catholics, led by Bishop Solis, in one place to celebrate the Holy Mass. Halleluia!!!

Then, only 6 weeks until the Salt Lake City Diocesan Council of Catholic Women were hostesses to the 2024 National Council of Catholic Women Convention August 24-26, 2024, held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Salt Lake City. Becky Hicks was the Volunteer Coordinator and worked tirelessly to coordinate volunteers. We set local tours, provided local items, and stuffed the convention bags, "manned" the "Bee Informed booth" to answer questions and direct attendees. Coordinated transportation for the tour and Mass at the Cathedral of the Madeleine. Helped distribute sack lunch meals, and provided banquet entertainment ( thank you Bishop Solis, Fr. Ariel Durian, DCCW Spiritual Advisor, and Fr. Miguel Gonzalez, NCCW Spiritual Advisor, for their impromptu performances, and of course our Minnesota Friend Jeannette) doing whatever else was asked. Our own Pat Voorhes, NCCW President, did a fabulous job leading the Convention attendees on the Path of Renewed Encounter. What an awesome way for her to end her tenure as NCCW President. We were blessed to have Amy Kennedy installed as NCCW President Elect too. We are a small Diocese but look at the representatives at the National level, Kudo's ladies. I'd like to say it was a relaxing summer with an opportunity to regroup and plan, but it wasn't. I think you all did a marvelous job of showing what Catholic Women can do. Thank you for your hard work and "yeses"!

Next up was planning the year. wait! It can't be September, What it's already time for our Fall meeting. Away we go!! It was brought to our attention again that the Deanery accounts were not settled according to the

mandates of the Diocese. Each Deanery is working to align themselves to one Parish. With many emails and communications with the Diocesan Financial office and Wells Fargo I believe the Deanery accounts are now according to the Diocesan rule. We are still working on settling the DCCW accounts, Savings accounts seem to be the issue. A meeting with Msgr. Bircumshaw and the Finance office will hopefully finalize this issue. This has been a 2-year process. Much more complicated than originally thought.

The Fall months were spent preparing for the upcoming year and putting into action the next year. Setting the budget, annual Pastoral meeting with Bishop Solis, reactivating affiliates, updating and approval of Convention guidelines, planning of the 2024 DCCW annual convention, and implementing the plans for service, education, and spirituality throughout the Diocesan councils. We are very appreciative to have Bishop Solis's Diocesan support monetarily to continue our work in educating, serving, and spiritually enriching our women.

The DCCW 2024 Service project is to support the Volunteers of America in supporting homeless teens and Foster kids aging out of the program with items of need, especially back packs. These kids typically only have garbage bags to hold their belongings when they move either to a new home or leave the system. They truly need our support.

The DCCW Blessed Carlos Acutis Eucharistic Miracles Display was actively distributed for viewing at St. John the Baptist, throughout the Eastern Deanery parishes, Judge Memorial High School, and St. George Parish to inspire and educate all who participated, in the history of the Eucharistic Miracles and the TRUE PRESENCE in the Eucharist. The Display will be available for continued sharing throughout the Diocese. It would be nice if it reached all confirmation formation classes.

We've taken on the NCCW initiative to reach young women by honoring 14–22-year-old women who are active participants in their Catholic community spiritually and through service, with the Golden Rose Award. The groundwork and guidelines were set in place and the first Golden Rose award recipient will be at the 2024 DCCW Convention.

The 95<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Council of Catholic Women convention is April 27-28, 2024, at a new venue. Little America will be a refreshing change. The "Path of Renewed Encounter" follows the NCCW Theme inspired from Pope Francis Encyclical "Fratelli Tutti". We have engaging speakers, Yen Fasano, from St. Paul/Minneapolis Arch diocese, Deacon Joaquin Mixco, Katherina Holzhauser, and Marie Mischel all from our local Diocese will engage you to continue your path of encounter with Christ, others, and yourself. It will be an inspiring and informative convention. I hope it will renew your encounter with Christ. I am still awed by the fact that this is our 95<sup>th</sup> convention...wow.

Working with our Province Director, Jeanne Audiss, we plan to have the LTD team from the NCCW give a leadership training workshop on May 18<sup>th</sup> for all the incoming officers and commission chairs. It is our hope that new leadership will be invigorated and obtain the knowledge to fulfill their roles as leaders to our DCCW and affiliates.

I have been honored to be your President. It has been a privilege to work beside many wonderful council sisters, for without you nothing would have been accomplished. I am so grateful to Fr. Ariel Durian, Spiritual Advisor, and amazing busy "BEE" keeper doing all that was asked of him, including wearing the bee suit and the impromptu banquet entertainment at NCCW Convention. Carol Harley, 1<sup>st</sup> VP: Jamie Beert, Secretary; Roslyn Gunderson, Treasurer; Tisha Yarber-Ramos, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP; Casey Pond, Parliamentarian; Becky Colombo, IPP; the Advisory board; Pat Voorhes NCCW President, Commission Chairs, Susan Espinoza, Donna Murphy, Dawn Haberkorn, and Ruth Penderghast, thank you for your much needed support and service. A special thanks to Jeanne Audiss, San Francisco Province Director, and DOM Becky Hicks, (also NCCW Conv Volunteer Coordinator) your advice and direction were invaluable.

*KEEP on "BEE"ing awesome. May God bless and protect you all!*

*Humbly yours in Christ, Barb*