

Salt Lake Diocesan Council of Catholic Women President's Report

June 1, 2019

We did it! Thanks to all of you and your efforts to promote and support our convention, it was successful. No, it was not perfect. But I hope the 308 women who attended enjoyed the weekend and left feeling a bit more uplifted, a little more enlightened, and with the realization that our organization is beneficial to not only the diocese as a whole and the affiliate parishes, but to the women, individually. This is OUR convention. It is not mine, nor the board's, nor the host deanery's. It is a group effort. It is an exercise in working together as Catholic women to achieve something bigger than any one of us can or should do. It is a result of the grace of God. I sincerely thank all who assisted in any way: the convention committees, the commission chairs, the deanery presidents, the affiliate presidents, the host deanery, the DCCW board, those who invited friends and fellow parishioners to attend, and especially the women who joined us for our 91st annual convention.

So why am I making such a big deal about convention? One, because it was a lot of work; and two, and most importantly, because that work can make a difference. Marie Mischel wrote three wonderful articles in the May 3rd *Intermountain Catholic* about our convention. The one I want to address is entitled "Wine for the Jar", and in it she explains the difference convention made to her:

After complaining that she had no sweetness in her service to God, Marie writes, "Humbled, my soul cracked open the door and peeked out, just in time to meet with the solidarity of Catholic sisterhood that is the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's annual convention. There I received a warm welcome that made me realize I am not the only one seeking wisdom and companionship on this pilgrimage toward the Kingdom. We laughed, we learned, and I had a wonderful experience with this faith we profess. Prior to that weekend I had been feeling like a lone pea rattling in an empty pod, but after joining those at the convention, I realized that I am but one of hundreds of Catholic women in Utah, and all I need do is reach out to one to be reassured that I am in fertile ground, not the dry desert."

What real-life encouragement that is to us to always be welcoming, to remain faithful Catholics, and to continue to nourish this "solidarity of Catholic sisterhood"!

Marie also wrote about the quote presented to us by our guest speaker, Marge Fenelon, "Mary, I have no wine". How many of us feel empty, when it seems our little part of the world is depending on us to provide? We must then "turn to the source of all good things, and what better way to do that than to plead to the mother who hears our prayer, and the woman to whom her Son listens?"

So as we begin this new Council year, let us continue to serve God, the Church, our Councils, and our fellow companions on the journey with joyful and loving hearts. Let us look to Mary to guide us and intercede for us. And let us always be grateful for the many graces we receive every day, raising our cup in thanksgiving.

Wishing you peace,

Casey Pond
DCCW President