



## *Diocese of Salt Lake City DCCW President's Report Submitted by Marcie Downs*

Good Morning. I like things that are simply, short, and sweet but life is definitely not patterned this way. Life is full of obstacles, adventures, happiness and sadness. As Catholic women we unite with one another to become stronger educated women on all levels of spirituality, leadership, and service. Our DCCW mission statement is all about education, leadership, service, and Christian values. Having said that this is the reason I am standing here today as the President of the DCCW for the state of Utah. I love life sometimes it is hard, sometimes it is simply, I love being a Catholic woman, and I love my council sisters.

The last time we were all together it was our 89<sup>th</sup> Annual DCCW Convention. I would like to report what a success it was. Our theme was – “Catholic Women Instruments of Joy.” Susan Neilson, was our key note speaker. She is a spiritual woman well known to the DCCW. Susan is a past DCCW President, NCCW San Francisco Province Director, and commission workshop presenter at DCCW conventions. Her talk was an inspiration to us all, “A Joyful Heart.” Featured was our Spirituality Commission, Mollie Murphy Dale, with the State of Utah, Department of Workforce Services, and Refugee Services Office spoke on how she received joy each day in working with families who are achieving family-sustaining employment. Our Service Commission presenters were James and Karyn Anderson, international humanitarian workers who have served in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Syria. They have worked alongside relief workers from Catholic Relief Services, the Red Cross, and many different religious congregations. At the banquet Saturday night there were 483 attendees and 32 women were honored as Women of the Year from their parish. The Most Reverend Oscar A. Solis, Bishop of the Diocese of Salt Lake City was the presenter in honoring these women. Bishop Oscar was our special speaker Sunday morning and the women were thrilled to see him again. The convention took a turn at this point due to the African Choir from Saint Patrick’s Parish. Their energy, their voices, their music filled the room and everyone was up and praising the lord. We were truly Catholic Women Instruments of JOY.

July 1<sup>st</sup> we held a retreat for the DCCW officers, Executive Board, and committee chairs. Susan Espinoza and Suzie Brown our Spirituality Commission Chairs lead the retreat on Mary.

In September I traveled with 14 other women and Father Rene to attend the 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the National Council of Catholic Women held in Dallas, Texas. Over 600 women and 45 priests gathered together to celebrate the theme, Catholic Women: Living the Joy of the Gospel!

It has been another fun filled and exciting year for our Diocese Council of Catholic Women. We have five deaneries within our organization, 31 affiliated parishes, and some of the most dynamic Catholic women you will ever meet. We hold five business meetings a year which are host by our deaneries. Our diocese supports us with a monetary amount each year after our meeting with the bishop. We go over our budget and goals for the year. We support and attend Daughters of Charity Give Me A Chance program with donations and attendance at their annual dinner/auction fundraiser. We support 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 their use. We promote ourselves through the Aware Newsletter, articles, and in the Intermountain Catholic.

Our DCCW Service Commission Chair, Lisa Adamson, has worked very hard these last two years in putting together two different programs that would involve all our affiliated parishes. One day when our past president was visiting with me Bonnie talked about wanting to see the diocese come together to work on one service project. I spoke to Lisa about this and she ran with it. Our first project was implemented in the early fall I spoke about it at last year's Province meeting – Fill The Box Feed A Child. Lisa and the deanery presidents worked together in calculating the amounts that had been donated and announced at convention we had made our goal and how phenomenal the food drive was. Lisa shared personal stories about what had taken place during the year. It truly was making a difference one box at a time.

Lisa decided on this year's project working to help domestic violent shelters around the state. She said after reading the article in Catholic Woman magazine on domestic violence and researching the statistics in our state she was even more determined to make us more aware of the needs of these women, children and even men. Helping these individuals while they are at the shelters will be our focus for the coming months. The project is called – Bringing Joy To Those In Need.

So that brings us to today for our 90<sup>th</sup> Annual DCCW Convention. Our theme “Be Full of Joy.” May you all find Joy, Happiness, Wisdom, and may our convention attendees “Be Full of Joy” at this 90<sup>th</sup> celebration.

Joy is what happens to us when we allow ourselves to recognize how good things really are.  
(Marianne Williamson)

Joyfully yours,

Marcie Downs  
DCCW President